

ROLAND PARK **news**

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***Holiday Food
Traditions***

Gift Guide Inside

108
RIVERWOOD ROAD

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Cover Photo: The home of Kate and Tony Culotta, decorated for the holidays. Photo: Sally Foster

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Editor's Notes

By Martha Marani

When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed." Maya Angelou

Greetings! This issue probably arrived in your mailbox with cards sending holiday wishes from friends near and far, and we at the **Roland Park News** share the same message — may this festive time of the year bring you and your family peace and joy! Included in the joys of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa celebrations this month are some delicious food traditions, as Johanna Alonso and Julia Arbutus show us in their cover story. Petit Louis Bistro and Eddie's of Roland Park share recipes that will add flavor to any holiday table.

We know that Roland Park is blessed with a handful of locally owned shops, some of which have been in the neighborhood for years. The **Roland Park News** asked the owners — Pat Pratt of The Carriage House, Amy McManus of Crimson & Clover Floral Design, Eddie Jacobs, Jr., of Eddie Jacobs Ltd., Nancy Cohen of Eddie's and Flora Stelzer of Shenanigans Toy Store — to offer their holiday gift suggestions. Check out the choices and please consider shopping locally!

Books make great gifts, and Julie Johnson and Rona London have many wonderful selections for all ages and interests. These titles are available from another locally owned shop, The Ivy Bookshop, which will

remain in its current location on Falls Road until renovations on its new home about a mile south on Falls Road are completed next spring.

For those who make charitable giving a part of their holiday tradition, consider making a donation to a local organization, like Baltimore Teacher Supply Swap, BARCS, Casey Cares Foundation, Hampden Family Center, House of Ruth Maryland or Paul's Place. Or, if you participate in the AmazonSmile program, please consider designating the Roland Park Community

Foundation (RPCF) as the charity. For eligible purchases, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price to the RPCF.

Give yourself the gift of spending some time at our most recent addition to the business community, the Social Studio on Deepdene Road. Kathy Hudson's Q&A with owner Genie Arnot may inspire you to explore your creative side by trying your hand at printmaking, observational drawing or stencil painting. Or take truly local theatre at the Baltimore Shakespeare Lab's upcoming production of

Henry V at their spectacular new stage in the historic St. Mary's Church on Roland Avenue.

Whatever you and yours celebrate during the winter months, I hope the time is filled with a myriad of blessings.

Happy holidays, all! ❖



Photo: Sally Foster

The Holiday Food Wish List: A Wrap-Up of Roland Park Traditions

By Johanna Alonzo and Julia Arbutus

With Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa right around the corner, Roland Park residents are getting ready to spend time around the dinner table with their families to celebrate. These special meals and family traditions are an important part of what makes the holidays meaningful to us. Whether it involves honoring old traditions or creating new ones, Roland Park residents' food traditions are as varied and diverse as the residents themselves.

When we think Christmas food, the first things that come into many people's minds are ham and eggnog. But in Roland Park, the definition of Christmas dinner is a lot broader than that. Some residents have found ways to reflect their own roots in their Christmas meals, including adopting the Baltimore tradition of sauerkraut that comes from the city's Central and Eastern European roots. Others have chosen to go a more modern route, opting to go out to eat instead.

While Anne Stuzin, a Roland Park resident of 20 years, celebrates Christmas Day like many others around the nation with a tenderloin at home, her Christmas Eve plans are a little different. For over a decade, Stuzin has gone to dinner at Petit Louis on the 24th, accompanied by family and friends.

"Petit Louis doesn't do a special menu" for the holiday, Stuzin says. "But it's just made that much more special because it's Christmas Eve. Everyone's just in a really festive mood."

Although dinner at Petit Louis is a cherished tradition, the cooking Stuzin does on Christmas Day is particularly special because of the recipes' histories. One highlight of her holiday menu, for instance, is an orange sherbert that her grandmother used to make. Her family uses it as a palate cleanser in between courses, and Stuzin says there would be an uproar if she ever stopped making it.



Eddie's of Roland Park also offers sweet holiday treats, including rugelach. Photo courtesy Eddie's of Roland Park



Many celebrate Christmas with a festive Bûche de Noël from Bonjour Bakery and Café. Photo: Gayle Brier-Billebault

"How you grew up has a strong influence on how you celebrate the holidays," Stuzin says.

Stuzin's Christmas Day meal ends with yet another holiday tradition — a *Bûche de Noël* from Bonjour Bakery and Café, which she has deemed her family's "dessert centerpiece." A *Bûche de Noël* is a French pastry made of genoise (that's sponge cake for you Americans). It is shaped like a Yule log and said to have been inspired by a pre-medieval tradition of burning these holly-covered logs to cleanse the air and guard against evil.

Bonjour has been making their signature *Bûches de Noël* since they opened over 20 years ago. According to chef Gerard Billebault, who co-owns Bonjour alongside his wife, Gayle, the bakery usually gets around 250 orders, but that number goes up every winter. "This year is going to be crazy," Billebault says.

But if *Bûche de Noël* isn't your thing, Eddie's of Roland Park has your holiday dessert needs covered. From poached pears and apple pie to rugelach and jelly donuts, their offerings include both Hanukkah and Christmas fare. They also offer prepared food for both holidays, including the most signature Hanukkah dish — the latke, which is a fried potato pancake.

Hanukkah is a minor Jewish holiday commemorating the miracle of light, an event in which one day's worth of oil lasted for eight nights — hence the eight-day celebration with the menorah. This is why foods fried in oil, like the latke or the jelly donut, have become associated with this holiday. In addition to these treats,

many families serve meat as a main course. Amy Simon, catering associate at Eddie's, says that their brisket is the popular pick for Hanukkah.

HOLIDAY FOOD WISH LIST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I was sorry that I made my own for the holidays because [Eddie's brisket] is actually delicious," says Simon, who celebrates Hanukkah.

Being a neighborhood business, Eddie's is also able to accommodate special orders. According to Simon, a woman once came in requesting a very specific dish for her holiday celebration: the chicken marbella from Sheila Lukin's Silver Palate cookbook. They completed the order, and the satisfied customer has been coming back for the dish every holiday since.

But Rabbi Andy Gordon of Bolton Street Synagogue says that a meat dish isn't necessary for a Hanukkah meal. In the Gordon household, latkes are the central part of the holiday meal and, at the synagogue, Hanukkah is celebrated with a yearly latke-making competition.

"The question is, is the latke the side dish or the main course?" he says. The problem with using latkes as a side dish to a meat course is that many people serve them with sour cream, and kosher tradition prohibits mixing meat and dairy. Dairy is also more connected to the history of Hanukkah than meat through the story of Judith's defeat of General Holofernes.

Like Hanukkah, many of Kwanzaa's food traditions have symbolic or cultural meanings. Kwanzaa, a celebration of African-American heritage, gets its name from a Swahili phrase



Eddie's brisket and traditional potato latkes are popular in many Jewish households in Roland Park. Photo courtesy Eddie's of Roland Park

meaning "first fruits of the harvest," and many of the dishes served during Karamu Ya Imani — the Feast of Faith celebrated on the sixth day of Kwanzaa — are adopted from African cuisine.

The focal point of the karamu meal is a one-pot stew or braise, like West Indian or South African curry dishes, Philadelphia pepper pot stew or jambalaya, and the table is often set with fruits and vegetables to symbolize the bounty of the harvest. Two common side dishes called Kwanzaa cornbread and Kwanzaa slaw include red bell pepper to reflect the red, green and black colors associated with the holiday.

Whatever you celebrate this holiday season, food will likely be at the center of your festivities. And with so many delicious meals to look forward to, it's no wonder we call this season the most wonderful time of the year! ❖

Johanna Alonso is an English literature and media and communication studies double major at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). She is the news editor at UMBC's student-run newspaper, *The Retriever*, and is interning at the *UMBC Magazine*. She also participates in the school's Musical Theatre Club, where she and Julia Arbutus are currently co-directing *Godspell*.

Julia Arbutus is a financial economics and English literature double major at UMBC. She has interned at *The Daily Record* in Baltimore and is currently the Editor-in-Chief of *The Retriever*. She also participates in her school's Musical Theatre Club, co-directing *Godspell* with Alonso.

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Civic League Update

By Anne Stuzin, 1st Vice President

Following the Annual Meeting in May, the Civic League board has spent the last few months fine-tuning our committee structure and initiating new social events and projects. Committees for 2019-2020 are listed on the Roland Park website (rolandpark.org). Volunteers are most welcome on several committees, so take a look and choose an area of interest.

Building on the enthusiastic success of last year's effort, this fall saw our 2nd annual **Thanksgiving Food Drive** to benefit the Langston Hughes Community Center. We collaborated



The Fall Family Social in late October included pumpkin painting and warm cider. Photo: Anne Stuzin

with Eddie's of Roland Park for a full-weekend drive at their Roland Avenue and Charles Street stores. The result was three trunkloads of non-perishable food and close to \$300 in gift cards, which will be used to purchase turkeys, hams and other perishable items. We also joined efforts with Roland Park Presbyterian Church on its **Fall Family Social** in late October, with local food trucks, donuts, warm cider and pumpkin painting. Looking ahead to

2020, we are planning a spring family event and neighborhood cleanup, and the ever-popular **Roland Park 4th of July Parade** and festivities. The success of these fun plans is greatly enhanced by volunteer participation, so email us if you are interested in helping out.

At our most recent monthly meetings, we were updated by our representatives from the city and the state. We also heard from candidates who will be running for office on their vision for our city. And we had a wonderful opportunity to question David Hornbeck, founder of Strong Schools Maryland, on how we can best advocate for the changes proposed by the Kirwan Commission. Read the profile of Hornbeck on page 5.

The board also recently initiated a special project that aims to enhance communications within our plats (and the community as a whole) by increasing the number of email addresses we have for Roland Park residents. If you have not yet been

contacted by your plat rep, he or she will be in touch, or you can email our office manager with your updated information at office@rolandpark.org! It is worth noting that this project began as a result of resident feedback following communications research conducted by an outside consultant last spring.

