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2011/2012
Volume
Forty-Four

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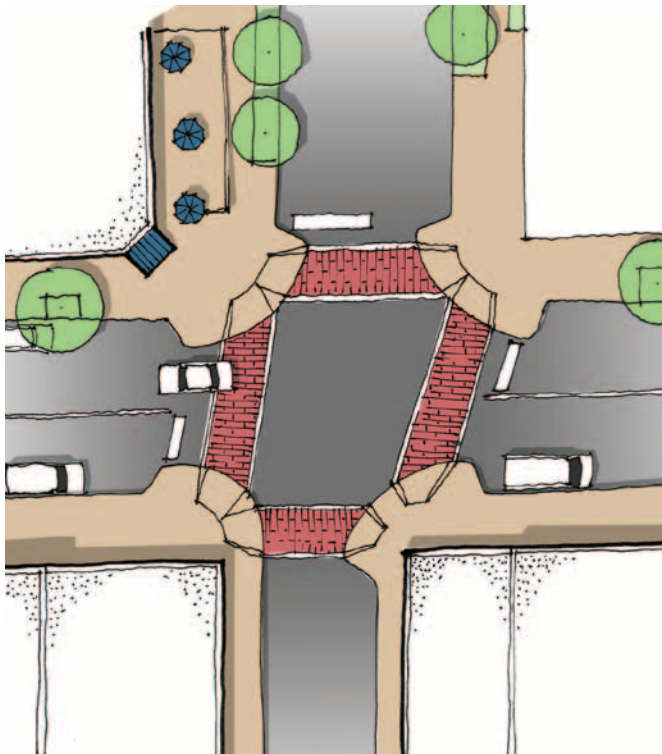
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Master Plan Leads to Major Transportation Project

By Al Copp, Master Plan
Implementation Team
Leader

Imagine this: you're on Roland Avenue driving north on smooth, new pavement past M&T Bank at 8:15 in the morning on a school day and, lo and behold, you look ahead and see a clear travel lane past the schools all the way to Northern Parkway. Or this: you're crossing Cold Spring Lane from the Roland Park Bagel Company to the Evergreen Café on a crosswalk, clearly marked by well-designed special pavement, a distance of 20 feet instead of 40, with traffic slowed to the speed limit. The Greater Roland Park Master Plan, which was approved by the Baltimore City Planning Commission last year, called for these and number of similar street improvements to make the community more walkable and bikeable, and now the Master Plan Implementation Team, a committee of the Roland Park Civic League (RPCL), is making these improvements happen.

The Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT) is designing a major street resurfacing project—estimated to cost \$3.5 million—for Roland Avenue from Northern Parkway to Cold Spring Lane. For the past several months, the Master Plan



Complete streets improvements at the intersection of Cold Spring Lane (running horizontally) and Schenley Road (running vertically) will include curb extensions and special crosswalk paving. Rendering: Joel Fidler

"It's an amazing project that will transform the community by improving safety and traffic flow. For schools, the safety of our students is critical. For Bryn Mawr, Northern Parkway has become our main entrance. For it to become safer for everyone is significant. We are thrilled this project is moving forward."

Nancy Ferrell, Director and Trustee, The Bryn Mawr School

Implementation Team has been working with the DOT, establishing which improvements can be included in the project. That list is now complete and is being evaluated for engineering feasibility by a consulting engineer.

High on the list of elements requested by Roland Park are the "complete streets" improvements—those designed "with all users in mind, including bicyclists, public transportation vehicles and riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities" (National Complete Streets Coalition, www.completestreets.org)—contained in the

Master Plan. Curb extensions and special crosswalk paving at Deepdene, Wyndhurst, Upland and Oakdale are included, as are new benches, bike racks and trash/recycling containers at various locations, and a special crosswalk in the middle of the block at Elmhurst Nursery School at 4023 Roland Avenue. Other requested improvements include curb extensions and special crosswalk paving across Wyndhurst Avenue at Lawndale and Wilmslow roads and across Cold Spring Lane at Schenley Road. If the budget allows,

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Editor's Notes

By Martha Marani

The holidays are upon us and, for many of us, thoughts have turned to the season's traditions.

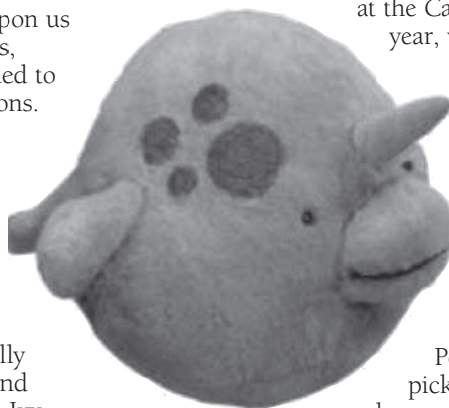
As this is a time of giving, one of my first priorities is picking the perfect gifts for family members and friends. We're big readers, so I typically shop for my husband and children at the Ivy Bookshop and the Children's Bookstore. This year, my list includes a couple of the books from Chip Mortimer's "Bookends" and Julie Johnson's "Book Nook." Several people recommended *Not in My Neighborhood* by Antero Pietila to me this year and I think it'll be a great read for Andrew and me. Both of my children will enjoy *Darwen Arkwright and the Peregrine Pact* by A.J. Hartley.

I'm sure to find something to delight my young nieces at Shananigans Toy Shop, where owner Flora Stelzer has a real knack for helping shoppers pick the perfect gift. I fell in love with the Squishables stuffed critter, Narwhal, posted on the shop's Facebook page a couple of months ago.

The list of "gifts" for the adults in the family is always a satisfying one to make. Since 9/11, we've made donations to charities in lieu of giving each other gifts. Our charities include Heifer International (www.heifer.org), a nonprofit that has helped nearly 14 million people in more than 125 countries worldwide, operating on the principle, "Teach a man to fish; you have fed him for a lifetime." Our local charity is Paul's Place (www.paulsplaceoutreach.org), an organization that provides programs, services and support that strengthen the Washington Village/Pigtown neighborhood and surrounding community.

What about the dogs? Maybe I'll give them memberships to the newly opened Paw Point dog park at Robert E. Lee Park. In this issue, you can read about this great community resource—a 1.5-acre off-leash romp zone that has access to a lab's favorite thing: water in which to splash about. Maybe they should rename it Muddy Paws Point!

Enjoying holiday music is another tradition, and I always look to the newsletter's "Calendar" and "Art Happenings" columns for inspiration. A personal favorite is the



Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. This year, we also plan to join the Baltimore Choral Arts in their Sing-along Messiah.

To satisfy my need to have the house smell like the holidays, about two weeks before Christmas, we'll go to St. Pius X Catholic Church on York Road to pick out our Christmas tree. This year, I'll be better prepared than ever, thanks to Peter Bieneman's advice on how to pick the perfect tree and make it last longer. I'll use the tidy trick of putting a tree bag between the bottom branches and the stand before bringing the tree into the house so that I don't have quite as many needles to vacuum up after the holidays.

Maybe I'll add some new food traditions this year. Leah Eskin invited us join her family for potato pancakes during Hanukkah last year and shares her recipe in this issue.

What's next? Maybe I'll make reservations at Petit Louis for New Year's Eve. It's always a fun and festive atmosphere, with delicious food. It's a great way to welcome 2012. After all, with the exciting changes planned for our community as part of the \$3.5 million transportation project Al Copp writes about in our cover story, we have a lot to look forward to.

Enjoy your winter holidays, Roland Park! ♦

Shop and Dine Locally for the Holidays

December 15, 16 and 17

Why hassle with shopping centers, "big box" stores and chain restaurants when you can shop and dine in one of our great, one-of-a-kind local stores and eateries? Check out the "Shop and Dine Locally" participating merchants by visiting www.RolandPark.org. Or receive updates by signing up for Roland Park's e-letter at www.RolandPark.org/mlm/subscribe.php.

Art Happenings

Music Director Tom Hall will lead the Baltimore Choral Arts Society in three holiday concerts:

■ November 29, 7:30 p.m., **Christmas with Choral Arts** (Baltimore Basilica, 409 Cathedral Street). Hall will lead the Chorus and Orchestra in this festive program in the beautiful Baltimore Basilica. The program will include beloved Christmas favorites. Tickets are \$25 to \$50.

■ December 16, 7:30 p.m., **Sing-along Messiah** (Goucher College's Kraushaar Auditorium, 1021 Dulaney Valley Road, Towson). Hall will lead the Chorus, Orchestra and audience in the choruses of Handel's "Messiah." Hall will be musical coach and whimsical guide for this surround-sound experience. Tickets are \$25.

■ December 17, 11 a.m., **Christmas for Kids** (Kraushaar Auditorium). This new holiday program for the young and young at heart will introduce Pepito the Clown and feature the ever-popular Ronnie the Reindeer, a festive sing-along and a special visit from Santa! Tickets are \$13.



Pepito the Clown will visit Goucher College's Kraushaar Auditorium for the Baltimore Choral Arts Society's Christmas for Kids concert.
Photo: Linda Moxley

The Baltimore Choral Arts Society is one of Maryland's premier cultural institutions. The Symphonic Chorus, Full Chorus, Orchestra and Chamber Chorus perform throughout the mid-Atlantic region, as well as in Washington, DC, New York and Europe. For tickets and more information, call 410-523-7070 or visit www.baltimorechoralarts.org.

The **Cathedral of Mary Our Queen** (5200 N. Charles Street) hosts several musical events throughout the year. Upcoming events include:

■ December 10, 7 p.m., "**Ceremony of Carols.**" The women of the Cathedral choir, under the direction of Daniel J. Sansone, will present Benjamin Britten's popular Christmas work, "Ceremony of Carols." Set in the Cathedral's intimate St. Joseph Chapel, the work will be accompanied by harpist Jacqueline Pollauf. This program is free and open to the public; however, a free-will offering will be received.

■ December 18, 5 p.m., **A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas.** The service, reminiscent of its English heritage, is sung in a candlelight setting by the Cathedral Choir, under the direction of Sansone. Traditional carols and anthems will be performed. The Cathedral Ringers hand bell choir will make their debut, performing a festive prelude. This program is free and open to the public; however, a free-will offering will be received.

■ January 22, 5 p.m., **U.S. Naval Academy Band.** The Naval Academy Band will perform a program of festive selections. For more information about the band, visit www.usna.edu/USNABand. This program is free and open to the public.

Evergreen Museum & Library (4545 N. Charles Street) is housed in a former Gilded Age mansion surrounded by Italian-style gardens. It is at once an intimate collection of fine and decorative arts, rare books and manuscripts assembled by two generations of the B&O's philanthropic Garrett family, and a vibrant, inspirational venue for contemporary artists. The museum is open by guided tour only, offered on the hour 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and noon to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Call 410-516-0341 or visit www.museums.jhu.edu. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$7 for seniors (65 and over) and AAA members; \$4 for students (with ID), youth (6 to 18) and Johns Hopkins alumni and retirees; and free for members, Johns Hopkins faculty, staff and students (with valid ID), and children (5 and under). For more information, call 410-516-0341, email evergreenmuseum@jhu.edu or visit www.museums.jhu.edu.

