

ROLAND PARK news

Quarterly from the Roland Park Foundation • Volume Seventy-Eight • Fall 2020

Courageous Conversations

**Emma
Snyder
Loves
Books**



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An Ode to Al

By Mary Page Michel, Chair of the Roland Park Community Foundation

I have been thinking about Al Copp a lot recently. If you didn't know Al, he was a leader in the redevelopment of Charles Center and the waterfront in Downtown Baltimore. When he retired and had a little more time, he threw himself into community work. A resident of Woodlawn Road, he was a major force behind the Greater Roland Park Master Plan, working on big strategic issues while also researching the color and texture of sidewalks. Most of all, he was lovely, fun to work with and kind.

My path crossed his when we were both working on the restoration of the Roland Water Tower. One of the top priorities of the Open Space portion of the *Greater Roland Park Master Plan* (rolandpark.org/community-resources/master-plan) was the stabilization of the tower, an iconic monument fallen into serious disrepair. Al led the team and he was all in. He spent hours working with the City to try and determine the appropriate responsibilities. He interviewed design firms and architects. He researched roof tiles and endured one frustrating meeting after another. He moved the project forward. He worked with a team of people, many of whom are still involved with the project. Al made it fun and his dedication was inspiring. Often, I will pull out a file and read Al's notes, an essential record of the project's history.

Al passed away in 2017. His family asked that, in lieu of flowers, family and friends consider making a donation to the Roland Water Tower project. Even his final act was to move the project forward.

As I write this, the Roland Water Tower restoration is waiting for approval from the Board of Estimates. This fall, the scaffolding will go up and work will commence on bringing this absolutely gorgeous structure back to life. The tower stands where three diverse and unique neighborhoods—Hoes

Heights, Rolden and Roland Park—connect.

Starting in September, people from each of these neighborhoods will work together to design a new park at the base of the Roland Water Tower. Frederick Law Olmsted believed that parks are the most democratic spaces—places that bring people together

to coexist. Our hope is that the Roland Water Tower park will bring neighbors and neighborhoods together. When we can pull down the chain link fence that has surrounded the tower for too long (10 years!), the hope is that this space will be welcoming to all. We are living in very difficult times, but parks

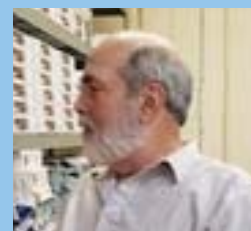
and shared open spaces will help us heal. We need green spaces more than ever to see our neighbors, to be able to get outside and to feel connected to others.

We have a lot more work to do and money to raise to complete this project, but we have begun. And when the scaffolding goes up, think of our friend Al and all those who have helped to move this project and our community forward. ❖



In Memoriam: Rick Swanson, Swanson Graphics

The staff of the *Roland Park News*, past and present, and the board of the Roland Park Community Foundation (RPCF) were deeply saddened to learn of the



passing of Rick Swanson in May after a battle with cancer. Rick was a deeply respected partner on the *Roland Park News* and many other RPCF and Civic League printing projects for at least two decades. We will miss him and continue to hold his wife Barbara, and the rest of his family in our thoughts.

Emma Snyder Loves Books and Baltimore

By Kathy Hudson

Emma Snyder, the third owner of The Ivy Bookshop, likes to say about the store's recent move to its own building on Falls Road, "The Ivy turned 18 last year, and so it was time to get our own place."

Founded in 2002 by Darielle Linehan, and owned from 2012 to 2018 by Roland Park residents Ann and Ed Berlin, The Ivy is both a successful bookstore and an engaged community player in Baltimore. With its recent move, The Ivy has again expanded its scope and simultaneously responded to the era of social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I interviewed Emma about her career and her store at the peak of social distancing.

Q. When and how did you become involved with The Ivy?

At the Baltimore Book Festival in 2014, I met Ed Berlin, the previous owner. I was running the PEN/Faulkner Foundation then, and we got to talking. Soon, The Ivy became the book supplier for a Writers in Schools program PEN/Faulkner was coordinating in Baltimore. Two years later, I mentioned I'd love to move back to Baltimore if I could find the right professional adventure. On the spot, he asked if I'd be interested in buying The Ivy.