We listened! Connecting with more residents will enable plat reps to more efficiently communicate important news with their neighbors, and will hopefully encourage a greater sense of community, especially for newcomers to Roland Park. Of course, rest assured that the email lists will be for internal use only.

As always, we encourage all residents to come to our monthly meetings. They are held the first Wednesday of each month, from 7 to 9 pm at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church (4801 Roland Ave.) in the downstairs assembly room. In addition to hearing regular reports from our Northern District Police team and members of the Roland Park Fire Department, Civic League meetings are great forums to learn about how our community works, share information and provide input.

Happy holidays from your Civic League board! ❖

Bob Connors, President: rconnorsmd@gmail.com

Anne Stuzin, 1st Vice President: anne@stuzin.com

Ashley Handwerk, 2nd Vice President:
ashhandwerk@yahoo.com



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Roland Water Tower Update

By Mary Page Michel, Chair, Roland Park Community Foundation

Does it feel like the Roland Park Community Foundation (RPCF) has been giving updates on the Roland Water Tower for about 10 years? It should, because we have! Even a decade ago, we knew that one of the first steps in saving this iconic neighborhood structure was to create a design that would detail the work that needs to be done. For the first time since we began this process, we now know that phase is nearly complete.

As a reminder, last June, the City hired JMT Architecture to create the design drawings for the restoration of the tower. Over the past five months, JMT has provided updates to Tom McCracken, our owner's representative. In October, the firm submitted the final design drawings to the Department of General Services, which is currently reviewing them.

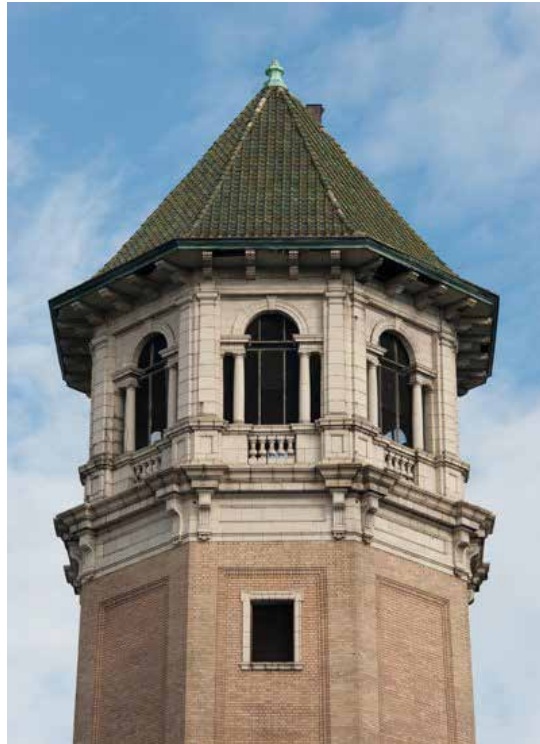


Photo courtesy RPCF

After they are accepted, the design drawings will be turned over to the RPCF and Lewis Contractors, which was recently hired by the RPCF to do the restoration work. Lewis will get estimates for the work and we will find out if there are more funds to be raised. Keep your fingers crossed that the amount of funds needed will be within our grasp.

At the base of the Roland Water Tower is a small, City-owned park. In October, a group of eight volunteers formed a committee to manage the process to turn this area, which is currently surrounded by a chain link fence, into a well-loved community pocket park. The committee is made up of residents of Hoes Heights, Rolden and Roland Park, and includes master gardeners, community leaders, landscape designers and tree experts. The committee created a Request for Proposal that will soon be sent out to eligible landscape architecture firms. After a proposal has been accepted, the RPCF will hold a series of community charrettes — collaborative sessions — to make sure community stakeholders — residents,

business owners and others affected by the park — have an opportunity to weigh in on what they would like this space to include. Stay tuned for more information.

In September, past supporters of the RPCF were treated to a donor appreciation event at one of the most lovely homes in Roland Park (pictured on the cover), which is owned by Kate and Tony Culotta. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Culottas for an absolutely fantastic evening spent strolling through their beautiful gardens and connecting with friends. The event included an update on the Roland Water Tower project with lots of pictures and stories.

Tyler McPherson, 12-year-old grandson of Don McPherson and Ann Teaff, was one of the youngest attendees. He was so moved by the presentation that, after consulting with former Roland Park Civic League President Phil Spevak, he created a GoFund Me page, "Save the Falcons" ([ie.gofundme.com/f/au967-save-the-falcons](https://www.gofundme.com/f/au967-save-the-falcons)), to raise funds to restore the tower and create a permanent home for the peregrine falcons that have nested there for at least the past five years (read the fall issue for more information about our feathered friends).

"Tyler showed maturity, enthusiasm, initiative and creativity in starting his project," explains his proud grandfather.

What an inspiration Tyler is for all of us. He saw a worthwhile project and he acted. And, as of mid-November, he has raised \$500 toward his \$1,000 goal! Thank you, Tyler! ❖

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Profile: David Hornbeck

By Martha Holleman

David Hornbeck, founder of Strong Schools Maryland and a resident of Tuxedo Park, explains his passionate support of the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (named the Kirwan Commission after its chairman, Brit Kirwan) this way: "Inequity in public education is the highest form of inequity. It compounds all others. The policies and proven programs recommended by the Commission will address existing inequity and provide excellence from pre-K to high school graduation for all Maryland's students. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to ensure a world class education for all our students."

As the former Superintendent of Schools in Maryland and Philadelphia, the father of two city school principals — Matthew, principal of Hampsted Hill Academy, and Mark, principal of Wolf Street Academy — and grandfather of Holly, who teaches at City Springs Elementary/Middle School, Hornbeck knows what he's talking about.

"The Commission examined what it would take to be a 'best in class' school system — using evidence from high-performing systems in the U.S. and abroad — and developed a blueprint for Maryland that is the best I have seen in 50 years in education," he explains.

Five key recommendations have emerged from the Commission's work:

- **Early Childhood:** expand family support programs for parents and infants, and provide high-quality, all-day pre-K for low-income three-year-olds and all four-year-olds.
- **Elevating the Teaching Profession:** raise the standards for teacher education, increase teachers' salaries commensurate with the level of education required, and build career ladders so teachers can advance in their profession and earnings without having to become administrators.
- **Strengthening Student Preparation for College and Careers:** set explicit standards for college and career readiness, provide additional supports for those who do not meet these standards by 10th grade so they can graduate prepared, and offer accelerated career and college training in 11th and 12th grade for those who are ready to proceed.
- **Increasing Resources for Students in Poverty, English Language Learners and those with a Disability:** provide additional targeted funding for schools with high percentages of children in poverty, English language learners and students with disabilities. Additional funding would be used for services aimed at accelerating academic achievement, improving child and family health and community support — including school-based service coordinators, social workers and health professionals.



David Hornbeck founded Strong Schools Maryland. Photo: Sally Foster


- **Ensuring Accountability:** establish an Independent Oversight Board to examine progress and ensure funds are spent as intended.

As a trained Presbyterian minister, graduate of the Union Theological Seminary and student of the theologians Reinhold Neibuhr, Paul Tillich and Karl Barth, Hornbeck is not just clear on "the what," but also on "the why." Supporting and funding improvements in public education, he says, gets to the "heart of what it means to be a human being in Baltimore and Maryland in 2019. There are many challenges facing our city and state that demand our time and attention. But truly educating our students for career and college will change the trajectory of our young people, and thereby of our city and of our state. It's the right thing to do. It's the moral thing to do."


Hornbeck founded Strong Schools Maryland to organize support for the Kirwan Commission and its recommendations. "Teams of 10" — groups of friends,

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DAVID HORNBECK

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neighbors and colleagues — have been meeting across the state since the fall of 2018 to stay on top of the policy proposals, reach out to local and state lawmakers, and help build a broad constituency for increased investments and reforms. Strong Schools Maryland was also a co-host of the standing-room-only Forum for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future held at Baltimore's Dorothy Height Elementary School on October 24th.

Initial proposals from the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Funding Formula Workgroup call for \$2.8 billion annually in new state spending and \$1.2 billion in increased local contributions from Baltimore City and counties to be phased in over 10 years. Under these recommendations, the City would be required, at the end of 10 years, to increase local support for city schools by \$339 million and would receive an additional \$502 million from the state — for total increased investments of \$832 million annually by 2030. Final recommendations will be made in the coming months.

The call for substantially increased funding is not without controversy. While not disputing the merits of the Commission's policy and program recommendations, Governor Larry Hogan has called it the "Kirwan Tax Hike Commission" and is actively campaigning against the scale of investments recommended. Meanwhile, an independent review determined that the State

of Maryland — even according to its existing formulae — is currently underfunding public schools statewide by \$2.9 billion a year, and city schools, in particular, by an amount close to \$300 million a year.

On the governor's leadership, Hornbeck remains an optimist. He notes, "It is perfectly conceivable that, if the governor hears from enough of his constituents, he will lead on this issue." He also asserts that "increased funding alone is not the solution — it's how you use the funds that matters. The Kirwan recommendations are specific and evidenced-based. They need to be fully implemented and funded."

As for us, his neighbors, Hornbeck urges, "The question for Roland Park residents is not just 'do you support the Kirwan recommendations? But, what will you do to support them?'" ❖

The interim report of the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education can be found at dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/NoPblTabMtg/CmsnInnovEduc/2019-Interim-Report-of-the-Commission.pdf

Hornbeck is excited to speak directly with any neighbors who want to form a "Team of 10" through Strong Schools Maryland or who have questions about the Kirwan Commission. You can reach him at dhornbeck1@gmail.com. ❖

Martha Holleman is a longtime resident who recently joined the Civic League.

