

ROLAND PARK news

Quarterly from the Roland Park Community Foundation • Volume Sixty-Five • Summer 2017



RPEMS Prevails through Budget Storm

***Flooding At
Wyndhurst
Station and
Wilmslow
Road***

***Summer Fun
at the Pool***

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Editor's Notes

By Hilary Paska

"Are we there yet?" Yes, summer is here and the travel season is about to begin. Whatever your vacation preference — highly adventurous or strictly relaxing — a good read is always entertaining. We have some great summer reading recommendations in our "Book Nook" section, ranging from the tense spy thriller *Paris Spring* to *The True Flag*, a timely work on the ongoing debate regarding American imperialism. Henry Mortimer's "Bookends" column features an interview with astrophysicist Dr. Mario Livio on his new book, *Why?: What Makes Us Curious*, which explores the nature of human curiosity. If you're not curious about this subject now, this interview will spark your interest.

The financial uncertainty faced by Baltimore City Public Schools is the subject of our lead article on page 8. Roland Park Elementary/Middle School's Principal Nick D'Ambrosio and current PTA President Kristin Bowden discuss the impact of the upcoming budget cuts upon our neighborhood schools and how RPEMS teachers, parents and volunteers are working together to ensure that RPEMS students continue their "history of excellence." As Bowden observes, "... investing in the schools is investing in the community."

Good schools and a great community — we have a lot to celebrate here in Roland Park. Check out the photos on pages 22-23 of the annual Spring Celebration, held on April 29 at the Woman's Club of Roland Park. Our

next community celebration will be the 4th of July Parade. Plan to deck yourself out in red, white and blue to join your neighbors at 10 a.m. in front of the Roland Park Library (5104 Roland Avenue) for the festivities.



Photos: Beth Hayes

plenty of summer events. Like many of its neighbors, the pool suffered damage last year due to the unprecedented flooding in the Wyndhurst Station and Wilmslow Road areas. See page 10 for an update on this situation.

Speaking of volunteers, the Landscape Committee has been exceptionally busy over the spring! Please see their latest news on page 18 and feel free to contact the Committee with any questions or observations regarding the neighborhood's public green spaces.

Have a wonderful summer! ❖

The Roland Park Pool is another summer staple and thanks to its volunteer board, members will enjoy upgraded facilities and



Many Thanks to Our Generous Spring Celebration Sponsors!

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Scoozi Ristorante

Village Square Café

The Wine Source

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The Woman's Club of Roland Park

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Arts Happenings

Upcoming events sponsored by **Community Concerts at Second** (Second Presbyterian Church, 4200 St. Paul Street) include:

June 11, 7:30 p.m., **Chamber Music by Candlelight**. Join us as members of the BSO perform chamber works in a candlelit setting.



Chamber Music by Candlelight
Photo courtesy of Community Concerts at Second

The concert is free of charge with free street parking and requires no advance ticketing. Visit **CommunityConcertsAtSecond.org** for complete programming information.

Summer shows at **The Lyric** (110 W. Mount Royal Avenue) include:

- June 24: **Bill Maher**
- June 27: **Jill Scott**
- July 9: **Bring It! Live**
- July 15: **#IMOMSOHARD**
- July 18: **Idina Menzel**
- July 29: **Tom Segura, No Teeth, No Entry Tour**
- August 9: **Mystery Science Theater 3000**
- September 30: **Bill Engvall** (Tickets on sale June 21)



Jill Scott
Photo courtesy of the Lyric



Idina Menzel
Photo courtesy of the Lyric



Tom Segura
Photo courtesy of the Lyric

For more information, visit our website **lyricoperahouse.com**. For tickets call 410-547-SEAT or visit **Ticketmaster.com**. For group rates, contact Audience Services at 410-900-1150, Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The **Young Victorian Theatre Company** (The Sinex Theater at RPCS, 5204 Roland Avenue) presents the Gilbert and Sullivan musical **HMS Pinafore**. Josephine is the Captain's daughter and she is in love with Seaman Ralph Rackstraw on his ship, the HMS Pinafore. But will their social positions keep them apart? This wildly popular G & S classic is funny, beautiful and timeless!

- July 16, 3:00 p.m., **Matinee**
- July 20, 7:30 p.m., **Family Night**
- July 22, 8:00 p.m.
- July 23, 3:00 p.m., **Matinee**

Visit **yvtc.org** to purchase tickets via an online seating chart that offers a map to each available seat in Sinex Hall. For assistance, please call the Box Office at 410-323-3077.



The G & S classic "HMS Pinafore." Photo courtesy of the YVTC

Village Square Café (5100 Falls Road) is a casual eatery and neighborhood gathering spot serving fresh, simple fare in a warm & inviting setting. Located in the lovely Village of Cross Keys in Roland Park, we host live music every Saturday evening from 6 to 7:30 pm featuring a variety of local musicians. Performances are held outdoors on our beautiful garden patio, weather permitting. No cover charge. Family-friendly. The Café serves our full regular menu, dinner entrée specials and full bar. Contact 410-433-2233 (CAFÉ) or **villagesquarecafe.com**.

Upcoming performances include:

- June 10: **Deb & Gary** (Pop/Rock)
- June 17: **Grayson Moon** (R&B/Blues/Folk)
- June 24: **"Better Late Than Never,"** Buzz Merrick & Tom Critzer (Classic & Original Acoustic Folk)



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Arts Happenings

July 1: **Mark Weinberg**
(60s & 70s Oldies)

July 8: **The Dharma Bums**
(Folk/Rock/Indie/World Beat Blues)

July 15: **Grayson Moon** (R&B/Folk/
Blues)

July 22: **Howard Markman**

July 29: **Terry & Vicky**

August 5: **Lauren Weiner & Julie Riffle** (Folk/Country)

August 12: **TBD**

August 19: **"Better Late Than Never," Buzz Merrick & Tom Critzer**
(Classic & Original Acoustic Folk)

August 26: **The Chang Cole Duo, The Con Brio Trio, and the Quartet of the Hemispheres**
(Classical Guitar)

June 14-mid-September, **Art Collages by Ilene Gold**. Each



Deb and Gary
Photo courtesy of Village Square Cafe



Dharma Bums
Photo courtesy of Village Square Cafe



Buzz Merrick & Tom Critzer
Photo courtesy of Village Square Cafe

quarter, Village Square Café showcases a local artist's work and hosts an "Artist Meet & Greet." The summer exhibition features collages by the award-winning artist and photographer Ilene Gold, who uses only National Geographic magazines to create her collages. Cutting thousands of pieces of paper, Gold began by recreating famous paintings and as this medium evolved, a new collection started with the recreation of her own award winning photographs, still using only National Geographic magazines. Look closely to find a hidden phrase or words.

Please visit villagesquarecafe.com or the Café's Facebook page for event details. ❖

Natural Selections

Cylburn Arboretum (4915 Greenspring Avenue) is a 207-acre, nature preserve and public garden located in northwest Baltimore. The property takes its name from the Civil War-era mansion, which was once the private estate of industrialist Jesse Tyson. The house, designed by Baltimore City Hall architect George Aloysius Frederick, was completed in 1888. Now it is home to the Cylburn Arboretum Association and the Horticultural Division of the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks. Cylburn has an extensive and expanding collection of trees and shrubs, including groves of magnolias, hollies, conifers and Japanese maples. The grounds include 13,000 square feet of greenhouse space, more than three miles of walking trails, wildflowers and natural habitats. The grounds are open to the public from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year.

Summer events at **Cylburn** include:

June 8, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m, **Intro to Nature Photography** (Greenhouse Classroom). Learn how to create photos of nature that take your breath away in this three-hour immersive workshop. When you gain control of your camera's settings and improve your ability to compose your shots, the quality of your nature and garden photographs will rise to a new level. Instructor Vincent Vizachero will lead you in both classroom discussion and outdoor hands-on practice. We will spend approximately 60 minutes covering nature photography concepts indoors, 60 minutes photographing the grounds of Cylburn Arboretum, and finally some time in the classroom covering the basics of image editing.

Prerequisite: A working knowledge of your camera (DSLR)



Dahlia bloom
Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboretum

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recommended but not required).

Cost: \$60, members receive 10% off online registration.

Please RSVP at eventbrite.com/e/intro-to-nature-and-garden-photography-tickets-33161933235.