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KidsView

By Julianne McFarland

Cool Cocoa Recipes

Here are some awesome new ideas to give your hot chocolate a boost. Start with a cup of hot chocolate, from a mix or homemade, and add these terrific toppings:

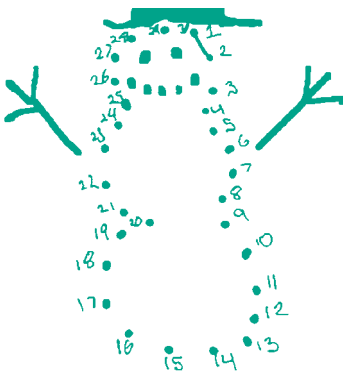
- Crushed candy canes
- Caramel
- Red and green sprinkles
- Crushed Oreos
- Marshmallows and graham cracker crumbs for a wintery s'more
- Peanut butter

Contest

Draw a comic strip or picture about being eco-friendly. The winner will get a \$10 gift card to The Children's Bookstore and will have their picture or comic strip featured in KidsView.

Picture Puzzle

Oh no, the snowman is melting! Can you put him back together?



A Winter Crypto

Write the correct word next to the picture. Then unscramble all the letters in the shaded boxes to find the mystery word!



_ _ _ _







And the mystery word is...

Calling All Kids!

We are always looking for your submissions for KidsView! You can send in a drawing, poem, short story, book or movie review, and see your work in print!

Send Kids View submissions to Anne Stuzin, 206 Ridgewood Road,
or email to anne@stuzin.com.

Note: February 1 is the deadline for Spring!

Art Happenings

Continued from page 3

valid Johns Hopkins ID receives a 10 percent discount on all merchandise, excluding consignment items. Museum members receive a 20 percent discount.

- December 3 and 4, noon to 4 p.m., **Dollar Days Weekend.** Visitors to the JHU Museums are invited to enjoy seasonal music and decorations, light refreshments, shopping in the Museum Shops and special \$1 admission as part of Baltimore's annual Downtown Dollar Days. Member tickets are free.
- December 9 through January 29, **Evergreen as Muse.** The 4th annual Evergreen as Muse group exhibition of student-made artist books is the culmination of a semester spent looking at, learning about, drawing inspiration from and creating art at Evergreen as part of the Johns Hopkins undergraduate course, "The Artist in the Museum: Making Books," a unique collaboration with the Homewood Arts Workshops and the Johns Hopkins Program in Museums and Society. An opening night party will be held on December 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission is free with museum admission and on view as part of the regular guided tours. Reservations are requested. Respond online at www.museums.jhu.edu or by calling 410-516-0341.
- December 8, 6 to 8 p.m., **An Ever Green Evening.** Evergreen will host its annual holiday open house, with spectacular seasonal decorations, the opening of the 4th annual Evergreen as Muse exhibition, a silent auction for one-of-a-kind art chairs hand-

decorated by some of Baltimore's best designers, architects and artisans, and after-hours viewing of the special exhibitions Intimate Earth: The Art of Louise Wheatley and Zelda Fitzgerald: Choreography in Color. Festive holiday fare will be served and fresh greens harvested from Evergreen's extensive grounds will be available for sale in the gift shop. Tickets are \$6 for the public, and free for members and Johns Hopkins students.

- December 10, 1 to 3 p.m., **Make and Take Holiday Card Workshop.** Evergreen director-curator James Abbott will lead a workshop on the art and craft of card making in the Victorian era. Reflecting the 19th century fascination with souvenir albums and collage, participants will use an array of colorful papers, ribbons, fabrics and printed illustrations to create holiday and gift cards. Open to all ages. Tickets are \$6 for the public and free for members, and include materials and museum admission. Advance registration required is required. Register by calling 410-516-0341.

Handel Choir of Baltimore will present George Frideric Handel's revered oratorio, "**Messiah**," on December 10 at 8 p.m. (St. Ignatius Church, 740 North Calvert Street) and on December 11 at 3 p.m. (The Church of the Redeemer, 5603 North Charles Street). This performance, which will launch the choir's 77th season, will feature acclaimed soloists Teresa Wakim, soprano; Charles Humphries, countertenor; Matthew Anderson, tenor; and Timothy LeFebvre, baritone; together with the Handel Choir and Handel Period Instrument Orchestra, conducted by Artistic Director Melinda O'Neal. Tickets (\$45 for premium, \$35 for standard and \$10 for student) are available online at www.handelchoir.org or

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Art Happenings

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by calling Handel Choir at 410-366-6544. WBJC-FM program director Jonathan Palevsky, host of "Operafest" and "Face the Music," will give a free lecture one hour before each concert.

On February 12 at 3 p.m., the Handel Choir will present **Anglo Meets Saxon: Britten, Walton, Bruckner, Rheinberger and Brahms** at St. Ignatius Church. The audience will hear how the German-born Handel, who emigrated to England at age 25, influenced music from Britten to Brahms. Choral works by 20th century British composers Britten and Walton will be paired with music by 19th century German composers Bruckner, Rheinberger and Brahms. Organist Timothy Murphy will join the choir to perform Britten's magical cantata on the theme of innocence, "Rejoice in the Lamb." The newly renovated organ at St. Ignatius also will be showcased in Murphy's performance of Rheinberger's Organ Sonata No. 4 in A minor, Op. 98. There will be a pre-concert lecture at 2 p.m. by Richard Giarusso, Department of Musicology, Peabody Conservatory of The Johns Hopkins University. Tickets are \$35 for premium, \$25 for standard and \$10 for student. Season subscription can be purchased by December 11.

Homewood Museum (3400 N. Charles Street) is a National Historic Landmark built in 1801 by Charles Carroll, Jr., and one of the nation's best surviving examples of Federal period architecture. It is renowned for its elegant proportions, extravagant details

and superb collection of American decorative arts, including Carroll family furnishings. The museum is open by guided tour only, offered on the hour and half-hour between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and noon to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Call 410-516-0341 or visit www.museums.jhu.edu. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$7 for seniors (65 and over) and AAA members; \$4 for students (with ID), youth (6 to 18) and Johns Hopkins alumni and retirees; and free for members, Johns Hopkins faculty, staff and students (with valid ID), and children (5 and under). For more information, call 410-516-5589, email homewoodmuseum@jhu.edu or visit www.museums.jhu.edu.

Upcoming events include:

- December 3, noon to 4 p.m., **Silhouettes for the Holidays**. Watch the magic scissors of historical artisan Lauren Munev, a master portraitist in the tradition of the silhouette artists of the 18th and 19th centuries, create a perfect gift for the holidays. One of the few remaining cut-paper artists still practicing in the mid-Atlantic, Munev will create a traditional shadow-portrait of your little one to treasure forever. For more information about Lauren Munev, visit silhouettesbyhand.wordpress.com. Tickets are \$26 for two copies of one silhouette and include museum admission. Custom-made oval mats are \$5 each. Advance registration is strongly recommended. Register by calling 410-516-5589.
- December 3 through 31, museum hours, **Season of Celebration** at the JHU Museums. See above.
- December 3 through 11, museum hours, **Discount Shopping Days**. See above.
- December 3 and 4, noon to 4 p.m., **Dollar Days Weekend**. See above.
- December 5, 5 to 7 p.m., **Homewood by Candlelight**. Decorated for the holidays with garlands and boxwood by the Homeland Garden Club, Homewood exudes a festive spirit that is best witnessed at the museum's annual Homewood by Candlelight open house. Glittering candlelight throughout the museum make Homewood appear as it might have in the early 19th century. Rooms will be set for entertaining, the reception hall will be filled with the sounds of live music and the Homewood Museum Shop will offer a wide variety of holiday gift-giving ideas for people of all ages. Eggnog and cookies will be served in the wine cellar. Tickets are \$6 for the public and free for members and Johns Hopkins students.

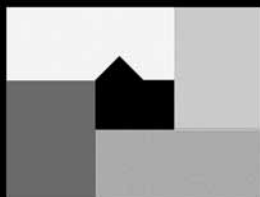
On December 22 at 8 p.m., enjoy **An Evening with the Irish Tenors** at the Modell Performing Arts Center at the Lyric (110 West Mount Royal Avenue). Ranked as Ireland's premier ambassadors of song, Finbar Wright, Anthony Kearns and Ronan Tynan entertain audiences worldwide with a quality of performance that is unrivalled, incomparable and, most importantly in their eyes, worthy of the rich cultural heritage of the country of Ireland and the exquisite musical treasury created by Irish people everywhere, throughout history. Tickets start at just \$35 and are available online at www.ticketmaster.com or at the Modell/Lyric box office, which is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. To charge by phone, call 410-547-SEAT (7328). For groups of 20 or more, call 410-900-1156. For more

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Calendar & Announcements

The **Roland Park Civic League** monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church (4801 Roland Avenue). For more information, call the Civic League offices at 410-494-0125.

The Grace United Methodist Preschool is pleased to announce its **Annual Holiday Bazaar** December 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will be held at Grace United Methodist Church (5407 North Charles Street, the corner of North Charles Street and Northern Parkway). Make your holiday shopping easy and fun with a spectacular collection of gifts by local artists, as well as an auction with overnight packages, restaurant gift certificates and fine jewelry. Take the stress out of holiday meals with Dishes to Go—meals and side dishes assembled and ready to serve—in addition to delicious baked goods and other fine foods. Beautiful greens will also be sold. Proceeds benefit the Grace United Methodist Preschool.

A Carroll Christmas: Holiday Traditions at Mount Clare, the annual holiday program and greens and gift sale, will be held on December 3. Experience Mount Clare decorated in yuletide splendor. Take a self-guided tour of the beautifully decorated mansion. Watch a costumed interpreter make Maryland's famous beaten biscuits in the Mount Clare kitchen. The Monumental City Ancient Fife and Drum Corps will perform on the front steps of the mansion in the morning. Inside, the a cappella group, Singers Madrigale, will regale visitors throughout the afternoon with holiday tunes of old. Baltimore's own Mounted Police Unit, which was founded in 1888 and whose original stables are in Carroll Park, will perform demonstrations. The elegant Museum Shop will offer a unique selection of gift items, including hand-made silk scarves, jewelry, and toys. Visit the Greens Tent for a wide selection of freshly cut greens, decorated wreaths, boxwood trees, unusual fresh holly assortments and magnolia. Get first pick by attending the preview sale on December 2 from 2 to 4 p.m. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit Mount Clare's educational programming. Access to the exhibit and programming are included in the special admission price of \$5 per person. There is ample free parking.

Mount Clare, a National Historic landmark, is one of the finest examples of a Maryland Georgian country estate. Baltimore's oldest house was the home of Charles Carroll, a barrister and distant relative of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, signer of the Declaration of Independence. The mansion sits majestically in historic Carroll Park in southwest Baltimore. Original family furnishings depict the grand style of 18th century colonial living. Mount Clare became Maryland's first house museum in 1917. For more information, visit www.mountclare.org.