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A Stage for Mister Shakespeare

By Chris Cotterman

Baltimore Shakespeare Factory (BSF), the region's only company dedicated exclusively to staging the works of William Shakespeare and his contemporaries, has unveiled a newly renovated stage after over a year of work. Housed in the historic St. Mary's Church at 3900 Roland Avenue, the stage gives BSF a fresh platform on which to continue its exploration of early-modern theater.

Newly rechristened as The Kestrel, the stage was inspired by the London performance spaces where Shakespeare's works were first performed.



The cast and crew of The Merry Wives of Windsor rehearsing onstage at The Kestrel.
Photo: Will Kirk



Master of Ceremony Terry O'Hara announces the new name for the stage at BSF's September 2019 gala. Photo: Will Kirk

Shaw. It was modeled after the stage of The Rose, one of the earliest playhouses (ca. 1587) built along the Thames in London's Southwark.

Shakespeare came to London soon after a time of transition in how and where plays were staged.

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The Kestrel Photo: Will Kirk

"I meant it as a tribute to Shakespeare, as a delight to the actors and audiences who will enjoy it," says Tom Brown, the local woodwright and "Renaissance Mechanic" behind the new work. The stage is also intended to be "an ongoing asset to live theater culture in our community."

The building itself dates to approximately 1869, when the cornerstone was laid for a new stone church to house the Episcopal parish of St. Mary's. After the parish ceased operating in the 1960s, the building saw a number of different uses. BSF took up residence in 2012, and performed for many years on an early version of the stage built by Brown and Lewis



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SHAKESPEARE

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For the first time, professional actors were performing on stages in dedicated spaces. The first permanent public theater — The Red Lion — was built in London's Whitechapel neighborhood in 1567, though it closed soon after. James Burbage found much greater success in 1576 with the construction of The Theatre in Shoreditch, marking a boom in the construction of public theaters that would continue until Shakespeare and his Lord Chamberlain's Men built The Globe in 1599.

While each theater had its own unique characteristics, they shared a common philosophy of design: a broad stage space with audience seating on three sides, and a rear wall through which entrances and exits were made. Stages were multi-leveled, allowing for a raised playing space, and there was no movable scenery.

With this philosophy in mind, Brown set out to create a stage that would be familiar to Shakespeare, incorporating as many specific references as possible to his life, times and works. To the original stage he added a Tudor-style roof, braced with rafters accented with period-style gold and purple flourishes. The left and right pieces of the roof are swung out on curved beams — rare in modern construction — which creates pie-shaped segments for the heavens.

In Elizabethan-era theater, the heavens were both practical (as a covering for the stage and actors) and evocative. Containing representations of the sun, moon and zodiac, they brought the natural world — and its rhythms — into the space. Brown decorated the heavens



Thomas Brown, the man behind the renovations, officially completes the stage with the help of his granddaughter Violet-Rose. Photo: Will Kirk



BSF Resident Company member Chris Cotterman reveals the nameplate and mascot for The Kestrel. Photo: Will Kirk

of The Kestrel with images from the 15th to 17th centuries.

To the back wall, Brown added Tudor-style half-timbering created from rough-cut walnut. The joints are simulations of the typical mortise-and-tenon joints of the period. A unique diamond-shaped timbering pattern is used in places, copied from The Garrick Inn in Shakespeare's hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon. Its façade is believed to be original to 1596, so Shakespeare would certainly have seen it in his life.

The wall also incorporates simulated brick infill, or "nogging." Nogging was used decoratively, but it also helped to hold a building's timbers in alignment. Two bay windows are set into the wall, loosely modeled on those of Shakespeare's birthplace. The central curtain is flanked by two wooden doors, which Brown modeled on those at Oxford's Bodleian Library.

Long known as The Great Hall at St. Mary's, BSF looked to the past for a new name. The London theaters of Shakespeare's day had

pithy names, designed to be easily memorable and evocative; in a time before corporate sponsors, they were simple and elegant. The American Kestrel is a bird native to the region and the smallest of our falcons, though no less powerful or vital than its larger cousins. As a mascot for a theater, it likely wouldn't seem out of place to Shakespeare.

Grateful for the work and dedication of Tom Brown, BSF looks forward to welcoming audiences new and old to The Kestrel, hoping that it contributes to Baltimore's long tradition of grand performing spaces while giving audiences a unique look at some of the world's most famous plays.

BSF will open their 2020 season with *Henry V*, opening February 14th. For more information about the company and their programs, please visit baltimoreshakespearefactory.org. ❖



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Hudson's Corner: Social Studio

By Kathy Hudson

In September, 45-year-old Genie Arnot opened the Social Studio on Deepdene Road, in space formerly occupied by The Children's Bookstore. Rarely does a daytime hour now pass when Arnot and her studio are not bustling with creative activity.

Arnot, a former Bryn Mawr lower school art teacher, has also taught first and second grade, science and math. She graduated from Bowdoin College and holds a master's in education from the Bank Street College of Education and lives in historic Rockland with her 11-year-old son, a student at The Park School.

How does it feel moving into this space? This space had always been in the back of my mind as the perfect location for the first Social Studio. It has a history of families coming through the door for stories and

community events, and I'm honored to continue that legacy in my own way. The community is so welcoming and receptive to the idea of a space to gather and create. Every day, I meet new people, who participate in one way or another. It feels like the absolutely right fit.

Did you look at other spaces? Yes, I did. The Children's Bookstore was the last space checked out. 737 Deepdene turned out to be the best place to start, and that is affirmed every single day. I am right in the mix of other businesses (women-owned!) and close to many schools. Kids can walk to the studio from school or home, or easily and safely be dropped off. The community is conscientious, creative and committed to the character of Roland Park and its constituents. One of the first people who showed enthusiasm about Social Studio was Bob Connors, president of the Roland Park Civic League. He invited me to present at one of the monthly meetings.

How long had you been thinking about this? For 20 years. It started when I volunteered at The Children's Museum in lower Manhattan. It was a place people — children especially — could come be creative and interact with others and explore their ideas in different art forms... My passion is developing concept curriculum, and facilitating spaces and experiences for people to engage in the creative process.

What are your goals here? My short-term goal is to become the "local studio" in the community and provide art-making experiences using a variety of mediums and materials. It is a place to make something and to meet people, but much more a place to connect or reconnect to the creative process of exploring, engaging, expressing and expanding. It is this process that builds confidence and connection and creative problem-solving — essential elements for all areas of our lives.



The Social Studio is a place to connect or reconnect to the creative process.
Photo: Genie Arnot

My long-term goal is to create Social Studios in other neighborhoods, unified by the core values of the concept yet diverse in the ways that people and places have their differences. Members would then have a network of others using the same process and the goal of making art to make positive change, either personal or community-wide. I'm eager to emphasize art and ideas as the medium for understanding and getting to know others.

How many different workshops do you do each week? I do five different afterschool programs, one each weekday. I teach a Saturday Workshop, and the theme changes every month and the activity changes each week. I have open studios on Sunday and BYOB night on Thursdays.

I also teach a Thursday morning adult open studio. Another big hit, on Thursday and Friday afternoons, is Preschool Paint and Play. Recent topics have included mask-making, mixed-media, acrylic painting, bullet journaling, still-life, knitting, watercolor, the art of letters and landscape.

What seems to be the most popular so far? The most popular adult program is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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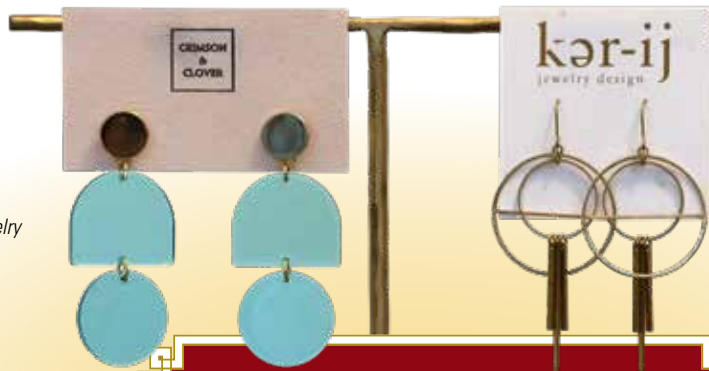
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FREE ESTIMATES

SOCIAL STUDIO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

St*ART Studio Night, BYOB. Each week, we go in a different direction. We've done printmaking, abstract stencil painting, observational drawing of flowers, peaceful pathways and more. Adults are the most deficient in creative time, so Thursday nights provide a healthy dose of time to create and connect.

Most popular children's programs: Sketchbook Club is the most popular afterschool. There's always a warm-up prompt where kids can explore a new material and idea, then they go in their own direction. The School's Out Studios are also very popular. On days a school is out, families schedule their kids to spend the day in the studio. We start with choice time then track building. So far, teams have worked together for the newspaper and tape challenge, the index card challenge and the marble run challenge. Then we eat snacks, go for a "plein air" walk with sketchbooks and work on a seasonal craft. We end the day with a story.

What about parties? Social Studio is the perfect place for a party! Birthday parties include a canvas for the host, painted by all his/her guests, an art activity designed on the host's theme and cupcakes. Each guest selects a palette of sprinkles and mixes his/her cupcake color and decorates the cupcake. To date, we've had a water animal theme, a building party, a Wonder Woman/unicorn [theme], a sock monkey [theme] and a whale party. Kids leave with a party bag of their creations.

Adult parties are great too. Cater them or BYO food and drink. We can plan an activity for workshops or teambuilding or just for fun! Get a group together to paint or work on a collaborative project for a community event.

What is the maximum/minimum size? The space holds 18 at the large work tables but also feels comfortable with smaller groups of four or five. It's best to sign up with the online schedule so I can prepare the materials. The minimum is three, so please tell your family and friends about it!