June 24, 7:30 -

9:30 p.m., **Firefly**

Walk (Meet at the

Greenhouse classroom for a brief lecture before the walk). We are very lucky to be joined again by Dr. Abner Lall for an educational talk and walk through Cylburn's grounds to explore the magic of fireflies. Learn how fireflies use their bioluminescence to communicate with each other and observe them at twilight in Cylburn's gardens. Dr. Lall will discuss how disturbances like light pollution threaten the existence of fireflies and will suggest ways for us to help save them. Free with suggested donation of \$5, families welcome. Please RSVP at eventbrite.com/e/firefly-walk-tickets-33586599423

Summer Nature Camp at Cylburn Arboretum

Dates: June 19 - 23; June 26 - 30; July 10 - 14; July 17 - 21,



The magic of fireflies. Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboretum

Monday - Friday,
9am - 3pm

Cost: \$295, 10% off for Household Members.

Cylburn's Nature Camp focuses on the environment and teaches children (5-11 year olds) knowledge of and respect for Nature and their surroundings.

They will explore our 200-acre park with counselors who will teach them about the plants and animals they encounter, fungi, weather, watershed issues, ecosystem balances, and more! Throughout a week-long session, activities are mixed with eco-oriented games and lunch locales set in our different gardens. Some activities are grouped by age/knowledge level. Join the fun and watch your children learn to be good stewards of our environment.

Register at: eventbrite.com/e/summer-camp-2017-registration-27938403517



Cylburn's popular Summer Nature Camp.
Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboretum

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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NATURAL SELECTIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5



Waterfall at Lake Roland
Photo courtesy of Lake Roland Park.

September 15, 6:00 p.m., **Fall Fundraiser Event.** Music, food, fun, and exciting prizes, stay tuned to hear more!

Lake Roland (1000 Lakeside Drive), a 500-plus acre park, leased to Baltimore County, is a multi-faceted facility with numerous trails, nature and environmental programs, a dog park, pavilions

Calendar & Announcements

Roland Park Civic League meetings will occur on the first Wednesday of the month (except August) at 7 p.m. at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church (4801 Roland Avenue). For more information, call the Civic League offices at 410-464-2525.

Job Hunters Support Group **meetings are held on Tuesdays** from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at First Christian Church (5802 Roland Avenue). Participants are welcome to share ideas, challenges and spiritual support. A sandwich luncheon will be served. Call 410-435-1506 or visit baltimoredisciples.org.

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

and waterfront activities, such as canoeing and kayaking, for all to enjoy. The Lake Roland Nature Center, which opened in 2016, offers year-round educational programming and special events.

Summer events at **Lake Roland** include:

Saturdays, June 24 to August 19, 9:30-11:30 a.m. **Acorn Hill Nature Drop-in.** Every Saturday, we will have nature crafts, live



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NATURAL SELECTIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

animals, water fun, bamboo teepees, or other fun activities in the Acorn Hill play area. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 5 & older, free.

June 23, 7 p.m. to 9 a.m. June 24, **Great American Campout.** Join thousands of people across the nation for The Great American Campout! Rangers will lead the group on a night hike and end the evening with a campfire. Bring dinner on Friday, or cook food over the fire. Saturday breakfast will be provided.



Learn canoeing techniques at Lake Roland Park. Photo courtesy of Lake Roland Park.

Bring your own tent, or if you're new to camping or do not have one, call our office at 410-887-4156 to rent one. Ages 5 and up, \$10 per person (\$8 members).

June 24, 2 to 4 p.m., **Fairies & Dragons.** Come learn about the mysterious forest-dwellers of myth and legend said to visit the human world at the summer solstice. We'll search the park for signs of dragons and the fair folk and use natural materials to create a fairy house or dragon's lair. Ages 5 and up, \$5 per person (\$3 members).

June 29, 3-4:30 p.m. **Mini Mud Day.** International Mud Day is a day for children all over the world to celebrate nature, the glorious earth beneath our feet, and the joy of making a mess by getting really muddy. Join us right outside our new nature center! Your young child can immerse themselves in mud play at a variety of stations that include sensory activities, crafts, and just plain (Dirty) fun! Ages 8 and younger, \$3 per person (\$2 members).

Please note: Older children will enjoy our annual **Mud Day** on August 27th, 2-4 p.m.

Saturdays, July 29, August 5, 12 & 19, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., **Plein Air Drawing For Adults.** Come develop your artistic talents by using the beautiful surroundings of Lake Roland. All levels welcome from novices to advanced! Great for those who love nature and are interested in drawing it in charcoal! Class

size limited to 10 students. No single classes available. \$40 for four week session (\$35 members), Adults only.

Ongoing Activities include:

First Saturday of every month, 9:30-10:30 a.m., **Yoga in the Park.** Join us at the Nature Center or in the Pavilion for an all-levels gentle yoga class with a beautiful view of the Lake Roland dam. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one. Mats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, please call 410-887-4156 or e-mail LakeRol-RP@baltimorecountymd.gov. Ages 10 and up, \$2 per person. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

First Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., **Canoe Lake Roland.** Join a ranger for a guided tour of Lake Roland! Enjoy looking for wildlife such as eagles, turtles, beavers and more. Basic paddling instruction provided. Please wear shoes that can get wet and remember to bring sunscreen. To register, please call 410-887-4156 or e-mail LakeRol-RP@baltimorecountymd.gov. Ages 6 and up, \$10 per person (\$8 members).

2017 Nature Quest: Have an adventure in your own backyard! Pick up your Nature Quest Passport at participating parks, online at lakeroland.org/nature-quest or at your local Wegmans grocery store. The Passport directs questers to hiking, biking, and canoeing opportunities at the County's nature sites. Complete just five trails for free admission to Nature Quest Fest this fall!

For our full summer calendar, please visit lakeroland.org. ❖

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RPEMS Prevails through Budget Storm

By Kaitlyn Moretz

Roland Park Elementary/Middle School's "fearless leader," Principal Nick D'Ambrosio, plans to head into the 2017-2018 school year without teacher layoffs, despite concerns earlier this year due to the originally expected \$130 million Baltimore City Public Schools' budget deficit.

"There's going to be strains elsewhere when it comes to non-staffing purchases or upgrades but it's a sacrifice we're willing to make to keep the right people here," said D'Ambrosio.

Thanks to active parents and dedicated staff, RPEMS is able to cap off another excellent school year with far less frustration and worry than they experienced in January, when BCPS' CEO Sonja Santelises announced the massive budget gap accompanied by as many as 1,000 layoffs that would include teachers. While Governor Larry Hogan was at first resistant to aiding the budget, he and Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh have felt the heavy push from the community.

"The Governor's attitude towards Baltimore City Schools was very disheartening to read about," said current RPEMS Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) President Kristen Bowden. "I don't think the problem was the schools, I think it's the City in general just gets a lot of bad publicity. We need to showcase the positive."

The Roland Park Annual Fund, a group that focuses its efforts on local and state funding for the long-term benefit of Roland Park, worked hard to fundraise to maintain staff positions put at risk by the drastically reduced budget. In addition, the PTA encouraged its members to act — not only for the benefit of their children, but for children in public schools across Baltimore City.

"We're looking more at the big picture," said Bowden. "Not just a band-aid for next year, but more change in the culture of our elected officials to understand that investing in the schools is investing in the community."

Led by Stephanie Safran and Elizabeth Reichelt, members of the PTA — a group that Bowden estimates is roughly around 350 parents as well as many other volunteers — called the Mayor and the Governor's offices, wrote letters, shared passionate tweets with the hashtag "fixthegap," and were encouraged to attend rallies across Baltimore to raise awareness about the importance of education for all children.

"Our [the PTA's] main goal is to support and to advocate for every child, not just kids at Roland Park," said Bowden. "I knew that Roland Park would be fine. I knew the parents would do whatever was needed to ensure that RPEMS didn't have to suffer, but I was worried about kids at these other schools that didn't have the parent support that Roland Park has. I didn't want their students to suffer."



Fourth-grade math and science teacher Justin Holbrook, pictured here working with RPEMS students, was named BCPS' 2017 Teacher of the Year. Photo courtesy of RPEMS.

Both Safran and Reichelt work with Baltimoreans United In Leadership Development, or BUILD, a diverse non-partisan organization that focuses its efforts on making Baltimore a better place. Due to the efforts of Safran, Reichelt, the PTA and many other members of the community across Baltimore, Governor Hogan and Mayor Pugh have managed to come up with \$60 million to aid Santelises's budget. Personnel layoffs have now been capped at 300.

"It was a stressful time, but our parents pulled together and made great progress, said Bowden. "It [budget cut activism] was all a blur of activity. There was stuff in front of City Hall. It was a lot. It seems like it was so long ago, but it really wasn't."

Class sizes at RPEMS range from 27 to 32 students in the elementary school, and 25 to 32 students in the middle school according to Principal D'Ambrosio. Thankfully, they will not be increasing in the next year, but Principal D'Ambrosio says that they won't be able to afford many non-staffing purchases or technological upgrades. They do hope to upgrade the outdoor spaces in the next two to three years, plan on installing a new heating system to compliment the central air system that was put in five years ago, and have recently purchased a handful of Promethean touchscreen TV panels; however, there is little wiggle room in the budget.