Mount Clare, Maryland's first house museum, will be decorated for the holidays for its annual holiday program and greens and gift sale, A Carroll Christmas. Photo courtesy of Mount Clare

On December 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the St. Mary's Outreach Center (SMOC) will host **An Evening at Clover Hill Mansion**, an event that will include seasonal holiday food, drink and music in the elegant and festively decorated former residence of the Episcopal bishop. Items to be raffled, which have been donated by local merchants, include a basket of cheer from the Wine Source, dinner for two at the Radisson Hotel in the Village of Cross Keys, brunch for four at Woodberry Kitchen and a gift basket from Charlotte Elliott. Door prizes include gift certificates from The Dizz, Falkenhan's Hardware, Meadow Mill Athletic Club and Baltimore School of Dance. The "friend-raising" event will enable the SMOC to continue to serve the senior population in Hampden. In recent years, SMOC has helped residents apply for local, state and federal programs that are designed to help seniors remain in their homes and continue to

live independent lives. To purchase tickets to An Evening at Clover Hill Mansion, make a donation or find out more about SMOC, contact Executive Director Sandra Simmons at 410-366-3106 or smoc3900@comcast.net. ♦

Please submit information for this column to Newsletter@RolandPark.org.



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Art Happenings

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information, visit www.modellpac.com or www.theirishtenors.com.

On January 14 at 8 p.m., **Cesar Millan**, star of the hit TV show “Dog Whisperer with Cesar Millan” (National Geographic WILD’s flagship series) will be at the Modell Performing Arts Center at the Lyric for one show only as part of his fall/winter speaking tour. Tickets start at just \$38.75 and are available online at www.ticketmaster.com or at the Modell/Lyric box office, which is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. To charge by phone, call 410-547-SEAT (7328). For groups of 15 or more, call 410-900-1156, and for more information, visit www.modellpac.com. ❖

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Lost and Found

By Cecily McIntyre

The cat-stuck-in-a-tree tales found in storybooks may be infrequent in Roland Park, but we are not without our share of heart-warming animal rescues. This fall, there was one that’s worth sharing.

Long-time resident Jean Mellott—not the fire department—is the hero of this story. While gardening with a group of kids in Hampden, Mellott was approached by a little white dog. The dog’s fur was “so matted that it was coming off,” said Mellott. “He looked like he had been outside for a long time.”

Despite the pup’s friendly behavior, his unkempt looks intimidated the kids. Since he did not seem to have rabies, Mellott carried him to her truck and took him to the SPCA shelter on Falls Road.

It turns out that, 11 months ago, the parents of a Roland Park resident were visiting when their dog got away from them. Mellott remembers seeing the couple scouring the neighborhood for their pet. Unsuccessful and heartbroken, they returned to their home in Pennsylvania with one less member.

Back at the SPCA, the dog was scanned for a microchip. Remarkably, he had one and was traced back to his Pennsylvania owners. Microchips are the most reliable way to ensure the return of lost pets. We still don’t know how the dog spent his 11 months, but the SPCA discovered that his name is “Lucky.” Clearly, he deserves the moniker. ❖

Cecily McIntyre is a senior at The Bryn Mawr School.

Picking the Perfect Christmas Tree

By Peter Bieneman, General Manager of Green Fields Nursery

Undoubtedly, the most important decoration you will put into your home for the holiday season is the tree. Choosing the perfect one should be a pleasant, stress-free experience, but it usually doesn't turn out that way. Here are a few guidelines to keep the tree picking process simple and less stressful.

Size

A Christmas tree looks smaller outside than it will in your home. The tree you think might fit will suddenly seem to grow enormous in your home, requiring major furniture rearranging. Always take a measuring tape with you when tree shopping and know your ceiling height. In Roland Park, ceiling heights can soar upwards to 12 feet or more; be mindful not to overestimate as you may end up damaging your home. Also measure the width of the tree, keeping in mind that the branches will fall and the tree will be bigger around when it is placed upright. Look for a tree with a straight trunk. A crooked main trunk will be hard to disguise and will possibly lead to an unstable tree.

Color

If you can, shop in the daytime. This allows you to judge tree color. Fraser firs have blue needles with a silver underside. Douglas firs have a bright or medium green color consistent throughout the needle.

Needles

Once you have selected a tree, check it for good needle retention. Pull the needles. They should not fall off easily. Some may fall from the inside, but they were going to fall off naturally. Don't worry about that.

Origin

Ask where the trees are from and when they were cut. Ideally, they were cut recently and from a contiguous state. Fraser firs, for example, hail from Pennsylvania and the mountainous parts of the Carolinas. Douglas firs are from West Virginia and Virginia. There are exceptions, of course, and certain areas are known for particular kinds of trees. It is not unusual for a tree to come from as far as Oregon; this would be a white fir or noble fir.

Once you have picked the perfect tree and brought it home, now what?

First, are you going to put it up right away? If so, have the tree butted—freshly cut—so it can start taking up water as soon as you put it in the tree stand. If you shopped early and plan to put the tree up later, put it in water outside, as long as freezing temperatures are not expected. If a freeze is expected, do not have the tree butted. Instead, take it home and cut it only when you are ready to bring it in.

Before taking the tree inside, you can spray it with an anti-desiccant to help maintain its moisture. Before putting the tree in the stand, take this opportunity to put a tree bag between the bottom branches and the stand. You can pull it around the tree when you move it outside after the holidays.

Once it is inside, locate the tree away from heat sources and in a room that is kept as cool as possible. Make sure there is water in the stand's reservoir at all times and use a tree preservative to prolong its freshness.

Recommended products:



- Prolong Tree Preservative
- Wilt-Pruf Antidesiccant
- Tree Removal Bag
- Santa's Solutions Tree Stand

The most important thing to realize about a tree inside your home is safety. Do not let the tree dry out. Remove it if it does. Always make sure the lights you use on the tree are functioning properly and never use lit candles. Be careful to

ensure that the tree remains stable in its stand. Purchase a new, sturdy, appropriately sized one if you are unsure of the old one you have probably had for years. These measures will guarantee your holiday will be safe and your tree happy!

Finally, ask about home delivery and set-up for a nominal fee. You might save yourself—not to mention your back—a lot of aggravation. Tree shopping should be fun, but be prepared for your new addition, and your holidays will be a little merrier. ❖









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EnergyWise: New Year's Resolutions for the Green Home

By Shannon Putman

If you are like most homeowners in Roland Park, your New Year's resolutions involve plans to repair, maintain or renovate your home this year. When you plan the work, are its environmental impacts a consideration? Do you investigate green alternatives to reduce energy consumption and limit use of fossil fuels?

Many people assume that environmentally friendly work or supplies are more expensive up front, and they disregard the green choice if they are on a tight budget. As Polly Bart of Greenbuilders Inc. explains, though, there are a variety of practical and inexpensive suggestions for greening your home.

One of Bart's favorite recommendations for homeowners is to "live actively within their own homes." By this, she means for people to move around the house and make adjustments as needed in order to be comfortable. For example, live in different parts of the house depending on the season and light exposure. In the winter, when days are shorter, spend time near windows during the day and stay in warmer areas of the house (the kitchen, for example). In the summer, spend more time in the cooler areas (a finished basement perhaps). During summer months, many Roland Park homeowners conserve energy by creating a routine that involves closing windows and drawing shades in the morning, and opening windows in the evening. If the outside temperature at night is expected to be 15 degrees cooler than the inside temperature, homeowners can run a whole house fan installed in the attic or a third floor window at night to cool the house. Spring and fall

routines include adjusting the heating and cooling systems for the new season and turning a whole house fan on in the evening and off in the morning.

"These are all simple things that are either very inexpensive or free, and that many people ignore," says Bart. "If people would keep up with their houses as they do with their cars, they would lower their heating, cooling and electrical bills, and their impact on the environment."

Here are other suggested New Year's resolutions that will keep your home—and hopefully your pocketbook—greener this year:

■ **Get an energy audit.** A number of private Baltimore companies offer home energy audits. Simply, these evaluations assess energy consumption and lead to recommendations for increasing your home's energy efficiency. Ideally, your windows, heating and cooling systems, water heater, and appliances are evaluated. The best quality audits involve a blower door test, which measures the difference in air pressure between the inside and outside of your home. In other words, it tells you just how much your home leaks air. The specific location of air leaks is identified with infrared cameras or a "smoke test" to show drafts. A duct blaster test checks for leaks in the ducts used for central cooling and some heating systems, thus identifying how much conditioned air is lost to the crawl space. Audits generally cost less than \$500; blower door tests cost more. Bart cautions homeowners to work closely with the energy auditor in order to determine specific areas of concern and to gain an understanding of how the problems can be fixed. In the absence of obtaining a professional audit, the U.S. Department of Energy offers (DOE) a "Do It Yourself Home Audit" guide that is both simple and informative at www.energysavers.gov/your_home/energy_audits/index.cfm/mytopic=1117.

■ **Insulate the attic.** Older homes that have not had an energy retrofit lose the majority of their heat through the air leaks noted above, but another large factor is uninsulated or poorly insulated attics and roofs. In Maryland, current recommendations dictate that 10 to 14 inches of R-38 insulation is used to cover the attic or top floor crawl space. There are several insulation options, including cellulose and cotton, which are recyclable materials and effective but may be slightly more expensive. Fiberglass insulation is readily available but may affect air quality. The DOE offers a 13-page do-it-yourself guide for insulating attic space at www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=diy.diy_index. This is an easy project that even the most novice home renovators can undertake in a weekend. For more information about insulation materials, visit www.greenhomeguide.com or www.energysavers.gov/your_home/insulation_airsealing/index.cfm/mytopic=11350. Bart recommends inspecting existing insulation every five years or so to confirm that it has not compacted to below the recommended 10 to 14 inches, blocked soffit vents or suffered water damage.

■ **Install a programmable thermostat.** The DOE recommends keeping your heat set to 68 degrees during daylight hours and 58 degrees at night. This will lead to a 10 percent savings on your heating bill (or up to 1 percent savings for each degree the temperature is lowered overnight) and will lower your use of fossil fuels. In the summer, it is recommended that you keep the air conditioner set no lower than 78 degrees during the day and to allow slight increases during the nighttime hours. Refer to

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www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product.showProductGroup&pgw_code=TH for more information on programmable thermostats. Bart recommends home owners consider creating heating and cooling zones so that only commonly used space is conditioned at all times and other spaces can be turned on only as needed.

- **Change to LED lights.** LED lights are the newest product in energy efficient and safe light bulbs. They are solid bulbs and are therefore more durable than both old-fashioned incandescent bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs). They last 10 times longer than most CFLs and are mercury free, making them easier to dispose of safely. LEDs and CFLs use about the same amount of energy for a given light output but use only about 25 percent of the energy of an incandescent bulb with the same light output. LEDs are considerably more expensive than CFLs, but costs are coming down quickly and LEDs are well worth considering. Because CFLs and LEDs last so much longer than incandescent bulbs, the cost savings is considerable when considered over the life of the bulb. LEDs also handle short on/off times better than CFLs. For more details regarding the cost and energy savings of various bulbs, refer to eartheasy.com/blog/2011/08/led-bulbs-are-ready-to-light-your-home-7-tips-you-should-know and eartheasy.com/live_led_bulbs_comparison.html.