What has been the biggest challenge? The biggest challenge has been matching the schedule to people's needs and interests. It has been a wonderful exchange, dependent on feedback and learning about area schools. I am indebted to people who call or write to let me know about a school day off or particular interests. I love working with people to make Social Studio their local art studio. The best dynamic proves to be a mixed age group, mixed schools and mixed interests—that's when Social Studio lives up to its name!

What would you like to see happen here this winter? This winter, I'd like Social Studio to be the warm and bustling place

where something's always happening. There will be special family workshops and a special three-week schedule between Thanksgiving and Winter Break. There will be gift-making and gift-wrapping! In January, we will start the new year with vision board collages and visual storytelling workshops. Plus, there's knitting on Thursdays 4 pm to 6 pm!

The theme for the December Weekend Workshops (Saturdays 10 am-12pm) is: Paper, Patterns & Printing—It's a Decorative Season! Design stamps and print patterns to create handmade fabrics and paper, either as art or for artfully wrapped gifts. Paper collage and linoleum and styrofoam printing will be the skills taught during these workshops. One week, [participants] will make a 3D geometric paper ornament.

This winter, I would like to see people try new things and meet new people in Social Studio, as well as give themselves the gift of some creative time. I believe that engaging in the creative process is a way to foster empathy and empowerment—two leading core values for individuals and communities during any season.

How did you prepare to do it? To say "YES" to my ideas about Social Studio, I needed to say "NO" to other interests and career opportunities. That was the first step. Then, I wrote a business plan and shared it within the field. Alyson Shirk, director of arts at Bryn Mawr, was one of the first people to help me turn my ideas into a plan.

Kim Shramko and Alan and Lynne Berkowitz at Berkowitz and Shramko Accounting were huge in walking me through steps that I could not have figured out on my own. I also talked to others who have businesses like mine.

I worked with designers Herswick and Webster, who created my logo and website and translated the concept into visual and user-friendly interactions. I signed on with Sawyer, my scheduling company, who customized the schedule with the key elements of my program: classes, workshops, parties and School's Out Studio Days.

The part of the process that still amazes me is though I had to do some hard things and still do, I do not have to do them alone. My friend Katie Gill-Harvey, with whom I worked at Bryn Mawr awhile back, has helped me establish best practices and processes, so the systems are both accessible to the students and sustainable. Working with my team has been the most rewarding part. I also had the support of my mom—and that means the world!

What has been your biggest surprise here? The biggest surprise is the level of work and quality of experience that can happen in two hours. As a teacher, it took weeks before something evolved or finished. In the studio, it happens often in one session! I intentionally schedule 1.5-2 hour blocks so there is time to explore, experiment, engage, express, exchange, and expand. These are the process words used in the studio to describe the stages of the creative process. Both kids and adults have time to discover, decide, and then push through the doubt that comes in the middle of the process to arrive at something surprising. These repeated zing moments of I did this, I thought this, I made this, I had this idea is why the energy is so good in the space. ❖



Arnot offers programs for kids after school every day, and on weekends Photo: Genie Arnot

Winter Garden Tips

By Kate Culotta, Roland Park Community Foundation Landscape Committee

1. Remove leaves from grass areas. Use a lawn mower to mulch leaves. A thin layer of mulched leaves can be left on the grass to add nutrients or mulched leaves can be raked into beds to provide deeper winter protection for shrubs and perennials. Leaves left on grass over winter promote mold, harbor pests and smother grass.
2. Continue to monitor moisture in the soil. It was a very dry summer and fall. Even during dormancy, trees and shrubs need watering.
3. Trim or prune trees that are damaged or diseased. You can also prune evergreens and use cuttings to decorate your home for holiday celebrations. Outside, poke cuttings into moist soil in pots and urns. Cuttings can also be brought indoors. Mist them with water to prolong freshness. Use care around fireplaces and candles.



4. Add a fresh layer of mulch (or compost/leaf clippings) around trees and shrubs. Even mature trees benefit from having their root beds protected during cold winters. Do not

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Thinking of buying Big Box store evergreen wreaths or roping? Soak them in a large tub or cooler of water for 24 hours, then lay them out in a garage or porch to dry. This will prolong the life of evergreens cut and shipped weeks earlier. Better yet, stroll through your yard or down your lane. Roland Park offers bountiful evergreens, magnolias and hollies for trimming. Please ask first before helping yourself to your neighbor's evergreens.

pile mulch up around the trunk, but spread 2 to 3 inches over the root bed. Protect trees and shrubs from damage caused when deer rub their antlers along the trunk or eat lower branches, especially the trees that set early buds for spring. Hungry deer will nip those buds right off.

5. Remove annuals from the garden bed. Leaving them over the winter promotes mold and harbors pests. Perennials can be left in the garden to add beauty as the landscape frosts and snow falls. If your garden feels too untidy with the perennials left for the winter, leave the stems of plants that bloom in the

spring and trim those that bloom later. Remember to label what you cut so you can tell what they are when new growth emerges in the spring.

6. Gently till the soil in garden beds, if possible. This helps to reduce garden pests that may otherwise overwinter in your garden, especially grubs and Japanese beetles.
7. Remove and clean outdoor garden support items, such as tomato cages, stakes and garden tools. After sweeping off any dried dirt, wipe things down or spray them with a two-parts-water/one-part-bleach solution to kill garden diseases. This is also a good time to inspect tools and evaluate what needs sharpening or replacing.
8. Outdoor pots that are not frost-proof should be emptied, cleaned with a water/bleach solution and stored upside down in a shed, garage or basement until spring. Frost-proof containers can be filled with cut greens for holiday decoration. Keep the soil moist to prolong the greens' freshness. Once the holiday celebrations are over, empty, clean and store the pots.
9. Drain outdoor hoses and store them away until the spring. Open and drain outdoor spigots and turn off water valves until the weather warms up. ❖

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Friends School Junior Pens School's First-Ever Spirit Song

“Firsts” can be somewhat hard to come by at the 235-year-old Friends School of Baltimore, but junior Christopher Armstrong recently helped the school achieve an exciting new accomplishment.

The image of Armstrong carrying his trademark red saxophone around campus is quite a familiar one for students and faculty. Armstrong, who began tinkering with music as a child, comes from a long line of musicians. The budding arts entrepreneur played an important role in forming the entirely student-run band, The Constellations (which can be found gigging around Baltimore on occasion). Now he adds another impressive achievement to his portfolio after penning the school's first-ever spirit song.

Friends' Sports Information Director, Ken Zalis, approached Armstrong about writing a “theme song” for the Athletics Department after coming across the student musician's work.



Christopher Armstrong is a budding arts entrepreneur at Friends School. Photo courtesy Friends School

At Friends School, otherwise uncommon partnerships can be quite common, as students are encouraged to think outside the box and pursue their passions — even if those passions span multiple departments and subjects. The environment at Friends School — made possible in large part to the school's unwavering commitment to provide a vigorous educational experience — is such that students who are dedicated athletes can also star in the school musical, and musicians like Armstrong can work on projects that fall outside of the Music Department's walls. Armstrong's theme song challenge is a shining example of vigorous education at work since Friends School's educational journey has equally emphasized the mastery of content with the mastery of other important life skills for over 200 years.

Ultimately, Zalis was so impressed by the end result that he requested the piece be performed in front of the entire school, which would cement its status as the official school spirit song. The initial all-school performance was brought to life by the iconic Morgan State University marching band. The band, which performs every year for the all-school pep rally, debuted the song with Armstrong and close family members cheering alongside students and faculty in the stands — a poignant moment and inspirational first.

This year, Armstrong and the Friends School community will cheer for the Morgan State University band as they also accomplish an incredible first — performing in the upcoming Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. ❖

Friends (friendsbalt.org) is a private coeducational Quaker school founded in 1784 and serving students in Pre-K through 12th grade.



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5407 Falls Road Terrace	\$574,900	\$550,000
110 Edgevale Rd.	\$935,000	\$815,000
509 Woodlawn Rd.	\$950,000	\$860,000
306 Edgevale Rd.	\$1,025,000	\$930,000

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Butternut Squash Soup Recipe

Petit Louis Bistro



Photo courtesy Petit Louis Bistro

Ingredients

- 2 medium butternut squash
- ¼ stick of butter
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 shallot, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 qt. heavy cream
- 1 qt. chicken broth
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- ½ cup pepitas (optional)
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- ¼ tsp. cloves
- ¼ tsp. allspice

Cut squash in half lengthwise, scoop out seeds, sprinkle with salt and drizzle with vegetable oil. Roast skin side down in 350-degree oven for 1 hour or until soft. Allow to cool. Once cooled, scoop flesh from skin of squash.

Saute onion, shallot and garlic in butter for 5 minutes over medium heat. Add squash, cream and broth, and cook at a simmer for 45 minutes. Purée in a blender until smooth. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

If desired for garnish, toss pepitas (pumpkin seeds) in extra virgin olive oil, just enough to coat. Lay out evenly on a cookie tray and roast at 350 degrees for 8 minutes until golden brown. Toss with cinnamon, clove and allspice. Sprinkle over soup just before serving. ❖

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Cranberry Pecan Bread, Three Ways

Eddie's of Roland Park

From our table to yours, Chabaso's delicious Cranberry Pecan Loaf is back for the season. Here are three simple renditions to triple your enjoyment!

Savory Spreads

Prep time: 10 minutes. Serves 6.

Ingredients

1 c. Vermont Creamery crème fraiche

1 bottle Mike's Hot Honey

½ c. Belgioioso gorgonzola crumbles

Slice loaf into ¾-inch cuts. Spread with crème fraiche, drizzle with honey and top with gorgonzola. Arrange on a platter and serve as a morning or afternoon snack.

Cranberry Crunch Stuffing

Prep time: 30 minutes. Cook time: 50 minutes. Serves 6.