My first response was: That's a crazy idea. Fifteen minutes or so later, I realized it was what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. So in 2017, I became a partner in the store, and at the start of 2019, I took over as the sole owner.

Q. You are a native Baltimorean. When did you leave, and why did you return?

Yep, I was born in Baltimore and grew up splitting my time between the city and Catonsville. I left for college when I was 18, and spent the next decade really hopping around—from Connecticut to Louisiana, Louisiana to Beijing, Beijing to Wisconsin. In 2008, I moved to DC for what I thought would be a year, and ended up with a fascinating job at PEN/Faulkner that kept me there for nearly a decade. But I never quite felt at home in DC. Always a little dislocated, a little restless. I'd discovered the kind of work I wanted to be doing—supporting books and writers and readers—but I wanted to be doing that work in a place I really loved.

I returned in part because Baltimore is home to me. But I also came back because I think it's such an interesting place, full

of creative energy and deep local attachment. It surprises and delights and troubles me on a daily basis, which seems like an honest set of feelings. I've lived a lot of places, and Baltimore interests me most.

Q. Tell us a little bit about how you fell in love with books and where that led you.

I fell in love with books so early that I don't really remember it happening. Very happy early memories are of my dad reading me *Number Stories from Long Ago* and my mom reading me *Little House in the Big Woods*. I completely adored my older brother and sister, who were big readers, so I wanted to catch up as best I could. I remember being indignant in 1st grade when a school librarian tried to steer me away from The Great Brain books. Sure, maybe I didn't understand what I was reading, but so what?

I was one of those kids who rarely finished

assigned reading in school but always had four other books beside my bed. I'd read magazine articles and if a musician or actor I liked mentioned a book, I'd go out and devour it. Books offered this endless, self-directed scavenger hunt: One summer I read *The Right Stuff*, which led me to Chuck Yeager's autobiography. When I sat down to watch the movie, I fell in total thrall to Sam Shepard as Yeager. When I learned that Shepard was a playwright, all I wanted to do was read his plays. Soon, I was spending weekends at the UMBC Library pawing my way through out-of-print, experimental one-acts about hallucinogens.

The act of picking and choosing what I read helped me figure out who I was. What could I not stop reading about? What disappointed me? That's a large part of why I love bookselling so much.

Talking to people about their curiosities is a constant reminder of how varied and particular each interior life is. When you ask people what they like to read and why, you get these little windows into what makes them tick. And then you get to do a very hopeful thing, which is to try and match them with a wonderful experience they'll carry out into the world.

Q. How has The Ivy managed to thrive during the pandemic?

This has been a clarifying and inspiring stretch. Exhausting, too.



A 19th century house that had been used as a community church is being transformed into the new Ivy. Image: Douglas Bothner AIA, LEED AP, Partner, Ziger/Snead Architects

EMMA SNYDER

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We pivoted very quickly to a fully remote system—an online store, booksellers by the phones, virtual events—and the community has been with us every step of the way. So, it's all of you! You're making sure we thrive! People are calling and emailing and visiting us online, buying lots of books. Local schools have been exceptionally supportive, setting up virtual book fairs, and ordering classroom and schoolwide sets of books.

That our community has been so consistent and dedicated since mid-March means that we've been able to keep a lot of staffing in place. So booksellers are by the (remote) phones from 10 am to 5 pm each day ready to give recommendations and help troubleshoot issues with online ordering or shipping. We have curbside pick-up at Bird in Hand, our Charles Village location, and are delivering books to our customers. We're also in constant touch with authors and publishers as we roll out new virtual events each week, many in collaboration with local partners.

I bought the bookstore because I was in love with books, but in

the last few years, I've fallen in love with small business, too. I think it's such a healthy and straightforward model of interaction. Every purchase we ever make in life is, at root, an assertion of our values. That's what the whole monetary system is

predicated upon, though the pace of modern life has made it easy to forget that. (I've got some great books for you on this topic, if you want them. Really.)

At a bookstore, small-scale transactions sustain us so that we can be a cultural resource. The more often people buy books from us, the greater a variety of books we can stock and the more programming we can run. That's the extremely simple premise at the heart of the operation of every independent bookstore. We've been affirmed during this period of crisis by how many people have called, bought books through our website (**theivybookshop.com**), reminded other people to shop from us, or ordered food and drinks from Bird in Hand. It's an intuitive and deeply affirming cycle. The more people believe that we

matter enough to buy from us, the healthier we are. I think the pandemic has highlighted this dynamic on a huge scale, as we ask ourselves: What are the places in our community we care about? How can we support them?