Some of the school's partners that come in and work with the students, such as New Fit Kids and Code in Schools, are also up in the air. New Fit Kids helps RPEMS to facilitate a safe and fun recess, and Code in Schools teaches a technology class to its

"Our priority is that we have the right people, the right staff, working with the kids on a daily basis."

elementary schoolers. RPEMS also has partnerships with Goucher College and MICA, who both send interns to the school.

"We're resilient and persistent so we're not going to let it [budget cuts] affect us, but it's going to be a bigger strain," said Principal D'Ambrosio. "Our priority is that we have the right people, the right staff, working with the kids on a daily basis."

Mrs. Bowden agrees with Principal D'Ambrosio's choice to make maintaining the staff a priority, and believes that the PTA and other school community organizations can help RPEMS out. This summer the PTA plans to paint areas inside of the school, as well as updating the landscaping outside. The PTA also organizes teacher requests to help teachers pay for classroom supplies such as ink cartridges; purchase products to support RPEMS's behavior system, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports [PBIS]; and cover band instrument repairs.

RPEMS continues to succeed through the budget storm, carrying on what Principal D'Ambrosio calls "a history of excellence."

RPEMS continues to succeed through the budget storm, carrying on what Principal D'Ambrosio calls "a history of excellence." Recently, Justin Holbrook, a fourth-grade teacher, was recognized as the Baltimore City Public Schools' Teacher of the Year. The Gay-Straight Alliance won a national award for GSA of the year, competing against schools from across the country, and was recognized on May 15 in New York by the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network [GLSTEN].



Thankfully, class sizes at RPEMS won't be increasing in the next year but non-staffing purchases and technological upgrades will be limited. Photo courtesy of Beth Hayes, with permission from RPEMS.

The achievements continue on. RPEMS's middle school band consistently performs at Maryland's state band competition. Five students will be advancing nationally for the National History Day projects (described by both Principal D and Bowden as a science fair for history), which is a part of RPEMS's social studies curriculum. Hope Sacco and Anna Doherty, two eighth-graders, won the Network for Teaching and Entrepreneurship's national challenge for their girl-power inspired coloring book, "Girls Coloring for Change."

"The school's great — we have amazing teachers who are insanely dedicated, and we have an amazing principal who does such a great job encouraging teachers, students and parents to get involved," said Bowden. "It's a special place." ❖



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Flooding At Wyndhurst Station and Wilmslow Road

By Mary Page Michel

In February 2016 at one of the Community Listening Sessions for the Stony Run Strategic Plan, a project of the Roland Park Community Foundation, one subject had a group of residents hopping mad. The beautiful, idyllic Stony Run was flooding the area around the Wyndhurst Station in an unprecedented fashion. Margaret Wright who has lived on Wilmslow Road for more than 50 years, reported that she had never seen flooding like that caused by recent storms. Neighbors lost cars, Wilmslow Road required repaving (twice!) and residents were increasingly concerned about their safety.

Led by Wilmslow Road resident Martha Holleman, a group of citizens began meeting with about a dozen representatives from the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Transportation (DOT). Neighbors from Wilmslow Road, Michael Weinfeld from Kittredge Properties (who own some of the properties in Wyndhurst Station), representatives from Gilman and Friends, leaders of Friends of Stony Run, Roland Park Civic League, Roland Park Community Foundation and the Wyndhurst Improvement Association, have all attended regular meetings over the past 15 months.

Some of the factors believed to be contributing to the flooding include:

1. More intense storms due to climate change.
2. Excessive runoff from new/renovated sports fields and athletic facilities on adjacent school grounds. The schools exceeded the storm water management requirements while building, but runoff has nonetheless increased.
3. Lack of maintenance to Stony Run, resulting in silt and debris buildup that decreases the water flow.
4. Bump outs on Wyndhurst that were installed to calm traffic but also decreased the amount of water directed toward storm drains, leading to pooling in the intersection.
5. Higher curbs on corners which did not allow the storm water to flow quickly into Stony Run.
6. The narrowness of the channel leading to the Wyndhurst culvert.
7. The tunnel under Wyndhurst Avenue is very small for the amount of water flowing through it (half of which was constructed in 1860!).
8. Clogged storm grates surrounding the Wyndhurst Station area.
9. Erosion of the Stony Run bank between Majestic Cleaners and the Roland Park Pool.



A June 2015 storm caused substantial damage around Wyndhurst Station. Photo courtesy of David Zappulla.

While this story is a work in progress, there are already great strides to report:

1. The City removed the high curbs in June 2016 so water could flow more quickly to Stony Run instead of down Wilmslow Road.
2. After receiving approval from the Wyndhurst Improvement Association and the Roland Park Civic League, the bump outs will be removed as well as the current speed hump. Two new speed humps will be installed east and west of the pedestrian crossings to calm traffic.
3. DPW is in the process of retaining a hydrologist and a surveyor. They will look at all of the factors increasing the water flow at this intersection, and at the health of the Stony

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Eddie's
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FLOODING AT WYNDHURST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Run in general. The will make recommendations on long term solutions.

4. DPW is creating a list of all of the erosion sites along Stony Run from Northern Parkway to Cold Spring Lane with plans to move boulders back into place, restore stream crossings, shore up banks and remove silt and fallen trees. This will take place over the summer.
5. Additional storm drains may be added on the Wyndhurst roadway if needed after the removal of the bump outs.

Please be very cautious driving or walking through this area during or after a severe rainstorm. Please continue to support our neighborhood businesses in Wyndhurst Station as they work so hard to stay in their current locations while we tackle these flooding issues. And finally, please extend special thanks to our partners at DPW and DOT for their continued work to come up with short and long term solutions to the chronic flooding, while preserving the unique urban treasure that is the Stony Run. ❖

Stony Run Strategic Plan Update

By Megan Griffith, Mahan Rykiel Associates

The Stony Run Strategic Plan effort is coming to a close! After public comments were received in summer 2016, we shared the updated Plan with Baltimore City's Departments of Planning, Public Works (DPW), and Recreation and Parks (BCRP). Comments were then provided by DPW and BCRP, largely pertaining to improving clarity regarding implementation partners, City capacity and funding mechanisms, and City-run programs which were mentioned in the Plan. None of the changes were substantive. With these comments incorporated, the Plan is now complete, but not yet officially endorsed pending a review from Department Directors. After a long wait, we anticipate that the final document will be made available on the project website early this summer. At that time, partners can begin using the Plan as a tool for action and implementation.

The Roland Park Community Foundation, project planning team and our implementation partners are all very grateful to the support and input provided by the community throughout the planning process. We are eager to see this community-owned Plan put into action in the coming months and years. ❖

Be A Good Neighbor: Please Scoop the Poop!

Walking your dog on Roland Park's leafy parks and sidewalks is a pleasant experience but not so for neighbors who find evidence of "Fido's" perambulations on their lawns or in their trash cans. Please be responsible and clean up after your dog — and don't leave the bags in your neighbors' trash cans. These small bags often stick to the bottom of residential trash cans, causing a smelly mess. To be sure of collection, please place bags in a public trash can or inside a larger trash bag at home. Thanks! ❖



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Summer Fun at the Pool

Summer is finally here and Roland Park residents are excited to again spend time relaxing at the Roland Park Pool. The pool hosted its annual pre-opening cocktail party for members 21 and over on Friday, May 26, and the regular 2017 swim season opened for all members on Saturday, May 27.

The Roland Park Swimming Pool Board has been meeting since the first of the year to plan for this season. This year's improvements include replacing the concession stand floor, which was damaged in last year's flood, as well as installing a new water heater and a new drinking fountain. Our Pool Manager, Kim Mudge has worked closely with Lothorian Pools to prepare for opening day.

To stay up to date on pool events and activities throughout the summer, please visit rolandparkpool.org or [facebook.com/rolandparkswimmingpool.org](https://www.facebook.com/rolandparkswimmingpool.org). Once again, the pool will host movie nights and visits from some of the region's most popular

food trucks. We are also continuing the morning lap swim hour for adults — please check online or with the pool staff for lap swim times.



Courtesy of Karen Coughlin

As many members know, the Roland Park Pool is a fun and convenient place for summer birthday parties. If you intend to host a birthday party or similar gathering at the pool, please check in with the manager at least one week before your event for an explanation of the party guidelines.

Safety is our primary concern at the pool, so we remind families that **children 12 and under must take a deep-water**

test so our guards know that they can safely swim in the deeper areas of the pool. All children who pass the pool swim test will receive an identifying wristband. Please see the manager on duty to arrange the test. In addition, children under 3 should not be in the main pool and children who are not potty trained should also not be brought into the main pool. Accidents require closure of the pool for an extended period of time and negatively affect all of our members.