Ingredients

1 18-oz. loaf Chabaso Cranberry Pecan Bread, cut in ¾-inch cubes

4 T. unsalted butter

1 c. celery, diced

2 c. onion, diced

2 t. dried thyme

2 t. dried sage

1 t. black pepper

1 ½ t. coarse kosher salt

¼ c. flat leaf parsley, chopped

½ c. toasted pecans, coarse chopped

½ c. dried cranberries

½ c. dried bing cherries

2 c. plus 1 c. Kitchen Basics unsalted chicken or vegetable stock

2 large eggs

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 15"x10"x2" glass baking dish with non-stick cooking spray. Melt butter in large skillet. Add diced celery, onion, thyme, sage, pepper and salt. Cook over medium heat until onions are translucent, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside.

In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs with 2 cups chicken stock.

Put bread cubes in a large bowl. Add onion mixture to the bowl, along with egg-stock mixture. Mix well until bread cubes are coated with the liquid mixture. Fold in pecans, cranberries, cherries and parsley.



Photo courtesy Eddie's of Roland Park

Transfer to prepared pan. Add more stock if mixture looks dry. Cover with foil and bake for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake for an additional 10 minutes. Feel free to add more stock during baking if needed. Finished stuffing should be brown on top and moist in the center.

Bread Pudding with Bourbon Sauce

Prep time: 30 minutes. Cook time: 50 minutes. Serves 6.

Ingredients

6 c. Chabaso Cranberry Pecan Bread, cut in ¾-inch cubes

¼ c. unsalted butter, melted

½ c. toasted pecans, coarse chopped

½ c. dried cranberries

2 c. half and half

2 large eggs

½ c. sugar

1 t. vanilla extract

Zest of 1 orange

¼ c. unsalted butter

¼ t. salt

½ c. dark brown sugar

1 t. cornstarch

3 T. heavy cream

1 t. vanilla extract

2 T. 1792 Small Batch bourbon

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 13"x9"x2" baking dish with non-stick cooking spray or grease with butter.

In a large bowl, add bread cubes, melted butter, pecans and cranberries.

In a medium bowl, whisk together half and half, eggs, sugar, vanilla and orange zest. Pour over bread cube mixture. Fold mixture so that bread is completely covered. Pour into baking dish. Allow to set for 15 to 20 minutes. The mixture can be refrigerated overnight until ready to bake. Bake for 40 minutes or until tester comes out clean when inserted in the center of the dish.

Meanwhile, prepare bourbon sauce by melting butter in a small, heavy saucepan over medium heat. Add brown sugar, salt and cornstarch. Stir until the sugar is completely dissolved. Slowly whisk in cream and vanilla. Take the saucepan off the heat and slowly whisk in the bourbon. Put pan back on the burner and warm until sauce is slightly thickened, about 2 minutes.

Serve bread pudding warm with bourbon sauce on the side. ❖

Boys' Latin Students Leading with Integrity

By Alex Barron

At Boys' Latin, we believe leadership isn't a one-size-fits-all proposition. It takes time, dedication and practice to learn how to achieve the goals you set, rise to challenges, contribute to your community and inspire others. We are a small school by design, and this provides our boys with countless opportunities for leadership and to make a difference.

Our values — courage, integrity and compassion — are at the forefront of all we do. As our boys are challenged to take initiative and step into leadership roles, there is an expectation among faculty and peers alike that our leaders will exemplify those qualities.

Our honor code is a cornerstone of our academic experience. At the start of each school year, new students in the upper school affirm their commitment to the code by signing the Honor Book, which bears the signature of every student in the school's history. The responsibility of enforcing the code has long fallen to the Honor Board, a panel of students from each grade level. Students who appear before the Honor Board have the opportunity to tell their story to their peers, who discuss it and, with the guidance and support of selected faculty members, make recommendations.

The responsibility of judging one's peers can be daunting, especially for high school students. As a result, representatives are trusted and well-respected. Many are elected by their peers early in their freshman year and maintain their position until they graduate. Members of the Honor Board hold some of the most highly visible student leadership positions in the school.

But prior to this school year, senior Kendall Walker wondered if there might be other ways for him and his classmates to serve the school. He saw that some of his peers, especially underclassmen, would benefit from student mentorship beyond what was provided by faculty advisors.

"I asked some of the guys if they would want to talk to upperclassmen about challenges they are facing at school," he says. "Lots of the time, kids will really open up to their fellow students."

With support from Upper School Dean of Students Mac McDonald, Walker founded the Senior Council, a group of six seniors whose job is to assist underclassmen navigate life in the upper school. Where the Honor Board focuses on helping students to uphold community standards, especially with regard to academics and school regulations, the Senior Council concentrates on helping and supporting students. The Council typically meets with students over lunch, with the hope of creating a relaxed, low-pressure environment.



Members of the Senior Council help underclassmen navigate life in the upper school.
Photo courtesy Boys' Latin

To serve alongside him, Walker intentionally selected other seniors who would represent different walks of life. They are all quiet, understated leaders who care deeply about life at their school. They are also adept at relating to their peers one-on-one, which makes them excellent mentors.

McDonald has already seen the new program pay dividends, and is excited to see it continue to grow.

"We are a relationship-driven school," he says. "And the Senior Council will help some of our younger guys to form strong bonds with our older guys."

McDonald looks forward to watching the Senior Council work in concert with the Honor Board.

"Teenage boys need accountability, but they also need love and support." ❖

Boys' Latin is the oldest K-12 all-boys school in the Mid-Atlantic.
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Little Reds at Roland Park Country School: Where Learning Meets Play

By Abby Pulcinella

The best days end in dirty clothes," goes the old adage. At Little Reds at Roland Park Country School, a coed early education program for children 6 weeks through 5 years, every day is truly the best as preschoolers are encouraged to explore, wonder, deduce and observe through hands-on experiences both in and beyond their classrooms.

Little Reds embraces the Reggio Emilia philosophy, which originated in a small Italian city of the same name and has been garnering worldwide attention for its compelling approach to early childhood education. Little Reds emphasizes rich and deep learning through stimulating experiences. Children are capable and motivated learners who bring with them an innate curiosity about the world. Little Reds expert educators carefully consider and discuss each child's interests to intentionally guide experiential learning.

"Throughout her years in Little Reds, I saw an authentic love of learning develop in my daughter," says the mother of Kaylee, 5, who first joined



Little Reds emphasizes rich and deep learning. Photo courtesy RPCS

when she was just 10 weeks old and is now in the Lower School at Roland Park Country School. "Her curiosities were consistently turned into learning opportunities with the support of her teachers, guiding her through creative and collaborative experiences."

Relationship building and teaching empathy and compassion are also key components of the Reggio Emilia-inspired approach at Little Reds. Children have the ability to express, explore and connect their thoughts, senses, feelings and imaginings in infinite ways that are noticed and nurtured.

"My child's teacher notices what she is drawn to and intentionally and

thoughtfully designs activities and projects that fuel her curiosities and strengthen her interests," says the mother of Beatrice, 2. "My daughter wakes up each morning excited to go to school and learn, and as a parent, that is the best feeling in the world."

Little Reds, the infant and toddler program under the Little Reds umbrella, has recently moved into an entirely new space, with intentionally designed and light-filled classrooms and a carefully planned playground that is treated as an extension of the classroom. Children use the outdoor space to climb, jump and run, and also to read, write, learn, explore and create art. Students go outside in all kinds of weather to explore the seasons and create lifelong connections with the natural world.

By using the world around them as a classroom and combining learning and play, Little Reds promotes inquiry, discovery, literacy and numeracy so that its students are prepared for kindergarten and beyond.

"I watched my daughter become a confident member of the school community prepared for the transition to the Lower School," says Kaylee's mom. "We can see that she finds joy in her days at RPCS and has pride in being a RED!"

Learn more about Little Reds at their free monthly playdates for families with children ages 6 weeks to 2 years old. ❖

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Park Challenges 9th Grade Science Students Inside and Out

By Mick Scott, Upper School Computer Science, Engineering, and Robotics and K-12 Technology Coordinator, Park School of Baltimore

science even more now and cannot wait to take more classes in the future.”

Standing among the towering trees in the woods at The Park School of Baltimore, I stared up at the 90-foot-high platform from which we planned to send students down to the ground below. The Core 9 Science teaching team had been looking forward to the 9th grade using the big zipline of Park’s Appalachian Challenge Course to perform projectile motion analysis as part of our first physics unit of the class. Being new to Park last year and using the Challenge Course as a physics laboratory, I was learning the process we’d be using with the students, and I needed to ride the big zip myself.



Park students use the school’s 90-foot zipline as part of their science curriculum. Photo courtesy Park School

The Challenge Course labs demonstrate the Core 9 philosophy: experiential, exploratory, experimental and application-focused. The Core 9 course certainly runs differently from my high school physics and college engineering courses — it is much more lab- and project-focused, and certainly more discovery-based. And the course is working, as evidenced in one student’s year-end comment: “I enjoy

I shared with a couple of my Core 9 students that I can’t think of a better science course that we could offer our freshmen at Park. Ask most of them, and they’ll likely agree that the course is challenging, but worth it.

I didn’t code my first interactive, graphical program until I was a sophomore in college, and each of our Park freshmen completed that task this year as part of our first project, the Video Game Design project. The computer games they created demonstrated their knowledge of projectile motion and coding. They coded their programs in a language built on Java, and all projects had to include projectile motion physics with gravity, in addition to keyboard and mouse control of game characters. As

one student wrote in her project reflection: “I learned a lot. I think

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



Computers are a huge interest of mine. *I really like my technology class.*

I also love to make things with my hands; *I can start with just some materials and turn them into something that matters.*

I know this because I go to Park.

—Luca, 5th Grade



The Park School of Baltimore is an independent, gender-inclusive, non-sectarian, progressive Pre-K through Grade 12 school located on a 100-acre campus just minutes from the city line. parkschool.net

The Book Nook

By Julie Johnson

In January, we will continue our series of film documentaries with Maryland Public Television (MPT) and their Indie Lens Pop-Up program. While the documentary titles are not yet available, the dates and times are: Thursdays, January 2, 9 and 23, all at 6 pm. For information about the series and to check upcoming content, please visit www.mpt.org/outreach/indielenspopup or www.pbs.org/independentlens/indie-lens-pop-up.