- **Choose an environmentally friendly paint.** The Environmental Protection Agency currently lists poor indoor air quality as one of the top five hazards to human health. Much of the indoor air pollution is due to toxic emissions from chemicals used in paints and staining products. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are chemicals that were traditionally thought to be important for the performance of paint products (pigment, durability, washability, etc.). There are now many products on the market with zero or low VOC content that perform well and are readily available. Benjamin Moore's Aura line is low VOC and uses water as the primary tint carrier, limiting the use of petroleum-based solvents and formaldehyde. Refer to guides.eartheasy.com/live_nontoxic_paints.htm for more information on the various zero VOC, low VOC and natural paint products currently available on the market. Bart has had excellent luck finding some of the less available paint products at the Amicus Green Building Center in Kensington, MD (www.amicusgreen.com).

- **Consider your windows.** Most of the original windows in our homes are beautiful but drafty. Often, installing a good quality storm window is just as effective for limiting air leaks as replacing the window. Although all window replacements must be approved through the Roland Park Roads & Maintenance Corporation (www.RolandPark.org/roads/roadsDesign.html), Bart has found that the Marvin Ultimate line, an Energy Star approved line, complies with most neighborhood regulations. An effective and cheap alternative to exterior storm windows is a shrink-wrap plastic sheet that can be applied to the interior of the window frame in the winter and easily removed in the spring. Most hardware stores carry this kind of window insulation kit. Manufacturers include 3M and Frost King. A note of caution: the double-sided tape used with to hold the material to the window frame could damage the paint when you remove it.

- **Install solar panels.** There are many private companies, including BGE Home, that offer information regarding the installation of solar panels. All panels must have 8 hours of full sunlight to be effective and, per Roland Park design guidelines, must not be seen from the front of the home. Many companies

offer leasing programs for minimal money up front, allowing the energy captured from solar panels on your home to be converted to electricity. Often, this correlates to a monthly savings of 10 to 15 percent. For more information and a list of factors to consider before investing in solar energy, visit www.energysavers.gov/your_home/electricity/index.cfm/mytopic=10730.

- **Insulate your electric water heater.** If you have an electric water heater, wrap it with an insulation blanket, which you can find at Lowes or Home Depot. Do not wrap an insulation blanket around a gas water heater, as this could cause draft problems.
- **Recycle, recycle, recycle.** Recycling has never been easier, with weekly collection of bottles, cans, jars and paper. In addition, city residents can now bring household hazardous waste to the newly designated "Super Citizen Convenience Center" at 2840 Sisson Street (formerly the Northwest Sanitation Yard) on the last Friday and Saturday of the month between April and November. Accepted materials include oil-based paints, pesticides, herbicides, car and household batteries, drain cleaners, gasoline, pool chemicals and foam polystyrene (Styrofoam). The new schedule replaces the special scheduled collection events. For a complete recycling reference, refer to eartheasy.com/live_recycling.htm.

These are just a few of the ways you can make an impact on your home environment. Whether you choose to convert to LED lights or think more expansively with solar panels, I encourage you to investigate the green option. To reach Polly Bart, call 410-833-4814 or email pbart@greenbuilders.com. ❖

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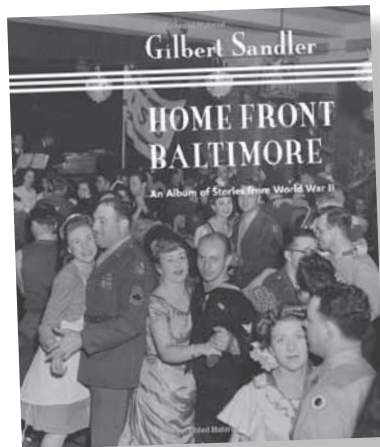
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Bookends: A Time to Gift, A Time to Read

By Henry Mortimer

If you live life according to Pope Gregory's calendar, as we do in our little corner of the globe (aka, Roland Park), then you've likely noticed by now that we've reached December, the final (and, quite often, coldest) month of the year. As such, December ushers in a season of conclusions, a time for tallying, wrapping-up and tying-off. Most of us spend these last few weeks compiling lists of accomplishments and comparing them to (the much longer) to-do lists: clean out cluttered closets, organize kitchen drawers and so on. And, for those of us who are filed under the world's major religious categories, December has become an excuse for list-making and wrapping-up of a different sort—gift-giving to others. What better choice for a gift this time of year than a book, especially one that offers some reflection on and consideration of your own surroundings? Here, then, is a round-up of new and soon-to-be-released books, either about Baltimore or by Baltimore-based authors—or both—for the readers on your gift list. All of them can be found at your favorite local bookseller or library. Happy gifting, merry reading!



Home Front Baltimore: An Album of Stories from World War II by Gilbert Sandler (Johns Hopkins University Press). In July 1942, American prisoners of war were performing *Julius Caesar* on a jury-rigged stage in Burma at about the same time that Tommy Dorsey and his famous orchestra played the Hippodrome Theatre on Eutaw Street. In June 1944, more than 3,000 U.S. Marines died capturing the Mariana Islands in the western Pacific Ocean, while fans back in Baltimore were cheering the International League Orioles in their successful bid for a championship.

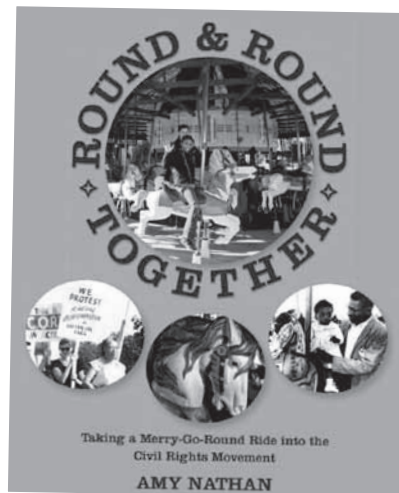
These are just two of the startling juxtapositions that Baltimore-based Gilbert Sandler writes about in his account of life on the home front in Baltimore during the Second World War. While poring through the wartime archives of local newspapers, Sandler—dubbed by the *Baltimore Sun* as “our great rememberer”—was struck by the contrast between what was happening over there, in the war, and over here, back home in Baltimore. Some of these contrasts seem ironic; some provide sobering perspective. Together they

make up an album of vivid and engaging stories, many told by people who lived through them.

Home Front Baltimore gives readers a deeper understanding of what the city was really like during the war. Rarely seen photographs from the *Baltimore Sun*, the *News-American* and the *Afro-American* bring to life the rich, personal anecdotes of wartime Baltimoreans and transport readers back to an indelible era of Baltimore history.

Round and Round Together: Taking a Merry-Go-Round Ride into the Civil Rights Movement

by Amy Nathan (Paul Dry Books). On August 28, 1963—the day of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, famous “I Have a Dream” speech—segregation ended at Gwynn Oak amusement park in Maryland when 11-month-old Sharon Langley, her dad beside her, became the first black child to ride the park's famous merry-go-round. As Amy Nathan tells the story of how individuals in Baltimore integrated one amusement park in their town, she also gives an overview of the history of segregation and the civil rights movement. *Round and Round Together* creates a new civil rights symbol—the Gwynn Oak carousel is now the Smithsonian Carousel, which thousands of kids enjoy each year.



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Round and Round Together is illustrated with archival photos from newspapers and other sources, as well as personal photos from family albums of individuals interviewed for the book and a timeline of major civil rights events.

Amy Nathan is an award-winning author of several books for young people, including *Count on Us: American Women in the Military*, *Yankee Doodle Gals: Women Pilots of World War II* and *Surviving Homework*. She grew up in Baltimore and went to Western High School.

Not in My Neighborhood: How Bigotry Shaped a Great American City by Antero Pietila (Ivan R. Dee Publisher). Baltimore is the setting for (and typifies) one of the most penetrating examinations of bigotry and residential segregation ever published in the United States. Antero Pietila shows how continued discrimination practices toward African-Americans and Jews have shaped the cities in which we now live. Eugenics, racial thinking and white supremacist attitudes influenced even the federal government's actions toward housing in the 20th century, dooming American cities to ghettoization. Newly released in paperback, this all-American tale is told through the prism of Baltimore, from its early suburbanization in the 1880s to the consequences of "white flight" after World War II, and into the first decade of the 21st century. The events are real, and so are the heroes and villains. Pietila's engrossing story is an eye-opening journey into city blocks and neighborhoods, shady practices and ruthless promoters.

Antero Pietila spent 35 years as a reporter with the *Baltimore Sun*, most of it covering the city's neighborhoods, politics and government. A native of Finland, he became a student of racial change during his first visit to the United States in 1964. He lives

in Baltimore.

Brewing in Baltimore by Maureen O'Prey, Hugh Sisson, Foreword (Arcadia Publishing). Throughout its rich and vibrant history, Baltimore has been known by a variety of names: Mobtown, the Land of Pleasant Living or Charm City, to name just a few. Perhaps "Beer Town" would have been more appropriate. Several pivotal events in Maryland's history involved the brewing industry. Baltimore brewers were vital to building the fledgling town into the bustling city it is today. These brewers established some of the earliest churches in Baltimore. Eagle Brewery's Harry Von der Horst helped build the Orioles into a pennant-winning team in the 1890s. Mary Pickersgill sewed the stars upon the Star Spangled Banner on the floor of Brown's Brewery during the War of 1812.

Today, locals recognize the iconic Natty Boh as one of their own; his winking eye still keeps watch over Baltimore. Some may even recall brands like Globe, American or Gunther. With images provided primarily by the Baltimore Museum of Industry, natives and visitors alike will reacquire themselves with Baltimore's malted roots, legendary brewers and those that continue the tradition today. As a historian and local who witnessed many of these brewing institutions come and go, author Maureen O'Prey brings this oft-overlooked history to light. ♦

Henry Mortimer resides in Roland Park with his wife and children. He writes Scribbleskiff.com, an occasional blog about music, books and other distractions. In his spare time, he works as a communications consultant. Contact him at henry@mortimercommunications.com.

Welcome New Neighbors!

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Robert Moffitt and Emily Agree, 401 Hawthorn Road

Thomas P. Molloy and Anne Marie Balcerzak, 4905 Roland Avenue

Darin Winick and Kimberly Caspari, 12 Hillside Road

Nicholas and Susan Cafrey B. Piraino, 6 Saint Johns Road

Megan Kraai, 906 West University Parkway

Sanford Wu and Mao Asukata, 600 Edgevale Road

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Roland Parkers Reach Out: Carter M. Brigham

By Kathy Hudson

In 1997, Carter Brigham left her position as director of corporate accounts at her family's business, the R.E. Michel Company. Not long after that, her former teacher at St. Paul's School for Girls told her that she was retiring as the confidential intermediary for a program called Adoption Search. Carter was fascinated. The thought of helping adoptees, birth mothers and birth fathers find one another through Episcopal Social Ministries (ESM) was compelling to this 30-year-old. Soon Carter was the new intermediary, a position she held for 11 years.

While no longer the intermediary, Carter is still active fund-raising for the recently re-named Post-Adoptive Search Services.

"People now in their 20s and 30s have no concept what America was like when these adoptions occurred. The mores of the times couldn't have been more different than today," she says. "There are birth parents today living with this horrible guilt, as fresh as if it were the 1950s."