2017 Swim Team

Welcome Roland Park swimmers! We are looking forward to another fun and successful season building our swimming skills and participating in a series of swim meets with other area teams. Swimmers of all levels are welcome and we provide "helping hands" for our youngest swimmers.

Swim team suits should be black and/or royal blue, and may be purchased from the store of your choice. Team practices begin in mid-June, with practice times for each age group posted at the pool. For further information on the swim team, please contact Karen Coughlin at (443) 676-5761 or RPSwimteam@gmail.com, and visit rolandparkpool.org ♦

Thank You

The Roland Park Pool Board gives special thanks to Elena DiPietro for her years of dedication and service as President of the Board. When you see her at the pool this summer, make sure to let her know how much we appreciate all she has done to help with our summer pool fun!

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After 66 Seasons, A Home Field for Roland Park Baseball

By Kurt Overton,
Commissioner, Roland
Park Baseball Leagues

Roland Park Baseball Leagues (RPBL) began with six teams in 1952. In its 66th season, over 700 athletes from ages five to fifteen comprise 68 teams that compete on community baseball fields every single day from April through June. RPBL actively benefits from partnerships with Baltimore City's Department of Recreation and Parks, Roland Park Elementary/Middle School, Gilman School, Poly and Western High Schools, St. Mary's Seminary and Roland Park Country School, all of which allow the Leagues to use their athletic fields.

This year, for the first time in its history, RPBL has its very own home field. In partnership with the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Mount Washington Improvement Association (MWIA), RPBL has constructed an ideal Little League field located in Northwest Park. We encourage you to go check out the new RPBL Field, located at 2200 Enslow Road. With covered dugouts, a batting cage, bullpen pitching mounds, foul poles, and a sodded infield, RPBL is very proud of our home field. We are extremely grateful for the generous individual donations totaling over \$160,000 that enabled us to achieve this goal.

RPBL benefits from a clearly stated mission: "The purpose of Roland Park Baseball is to instill sportsmanship and to provide a nurturing environment, which will allow the children to mature physically, mentally, and emotionally. Further, the League strives to work with parents to develop realistic expectations of their children." RPBL's coaches and leaders take these words to heart, creating a positive and fun experience for young athletes while teaching them the game of baseball.

The Leagues' Clubhouse and main sponsor is Belvedere Square Market. Belvedere Square generously provides us with financial support, along with nearly 70 individual team sponsors. Neighborhood sponsors include Tuxedo Pharmacy, Eddie's of Roland Park, Petit Louis, Roland Park Place and Schneider's Hardware. Sponsors see their names grace the backs of their team's jerseys and in the League program, and their generosity allows our annual registration fees to remain low. We are



The first pitch at RPBL Field, our new home field. Pitcher: Ka'Von Gambrill. Batter: Blake Schumate; Catcher: Wyatt Winstead; Umpire: Andre Noel. Photos courtesy of Roland Park Baseball Leagues

extremely grateful for their ongoing support.

RPBL welcomes both volunteer and financial support. You may contact us directly at rolandparkbaseball@gmail.com or via mail at 4612 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210. Visit rolandparkbaseball.com for more information on the Leagues and our 2nd annual RPBL Fall Classic Tournament and Home Run Derby, scheduled for September 16. ♦





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Roland Park's Covenants: An Overview

By Kathleen Truelove
Photos: Sally Foster

Summer is a busy season for exterior home maintenance, so now is a good time to review what the Roland Park covenants are and why they exist. The neighborhood's covenants were recently the subject of a lawsuit — the judgment in that lawsuit affirmed their validity and enforceability.

The covenants in Plat 1 of Roland Park are among the oldest in the country, and their purpose in the early 1890s was zoning, since neither Baltimore City nor Baltimore County were governed by zoning ordinances in those days. Having created a bucolic residential neighborhood, the Roland Park Company wished to curb commercial development. The 1892 deed for Lot 25 in Plat 1 on Sheldon Road, for example, sold by the Roland Park Company to Louis Lewis for \$1,500, states that “No shop, store, factory, no saloon or business house of any kind, no hospital, asylum, or institution of kindred nature, and no charitable institution shall be erected or maintained on the premises” and that any building erected be used only for



residential purposes and owner occupied. Further, only a single house was to be built on each lot, costing no less than an amount specified in the deed, in this case, \$3,000. The distance from the house to the street and from a “stable or other outbuilding” to the street was also specified. At a time when outdoor privies were prevalent nationwide, Roland Park residents were required to have only indoor plumbing, and keeping livestock was also prohibited. If the covenant requirements were violated, the Roland Park Company was entitled to come onto the property to remedy the problem. In 1894, Mr.

Lewis also bought Lot 24 for \$1,250, and today 401 Hawthorn Road, a charming Queen Anne house, stands on those two lots.

The Plat 1 covenants were part of the deed for each property and run in perpetuity. By the middle of 1901, the Roland Park Company had added further provisions, which required that any building to be erected must have its plans approved by the Roland Park Company and any changes to the building must also be approved. Due to these new provisions, some houses in Plat 1 have covenants requiring approval for changes and other do not. In



1909, the Roland Park Company formed the Roland Park Roads & Maintenance Corporation to take care of the still-private infrastructure and to enforce the covenants. Each deed from the Roland Park Company contains a requirement for payment of a fee to maintain this infrastructure.

The verbiage of the modern covenants varies, even within the same Plat, so it is essential that homeowners familiarize themselves with their property's specific covenant.

While the Plat 1 covenants survive in their original form, the approach to covenants changed when Plats 2 through 6 were developed. Those covenants expired after a certain period of time, often 1930. Washington Tuttle's 1906 deed from the Roland Park Company for Lot 73 and the westernmost 10 feet of Lot 72 in Plat 3 (now 108 St. John's Road) contained covenants that prohibited stables (originally allowed in Plat 1) and expired in 1930. The legally-mandated fee to Roads & Maintenance, however, did not expire. These fees remain independent of the covenant status of the property and are used today for

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ROLAND PARK COVENANTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

maintaining common areas in Roland Park, including the Roland Park median, Centennial Park, road islands, trees and footpaths.

Beginning in the 1950s, the value of covenants in maintaining the neighborhood's design and spirit was recognized anew.



Modern covenants that do not expire were written, and covenant renewal drives occurred in 1956, 1960, 1984 and 1990. Some individuals placed their properties back under covenant even in the absence of a concerted drive. These newer

covenants are recorded in the land records of Baltimore City, but are separate from the deeds.

The verbiage of the modern covenants varies, even within the same Plat, so it is essential that homeowners familiarize themselves with their property's specific covenant. All covenants include the original Plat 1 prohibitions on non residential use

and the like, but many contain added provisions relevant to modern life. These include seeking approval for any exterior changes, including roofs, painting, playsets, fire pits, hot tubs and hardscaping, such as patios, walls and driveways.



The majority of properties in Roland Park are now under covenant, although some owners have chosen not to renew. The objective of covenant enforcement today is to keep Roland Park's historic appearance while accommodating modern life. The Architectural Review Board of Roland Park Roads & Maintenance is comprised of up to 12 members, all of whom live in Roland Park in properties under covenant and all of whom care about our neighborhood.

To find out whether your property is under covenant and if so, what the covenant says, please contact Beth Hayes in the Roland Park office at 410-464-2525, or office@rolandpark.org. Meetings of the Architectural Review Board are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Applications for project approval must be received at least one week prior to the meeting date. ❖

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Green Corner: A Rose By Any Other Name

By Polly Bart

Full Bloom, Tickled Pink, Mardi Gras, Mayflower Red, Island Sunset, Bubble Bath and my favorite, Tricycle Red. Have you ever chosen a paint color based on its name? I know it's silly, but I have. I mean, who wouldn't want to be surrounded by clouds of Smoldering Red?

Names often influence our paint choices simply because we have no idea how to choose between the numerous colors. A gifted colorist can be invaluable if you want to understand how Audubon Russet, for example, will compliment the rest of your decor. I once "raised" a ceiling in a clients' home simply by adding a row of corbelling one foot in from the edge, and then, under the watchful eye of my colorist, shading the colors ever so slightly in from the edge to a lighter central panel. Suddenly that elegant room with the slightly low ceiling was transformed into an elegant room with a graceful ceiling. At modest cost!



So how can we "go green" with paint? Historic Roland Park homes have a lot of lead paint, as it was considered high-quality before consumers became aware of the health risks. To minimize those risks, you can completely remove all the old paint, or, for a less drastic solution, have your home tested by a professional with an x-ray gun to identify the most affected areas. You'll likely find lead paint on some of your trim, but you may find there is little on your walls.