The library is open Monday and Thursday, 10 am–8 pm; Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 am–5:30 pm; and Friday and Saturday, 10 am–5 pm. The branch is closed Sunday. This winter, all Pratt libraries will be closing at 5 pm on December 24 (Christmas Eve) and December 31 (New Year's Eve), and will be closed on December 25 (Christmas Day), January 1 (New Year's Day), January 20 (Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday) and February 17 (Presidents Day).

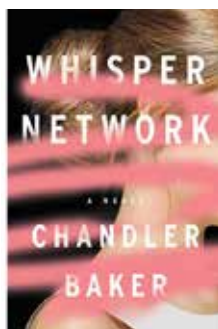
I always update the first message recorded on the branch phone (410-396-6099) when there are changes to our schedule. Changes are also posted, usually as a banner, on the Pratt webpage at prattlibrary.org.

Our branch email is rln@prattlibrary.org. Please summarize your question in the email's subject line (e.g., "book request").

As always, the following reviews are excerpted from the library's online catalog. Where noted, titles are also available on OverDrive, is a free service offered by libraries and schools that lets you borrow ebooks and audiobooks (overdrive.com).

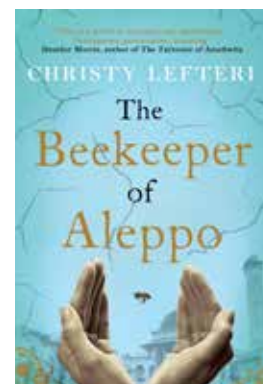
Fiction

Whisper Network by Chandler Baker (available at OverDrive). In her adult-fiction debut, young adult (YA) author Baker deftly mixes mystery and the #MeToo movement. When the CEO of Dallas sportswear company Truviv drops dead from a heart attack, the in-house favorite to succeed him is General Counsel Ames Garrett. But at the same time, a spreadsheet called the BAD (Beware of Asshole Dallas Men) is circulating, and, after some thought, Truviv lawyer Sloane Glover, who'd had an affair with



Ames before she was married, adds him to the list, believing that he has designs on new-hire Katherine Bell. Soon Sloane and her close colleagues, divorced mom Ardie Valdez and new mom Grace Stanton, take action against the company as another unexpected death high in the company's ranks raises the question of murder or suicide. In the midst of a police investigation and meetings involving suits and countersuits, Baker works in succinct statements about the quandaries of modern women: torn between motherhood and work, plagued with guilt about nearly everything, suppressing their femininity while being undervalued because of their sex, and schooled in secrecy. These truths serve to bolster the plot, not distract from it, and the result is a compulsively readable mystery with a strong message.

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri (available at OverDrive). Lefteri (*A Watermelon, a Fish and a Bible*) tells a haunting and resonant story of Syrian war refugees undertaking a treacherous journey to possible safety. In 2015, Nuri Ibrahim and his wife, Afra, who was blinded in an incident during the Syrian civil war, cling to their home while everyone else flees the bombings and violence. They are emotionally devastated by the loss and destruction of their neighborhood but decide to seek asylum in the U.K. after soldiers attempt to forcefully recruit Nuri. They travel through harsh conditions in Turkey and Greece, waiting in camps for the proper paperwork and meeting more refugees along the way. Nuri is determined to find his cousin, Mustafa, in the U.K., where the two men can return to their beloved work as beekeepers. Afra reckons with the reality that she will not be able to continue her life as an artist because of her blindness, and the couple recall painful memories as they are drawn into the agonizing experiences of other refugees. Lefteri perceptively and powerfully documents the horrors of the Syrian civil war and the suffering of innocent civilians. Readers will find this deeply affecting for both its psychological intensity and emotional acuity.



The Last Good Guy by T. Jefferson Parker (available at OverDrive). In his third case (after *Swift Vengeance*), San Diego private investigator Roland Ford is hired for a job that escalates from searching for a missing teenager to taking down a domestic-terrorism cult. The enigmatic Penelope Rideout walks into Roland's office, professing concern for her sister, and then spins an improbable tale, flirting her way into his heart. The tale turns out to be a bizarre fabrication, but he is hooked. The otherwise hard-boiled Roland seems at times conflicted, often finding his own beliefs at odds with those of the rest of the world.



His investigation starts at an unusual private school and leads him into an ambush by skinhead thugs, who beat him nearly to death. Roland is rescued by his tenant, Burt, and revived by a gin-infused ice bath and further ministrations by the several engaging residents of his estate, Rancho de los Robles. Once back on his feet, Roland follows leads on the girl's whereabouts that take him to a celebrity evangelist and eventually to the desert headquarters of a band of white supremacists. In this powerful thriller, Parker leaves us aching for the damaged souls left behind by false prophets and hate-mongers, and hoping that there still really are some good guys

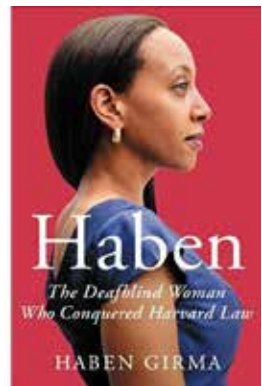
The Ventriloquists by E. R. Ramizpoor. Ramizpoor's magnetic debut, based on the true story of an intricate WWII propaganda scheme, takes place in the fall of 1943 in Nazi-occupied Belgium. Anticipating an Allied invasion, Gruppenführer August Wolff, head of Germany's new Ministry of Perception Management, plans an ambitious campaign to circulate information that

is alleged to have come from the Resistance but is really the product of his office. He rounds up four members of the underground group, *Front de l'Indépendance*, and orders them to publish an issue of its newspaper, *La Libre Belgique*, that looks and reads like other copies but portrays the Allies in an unflattering light. The leader of the quartet, Marc Aubrion, knows they will be executed at the end of the project, so he convinces them to die for the cause: they will secretly and concurrently create a black propaganda version of the collaborationist paper *Le Soir*, to poke fun at the Nazis and give Belgians a much-needed psychological boost. To

assist his team — prostitute Lada Tarcovich, editor Theo Mullier and professor Martin Victor — Marc recruits a local teenager called Gamin, who is an expert at newspaper distribution and arson. Over 18 jam-packed days that end with a big bang, the lives of all the members of the group will be changed. Sprawling and ambitious, with crisp pacing and fully realized characters, this will fascinate anyone looking for an unusual, enthralling war story.

Nonfiction

Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law by Haben Girma (available at OverDrive).

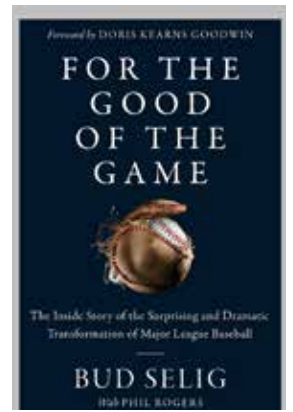


Born with deaf-blindness, Girma grew up with enough vision to know when someone was in front of her and enough hearing to know when someone close to her was talking. However, she had difficulty reading facial features or distinguishing people in group conversations. Relying on her own problem-solving skills, Girma overcame roadblocks while simultaneously obtaining her undergraduate and law degrees. In the process, she developed new methods

of communication and found her calling in advocating for the deaf and blind communities in more accessible communication, education and employment opportunities. As a lawyer and advocate, Girma shares a collection of vignettes illustrating the defining points in her life. She peppers her writing with a witty sense of humor and showcases her strength in facing obstacles, along with challenging antiquated societal beliefs about people with disabilities, whether describing her experience climbing Alaska's Mendenhall Glacier or helping a drunk friend get to his dorm using her seeing-eye dog that he adores as a lure.

For the Good of the Game: The Inside Story of the Surprising and Dramatic Transformation of Major League Baseball by Bud Selig (available at OverDrive). Selig, Major League Baseball's commissioner for more than 20 years, was a strong advocate for change, which often made him controversial in a sport legendarily committed to tradition. Selig, however, realized that the status quo could diminish interest in the game dramatically, especially in light of the growing popularity of the NFL and the NBA. One of the most significant issues Selig had to contend

with was the disparity between big- and small-market teams. The big boys were used to winning and fought ferociously as Selig put in place structural and financial considerations designed to level the playing field and make it possible for small-market teams to compete effectively. He also had to deal with steroids, which turned singles hitters into bulked-up behemoths with exponentially more power than they'd previously shown. Selig was criticized in the press for waiting too long to put a performance-enhancing-drug-testing policy in place, but, as he shows here, he had to negotiate with both the players' union and the owners, who supported anything that put fans in the seats and fans love home runs. Selig, who was elected to the Hall of Fame on the first ballot, makes a strong case that, controversy surrounding his stewardship notwithstanding, baseball was healthier when he left than when he arrived.



Agrippina: The Most Extraordinary Woman of the Roman World by Emma Southan. This remarkable biography from historian Southon (*Marriage, Sex, and Death*) follows Agrippina the Younger (15-59 CE), who, "as the daughter of an Emperor, the sister, niece, wife and mother of emperors... was never paralleled." Her father was the admired Germanicus, her brother

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Musical Prelude at 4:45 p.m.
Worship Service at 5 p.m.

All children are welcome to participate in the pageant during worship.



KidLit: What Would Rona Give?

By Rona Sue London

"Books make great gifts because they have whole worlds inside of them. And it's much cheaper to buy somebody a book than it is to buy them the whole world!" Neil Gaiman

Here are some of my favorite new books, any of which would make a great holiday gift for the child in your life. Happy holidays!