We're also, frankly, inspired by how much people seem to be



When COVID closed The Ivy's physical location, Emma quickly pivoted to e-commerce. Photo: Hannah Fenster

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reading these days. Keep reading! I like to think that we'll emerge from this era thinking more deeply about what kind of world we live in, why we have an economy driven by speculation and greed, how we've become so alienated from our federal government, and how harsh and precarious life is for far too many people. I mean, for starters.

Q. For those not familiar with Bird in Hand, please tell us about your Charles Village location and how it differs from the Falls Road store.

Bird in Hand is a book café at 11 E. 33rd Street. It's a wonderful neighborhood spot with a menu of locally-sourced soups, sandwiches and snacks, terrific coffee and a full bar (all wines are made by female vintners), an array of locally-made retail goods, curated by Made in Baltimore, and, of course, lots of books. Our book collection at Bird in Hand is really fun to curate because it's all about surprise. We want people to walk down a shelf and think: Oh, I didn't expect to see that.

In our previous life, we hosted all kinds of collaborative events at Bird in Hand—a book club with WYPR's Weekly Reader series; a professor-led conversation series with the Humanities Institute at Hopkins; The Hot L Poetry Series brought to us by Smartish Pace and Baltimore Poets Theater; a food justice series led by Baltimore Food Rescue. We had a speculative fiction series, a podcast about Baltimore hosted on-site, and the list goes on.

Personally, I want as many public spaces as possible to be lined with books. Sitting beside shelves full of books casually reminds us of all the ideas that are in the air, worth pursuing further. I loved sitting in the corner eating breakfast on a Saturday morning and watching people jump up from their oatmeal to grab a collection of poetry and show it to their partner. Yes, this happens, and it's extremely charming. Note: Bird in Hand's oatmeal is excellent, though maybe not as excellent as Seamus Heaney's poetry.

We're been operating with the nickname The Bird General Store (birdgeneralstore.com), a website that allows people to order food, coffee, pastries, groceries, beer and wine, and books, puzzles and games for curbside pick-up. We revamped our patio with a few tables that allow people to meet or eat or drink in the open air. We also offer private browsing sessions that allows you to go online to reserve the shop for yourself or your family. An on-site bookseller can provide recommendations. It's fun for us to watch people browse again, from a distance.

We've also been able to use this stretch of time in order to play with the interior layout so that, down the line when public life resumes, it'll be much easier to browse as café life thrums around you.

Q. What are some of the other community outreach efforts The Ivy has made during these unusual times?

We've tried to be as engaged as possible, though we always wish we could do more. We made book donations to Baltimore City Public School students in collaboration with Baltimore Read



Booksellers carefully curated books for a recent virtual event with bestselling authors Laurie Halse Anderson and Jason Reynolds.

Photo: Hannah Fenster

Aloud as well as [#signitover.org](https://signitover.org). At Bird in Hand, we worked with Central Baltimore Partnership's Square Meals program to provide coffee and pastries to medical workers at Union Memorial. We curated window displays of books by Black authors. All revenue from sales of those books during June was donated to the Baltimore Action Legal Team and Reclaim the Block.

The Ivy also has a weekly newsletter in which we direct people to interesting content or activities worth supporting. We've loved getting to highlight the work of lots of our friends during this stretch. It's something we'll continue to do.

Q. The Ivy is an integral part of the Baltimore community. Please tell us some of the organizations and institutions with which you regularly collaborate.

Books can be a part of just about anything, so we get to pop up in all sorts of amazing spots around town. We love it. That means I'll start by saying: I couldn't begin to cover everyone we partner with. It's remarkable that this is true, and we're really appreciative of how many great people we get to talk with and work with all the time.

We work especially closely with the Pratt, WYPR and the

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EMMA SNYDER

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Baltimore Office of Promotion & Arts. And we work with lots of local clubs, the Baltimore County public library system, Cylburn Arboretum, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore, and so many schools and universities that I hesitate to start naming them. But I can report that it includes just about every school in Roland Park.