The youngest daughter of Robert "Butch" Michel and community activist Sally Michel, Carter grew up in Guilford with her sisters Parker and Mary Page. After graduating from Colgate University as an Asian Studies major, she moved to Boston. There she worked for Michael Kennedy at Citizens' Energy, where her future husband, Harry Brigham, also worked. Seventeen years ago, they moved to the last Roland Park house on Beech Avenue, then to Northfield Place 10 years ago. She and Harry, now an entrepreneur

and restaurant owner, have two sons, Greer (age 14) and Leland (age 12), both students at Friends School.



Carter Brigham, longtime champion for Post-Adoptive Search Services. Photo: Anne Stuzin

After attending a gathering for Post-Adoptive Search Services, I emailed Carter a few questions:

Tell me some stories of your experience as the confidential intermediary.

Carter Brigham (CB): I have done [child-parent] reunions in my office, on cruise ships and in a maximum-security prison behind a lucite wall. I have handled reunions whose outcomes are clearly a huge, positive shift, as well as some you would have to wax a bit philosophical to find immediately useful. I am a firm believer that personal


information is powerful and can be helpful if you know how to use it. When I worked with people, one thing always struck me: the emotions left behind years ago, as if left in a vault, had to be dealt with.

A current story happened in October. I was called by the daughter of a recently deceased birth mother with whom I had worked. I was invited, along with 30 other people, to her memorial service. This is a birth mother whose reunion I had handled eight years ago and with whom I hadn't spoken in two years. This shows you just how important the search experience was to her. Her reunion with her son, whom she had put up for adoption, led to eight years of friendship between the two of them. This adoptee's wife spoke with the birth mother every single day. The search and reunion business is very important for the people involved. Dealing with the pain, guilt and loss over the relinquishment and coming out the other side is a life-enhancing experience for many.

How did this program come about?

CB: What is now Episcopal Community Services of Maryland was originally The Church Mission of Help (CMH), established in 1927 in Baltimore City. Created by a group of women who raised funds by having card parties, they began their community involvement by counseling pregnant, unmarried women. With the outbreak of World War II, the organization became an adoption agency. In the days before birth control pills and before single parenting became accepted, the number of children placed for adoption surged in the U.S. CMH placed over 1,000 babies, largely with families who were members of Episcopal churches in Maryland. Adoption placements stopped a few years after Roe v. Wade, and after some international adoptions took place. In the late 1980s, adoptees, birth mothers and occasionally birth fathers began searching for one another with

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the help of the agency.

When did the agency become independent of Episcopal Social Ministries?

CB: ECSM decided no longer to handle searches for its former clients as of May 31, 2009. Therefore, none of the people it placed could find their biological families for any reason.

Who runs it now?

CB: It is run by the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland as Post-Adoptive Search Services. The adoption records were moved over to the Diocese in the winter of 2010. The Diocese considers the program a "zero-cost" program, so it operates strictly through fees paid by clients who are searching. Fees, however, are set by the Maryland State Department of Human Resources on a sliding scale based on income, so for some there is a gap between the cost of the program and what people pay.

What has been your role in the new program?

CB: As the former confidential intermediary for the program, I helped shepherd the program to its new home and guaranteed that I would raise the funds for any person who wanted to search, regardless of income, to bridge the gap. At that juncture, I decided to make a movie based on former clients' experiences and the value of their search. I held a fundraiser last fall showing that film and raised \$30,000 in one night. Those monies should fulfill the fund's purpose for many years.

What is the annual budget?

CB: Roughly \$15,000 a year. The current intermediary works on a case-by-case basis; she is a social worker who also lives in Roland

Park, the wonderful Christy Crain. She runs the program out of the offices of the Episcopal Diocese at 4 East University Parkway.

How many searches has the program facilitated?

CB: We haven't kept count, but easily over 100, many more if you are counting searches for health or personal information without reunion. Ten are currently in progress.

What is the biggest challenge for the program?

CB: We have an aging clientele, so we need to work to publicize our services. The Church Mission of Help changed names multiple times, and now the records have moved to the Diocese, so you have to be pretty savvy and motivated to find us. It is cost-prohibitive to go find our clients and tell them of our services. Getting the word out is our challenge.

When was the most recent "find?"

CB: I haven't run searches for several years, but I am aware of two reunions Christy facilitated this summer. One was initiated by the adoptee whose adoptive parents were deceased. The birth mother was so thrilled to reunite with her biological daughter that she and her husband have legally adopted this grown woman. This is a very unusual outcome but for these people, a good one. ♦

For Post-Adoptive Search Services: Christy Crain can be reached at CCrain@episcopalmaryland.org or through the Diocesan switchboard at 410-467-1399.

Home Sales

(August through October)

	List Price	Closing Price
4643 Schenley Road	\$229,000	\$220,000
4905 Roland Avenue	\$266,400	\$270,000
633 Saint Johns Road	\$295,000	\$300,000
600 Edgevale Road	\$485,000	\$430,000
220 Hawthorne Road	\$566,000	\$566,000
6 Saint Johns Road	\$735,000	\$665,000
401 Hawthorne Road	\$725,000	\$699,000
915 Drohomer Place	\$789,000	\$712,500
101 Bellemore Road	\$750,000	\$735,000
1000 Saint Crispins Lane	\$1,050,000	\$1,030,000

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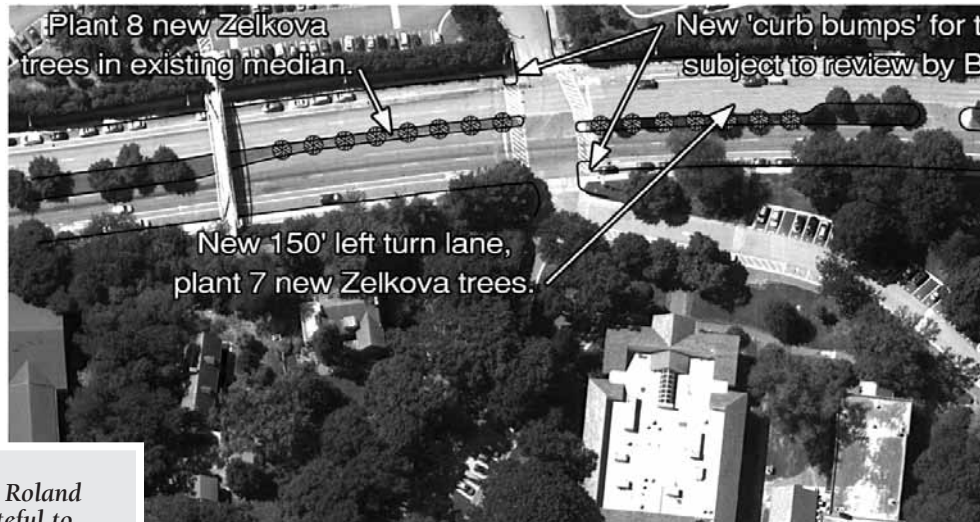
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Master Plan Leads to Major Transportation Project

Continued from page 1

curb extensions will be installed at other intersections on Cold Spring Lane, and the street lighting on Roland Avenue between Cold Spring Lane and Wyndhurst Avenue will be converted to the type of fixture now installed outside of the Roland Park Library and Eddie's grocery store on Roland Avenue and Miss Shirley's Café on Cold Spring Lane.



"We are very excited about the new plans for both Roland Avenue and Northern Parkway, and we are so grateful to our sister school Bryn Mawr for the way that they extended themselves (literally) to make this project work, and to the City of Baltimore for their willingness to get this work completed. Having a light on Northern Parkway by our two driveways will make that stretch of road much safer, not only for the students, but for everyone who drives Northern Parkway, and it will allow cars to exit or enter the campuses safely. We really look forward to the completion of this project, which has been so long in the making."

John Schmick, Headmaster of Gilman School

Message from the President

Implementing a Master Plan is like building a house. With a house, before the foundation is complete and the building begins to emerge, it can be difficult to tell what the end result will look like—or even if progress is being made! In the eight months since the Baltimore City Planning Commission approved the Greater Roland Park Master Plan, we've been hard at work completing the foundation of the Master Plan.

With this \$3.5 million transportation project, a major element of the Master Plan is emerging from the foundation, making a reality some of the goals the community envisioned—a community that is more walkable and bikeable, where traffic speeds are reduced, our children are able to more safely travel to and from school, and the overall aesthetic of our transportation corridors are improved. The project is happening because of a fantastic partnership with the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, our elected officials, private and public schools and commercial stakeholders, and the hard work of our Master Plan Implementation Team, which is led by Al Copp, Chris McSherry and Matthew Fitzsimmons. By following the Master Plan process, we were able to facilitate this agreement and the necessary funding so that long-standing transportation problems in Greater Roland Park can be addressed.

The Master Plan Implementation Committee is also actively working on other major projects, including restoring the Roland Water Tower and creating a community park around it, securing and enhancing the open space corridor of the Stony Run, and raising the funds to purchase the Baltimore Country Club land for active and passive recreation. Soon you will hear more about our new maintenance structure and financial organization that will further strengthen our capacity to achieve these ambitious goals.

Philip J. Spevak

Philip Spevak
President, Roland Park Civic League

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"I'm glad efforts are being made to calm traffic throughout Roland Park. The plan addresses many of the most dangerous areas. I am particularly pleased to see the changes extend all of the way to Elmhurst Nursery School. Now the tricky part is to educate drivers, who need to learn to respect walkers and bike riders."

Heather MacGregor, resident

In October, in cooperation with the Bryn Mawr and Gilman schools, the RPCL agreed to support signaled entrances on Northern Parkway to the schools' campuses and a reworked Roland Avenue median with a 150-foot southbound turn lane into the Gilman campus. The reworked Roland Avenue median will eliminate an unused section of paving and add trees to enhance the verdant character of Roland Avenue. Bryn Mawr and Gilman have agreed to share in the cost of these improvements.

Roland Park Transportation Project

Budget: \$3.5 million

Location: Roland Avenue, Cold Spring Lane, Wyndhurst Avenue

Schedule: Work to begin fall of 2012

Major components:

- Resurfacing of Roland Avenue from Cold Spring Lane to Northern Parkway
- Traffic calming, with improved crosswalks and curb extensions
- Major school corridor improvements along Northern Parkway and Roland Avenue
- Streetscape improvements (e.g., bike racks, benches, landscaping) and overall enhanced aesthetics
- Attention to historical integrity and park-like character of Roland Park

Other complete streets elements of the Master Plan are being evaluated by the DOT. The scope of the transportation project has not yet been finalized.

If things go well during the design and bidding phases of the contract, construction will start in the fall of 2012, and all of us who navigate local streets will have easier, safer journeys. ♦

"The Department of Transportation is committed to improving safety throughout the City. Roland Park is one of many communities that we are working with to improve safety for both pedestrians and motorists."

Khalil Zaied, Director of Baltimore City Department of Transportation

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RPCS Students Shine Light on Solar Energy

By **Nancy T. Mugele**, Director of Marketing and Communication, Roland Park Country School

For almost a decade, Roland Park Country School (RPCS) has continually pursued ways to increase and improve environmental sustainability. The school became a Maryland Green School in 2003 and a member of the Green Schools Alliance at the Climate Steward Level in 2008. Since then, RPCS has been working to "reduce its carbon footprint over time" and has lowered its total greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent.