Ages 3-6

Say Anything by Sonia Sotomayor

The Pigeon HAS to go to School! by Mo Willems

Just in Case You Want to Fly by Julie Fogliano

How to Read a Book by Kwame Alexander

The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander

Love From Sesame Street

The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld



I Wonder by Kari Anne Holt and Kenard Pak

Underwear! by Jenn Harney

Because by Mo Willems

Ages 6-9

The Pumpkin War by Cathleen Young

Junior Monster Scouts by Joe McGee

Filigree's Midnight Ride by Pam Berkman and Dorothy Hearst

Shine! by J.J. and Chris Grabenstein

The Lost Boy's Gift by Kimberly Willis Holt

Mr. Penguin and the Lost Treasure by Alex T. Smith

Sweeping Up the Heart by Kevin Henkes

The Friendship War by Andrew Clements

Caterpillar Summer by Gillian McDunn

Where Dani Goes, Happy Follows by Rose Lagercrantz and Eva Eriksson



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Ages 10-13

Roll With It by Jamie Sumner

Song for a Whale by Lynne Kelly

The Benefits of Being an Octopus

by Ann Braden

White Bird by R.J. Palacio

My Jasper June by Laurel Snyder

More to the Story by Hena Khan

Games of Deception, The True Story of the First U.S. Olympic Basketball Team at the 1936 Olympics in Hitler's Germany

by Andrew Maraniss

Best Friends by Shannon Hale and LeUyen Pham

Look Both Ways: A Story Told in Ten Blocks

by Jason Reynolds

Broken Strings by Eric Walters and Kathy Kager



Ages 14-18

Gut Check by Eric Kester

Shout by Laurie Halse Anderson

Famous in a Small Town

by Emma Mills

The Expectations by Alexander Tilney

Sea Stories

by Admiral William H. McRaven

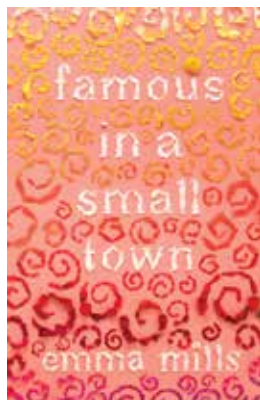
Dig by A.S. King

Beverly, Right Here by Kate DiCamillo

The Testaments by Margaret Atwood

Suggested Reading by Dave Connis

Pet by Akwaeke Emezi



As The Ivy Bookshop's Children's Book Curator Rona Sue London loves matching every youngster with his or her perfect read. The Ivy (6080 Falls Road) is Baltimore's independent literary bookstore, carrying a broad range of titles with an emphasis on new fiction, non-fiction, biography, art, interior design, cooking and, of course, children's books. theivybookshop.com

PARK CHALLENGES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

coding can definitely help our generation especially, and this unit was really fun. I loved it!"

The Smart House project—hard-wired and programmable circuits that students built as a culmination of our second topic—was a better structured, more complete engineering design project than most students get at any point at most high schools. Students created computer-aided designs of the structure of their projects, and schematic and pictorial electrical diagrams, and then coded interactivity using Arduino microcontrollers and three distinct input sensors and electronic outputs. Again, the project is challenging for students, and an opportunity for them to synthesize their physics, computer science and engineering understanding in a meaningful way.

While constructing each of our projects is enough of a challenge, students have also had to meet report deadlines, standards of performance and project specifications each step along the way.

While students have been free to explore and learn using themes that matter to them, in my teaching career I've never worked as hard or in such close collaboration with my colleagues as I have as part of the Core 9 teaching team. Park's Core 9 science program is among the most valuable courses I've ever taught. ❖

Park (parkschool.net) is an independent, coeducational, non-sectarian, progressive day school for children in Pre-K through 12th grade.



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Calendar Highlights

MONTHLY

Mondays at 9 am. **Friday Strolls**, Lake Roland, 1000 Lakeside Dr. lakeroland.org/calendar

Tuesdays at 9:25 am. **Village at Home Weekly Walk** (all are welcome). Eddie's Block, 5129 Roland Ave. villageathome.org

Tuesdays at 1 pm. **Job Hunters Support Group**, Corner Community Center, 5802 Roland Ave. bjhsg.org

Wednesdays at 7 pm. **Meditation: True Name Sangha**, Corner Community Center, cornercommunitycenter.org

First Friday at 1 pm. **Village at Home Lunch**, Village Square Café, 66 Village Square

DECEMBER

Sun. Dec. 1, 5 pm. **Baltimore Chamber Jazz Society: Steve Davis Correlations Sextet Concert**, Baltimore Museum of Art, 10 Art Museum Dr. \$215 for season subscription. Individual performance tickets are \$10 for students, \$43 for BMA members and seniors over 65, and \$45 for non-members. baltimorechamberjazz.org

Wed. Dec. 4, 7 pm. **Roland Park Civic League Monthly Meeting**, Roland Park Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Ave. All are welcome. Please enter through the side door. rolandpark.org

Thu. Dec. 5, 4 pm. **Holiday Wine Tasting with Andrew Schaffer**, Eddie's of Roland Park, 5113 Roland Ave. eddiesofarolandpark.com

Thu. Dec. 5, 6:30 pm. **Meet the Author: Erin Miller**, *Final Flight Final Flight: My Grandmother, the WASP, and Arlington National Cemetery*, Roland Park Library, 5108 Roland Ave. calendar.prattlibrary.org

Fri. Dec. 6, 7:30 pm. **The Canticle Singers of Baltimore**, St. David's Episcopal Church, 4700 Roland Ave. Free, with suggested donation to musicians of \$15 or \$10 for students and seniors. stdavidsrolandpark.com

Sat. Dec. 7 and Sun. Dec. 8, 10 am and 1 pm. **Wreath Making**, Lake Roland, 1000 Lakeside Dr. Ages 14 and up. \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. lakeroland.org/calendar

Sat. Dec. 7, 1 pm. **Bop While You Shop: Hatched**, Eddie's of Roland Park

Sat. Dec. 7, 5 pm. **Mass and Christmas Tree Lighting**, Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St. cathedralofmary.org

Sat. Dec. 7, 6 pm. **Ridge Runners** (indie folk), Village Square Café, 66 Village Square. villagesquarecafe.com

Sun. Dec. 8, 1 pm. **Art on the Trail: Meet the Artists**, Lake Roland

Thu. Dec. 12, 4 pm. **Holiday Wine Tasting with Andrew Schaffer**, Eddie's of Roland Park

Thu. Dec. 12, 6:30 pm. **Meet the Author: Eric D. Goodman**, *Setting the Family Free*, Roland Park Library

Sat. Dec. 14, 11 am. **Holiday Hors d'Oeuvres Tasting**, Eddie's of Roland Park

Sat. Dec. 14, 1 pm. **Bop While You Shop: Brandon Woody**, Eddie's of Roland Park

Sat. Dec. 14, 6 pm. **Mark and Judy** (guitar and violin), Village Square Café

Sat. Dec. 14, 7:30 pm. **Messiah, Handel Choir of Baltimore**, Grace United Methodist Church, 5407 N. Charles St. handelchoir.org

Sun. Dec. 15, 10 am. **A Festival of Lessons and Carols**, St. David's Episcopal Church

Thu. Dec. 19, 4 pm. **Holiday Wine Tasting with Andrew Schaffer**, Eddie's of Roland Park

Sat. Dec. 21, 1 pm. **Bop While You Shop: Brandon Woody**, Eddie's of Roland Park

Sat. Dec. 21, 2:30 pm. **Charm City Writers: Critique Group**, Roland Park Library

Sat. Dec. 21, 6 pm. **Lauren Weiner and Julie Riffle** (folk and country), Village Square Café

Sun. Dec. 22, 10:30 am. **Special Music Worship Service and Christmas Brunch**, Roland Park Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Ave. rolandparkchurch.org

Tue. Dec. 24, 5 pm. **Candlelight Worship Service and Christmas Pageant**, Roland Park Presbyterian Church

Sat. Dec. 28, 1 pm. **Bop While You Shop: Hatched**, Eddie's of Roland Park

Sat. Dec. 28, 6 pm. **The Powell Younger Project** (R&B, soul and blues), Village Square Café

Sat. Dec. 29, 10:30 am. **Rollin' Reels: "The Ex-Mrs. Bradford"**, Roland Park Library

JANUARY

Wed. Jan. 1, 9 am. **First Day Yoga**, Lake Roland, 1000 Lakeside Dr. \$2 per person. lakeroland.org/calendar

Wed. Jan. 1, 10 am. **First Day Hike**, Lake Roland

Sat. Jan. 4, 6 pm. **The Dharma Bums** (folk, rock, indie and world beat blues), Village Square Café, 66 Village Square. villagesquarecafe.com

Wed. Jan. 8, 7 pm. **Roland Park Civic League Monthly Meeting**, Roland Park Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Ave. All are welcome. Please enter through the side door. rolandpark.org

Sat. Jan. 11, 6 pm. **Roger Friskey** (blues, folk and jazz), Village Square Café

Wed. Jan. 15, 7 pm. **Baltimore Police Department Northern District Community Council Meeting**, Northern District Headquarters, 2201 W. Cold Spring Ln. All are welcome. baltimorepolice.org/districts/northern-district

Sat. Jan. 18, 2:30 pm. **Charm City Writers: Critique Group**, Roland Park Library

Sat. Jan. 18, 6 pm. **Hully and the Candy Man** (blues,

Americana, R&B, folk and light jazz), Village Square Café

Sat. Jan. 25, 10:30 am. **Rollin' Reels: "Where Angels Fear to Tread"**, Roland Park Library

Sat. Jan. 25, 6 pm. **Terry and Vicky** (folk-rock fusion), Village Square Café

Sun. Jan. 26, 4:30 pm. **Recital and Evensong Honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King**, St. David's Episcopal Church, 4700 Roland Ave. Free, with suggested donation to musicians of \$15 or \$10 for students and seniors. stdavidsrolandpark.com