As noted above, we love hosting collaborative events in partnership with a lot of terrific organizations—from the Alexander Grass Humanities Institute at Hopkins to Baltimore Food Rescue, which does amazing work organizing free food distribution throughout the city. We're also big fans of organizations like CHARM: Voices of Baltimore Youth and Writers in Baltimore Schools, small non-profits dedicated to empowering the writing and story-telling of Baltimore's young people.

Q. You are about to open your new store. Tell us about it.

Yes, we're moving. It's truly imminent—we anticipate opening our new doors at the end of September and can't wait to welcome people.

The property is located at 5928 Falls Road, just a few blocks south of our former location. If you're out for a drive, turn into the driveway and feel free to take a peek. It was a meditation community church for the past 40 years and it's incredible. The building is a 19th century house with a large sanctuary extension built onto the first level. It sits on 2.66 acres of beautiful grounds,

which already include a cultivated meditation pathway that winds through seven small gardens with benches. Perfect for sitting with a cup of coffee and a book. Trust us, we've experimented.

We've been working with Ziger/Snead Architects, A.R. Marani, Inc., and Campion Hruby Landscape Architects to redesign the property into something that's commercially accessible and quite beautiful. We have reading gardens, covered porches and patios, indoor and outdoor event spaces, window seats tucked between bookshelves, a little coffee bar. All of it, full of books and sunlight and nature. The heart of the bookstore was previously a sanctuary and it retains that feeling. And we have on-site parking and an ADA-accessible ramp.

The first floor is a large bookstore space and the second floor is dedicated to a meeting room where we look forward to hosting writing and art workshops, and seminar-style classes. In the future, we'll expand our children's programming with story hours, enrichment activities and summer camps.

For the first few weeks after we re-open, we will only be taking reservations for private browsing sessions, to allow people to shop and explore the new building. When COVID numbers allow, we will have a broader opening, with a very limited capacity. From the very first day, though, we will invite people to explore the grounds and use them casually—for picnics and walks, for time spent reading under trees or drinking coffee in a beautiful garden. We have so much outdoor space that it lends itself to social distancing, and we want people to make use of it.

We're also exploring plans to use the grounds in all kinds of creative ways, collaborating with other local businesses to host safe activities during the pandemic. We look forward hopefully to markets, pop-up shops, yoga, art classes, and on it goes.

Eventually, we hope to also have outdoor art installations and environmentally focused programs, as we seek to preserve and celebrate a really remarkable piece of nature in the city. Once collective gatherings are again safe, we aim to run these alongside outdoor readings and conversations, literary dinners in the garden, community events. Honestly, the possibilities are endless.

Q. How do you think The Ivy is positioned for whatever the "new reality" will be, post-COVID?

The short answer is: people and relationships. We care deeply about our customers and our community. Our staff loves books, has sincere opinions, and when people walk through our doors, they can feel this. Books offer opportunities for substantive human connection, and that's really what we're offering at The Ivy.

Pre-COVID, we worked at getting to know people and nurturing relationships by hosting 150 in-store events per year and collaborating on more than 200 events around town. Throughout this time, we have continued to partner with and promote the work of other literacy and literary organizations, and to curate careful displays that champion books you might otherwise miss.

And all of this allows us to support authors, which is incredibly important to us, too. Writers do hard, artful work, mostly alone. Years go into the creation of a book, and so when that book is ready for the public, we want to celebrate and support it.

We want to be a partner our community can depend on, and we want that community to be full of readers. ❖

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Courageous Conversations...and Actions...Continue

By Todd Wade

After a racist incident involving Roland Park Elementary Middle School (RPEMS) students and two women rocked the community in January, Roland Parkers took action.

An early February town hall and Black Lives Matter rally organized by members of the RPEMS community were covered in the spring issue of the **Roland Park News** (rolandpark.org/news/roland-park-news), which also promoted We ARE ALL Roland Park, a campaign committed to supporting RPEMS, welcoming and celebrating diversity and equity, and respecting and honoring children of every race. With funding from The Roland Park Annual Fund, the Roland Park Civic League and others, the campaign intends to provide educational materials for every RPEMS student, banners for the school and yard signs for anyone who wants to show their support. The campaign's work will continue once conditions allow.