The second step is to clean everything as usual and then perform a dust wipe test for lead, especially at doors and under windows. Good housekeeping will usually pass the dust wipe test, meaning that any remaining dust will be below unsafe levels.

These steps can help identify problem areas that you need to address — peeling or flaking paint, obviously, but also any area where one surface with lead paint rubs against another. This often occurs around windows and doors. Where that's the case, you may want to make some changes, for example, removing old trim in a child's room and covering other areas with "encapsulating" paint, which is designed to cover lead paint.

Lead has been illegal as a paint additive since 1979, but what about other chemical additions? You've probably heard of VOC's, or volatile organic compounds. These are known to be harmful and they "off-gas" into the air, especially when the paint is fresh. This creates that strong "fresh paint" smell.

Over the past decade, low or VOC-free paints have become readily available if you're willing to spend a few extra dollars. Benjamin Moore and Sherwin Williams, for example, both produce high quality, odorless paints.

This doesn't mean you should buy just any paint product sporting a "green" label. "Green-washing," a term derived from "whitewashing," refers to the practice of marketing a standard product using environmentally-friendly terms. Paints labeled as VOC-free may still contain other harmful substances, so do your research before buying.

Finally, let's go "deep green" and consider products such as milk paint and plasters made with only natural ingredients. Check out AFM Safecoat, Bioshield, or American Clay, excellent companies which sell very green, very healthy paint and plaster which behave pretty much like conventional paints. In short, you do not have to milk a cow or dig clay out of your yard to finish your walls! ❖

Polly Bart is a builder-remodeler and the owner of Greenbuilders, Inc., an eco-friendly general contracting firm. Please visit greenbuilders.com for more information on her work, write pbart@greenbuilders.com, or call (410) 472-7072 with your suggestions for this column and questions about being green.

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Summer Quinoa Salad

Miss Shirley's Café

Serves 4 -6

Lemon Vinaigrette:

½ cup freshly squeezed lemon juice

1 tsp. chopped garlic

½ tsp. Dijon mustard

1 T. honey

1 lemon, zested

¾ cup olive oil

1 T. fresh chopped chives

Salt and pepper to taste

Salad:

1 cup uncooked quinoa

½ seedless cucumber, small-diced

½ cup red grape tomatoes, halved

½ cup yellow grape tomatoes, halved

½ bunch green onion, chopped

2 small watermelon radishes, peeled and diced

1 lemon

½ cup lemon vinaigrette

Salt and pepper to taste



In a blender, blend together lemon juice, garlic, Dijon mustard, honey, lemon zest, salt and pepper. With the blender on low speed, slowly drizzle in olive oil until well blended. Stir in chives. Taste and adjust seasoning, if needed. Store vinaigrette in refrigerator until needed.

Cook the quinoa according to the label. Put the quinoa in a large bowl, let cool and fluff.

Add diced cucumber, halved grape tomatoes, chopped green onion and diced watermelon radish. Zest one lemon into the mixture.

To finish the salad, add the lemon vinaigrette and gently mix. Season with salt and pepper to taste. ❖

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Ophard Mupanomunda, MD, Pediatrician

Dr. Mupanomunda, or "Dr. M.," as he is affectionately known to his patients, will be joining MedStar Medical Group at The Rotunda July 3. He is a well-respected pediatrician with more than 20 years experience providing compassionate care to children of all ages.

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Landscape Committee Update

By Kate Culotta

Free Trees available to Roland Park Residents

The Roland Park Landscape Committee has been busy lately observing the open green space in Roland Park and making plans for improvements. We do have exciting news concerning the neighborhood's tree canopy. The City Department of Forestry and the TreeBaltimore Program are making free trees available to City residents for planting on both private property and in the verge — the area between the curb and sidewalk. In Roland Park, we kicked off this year's program by giving away trees on April 22, Earth Day. Baltimore City's TreeBaltimore Program, coordinated through the Department of Forestry, set up a table in front of Eddie's Roland Avenue location and despite the rainy weather we had a great turnout, giving away more than 50 native tree species in three hours.

Residents who would like a free tree to plant on their personal property have a few options:

1. Contact Kate at rplandscape@rp.org with your name, address and information about where you would like to plant the tree. The trees come from the City Dept. of Forestry but

the Landscape Committee will let you know which species are available and give advice on which tree is most suitable for your location. The selection of trees will vary, depending on availability from the City and in accordance with trees from the Roland Park Master Plan. The actual planting of trees on personal property is the homeowner's responsibility.

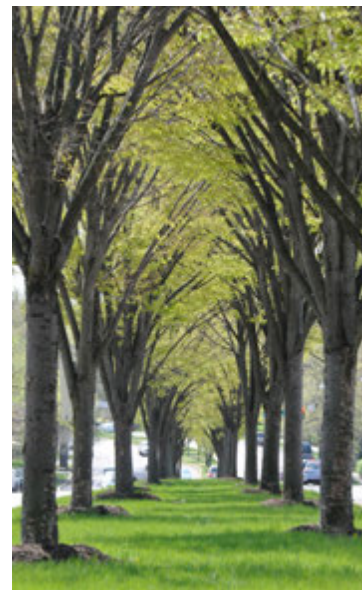
2. Log onto **TreeBaltimore.org** and search their online calendar for free tree giveaways over the coming months. Tree Baltimore will also periodically set up a table on Sundays at the Fallsway Farmer's Market.
3. If you would like to purchase a specific tree from a local nursery and wish to peruse the list of approved and appropriate trees selected during the writing of the Roland Park Master Plan (with guidance from the original Olmstead Plan), please email the Landscape Committee at rplandscape@rp.org.

Residents who would like a tree planted in the verge area between the sidewalk and the curb should contact the Landscape Committee. If you are a Roland Park resident who pays full Roads & Maintenance and Civic League fees, you are eligible to have the tree planting coordinated and paid for by the Roland Park Civic League. Trees planted in the verge need to be approved species from the Master Plan list. This list was compiled based on conditions such as native species, suitable for parking and traffic areas, minimal tree debris on cars and the reduced likelihood of roots disrupting sidewalks. Again, please forward inquiries to Kate at rplandscape@rp.org. Please note that selection will vary depending on the availability through the Department of Forestry.

For tips on successful tree planting, please visit **TreeBaltimore.org** and click on the "Plant a Tree" tab.

Other Roland Park Landscape News:

- Roland Avenue's Japanese zelkova trees continue to show signs of improvement following damage from the Roland Avenue repaving project. They have undergone professional deep root fertilizing and watering during dry spells. Arborists are encouraged by the spring leafing-out and signs of new growth. The trees will remain under observation and dead branches may be pruned if needed.
- K&C Grounds Maintenance Crews have worked within Centennial Park on University Parkway to remove invasive



Roland Avenue's Japanese Zelkovas.
Photo courtesy of Anne Stuzin

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Picnic Perfect Potato Salad

Eddie's of Roland Park

A "mayo-free" potato salad, ideal for summertime al fresco dining.

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 35 minutes

Serves: 6

2 lb. red, new or Yukon Gold potatoes

2 T. olive oil

1 T. fresh rosemary, chopped

Coarse kosher salt

Fresh ground black pepper

½ red bell pepper, ¼ inch diced

½ green bell pepper, ¼ inch diced

½ yellow bell pepper, ¼ inch diced

⅓ cup red onion, ¼ inch diced

Dressing:

2 cloves garlic, crushed

1 T. whole grain Dijon mustard

¼ cup red wine vinegar

¼ cup olive oil

¼ cup vegetable oil

½ tsp. coarse kosher salt

Fresh ground black pepper to taste



Preheat oven to 425°F. Scrub potatoes and cut into 1 ½ inch chunks. Spread potatoes out on a rimmed baking pan. Drizzle with oil, sprinkle with rosemary and season with salt and pepper. Toss with hands to evenly coat the potatoes and then spread out in one layer on the pan. Roast in the oven for 30-35 minutes until potatoes are tender and browned. Add more olive oil if potatoes look dry while they are roasting.

Meanwhile, prepare the dressing by combining garlic, mustard, salt, pepper and vinegar in a bowl. Whisk in the oils and set aside.

When potatoes are roasted, transfer to a serving bowl and add red onion and bell peppers. Toss with dressing and serve warm or at room temperature.

Pair with Chateau Gassier le Pas du Moine.

Eddie's Tip: Adding roasted asparagus or blanched haricot vert to the potatoes is also delicious! ♦

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CONTACT:

Bill Gordon

Berklee grad; instructor,
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www.billgordonmusic.com
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Welcome New Neighbors!