Sun. Jan. 26, 5 pm. **Baltimore Chamber Jazz Society: The Jonathan Kreisberg Quartet**, Baltimore Museum of Art, 10 Art Museum Dr. \$215 for season subscription. Individual performance tickets are \$10 for students, \$43 for BMA members and seniors over 65, and \$45 for non-members. baltimorechamberjazz.org

Tue. Jan. 28, 8:30-11:30 am. **The School of the Cathedral Open House**, The School of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St. schoolofthecathedral.org/admissions

FEBRUARY

Sat. Feb. 1 and 8, 10 am. **Linoleum Block Printing and Card Making for Adults**, Lake Roland, 1000 Lakeside Dr. \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members (supplies included). Limited space. lakeroland.org/calendar

Sat. Feb. 1, 6 pm. **Spaghetti Dinner**, Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St. Visit website for tickets. cathedralofmary.org

Sat. Feb. 1, 6 pm. **Buzz Merrick** (classical and original acoustic folk), Village Square Café, 66 Village Square. villagesquarecafe.com

Wed. Feb. 5, 7 pm. **Roland Park Civic League Monthly Meeting**, Roland Park Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Ave. All are welcome. Please enter through the side door. rolandpark.org

Fri. Feb. 7, 7:30 pm. **Third Practice Concert: "Clothed in Sun"**, St. David's Episcopal Church, 4700 Roland Ave. Free, with suggested donation to musicians of \$15 or \$10 for students and seniors. stdavidsrolandpark.com

Sat. Feb. 8, 6 pm. **The Con Brio Trio** (classical guitar), Village Square Café

Fri. Feb. 14 to Sun. Mar. 8. **Baltimore Shakespeare Factory: Henry V**, St. Mary's Community Center, 3900 Roland Ave. Tickets \$19-\$24. Children under 12 free. baltimoreshakespearefactory.org

Sat. Feb. 15, 2:30 pm. **Charm City Writers: Critique Group**, Roland Park Library, 5108 Roland Ave. calendar.prattlibrary.org/roland_park_branch_40/calendar

Sun. Feb. 16, 4:30 pm. **Recital and Evensong Honoring Frederick Douglass**, St. David's Episcopal Church. Free, with suggested donation to musicians of \$15 or \$10 for students and seniors.

Sat. Feb. 29, 10:30 am. **Rollin' Reels: "Much Ado About Nothing"**, Roland Park Library

Sat. Feb. 29, 2 pm. **Maple Sugaring**, Lake Roland. \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members.

For the Kids

WEEKLY

Thursdays at 11 am. **Roland Park Branch Family Story Time** (ages 2-5 with adult), Roland Park Library, 5108 Roland Ave. Siblings welcome. calendar.prattlibrary.org/roland_park_branch_40/calendar

Thursdays at 1:30 pm. **Roland Park Branch Baby and Toddler Story Time** (ages up to 2 with adult), Roland Park Library

DECEMBER

Wed. Dec. 2, 12:30 pm. **After-School Movie: "The Nightmare Before Christmas"**, Roland Park Library, 5108 Roland Ave. calendar.prattlibrary.org/roland_park_branch_40/calendar

Thu. Dec. 5, 11 am. **Hands on Holidays: Chanukah** (ages 3-5 with adult), Roland Park Library

Sat. Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 27-30, 10 am-4 pm. **Holiday Train Garden**, Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301 York Rd., Lutherville. firemuseummd.org


Sat. Dec. 7, 10:30 am, and Thu. Dec. 19, 5 pm. **Free Family Flicks: "Snow Buddies"**, Roland Park Library

Sat. Dec. 14, 10 am-4 pm. **Santa Pics**, Fire Museum of Maryland

Fri. Dec. 20, 6 pm. **Longest Night Hike and Campfire**, Lake Roland, 1000 Lakeside Dr. Ages 5 and up with an adult. \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. lakeroland.org/calendar

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FOR THE KIDS

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

JANUARY

Sat. Jan. 4, 2 pm. **Primitive Fire Making**, Lake Roland, 1000 Lakeside Dr. Ages 10 and up with an adult. \$2 for members and \$4 for non-members. lakeroland.org/calendar

Wed. Jan. 8, 12:30 pm. **After-School Movie: "Aladdin"** (live action, 2019), Roland Park Library, 5108 Roland Ave. calendar.prattlibrary.org/roland_park_branch_40/calendar

Sat. Jan. 11, 10:30 am. **Special Family Program: Blink to See with Pat Bernstein**, Roland Park Library

Thu. Jan. 16, 5 pm. **Free Family Flicks: "Aladdin"**, Roland Park Library

Sat. Jan. 19, 6 pm. **Moonlit Hike and Campfire**, Lake Roland. Ages 5 and up with an adult. \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members.

FEBRUARY

Sun. Feb. 2, 1 pm. **Hibernation Exultation**, Lake Roland, 1000 Lakeside Dr. Ages 5 and up with an adult. lakeroland.org/calendar

Wed. Feb. 5, 12:30 pm. **After-School Movie: "Queen of Katwe"**, Roland Park Library, 5108 Roland Ave. calendar.prattlibrary.org/roland_park_branch_40/calendar

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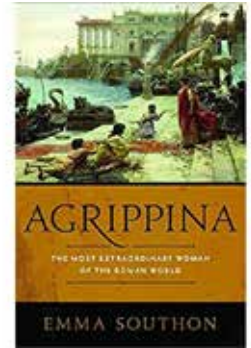
Sat. Feb. 8, 10:30 am, and Thu, Feb. 20, 5 pm. **Free Family Flicks: "Shaun the Sheep"**, Roland Park Library

Please send calendar announcements to magazine@rolandpark.org.

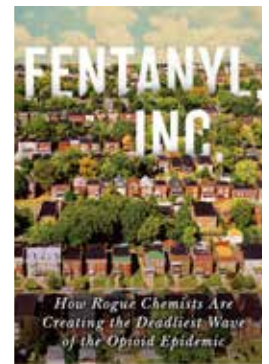
BOOK NOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

the emperor Caligula, her uncle and second husband Claudius, her son Nero. She was the first woman to assume the role of empress when she married Claudius, and she broke all customs: though she could not enter the senate or speak in public, she sat beside Claudius, negotiated diplomatically, appeared on coins, wrote her memoirs (a thing not done by women in those days) and donned the symbolic gold cape. She was possibly murdered (perhaps by her son Nero) at 43. Southon points out that "there is no objective, capital T truth about Agrippina," because of the "glaring, crippling problems" with the source material on Agrippina's life: the historical record is not "truthful in the way that you or I might conceive of truth" as it was recorded dismissively by sexist historians of the time and was written at least 50 years after Agrippina died. Southon delivers her research and speculations with enormous wit, a feminist outlook and charming vulgarity. This sassy biography will rope in even those who think they're not interested in ancient Rome.



Fentanyl, Inc: How Rogue Chemists Are Creating the Deadliest Wave of the Opioid Epidemic by Ben Westhoff. Investigative journalist Westhoff explores the many-tentacled world of illicit opioids, from the streets of East St. Louis to Chinese pharmaceutical companies, from music festivals deep in the Michigan woods to sanctioned "shooting up rooms" in Barcelona, in this frank, insightful and occasionally searing exposé. Westhoff narrates the dangerous rise of fentanyl alongside the emergence of a wide variety of other synthetic drugs, including cannabinoids and novel-psychoactive substances (NPS), which are fast becoming readily accessible. Interviewing over 160 people, including the chemists who create the drugs and the dealers who distribute them, as well as users and law enforcement, Westhoff offers a truly multifaceted view of the landscape of fentanyl use and abuse. The disparate narrative strands he weaves together — including tragic stories of drug users, straightforward analysis of the history of opioid use, tension-filled episodes of drug runs and supplier meet-ups, and the humane and hopeful work of the "harm reduction" movement — all come together to provide a more complex understanding of the rise of, and response to, the opioid epidemic. ❖



Electrofishing in the Stony Run

By Amy Johanson

Tom Gamper has been cultivating the fish population in the Stony Run from an early age. Gamper's father, Charles, was on the faculty of Gilman School and he grew up on campus.

"I used to stock [the Stony Run] with sunfish caught from Lake Roland that I carried back to the stream for catch-and-release fishing. They were my surrogate brook trout from boyhood summers in New Hampshire," he remembers.

Now an architect and fly fishing evangelist with Maryland Trout Unlimited (MDTU), Gamper has long envisioned a fishing and education event along the Stony Run. In 2014, that vision was realized with MDTU's first annual Huck Finn Day. Each fall, Gamper and MDTU stock the Stony Run from Wyndhurst Avenue to Cold Spring Lane with rainbow trout, introducing local children to the joys of fly fishing. Following the event, the stream is open to licensed anglers of all ages.

MDTU has twice surveyed the stream's fish population by electrofishing, a technique that sends a mild, harmless electrical current through the water to temporarily stun fish and make counting feasible. The Department of Natural Resource's fisheries



Five rainbow trout were found in the Stony Run during the most recent survey. Photo courtesy New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

department uses electrofishing throughout Maryland and MDTU has assisted in this process in many streams.

County Biologist and Johns Hopkins University professor Kevin Brittingham led an October 2019 survey in the Stony Run. Walking the stream from Wyndhurst to Cold Spring, his team found 644 fish, including creek chubs, blacknose and longnose dace, and rainbow trout, along with a handful of salamanders and frogs. Chubs and dace are naturally reproducing in the stream, while the rainbow trout remained from stocking in past years.

According to Gamper, the data indicates "healthy biomass" in the stream.

Brittingham adds, "The fact that we collected a handful of rainbow trout says something for the water quality and temperature of the stream. I was impressed with the physical condition of the stream, with quality riffle and pool habitat and a favorable tree canopy for shading and cooler water temperatures." ❖

Amy Johanson is vice president of the board of Friends of Stony Run (FSR), a volunteer-based organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the entire Stony Run stream valley. FSR is interested in creating cooperation among all stakeholders in the area—neighborhoods, schools, government, people, animals and plants. stonyrun.org

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