During the 2010-2011 academic year, students in the Sustainability Design and Engineering elective were invited to consider the feasibility of RPCS partially converting to solar energy. Working with their teacher, Martha Barss, the school's Environmental Education and Sustainability Coordinator, the students researched and developed a proposal for a solar photovoltaic array, supporting their proposal with suggestions on how the solar array could be used to educate students at RPCS and the community at large about the importance of using solar energy to reduce carbon emissions. They presented their recommendation to the Head of School and members of the

Administrative Council. The students' proposal was unanimously approved contingent on the project securing financing.

RPCS is pleased to announce the installation of a 156-panel, 35.88-kilowatt photovoltaic solar array on the roof of the Jean Waller Brune Lower School. Using the Solar Pathfinder tool, which accurately measures the shading of any site over the course of a year, the students confirmed their prediction that the Lower School roof is an optimal location for a solar array. RPCS is deeply grateful to be able to implement this student-initiated project through a generous grant from the Lockhart Vaughan Foundation. This grant was awarded as a result of a competitive process initiated by a Request for Proposal from the Foundation to all Baltimore area schools that are members of the Green Schools Alliance.

The purpose of the grant is to support the school's commitment to environmental sustainability, make a visible statement about solar energy as a way to reduce carbon emissions and reduce the school's energy costs. The contractor estimates that the array will generate approximately 1 percent of the school's electricity in its first year and offset almost 45,000 pounds of carbon dioxide—an amount that would otherwise



RPCS installed a 35.88-kilowatt photovoltaic solar array on the roof of the Jean Waller Brune Lower School. Photo courtesy of RPCS

hatch a bit of holiday spirit ...

Ingredients:

6 eggs separated
(yolks & whites)
2 cups cream
2 cups whole milk
1 cup Maryland-style
rye (Pikesville)
1/2 cup dark
Jamaican rum
1/2 cup brandy
1 cup powdered sugar
2 tsp. grated nutmeg
2 tsp. cinnamon
Holiday punch bowl
At least 1 ridiculous
holiday sweater
Whisker of rye to start

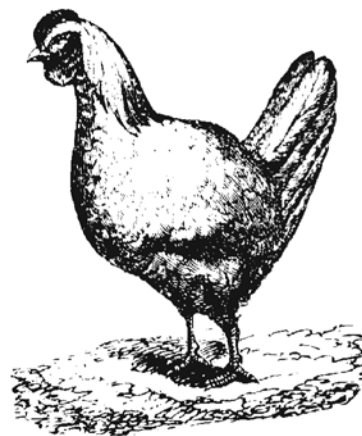


To assemble the 'nog:

Take the separated yolks in a bowl and whisk while slowly adding the powdered sugar. Once ingredients are fully incorporated and light yellow add the rum, rye and brandy and continue to whisk. Next, whisk in the cream and whole milk. Add spices and stir. In a separate bowl (a stand mixer works nicely here) beat the egg whites to a stiff peak. Carefully fold them into the 'nog mixture to the desired fluffiness. Keep in the fridge until cold and serve in Grandma's punch bowl.

— Corey Polyoka, mixologist

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Potato Pancakes

By Leah Eskin

Welcome at a cocktail hour, Hanukkah party or New Year's Eve bash

Prep: 20 minutes

Cook: 15 minutes

Makes: 20 small pancakes

- 1 egg
- 2 T. flour
- ½ tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. coarse salt
- Several grinds black pepper
- 2 Russet potatoes, peeled
- Peanut oil
- ¼ cup sour cream
- ¼ lb. smoked bluefish, sturgeon or salmon, boned and flaked
- Lemon zest or snipped dill fronds, optional



Mix: Whisk together egg, flour, baking powder, salt and pepper in a large bowl. Set aside.

Shred: Set a box grater over a rimmed baking sheet. Grate one potato on the big holes. Exercising patience, grate one potato on the small shredding holes. Scoop up potatoes by the handful and squeeze dry. Discard liquid. Toss potatoes into egg mixture. Stir with a fork.

Fry: Pour oil into a heavy skillet to a depth of ¼-inch. Heat to 350 degrees. Spoon in scant tablespoons of potato mixture, nudging into pancake shape. Fry a few at a time until golden brown, 2 minutes per side. Drain in a single layer on a paper towel-lined baking sheet. Keep warm in a low oven.

Garnish: Scoop sour cream into a zip-top bag. Snip off one corner, pastry-bag style. Squeeze a dollop of sour cream onto each pancake. Top with a few flakes of smoked fish. For the fancy effect, garnish with lemon zest or dill.

Provenance: Inspired by Wolfgang Puck and by my father-in-law, Saul Blau. ♦

Leah Eskin is a food columnist whose work appears regularly in the Baltimore Sun and the Chicago Tribune. She lives in Roland Park with her husband, Bob Blau, children, Hannah (14) and Noah (11), and yellow lab, Theo.

RPCS Students Shine


2010-2011 Sustainable Design and Engineering Class Participants

Katherine Bailey	Jinny Kim
Alexandra Carroll	Grace Lee
Alyssa Cestello	Jenné Matthews
Kiera Davis	Casey Merbler
Owen Foster	Mattie Meredith
Betsy Hebert	Ellie Murphy
David Hoch	Jordi Pollack
Annie Kaufman	Haley Venick

require more than 900 mature trees to process.

The school believes the photovoltaic installation will provide educational benefits to the entire community, as it will be one of the first at a K-12 school in Baltimore City. A webcam installed on the roof documented the installation and will also give students a firsthand view of energy technologies at work. Integrating the data supplied by the photovoltaic systems into the curriculum will help students learn about how solar electricity works and involve them in the study of the benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Researched and recommended by RPCS students, this solar energy initiative will reinforce the school's position as a leader in environmental responsibility and in educating for a sustainable world. ♦



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Friends School Hosts Garden Club Flower Show

By Heidi Blalock, Director of Communications, Friends School of Baltimore

On October 18 and 19, Friends School of Baltimore and the Guilford Garden Club (GGC) teamed up to present "Going Native: Food, Water, Shelter, Life," a Garden Club of America Flower Show, at the school's Zamoiski Alumni Center (ZAC). Featuring a wide range of horticulture, photography, flower arranging, and conservation and education exhibits, the show drew strong attendance both days, according to Kay McConnell, one of its organizers.

Visitors to "Going Native" were greeted with cheerful flower arrangements in hollowed pumpkins created by Friends' pre-primary students. Inside, row upon row of native and non-invasive non-native woody plants, perennials, grasses and annuals stood tall in green bottles. "Each specimen was chosen for brilliant fall foliage or fruit, interesting seeds, beautiful flowers or perfect propagation," said McConnell.

Guests proceeded through the Conservation and Education Exhibit, which showcased the ways in which the campus and gardens are used in the Friends School curriculum. Here, teachers' statements describing age-appropriate assignments in language arts, science, studio and computer art classes accompanied walls covered with colorful drawings, paintings, collages, maps, presentations and photographs.

Among the student exhibits, "Underground and Underwater" showcased the work of 9th grade environmental science students



A Friends School student seems captivated by this photograph of a monarch butterfly caterpillar at the school's recent "Going Native" garden show. Photo: Heidi Blalock

in testing water quality and soil pH in the Stony Run and the school's Native Plant Teaching Gardens. The Middle School's "Drawing from Nature" display included precise ink, watercolor and color pencil drawings of native plant specimens, and large vibrant abstractions in pastel inked with sumi-e brushes (Japanese brushes used for painting). Another Middle School exhibit, "Slopes and Swales," mapped stormwater movement on its way through the campus, across parking lots and roofs, down gutters, into storm drains, under playing fields and into the Stony Run.

The Lower School exhibit was entitled "Personal Relationships with Plants and Pollinators." Highlights included a platter of colorful vegetable sculptures created by 1st graders and 5th graders' botanical drawings of flower specimens, complete with fanciful botanical names written in calligraphy.

Garden Club of America Judges awarded two prestigious prizes to the entire school exhibit: the Ann Lyon Crammond Award for "an outstanding educational exhibit which best educates the public about gardens" and the Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Conservation award "recognizing an exhibit of exceptional educational and visual merit which increases knowledge and awareness of the environment."

Just past the Conservation and Education exhibit, the competitive aspect of the flower show was evident, with wildly creative flower arrangements, wreaths, monochromatic bouquets and fabulous birdhouses perched atop pedestals, all composed by Garden Club of America members and some bearing ribbons signifying "best in show." In the ZAC's boardroom, cornucopias overflowed with flowers and fruit. Every arrangement included at least one, and frequently many, plants native to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Photography rounded out the show, with entries depicting native plants and wildlife in their natural habitats, as well as a grouping titled "Rain" dedicated to water, submitted by Garden Club of America members from across the country.

For more information about the Native Plant Teaching Gardens at Friends School, please contact Kay McConnell at kathrynbmccconnell@gmail.com. ♦



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Very Slowly Roasted Beef Tenderloin with Cabrales Butter

By **Mario Cano-Catalan, Executive Chef, PAZO**

Contrary to what is most frequently written, there is a magic secret to a nicely roasted piece of beef. By first cooking it very slowly in a 275-degree oven and then searing and basting it, we can ensure an evenly cooked, moist and flavorful piece of beef.

Serves 10

For the Cabrales Butter

12 oz. (3 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature

3 oz. Cabrales (or your favorite blue cheese), cold

¼ tsp. salt

For the Roast

2 whole beef tenderloins, trimmed and tied*

4 T. extra virgin olive oil

Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper

4 oz. unsalted butter (for basting)

2 sprigs fresh rosemary

4 cloves garlic

2 sprigs fresh thyme

2 T. pimentón (smoked Spanish paprika)

To make Cabrales butter, place soft butter in a bowl, sprinkle in salt and mix together with a spatula or wooden spoon. Tear Cabrales with your hands, dropping it into the bowl as you go. Mix gently to avoid smearing the cheese. Hold at room temperature.

Preheat oven to 275 degrees. Season the meat with kosher salt and freshly ground pepper. Place meat in a roasting rack over a heavy roasting pan (heavy enough to be used directly on a stove burner). Roast meat to desired temperature; for a nice medium rare, remove from oven at 130 degrees. This can take up to 2 hours; plan accordingly. I promise it's worth it.

Remove rack and place roasting pan directly on burners. Add olive oil to the pan (you may need more, depending on the size of your pan). Place meat directly in pan and sear on all sides until caramelized. Add garlic, butter and herbs to pan and lower heat slightly.

Tilt pan slightly (you may want a second hand for this) and spoon this beautiful, herby garlicky, brown butter over the meat. Baste meat in this fashion for 2 minutes. Sprinkle meat on all sides with pimentón.

Remove meat to cutting board and allow to rest for 10 minutes. Slice meat and sprinkle with additional kosher salt or fleur de sel.

Garnish with as much of the Cabrales butter as your conscience will allow.