What follows is a summary of the events in which I have been involved or helped to organize.

Unfortunately, the "Courageous Conversations about Race" workshop planned for late March was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Had it happened, the workshop would have laid out four agreements to help facilitate an effective conversation on race: stay engaged, speak your truth, experience discomfort, and expect and accept non-closure. I was slated to facilitate the workshop, along with Dr. Bridget Kelly and Michael Scott, experts in this field.

The pandemic has also affected the small-group Courageous Conversations workshops that were to have continued. Since March, I have only been able to facilitate one, which was done virtually on Zoom, a web conferencing platform. It was decidedly average, due largely to the challenges posed by the format. It is hard to connect and trust through a computer screen, particularly on issues as complicated and uncomfortable as racism. I have one workshop planned for late August with the Cathedral for Mary Our Queen church and school leadership, and I am open to facilitating small-group workshops that comply with all CDC, state and local COVID guidelines (email me at twade67@me.com).

My son and I, with the blessing of the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL), organized a June 2nd protest in honor of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and the Black Lives Matter movement at the corner of Northern Parkway and Roland Avenue. Police estimate more than 2,000 people attended, with everyone silently kneeling for 9 minutes—roughly the same amount of time a police officer knelt on Floyd's neck. Those



After kneeling, hundreds marched from Roland Park to Greenmount Avenue.
Photo: Judy Sulisufaj Kelly

minutes were eerily silent and very moving. The reaction from Black Twitter and people of color driving by—who honked and cheered—was powerful, moving and motivating. After people stood, hundreds gathered spontaneously to march along Northern Parkway toward Charles Street and back to Roland. From there, they marched south on Roland and University Parkway until they reached Greenmount Avenue. Those leading the after-protest march were mainly young activists. Most of those participating in the protest were White. It was a powerful show of solidarity.

In a June conference call on which I participated, M4BL (m4bl.org) called for Juneteenth Candlelight Vigils to be hosted in neighborhoods around the country. After my request to host was approved, I sent out messages by email and on Nextdoor Roland Park. In those messages, I suggested neighbors research Juneteenth, "the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of

the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free" (juneteenth.com/history.htm). I called for neighbors to display at least one luminary candle June 19th and 20th at 8 pm as a symbol of recognition and solidarity. People were encouraged to walk around the neighborhood and look for luminaries, drawing inspiration and strengthening their resolve to take action every day to educate, advocate and disrupt. Beyond Juneteenth, I asked Roland Parkers who were not already doing so to make a commitment to support businesses owned by people of color (baltimoreblack.com/black-directory).

Despite the pouring rain on June 19th, many Roland Park families displayed luminary candles, particularly along Roland Avenue. Based on Nextdoor Roland Park posts, nearby neighborhoods also participated.

Most recently, I organized a small set of races called Roland Park TRI...or Not...Time Trial Races to Support Social Justice. Between August 8th and 23rd, participants can choose from these options: a non-continuous triathlon, aquabike or runbike; to run only; or to bike only. At least 90 percent of all funds collected will be donated to Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle (lbsbaltimore.com) and Black Women and Girls Fund (bwgfund.org). Entrance fees are \$30 for your first race and \$25 for each additional race.

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Results will be announced August 23rd.

Finally, I have been consulting with an alumni group from Dartmouth College, an athletic team from Franklin & Marshall College and an adult education group from Notre Dame College on actionable steps to take, as we continue to try and be antiracist, and to avoid having these protests be done and forgotten. ❖

Todd Wade, a Baltimore County public school teacher, has facilitated numerous large group discussions on race. These discussions, based on Glenn E. Singleton's book, ***Courageous Conversations About Race: A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools***, are called Courageous Conversations. For more information or to schedule a small-group Courageous Conversation, please contact him at twade67@me.com.