Margaret and Alexander Black, 4614 Roland Avenue

Susan Carneal, 3936 Beech Avenue

Elizabeth Greene and Mark Gatlin, 12 Hillside Road

Barbara and Thomas Jarvis, 109 Woodlawn Road

Jennifer and John Linehan, 914 W. University Parkway

Nena and John Mashaw, 221 Edgevale Road

Nancy and Andrew Moulis, 605 Somerset Road

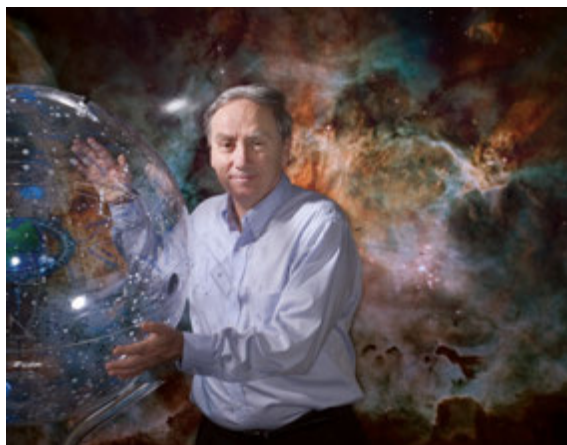
Bookends: A Life Spent 'Intrigued by the Nature of Curiosity'

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. MARIO LIVIO

By Henry Mortimer

For any parent of a small child, the word "why?" usually signals the end of the conversation — followed quickly by the phrase, "because I said so!" For Dr. Mario Livio, however, an internationally renowned astrophysicist who has published several books and hundreds of scientific papers, on topics ranging from dark energy and cosmology to black holes and extrasolar planets, the questioning noun in question makes the perfect conversation starter. In fact, he's dedicated an entire book to the subject: *Why?: What Makes Us Curious*, due in July from Simon & Schuster.

A fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, who worked for 24 years with the Hubble Space



Telescope and serves as the "Science Advisor" to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Dr. Livio says he has spent a lifetime fascinated with and "intrigued by the nature of curiosity." In fact, most of his popular science books, including *The Golden Ratio, Is God A Mathematician?* and most recently, *Brilliant Blunders*, are devoted to his dogged need to get to the bottom of things. In drafting his latest — an attempt to satisfy his "curiosity about curiosity" — Dr. Livio concludes that it is this desire to question, our ability to ask "Why?," that not only sets us apart from other animals but also serves as a fundamental source for being human: "Preserving our curiosity is

what makes us feel alive." Cold comfort to frustrated parents everywhere, or a call-to-arms for greater understanding? Perhaps both. Why not.

Please briefly describe your newest book, *Why?: What Makes Us Curious*. What inspired you personally to write it?

The book is about human curiosity. I have always been a curious person, interested both in science and the arts. Curiosity is the driver of all basic research, exploration, education, and storytelling in all of its guises (books, films, advertising, and even simple conversations). At one point I became extremely intrigued by the nature of curiosity, and decided to investigate and understand it better.

Since I am neither a psychologist nor a neuroscientist, I had to interview numerous scientists in these disciplines, and to engage in an enormous amount of research. I also interviewed a number of people whom I regard as being exceptionally curious. I can only hope that anybody who is curious about curiosity will find this book fascinating.

Your previous book, *Brilliant Blunders*, discusses major 'mistakes' made by five famous scientists that led to important scientific discoveries. How does *Why?* differ?

In *Brilliant Blunders*, I tried to convey the fact that mistakes are part and parcel of progress in science and in any creative discipline. In *Why?* I attempt to get to the bottom of the most important ingredient in creativity: curiosity. Being an astrophysicist, for *Brilliant Blunders* I had to do research in biology (to discuss Darwin), chemistry (to discuss Linus Pauling), and geology (to discuss Lord Kelvin). All of those disciplines are closer to physics than psychology and neuroscience. Consequently, I had to work much harder on *Why?*, but I feel that it was worth it, since curiosity is such a captivating subject.



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How important is basic human curiosity to scientific discovery? Why should scientists — or anyone, for that matter — keep asking ‘Why?’

The ability to ask “Why?” is uniquely human. Even though animals are curious, too, they are not interested in invisible causes. The question “Why?” gave birth to all the early spiritual quests, and to all the advances in science. Preserving our curiosity is what makes us feel alive. Einstein once said: “The fairest thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and science. He who knows it not and can no longer wonder, no longer feel amazement, is as good as dead, a snuffed-out candle.”

What do you hope your readers will gain most from reading your book?

First, I hope that they will simply enjoy reading about this enthralling topic, and appreciate how important curiosity is. Second, I hope that they will discover new ways to make their children, and indeed themselves more intellectually

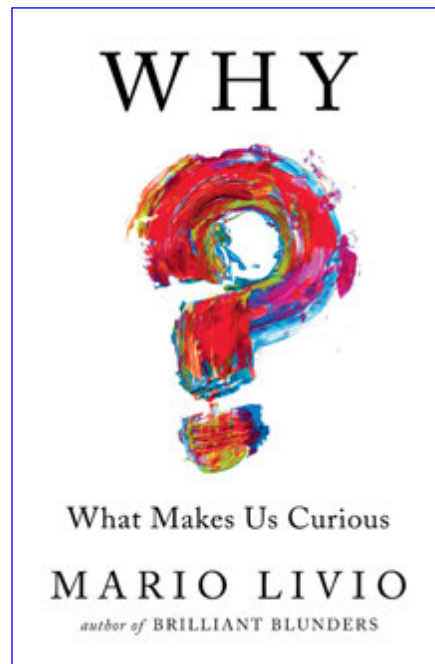
curious. Even though this is not a “how-to” book, I do believe that educators and “storytellers” will discover some new ideas.

How did living and/or working in Baltimore offer inspiration for the book?

As I have noted, my personal curiosity has driven me not only into trying to decipher the cosmos and phenomena within it, but also to a passion for the arts. As part of that, I am “Science Advisor” to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and I participated in a few of their concerts and presented links between musical themes and science. Over the years, I have also met a large number of curious scientists, students, and artists, and that served to enhance my curiosity about curiosity.

For more information about Dr. Livio, his ideas and publications, visit mariolivio.com. ❖

Henry Mortimer resides in Roland Park with his wife and children. He writes 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.



Greater Roland Park Home Sales

(Late February 2017 through mid May 2017)

	List Price	Closing Price
4403 Atwick Rd.	\$550,000	\$530,000
1 Beechdale Rd.	\$569,900	\$569,900
221 Edgevale Rd.	\$779,000	\$745,000
210 Goodwood Gdns.	\$1,900,00	\$1,900,000
4401 Keswick Rd.	\$600,000	\$595,000
605 Somerset Rd.	\$359,900	\$410,000
914 W. University Pkwy.	\$408,000	\$395,000
109 Woodlawn Rd.	\$599,000	\$567,500
204 Wyndhurst Ave.	\$389,000	\$375,000

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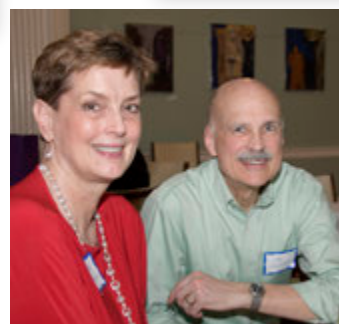
Information provided by **Daniel Motz**, Realtor, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, (410) 235-4100 (office), (443) 415-3160 (cell), dmotz@cbmove.com.



Spring Celebration

Photos: Sally Foster

Roland Parkers celebrated spring and their community on April 29 at the 2017 Spring Celebration, graciously hosted by the Woman's Club of Roland Park. Delicious cocktails and food, a lively Wine Auction, plus music from saxophonist Art Sherrod, Jr., helped entertained partygoers on an unseasonably warm spring evening! Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the successful party, which raised funds for the Roland Park Community Foundation's many preservation and green space projects. See you all next year! ❖



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Try, Try Again

The latest structure on Gilman's campus is not brick. It's not large. It holds no traditional classrooms. While it looks distinctively modern, it's based on a 100-year-old design.

This new structure is a greenhouse, based on the geodesic dome design that was popularized by Buckminster Fuller in the 1940s.

The story of the Gilman greenhouse goes back more than a year, when then-sophomore Cameron Haire developed the idea for a new initiative: to bring alternative horticulture to campus. He and classmates Matthew Mu and Meritt Wiggin developed a proposal to build a greenhouse to use for hydroponics, a method of growing plants without soil. Plants grown hydroponically yield ten times the amount of produce in half the time needed in traditional farming.



Cameron Haire and Matthew Mu (together with classmate Meritt Wiggin) developed a proposal to build a greenhouse to use for hydroponics, a method of growing plants without soil. Photo courtesy of Gilman School

Their primary goal was to study the botanical principles of Mendelian genetics. They also wanted to demonstrate hydroponics to the student body since, they maintain, this growing method is essential to the future of agriculture and as well as cities.