* I recommend buying a whole tenderloin from a skilled butcher, who should be happy to trim and tie the tenderloin for you. Trimming and tying the meat has two advantages. First, trimming will remove the fat and connective tissue, resulting in a more

pleasant, tender texture. Second, your piece of beef will have a more uniform shape and will thus cook more evenly, which is the object of this technique. A whole beef tenderloin weighing 7.5 pounds will trim down to about 4 pounds. Ask your butcher to grind the trimmings for hamburger meat. ♦



Photo: Allison Parker-Abramitis

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Oh Boy! It's Halloween Night...

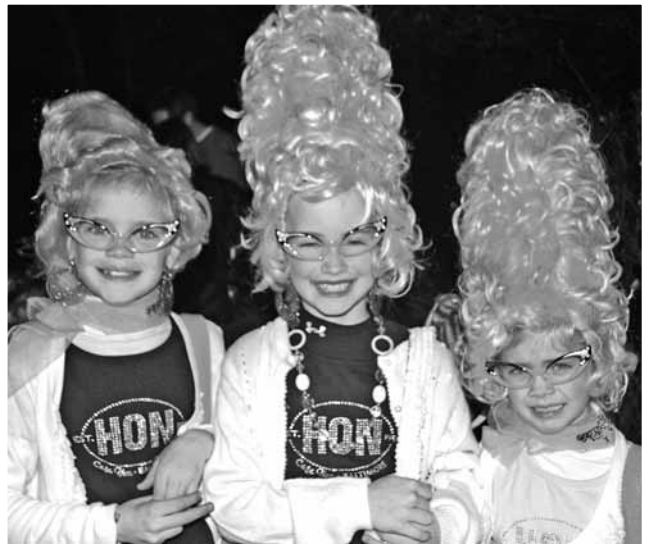
By Cissy Ramirez

Oh Boy! Oh Boy!
It's Halloween Night...
My, oh my...
What an interesting sight!
It's glowing...it's gleaming...
I think I'm in fright!
It's howling...it's leaping...
Come share my delight!



Photos: Anne Stuzin, Elizabeth Rice





Hidden Treasure Opens in All Its Glory

By Nancy Worden Horst, Secretary, Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council

Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and Baltimore City Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake were all smiles as they jointly cut the ribbon to formally re-open Robert E. Lee Park on October 14. The park has been undergoing extensive restoration since 2009, when Baltimore County took over its management from Baltimore City.

According to Kamenetz, Lake Roland National Historic District and the park had fallen into disrepair.

"Like so many good things that happen in our region, its

revival began with a group of concerned citizens. Aided by the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association, a partnership among the County, the City, and the State developed to revive this local treasure," explained Kamenetz.

Rawlings-Blake called the park "a hidden treasure for city and county residents alike."

Renovation projects include a new bridge spanning Jones Falls, a paved footpath leading to the site of Acorn Hill, a proposed children's natural play area and a pedestrian boardwalk connecting the light rail station parking lot to the park. Paw Point, a 1.5-acre off-leash, membership-only dog park, has been completed and is being



RELPMC President Peter Maloney, Treasurer Jeffrey Budnitz, Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Director Barry Williams, County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, Baltimore City Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore County Councilwoman Vicki Almond and a representative from Councilman John Olszewski's office attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Photo: Siobhan O'Brien Photography (www.obrienseye.com)

administered by a group of volunteers. Entrances to the park are on Lakeside Drive off Falls Road and from the Falls Road Maryland Transit Administration parking lot.

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Want to Get Involved?

RELPMC meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in the Jefferson Building at 105 West Chesapeake Avenue in Towson. Our meetings are open to the public, so please join us. Can't make a meeting? Contact Nancy Worden Horst, Secretary, to be matched with a committee or group that shares your particular interest.

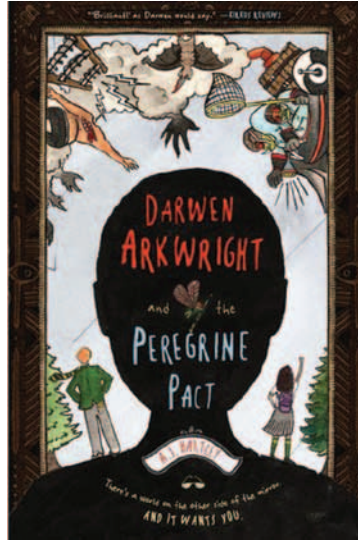
Baltimore County is supplying on-site rangers from dawn to dusk year-round to provide nature and environmental programs for children and adults, and to ensure that dogs are leashed at all times everywhere in the park except for Paw Point. In addition, various groups that have long used the park are busy planning tours and programs. These groups include the Baltimore Bird Club, canoe and kayak enthusiasts, garden clubs, bikers, hikers and runners, and those interested in native flora and fauna

The all-volunteer Robert E. Lee Park Nature Council (RELPMC) welcomed more than 700 people to its own opening celebration October 15, a picture-perfect autumn day. Moms, dads and children on bikes and in strollers enjoyed making crafts and dancing, and seeing owls, a hawk and turtles. Hikers, bikers, walkers, birders and history buffs took tours and explored. And

Book Nook, Jr.

From the Staff at The Children's Bookstore

Darwen Arkwright and the Peregrine Pact by A.J. Hartley. After moving to Atlanta, GA, from a small town in England, Darwen Arkwright finds life stranger than he could ever have expected. Through the old mirror hanging in his closet, he discovers another world—a world full of wonders and dangers and strange creatures, including Scrobblers, which ride on motorbikes with nets big enough to hold a human boy; Gnashers, which have no eyes and monstrous mouths full of teeth; and Fluttercrakes, which have bat-like bodies and the faces of men. Darwen and his new friends, Rich and Alexandra, explore the strange world and soon realize that the creatures of the mirror world are



after something in our own world—something that only human children possess.

Grandpa Green by Lane Smith. In this beautiful and enigmatic picture book, Lane Smith explores aging, memory and the bonds of family history and love. Grandpa Green wasn't always a gardener. He was a farm boy and a kid with chickenpox and a soldier and a husband and, most of all, an artist. He created a fantastic world where his great-grandson can discover memories handed down in the fanciful shapes of topiary trees and where things forgotten can be recreated by imagination. ❖



Hidden Treasure Opens



Ranger Laura Soder shows off a barred owl. Photo: Nettie Washburn

there were all kinds of dogs—all on leashes—walking with their owners to Paw Point for a romp or a swim.

RELPMC is dedicated to stewardship of the park and cooperates with the Department of Recreation and Parks in planning recreational and educational programs and activities. Non-profit 501(c)(3) status for RELPMC is pending. For more information, visit RELPMC.org or PawPoint.org. ❖

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Village At Home

Excerpted From www.villageathome.org

Village At Home is a community-based non-profit organization. Its services are specifically designed to help people stay in their own



Nationwide, there are more than 50 Villages in operation and Village At Home is Baltimore's first.
Photo courtesy of Village At Home

homes as they grow older.

Village At Home members are eligible to receive services from two sources: volunteers and vendors. Neighbor-to-neighbor volunteers provide pre-arranged door-to-door local transportation. They also help members with smaller, intermittent tasks, like shopping for groceries, changing hard-to-reach light bulbs and sorting mail.

Our vendors perform skilled jobs, personal care and the larger, ongoing tasks—all at a discount to members. Vetted vendors provide such things as handyman services, medical transport and bill paying assistance.

Membership is open to all ages. Village At Home was uniquely created for its north Baltimore neighborhoods, which include:

- Blythewood
- Bellona-Gittings
- Cedarcroft
- Cross Keys
- Evergreen
- Guilford
- Homeland
- Keswick
- Lake-Evesham
- Lake Roland
- Mt. Washington
- North Roland Park
- Oakenshawe
- The Orchards
- Poplar Hill
- Riderwood
- Roland Park
- Roland Springs
- Ruxton
- Sabina-Mattfelt
- Tuscany-Canterbury
- Wyndhurst

Broad community support is critical to the immediate success and long-term sustainability of Village At Home. We encourage everyone to work with us to make Village At Home a warm, wonderful and sustainable Village.

Joining as member allows you to experience firsthand all that the Village can offer. Anyone of any age will find many Village services valuable. Do something nice for yourself and help your community at the same time. Encourage your friends and neighbors to join also.

If you are not ready to join, we welcome you as a volunteer. Give as little or as much time as you want. Experience that special satisfaction when you make a difference in a meaningful way. Volunteers are the heart of the Village.

In our city, members of our community do so much for others in need. Now it's time to give back to your own neighborhood, especially to help the vulnerable among us. With your help, Village At Home will improve the quality of our community for years to come.

Hard to choose? Consider doing all three—join, volunteer and donate! It's all about helping each other. ♦



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The Book Nook

By Julie Johnson, Branch Manager, Roland Park Library

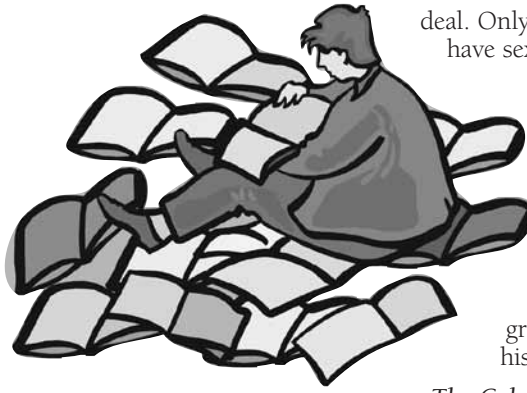
Welcome to the Book Nook! We were thrilled to have B. Morrison join us on Saturday, November 5, to speak about her memoir, *Innocent: Confessions of a Welfare Mother*. Hers is the first book to go inside the stereotype of



a welfare mom to give a true account of the struggle to rise out of poverty. When the author's marriage dissolved, she found herself with a one-year-old and another baby on the way, no job, no health insurance, no child support and no savings. She was 24 years old and had never lived on her own.

Welfare was not an attractive option, even in Massachusetts where the allotment was one of the best in the country. As her friend, Jill, sometimes cried in frustration,

"How bad do your choices have to be before welfare seems like your best choice?" By telling her story and the stories of fellow welfare recipients, the author shows what actually works to help families escape from poverty.



deal. Only then, she hopes, will she be able to have sex with the woman she loves without needing to kill her in the afterglow. The story line may strike some as distasteful, but give Block a chance and you'll be rooting for this thoroughly beguiling serial killer on a mission. A pro's pro, Block never wastes a word, never misplaces a plot element. He tells the story straight, but a tricky little grin always hides around the edges of his sentences.

The Cobra by Frederick Forsyth. Veteran Forsyth (*The Day of the Jackal*) shows once again he's a master of the political thriller by taking a simple but completely original idea and turning it into a compelling story. The unnamed Obama-like U.S. president, disgusted by the horrors wrought by illegal drug trafficking, decides to bring the entire weight and resources of the federal government against the international cocaine trade. He first declares drug traders and their cartels to be terrorists, subjecting them to new and extensive legal procedures, and then he brings in ex-CIA director Paul Devereaux to head the team that will implement the effort. Devereaux, known as the Cobra from his operations days, is old school—smart, ruthless, unrelenting and bestowed by the president with free rein to call in any arm of the government. Forsyth lays out how it

General Information

As the winter storm season begins, please note that I always update the voice message on the branch phone when there are changes to our public service schedule. Just call 410-396-6099 and listen to the first message for any changes to hours. Changes to the public schedule are also posted, usually as a banner, on the Pratt Library's website at www.prattlibrary.org.