An officer kneels in solidarity during the June 2nd protest honoring George Floyd and others. Photo: Todd Wade

RESOURCES FOR ANTIRACISM ALLIES

Compiled by NPR

Books

- *Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together in The Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race* by Beverly Daniel Tatum
- *Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership* by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor
- *A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and Its Assault on the American Mind* by Harriet A. Washington
- *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America* by Elizabeth Hinton
- *Automating Inequality: How High-Tech Tools Profile, Police and Punish the Poor* by Virginia Eubanks
- *The End of Policing* by Alex S. Vitale
- *Blackballed: The Black Vote and U.S. Democracy* by Darryl Pinckney
- *Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism and Wrecked the Middle Class* by Ian Haney López

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■ *Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology* by Deirdre Cooper Owens

■ *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight against Medical Discrimination* by Alondra Nelson



Anderson Echols participates in his first protest.
Photo: Rebecca Bell Echols

Films

■ *13th*. The U.S. imprisons more people than any other country in the world, and a third of U.S. prisoners are black. In this infuriating documentary, director Ava DuVernay argues that mass incarceration, Jim Crow and slavery are “the three major racialized systems of control adopted in the United States to date.”

■ *I Am Not Your Negro*. Narrated by the words of James Baldwin with the voice of Samuel L. Jackson, *I Am Not Your Negro* connects the Civil Rights Movement to Black Lives Matter. Although Baldwin died nearly 30 years before the film’s release, his observations about racial conflict are as incisive today as they were when he made them.

■ *Whose Streets?* The 2014 killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown by police in Ferguson, MO, was one of the deaths that sparked the Black Lives Matter movement. Frustrated by media coverage of unrest in Ferguson, co-directors Sabaah Folayan and Damon Davis documented how locals felt about police in riot gear filling their neighborhoods with tear gas. As one resident says, “They don’t tell you the fact that the police showed up to a peaceful candlelight vigil...and boxed them in, and forced them onto a QuikTrip lot.”

■ *LA 92*. *LA 92* is about the Los Angeles riots that occurred in response to the police beating of Rodney King. The film is entirely comprised of archival footage — no talking heads needed. It’s chilling to watch the unrest of nearly 30 years ago, as young people still take to the streets and shout, “No justice, no peace.”

■ *Teach Us All*. Over 60 years after Brown v. Board of Education, American schools are still segregated. *Teach Us All* explains why that is — school choice, residential segregation, biased admissions processes — and talks to advocates working for change. Interspersing interviews from two Little Rock Nine members, the documentary asks how far we’ve really come.

Statement in Solidarity with Black Lives Matter

Like many Americans, we mourn the murder of George Floyd, and condemn the systemic violence and racism directed toward Black Americans. As an organization, the Roland Park Community Foundation believes in:

- The worth and dignity of each individual
- Respect for the diverse groups in our multicultural society
- Representative government and even-handed justice that maintains equality of rights for all people
- Cooperation and understanding among all people for the peace of the world
- The basic freedoms of all individuals – we oppose discrimination of any kind on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation or identity, age, or national origin

We stand in solidarity with all Black, Indigenous and other People of Color (BIPOC), and re-dedicate ourselves to this mission in a world that needs boldness, compassion and inclusion now more than ever.

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Church Garden Cultivates Community

By Jen Ronald, Director of Church Relations

Now occupying 216 square feet on the front lawn of Roland Park Presbyterian Church (RPPC), six raised garden beds provide occupation, inspiration and nourishment for members of the community. Started by church members in 2013, the garden began as a way for children and adults in the congregation to gather together from April to November to grow food and relationships. We grow everything organically and even make our own compost. Over the past few years, we've grown 20 different types of vegetables and herbs.



Lead gardener Sandy Rybczynski estimates close to 100 pounds will be donated to the CARES food pantry this year.
Photos: Sally Foster

All of the food produced in the garden goes to GEDCO CARES Client-Choice Food Pantry (gedco.org). Located at 5502 York

Road behind St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, the food pantry serves their customer-clients on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 to 11 am. Their model of service allows customer-clients to "shop" the pantry and be decision makers as they choose food for their



household members. A nutrition guideline based on family size is provided onsite for assistance.

"It feels wonderful to help others," says RPPC member and lead gardener Sandy Rybczynski. "At a time when we all feel so helpless, it's been a joy and a blessing to have a purpose." Rybczynski estimates this year RPPC may donate close to 100 pounds of fresh produce to the pantry, including beans, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, carrots, pumpkins, collards and two varieties of kale. Last year's yield was just over 94 pounds.