Gilman administrators agreed to fund the project. Last summer, with assistance from the school's buildings and grounds department, the team built their greenhouse. It was located on an open space between the track and secondary baseball field.

In their first growing season, they planted squash, tomatoes, lettuce, basil, parsley and oregano, tending their plants throughout the fall. Just before the crop was ready to harvest, a strong windstorm knocked out the panels, mangled the structure and killed the



The new greenhouse will resemble this dome-shaped example. Photo courtesy of Gilman School

plants, as well as the team's plans to cross breed them.

The students were distraught at the setback but not ready to give up. With additional research they determined that a dome shape would hold up much better in a location prone to strong winds.

While planning was underway for Hydroponics 2.0 the group's resident filmmaker poured his frustration and creativity into a five-minute documentary on the project, which won the 2017 Grand Jury Prize in the annual Gilman Film Festival. The video, *Hydroponics by Meritt Wiggin* can be found on YouTube.

The construction of the new, improved greenhouse is visible from every corner of Gilman's fields. As the community is introduced to the dome the structure is likely to turn heads. It is not what one might expect to find on a campus as traditional as Gilman's, but as the vegetables and herbs grow, its purpose will become more obvious to passersby.

"This initiative turned out to be much more complicated and difficult than we anticipated, and we learned some hard lessons. But we think the end result will be worth the effort," said Haire. ❖



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LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE UPDATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

- vines from the lower section near the Welcome to Roland Park sign. An effort was also made to correct a bad pruning job (pruners unknown) to several shrubs in the area. Restorative pruning needs more than one season to take effect, so look for improvements in that area. Efforts will continue over the summer as Committee members work with K&C to remove invasive shrubs and trees from the park. The Committee is also aware of the orange construction cones in the area, which pinpoint damaged DPW infrastructure. Maintenance calls have been placed and we await repairs.
- The yellow brick pathway in the middle of Centennial Park was repaired and an old tree stump removed.
 - We are collecting information on replacement tree species that can be planted with the existing ash trees on Cold Spring Lane. These new trees will replace the ash trees damaged by the ash borer disease. Additional treatment and/or pruning may be needed on the remaining ash trees.
 - Baltimore City planted clethra, a small deciduous shrub, in the bump outs on Roland Avenue, Wyndhurst Avenue and Cold Spring Lane. In early spring, the Committee pruned and weeded these areas, to encourage a fuller growth pattern. Mulching was done by K&C, but we have noticed some mulch wash-out due to heavy rains and it will need to be replaced. If you notice weeds or dead clethra in a bump out, please notify the Landscape Committee at rplandscape@rp.org.
 - Now that most trees have leafed out, if you see a City tree in the verge area between the sidewalk and curb that looks either dead or unhealthy, please notify the Landscape Committee as well as calling the City at 311.
 - If you observe an issue with a tree, shrub or groundcover in one of the neighborhood's public green spaces, you can send photos, questions or concerns to the Landscape Committee. Please don't attempt to correct, prune or plant in a public green space without first notifying the Committee.
 - Cluttered road signs on Roland Avenue: The Civic League and the Landscape Committee are aware of the many signs along Roland Avenue and are working with the City to reduce and improve the visuals along this street. ❖

Later this summer, look for the return of a bench in front of Eddie's Roland Avenue location. Due to resident and customer requests, the Roland Park Community Foundation is gifting a new black bench, matching other benches in the area, to be placed in a convenient location by the store.



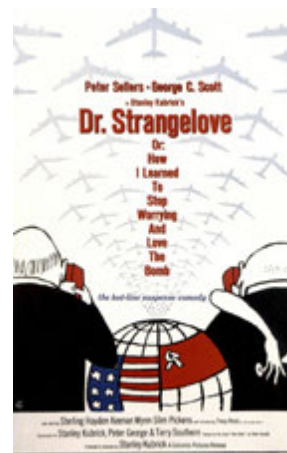
Rollin' Reels at Roland Park Library

A selection of films presented on the big screen in our meeting room on the last Saturday of each month, except when otherwise noted. All Saturday films start at 10:30, run continuously throughout the day and are shown with subtitles when available.

Wednesday, June 17, 6 p.m. A screening of the documentary *13th*. Ava DuVernay's Oscar-nominated documentary is an in-depth look at the prison system in the U.S. and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality.

Saturday, June 24. *Sabrina* (1954) with Humphrey Bogart, Audrey Hepburn & William Holden; directed by Billy Wilder.

Monday, June 26, Noon - 8 p.m. *Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's*



Stone. It's been 20 years since J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was initially published in United Kingdom with a print run of only 500 hardcover copies. How the world has changed!

Saturday, July 29: *Dr. Strangelove* with Peter Sellers in three roles. Directed by Stanley Kubrick.

Saturday, August 26: *Fahrenheit 451* with Julie Christie and Oskar Werner. Directed by François Truffaut. ♦

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The Book Nook

By Julie Johnson, Branch Manager, Roland Park Library

Welcome to the Book Nook! Our Summer Reading Program is now called the Summer Challenge, open to all ages and running from June 14 to August 9. This year's theme is "Build a Better World" and features programs, prizes and fun for all.

As always, the following reviews are excerpted from the library's online catalog, available at prattlibrary.org.

Fiction

Dark at the Crossing by Elliot Ackerman

The second novel from Ackerman (*Green on Blue*, 2015) presents a stark and multifaceted portrait of the civil war in Syria. After working as an interpreter for a Special Forces unit during the Iraq War in exchange for five years in America and citizenship for him and his sister, Iraq-born Haris Abadi travels to the Turkish border with Syria in hopes of joining the fight against President Bashar al-Assad's repressive regime. But the border is closed. Then his American passport and possessions are stolen, and Haris is forced to remain in Gaziantep, Turkey. There, he finds shelter with Amir and Amir's wife Daphne, two Syrian refugees who fled their homeland after their daughter disappeared in the bomb blast that destroyed their apartment building. The more time Haris spends with the couple, the more he learns about their past Amir's former ties to the revolution and Daphne's fervent belief that their daughter is still alive. Haris's quest for a cause to believe in takes a deadly turn when Daphne asks him to accompany her to Aleppo in secret to uncover what actually happened to her daughter. Flashbacks to Haris's experiences during the Iraq War provide context and motive for his restless searching. Ackerman's station in Istanbul, where he has covered the Syrian civil war since 2013, plus five tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan aptly inform this timely and unsettling novel.

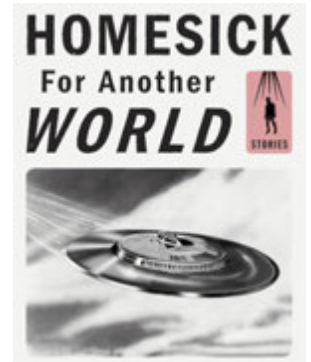
The Moth Catcher: A Vera Stanhope Mystery by Ann Cleeves

Nobody does eerie like Ann Cleeves in her immensely popular *Vera Stanhope* mysteries. Her settings in the north of England match the wild landscape and often relentless weather with secrets that only Vera can ferret out, her own loneliness somehow giving her insight into others' lives. In this ninth in the series, a seemingly idyllic community in Northumberland, made up of the well-off and recently retired, is shaken by the discovery of two bodies within a single day. The first victim, found in a ditch, is a young man who had been house-sitting at a nearby country home. Vera discovers the second victim, a conservatively dressed,

middle-aged man, in the rooms of the first victim.... Facing a wall of silence from the neighboring retirees, Vera and her crew must ferret out the connection between the victims. Vera herself is always fascinating to watch, and Cleeves shows her from both outside and inside perspectives: seen from outside, Vera is an ungainly, immensely overweight woman in a greasy coat. From the inside, Vera is somewhat self-hating, but she also possesses an endearing what-the-hell attitude. It's a delight to watch her exceed people's expectations and to watch as the tiny details she notices add up to the big revelation.

Homesick for Another World: Stories by Ottessa Moshfegh

In 14 expertly crafted stories, Moshfegh (*Eileen*, 2015) examines characters and situations too weird to be real and too real to be fiction, with themes of alienation, ennui, displacement, sexual neuroses, and addiction. A voyeuristic old man steels his courage to approach the beautiful, aloof woman working at the counter of the local arcade ("Mr. Wu"); an aspiring actor hooked on motivational clichés spins



CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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BOOK NOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

out of control in a breakup saga ("The Weirdos"); a high school English teacher has an on-again/off-again relationship with the drug-dealing "zombies at the bus depot" ("Slumming"); a grieving husband uncovers evidence of his dead wife's infidelity and explores his own sexuality ("The Beach Boy"); an underachieving suitor embarks on a desperate quest for a cheap ottoman that holds the key to his quixotic romantic endeavors ("Dancing in the Moonlight"). There's not a throw-away story in the collection. Each resonates with seemingly effortless, ineffable prose, rarely striking an inauthentic note — particularly memorable are the endings, which often land to devastating effect.