Our branch e-mail is rln@prattlibrary.org. When emailing us, please make sure the subject line indicates that you have a library question by using BOOK REQUEST or something similar as your subject. The Pratt Library's website is www.prattlibrary.org.

Roland Park Branch hours are Monday and Wednesday: 12 to 8 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Friday and Sunday: closed. Please note the following holiday and furlough closings for all Pratt libraries: Friday, December 23, furlough day; Saturday, December 24, through Monday, December 26, Christmas; Monday, January 2, New Year's Day; Monday, January 16, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day; and Monday, February 20, Presidents Day.

Reviews are from editorial reviews found on the Pratt Library's online catalog (pac.epfl.net), Amazon.com and the library's subscription databases.

Fiction

Getting Off: A Novel of Sex & Violence by Lawrence Block writing as Jill Emerson. Four decades ago, Block wrote soft-core pulps under the pseudonym Jill Emerson. Now, for the *Hard Case* Crime relaunch, he reprises Emerson with this retro thriller. It has both in abundance, but it also boasts Block's legendary craftsmanship, sly humor and virtuoso plotting. The premise is to die for: Katherine Tolliver, abused as a child, likes to have sex with men but especially likes to kill them afterward. A few have escaped the deadly postcoital cuddle, and Kim, as Katherine is now calling herself, decides to track them down and close the

Continued on page 30

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Roland Park's 4th Ciclovía

The Roland Park Civic League held its 4th ciclovía on Sunday, October 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vehicular traffic was diverted from southbound Roland Avenue and cross traffic was temporarily blocked on side streets, allowing residents to socialize, exercise and relax.

Participants biked, ran, strolled and walked their dogs down Roland Avenue from Northern Parkway to Cold Spring Lane. Friends and neighbors greeted one another and all enjoyed a beautiful fall day in Roland Park!

Representatives from other neighborhood associations were on hand to observe the event and to consider organizing their own neighborhood ciclovías in 2012.

Eddie's of Roland Park and St. David's Church offered food concessions. Gilman School teachers' band, Teachers for Sale, and Bob Friedman and friends played in front of the Roland Park Library.

Joe's Bike Shop mechanics were on hand to tune up bikes and instruct children on bicycling safety. Back by popular demand, a

"Children's Bike Rodeo" was organized for the youngest bicyclists, courtesy of Bike Maryland. ❖

Photos: Anne Stuzin, Rita Walters






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Book Nook

Continued from page 27

would all work, and readers will follow eagerly along, always thinking, yes, why don't they do this in real life? The answer to that question lies at the heart of this forceful, suspenseful, intelligent novel.

Starting from Happy: A Novel by Patricia Marx. Fabulously cynical Imogen Gilfeather designs lingerie. Enthusiastically nerdy Wally Yez is a scientist of some sort—the author isn't really sure—which we know because Marx frequently inserts personal authorial commentary into the story of Wally's wooing of the reluctant Imogen. This makes for many a jarring interruption of narrative flow. But the intrusions are so delightfully silly that they elevate a fairly mundane love story to comedic high art. The text is also punctuated with crude line drawings, jokes about Rousseau, bathroom puns and whatnot (be especially sure to read all the text for the bar graphs). Very short chapters, some only a word long, offer readers no natural breaks but will delight fans of footnoted fiction seeking relief from the heaviness of David Foster Wallace. Marx (*Him Her Him Again the End of Him*) has impeccable comedy-writing credentials (*Saturday Night Live* and the *New Yorker*). Readers who enjoy the sly observations of Nora Ephron and the smart silliness of Woody Allen and Steve Martin should try *Starting from Happy*.



This Burns My Heart by Samuel Park. Three immensely powerful forces—tradition, love, and sacrifice—propel the struggles of Soo-Ja Choi in post-war South Korea. Soo-Ja starts out as a privileged young woman straining against the suffocating traditions of her family and culture, yet it is her own allegiance that drives her to enter into a loveless marriage rather than break tradition and marry the man who knows her heart. Soo-Ja's marriage is a yoke she cannot shake, crushing her with familial servitude and hardship but, like the culture itself, she perseveres, and true love follows her through the years like a message in a bottle waiting to be washed ashore. A heartrending story with a remarkable heroine who is both maddening and humbling, Park's elegant prose resonates with the quiet force of love in all its guises and a country struggling to be reborn.

Nonfiction

Days of Honey: A Memoir of Food, Love, and War by Annia Ciezadlo.

"I cook to comprehend the place I've landed in," muses Ciezadlo early in her first book, a vividly written memoir of her adventures in travel and taste in the Middle East. Like any successful travelogue writer, she fills her pages with luminous, funny and stirring portraits of the places and people she came across in her time abroad. But there is also, always, her passion for food and, through it, she parses the many conundrums she faced in her wanderings, such as the struggle to define identity, ethnic and personal, and the challenge of maintaining social continuity in wartime. The capstone to all her thoughtful ruminations is a mouth-watering final chapter collecting many of the dishes she describes earlier in the book. She does this all in writing that is forthright and evocative, and she reminds us that the best memoirs are kaleidoscopes that blend an author's life and larger truths to make a sparkling whole.

Among the Truthers: A Journey Through America's Growing Conspiracist Underground by Jonathan Kay. Kay, the managing editor and columnist at Canada's *National Post* newspaper, delivers an insightful (and slightly scary) exploration of America's conspiracy movements. Focusing primarily on the Truthers (who believe the U.S. government engineered the September 11 attacks) and, to a lesser extent, the Birthers (who claim President Obama is a foreign-born Muslim), Holocaust deniers and JFK assassination theorists, Kay argues that we must take these movements seriously, however outré they may seem, for the disturbing anti-intellectual trend they epitomize: a "nihilistic distrust of government" and a "rejection of logic and rational discourse." Kay, who spent three years immersing himself in conspiracy culture, traces America's flourishing conspiracism back to Greco-Roman times and explores the technological developments that allow conspiracy theories to flourish: websites and message boards where Truthers and Birthers can get news "tailored to their pre-existing obsessions." Kay, although generally a fair-minded conservative, reveals that he isn't immune to conspiracy theories himself: he excoriates the rise of multiculturalism and feminism in the academy for prompting a "reconstruction (and in some cases wholesale invention) of history according to the viewpoint of women, blacks, gays... a project that replaced the historian's once unquestioned goal of objective truth with an explicitly political, Marxist-leaning agenda aimed at empowerment and solidarity-building."

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The Faculty Lounges and Other Reasons Why You Won't Get the College Education You Paid For by Naomi Schaefer Riley. Riley (*God on the Quad: How Religious Colleges and the Missionary Generation Are Changing America*) from the outset takes issue with the “lifetime job security” enjoyed by tenured faculty and suggests that faculty who focus on getting tenure often ignore the institutional mission. She quibbles with the argument that tenure protects academic freedom and questions whether professors



who teach “vocational subjects” need those protections. Riley admits that the dire financial situation faced by many colleges has not been caused by tenure but argues that “tenured faculty are among the least concerned with an institution’s bottom line.” The afterword provides a compelling snapshot of Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering near Boston, where the “culture of innovation” precludes tenure of faculty members, the curriculum is overhauled every seven years, and present and past students are asked for feedback about the quality of their educational experiences.

La Seduction: How the French Play the Game of Life by Elaine Sciolino. Witty and keen-eyed, Sciolino (*Persian Mirrors : The Elusive Face of Iran*) is an American journalist living in Paris who feels by turns charmed and irritated by the French “civilizing arts.” The French are famous for their exquisite food, wine, perfume, fashion, style, literature and chateaux, among many other of life’s delights, and are notorious for their laissez-faire attitude toward adultery. “The French still imbue everything they do with a deep affection for sensuality, subtlety, mystery, and play,” writes Sciolino, with an emphasis on what she terms the “process” of seduction, rather than hurrying toward the result, as Americans do. As part of her exploration of French culture, Sciolino conducted many interviews: supermodel Ines de la Fressange advised her to take a lover; advertising impresario Jacques Seguela laid out his ideas for using Joan of Arc to sell the electric car; former president Valéry Giscard d’Estaing revealed that his political success was due to his seduction of “17 million French women”; while an elegant hostess schooled Sciolino in the art of throwing a sparkling dinner party *comme il faut*. The troubling underside to the French charm offensive is a patronizing attitude toward women and a crippling nostalgia—all of which Sciolino mines skillfully in this far-from-superficial investigative study. ♦

Parents’ Corner

Date and Time	Program
Mondays 1:30 p.m.	Mother Goose Baby Steps An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement for children up to age 2 and their caregivers. Note if Monday is a holiday, this program will be held on Thursday at 1:30 p.m.
Thursdays 11 a.m.	Preschool Leaps. Stories, songs and fun for children ages 3 to 5.
Thursday, December 14 at 12:30 p.m.	Hands on Holidays: Chanukah. The Jewish Community Center of Baltimore presents a celebration of the traditions of the Chanukah holiday. For ages birth to 5.

Visit Roland Park



Open House
October 16 - 1:30 pm
Educating Girls K-12, coed Preschool

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<http://getting.mobi>

ROLAND PARK NEWS

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Bonne Table et Bons Vins

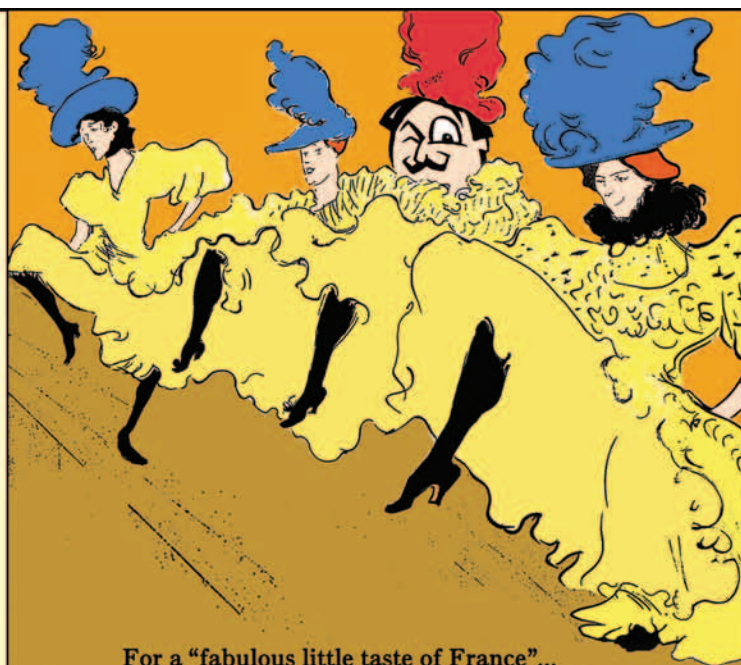
PETIT LOUIS BISTRO

Ooh La La! SUNDAY BRUNCH

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Brunch offerings are available
with the full a la carte menu

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