Paris Spring by James Naughtie

Fans of John le Carré and Len Deighton will welcome Naughtie's superior spy thriller, a prequel to 2014's *The Madness of July*. The characters' struggles between personal and public responsibilities play out against a background rarely used in espionage fiction — the growing unrest in Paris

in April 1968. The city is "on the brink of an eruption," as an author's note explains, after Charles de Gaulle's government proves to be unprepared for France's "cauldron of youthful anti-establishment unrest." British operative Will Flemmyng, who appeared in the previous book as a government minister, is approached by a German man calling himself Kristof, who quickly gets Will's attention by promising to reveal something very interesting about Will's younger brother, Abel. Kristof's suggestion that Abel is working against the West puts Will in a tough place, as he tries to do his duty to both his country and his kin. Will's juggling act becomes trickier after the body of an American reporter, Grace Quincey, turns up in the Père Lachaise cemetery. Naughtie draws on his experience as a political correspondent for The Washington Post and Britain's The Guardian to make the story's dramatic developments plausible.

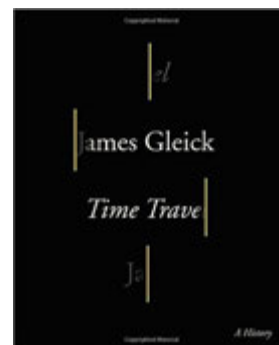
Nonfiction

Shirley Jackson: A Rather Haunted Life by Ruth Franklin

When Shirley Jackson's *The Lottery* was published in the New Yorker in 1948, the response was a pen-paper-postage equivalent of going viral. Although Jackson wrote many more works of arresting literary suspense concerned with cruelty and alienation, as well as, improbably enough, best-selling true-life domestic comedy (the forerunner, as critic Franklin notes, of today's mommy blogs), she is generally remembered only for that singular tale. In her engrossing and enlightening foundational biography, Franklin redresses this unjust diminishing of Jackson's extraordinary accomplishments, the final insult in a too-brief life poisoned by the selfishness of those closest to her — her harshly critical mother and her philandering husband, the literary critic Stanley Hyman. Franklin seamlessly combines the bitterly ironic story of Jackson's demanding, self-destructive life in which she strived for literary breakthroughs while supporting herself, Hyman, and their four children, with astute analysis of Jackson's disquieting, darkly funny, profoundly subversive writings...A precise, revelatory, and moving reclamation of an American literary master.

Time Travel by James Gleick

In a dazzling voyage through the concept of time, science chronicler Gleick (*The Information*, 2011) explains that, "like all words, time has boundaries, by which I don't mean hard and impenetrable shells but porous edges," challenging readers to consider the porousness of reality as depicted in philosophy, science, and literature. Beginning with homage to H.G. Wells, whose 1895 novel *The Time Machine* influenced both writers and physicists, the book careens back and forth, "free to leap about in time." The popularity of Wells's story paved the





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CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

Old Time Disney Delights — Not a Princess in Sight!



Enjoy old-fashioned Disney animation as we continue our series of Disney classics.

Our main screenings take place on the third Wednesday of each month, beginning at 5 p.m. Some of the shorter films are repeated at 6:30 p.m. In addition,



Hercules (June 10) and The Apple Dumpling Gang (July 8) will be shown at 11 a.m. as part of our Saturday

Family Fun Days. Snacks permitted! ❖

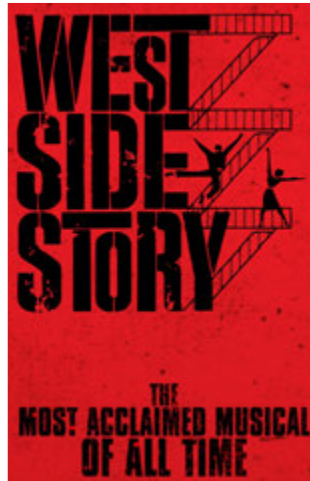
June 10: Hercules

July 19: The Apple Dumpling Gang

August 16: Mary Poppins

Musical Mondays

Classic musicals presented on the big screen in our meeting room on select summer Mondays. All start at 12 noon, run continuously throughout the day and are shown with subtitles when available. Snacks permitted!



July 3: West Side Story. Rival New York street gangs The Sharks and The Jets war in Manhattan over turf boundaries, even as two teens from the gangs fall in love.

July 24: Top Hat. Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dance and romance from London to Venice in a musical full of Irving Berlin tunes. This movie was nominated for Best Picture in 1936.



August 7: Oliver! An innocent orphan in 19th century London falls in with a gang of young pickpockets and thieves led by the evil elder, Fagin. The Best Picture-winning musical Oliver! is based on Charles Dickens' classic novel, Oliver Twist. ❖

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BOOK NOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

way for a willingness to accept the paradoxes in the science of Einstein, Eddington, and Feynman, among others. Gleick explores the wealth of speculation that was set in motion when time became considered fluid. Can one go back in time and prevent one's own birth? Does time travel create "forks" in the universe with alternate events? What does it mean to be outside of time? Gleick quotes from scientists and writers who have wrestled with these questions, and he explores the way novels, short stories, films, and television programs have handled eddies in time (his suggested reading list is priceless). Deeply philosophical and full of quirky humor, "The universe is like a river. It flows. (Or it doesn't, if you're Plato.)," Gleick's journey through the fourth dimension is a marvelous mind bender.

The True Flag: Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain, and the Birth of American Empire by Stephen Kinzer

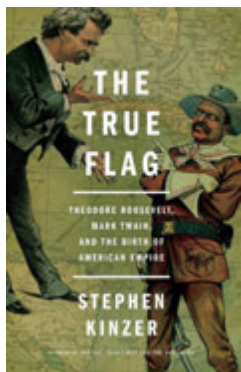
A timely work on the vociferous sides taken over the Spanish-American War of 1898 and how that history relates to the ongoing debate regarding American imperialism. In this engaging, well-focused history, Kinzer (*The Brothers: John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles, and Their Secret World, 2013*, etc.), a former New York Times bureau chief in Turkey, Germany, and Nicaragua and Boston Globe Latin America correspondent, plunges into the heated conversations in Washington and the tabloids over American expansionist designs on Hawaii, Cuba, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam at the turn of the 19th century. During a "ravenous fifty-five day spasm" in the summer of 1898, the

United States "asserted control" over these far-flung nations totaling 11 million people by handily defeating the Spanish fleet and thus suddenly acquiring an overseas empire. Was this even constitutional, and had not George Washington himself warned against "the mischiefs of foreign intrigue"? Using excerpts from speeches and editorials, Kinzer skillfully extracts an immediate sense of the heated debate that gripped the country... and in the last chapter, he astutely brings the debate from the turn of the century to the present. A tremendously elucidating book that should be required reading for civics courses.

Other important information

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, openings, etc. Changes to the public schedule are also posted, usually as a banner, on the Pratt Library's webpage at prattlibrary.org.

Our phone number is 410-396-6099 and our branch e-mail is rln@prattlibrary.org. When e-mailing us please make sure the subject line indicates that you have a library question by using BOOK REQUEST or something similar as your subject. ❖



Parents' Library Corner: Programs for Children

DATE & TIME	PROGRAM
Thursdays, 11 a.m.	Preschool Leaps. Ages 3 to 5 Stories, songs, and fun for preschoolers.
Thursdays, 1:30 p.m.	Mother Goose Baby Steps. Birth to 2 An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement.
Mondays June 12, June 19, July 10, July 17, August 14, Noon – 4 p.m.	Maker Mondays Create, explore, design and experiment, using elements of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math.
Saturdays, June 10, July 8, August 5	Family Fun Days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Storytime, 10:30 a.m. • Games Galore/Origami, 1 to 4 p.m. • Disney Delights , 11 a.m. June 10 (Hercules), July 8 (The Apple Dumpling Gang) and a special showing of Alice in Wonderland (1951) on August 5.
Wednesday, July 19, 1 p.m.	National Aquarium's Student Play and Animal Encounter The National Aquarium's Aquarium on Wheels program (AOW) is proud to present this year's student play, "Justice for the Chesapeake Bay." Learn about our local ecosystem through a performance, an animal encounter, and interactive games and activities.

Roland Park Branch Hours:

Monday and Wednesday: 12 noon to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please note the following closings for all Pratt Libraries:

Tuesday, July 4, Independence Day;

Monday, September 4, Labor Day.

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☐ I/we have enclosed a check for \$_____.

☐ I/we have donated by credit card on the Foundation's website (www.rolandpark.org/organizations/committees) and click on the yellow "Donate" button on the Foundation's page.

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