Rybczynski also notes how now more than ever our garden has been a respite for community members during this time of social distancing. Joggers, dog-walkers and people with children all stop by to examine the progress of the climbing cucumbers and Italian flat beans, the beautiful flowers blooming on the pumpkin vines or the tomatoes forming on their branches. Some rest for a while on the wooden benches and enjoy the view of Roland Avenue before continuing on their way.

Even while the physical church building has been closed during the pandemic, the church is glad to provide nourishment and hospitality in any way it can during these tumultuous times. Immediately transitioning to online worship via Zoom and Facebook Live at the onset of the pandemic, RPPC members continue to care for each other and the broader community by participating in virtual worship, fellowship, mission and educational opportunities. However, the garden still allows for onsite, hands-on activity while maintaining social distance protocols.

"We invite everyone to enjoy our garden and grounds," says the Rev. Mark Hanna, Pastor of RPPC. If you would like to get your hands in the dirt, please email Pastor Mark at pastor@rolandparkchurch.org to become involved. To learn more about the church's worship services and other activities, please visit RolandParkChurch.org.

Roland Park Presbyterian Church (RPPC) is a local community of faith that was founded in 1901. RPPC is an inclusive and welcoming member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and More Light Presbyterians, as well as an Earth Care Congregation that is pursuing justice, practicing hospitality and engaging curious faith. RPPC invites you to virtual worship each Sunday at 10:30 am (RolandParkChurch.com or facebook.com/RolandParkPC).



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Whitehall Market: 222 Years in the Making

By Kathleen Tozzi, Whitehall Market General Manager

Tucked along the Jones Falls, in a very old mill, a local culinary destination that bridges historic and modern is being created. First built in 1798, Whitehall Mill began as a flour mill. Now, 222 years later, the mixed-use building houses apartments, offices, a traditional food market, private event space and True Chesapeake Oyster Co., Maryland's first oyster farm to open a fine dining restaurant.

The newest addition to the property, Whitehall Market, is a sprawling oasis for food lovers, with beautiful indoor and outdoor seating areas. A thoughtfully curated group of Maryland merchants and makers call it home. The market debuted in June during one of the most difficult times to open a business. But the merchants have incredible entrepreneurial spirit, create amazing food and

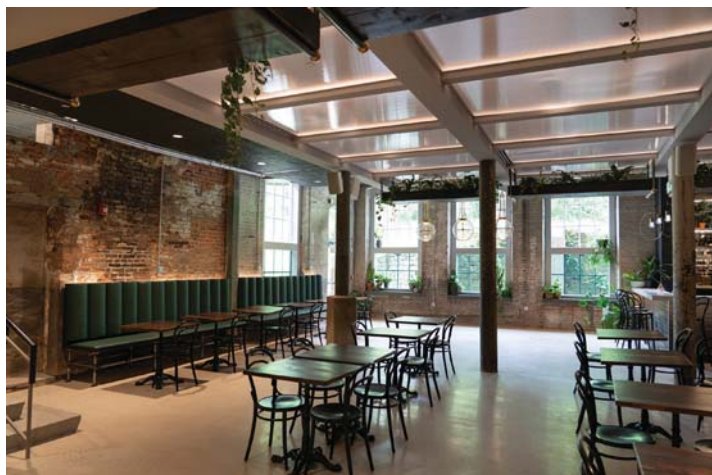


Gundalow Gourmet's Dana Sicko offers gourmet goods and prepared foods. Photos: Stephen Davis

property to Purity Paper Vessels, which manufactured round, coated paper containers suitable for packaging semi-liquid

food such as oysters and ice cream. In October 1941, the I. Sekine Company, a Japanese-owned toothbrush manufacturer, purchased the property for \$70,000. The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, H.H. Sekine was arrested along with 71 others in Maryland, and the factory was closed. By Christmas, Sekine, who had lived in the U.S. for 20 years, was cleared of all charges and released. Functions associated with distribution and storage appear to have characterized the building after World War II. In 1948, the Quartermaster Corps occupied the building. Other post-war tenants included Penguin Books,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Whitehall Market is "a sprawling oasis for food lovers."

goods, and love the community they serve. And they have found great comfort in the history of the old building, all the businesses it has been and how it's still just as solid as ever.

Between approximately 1865 and 1875 the Whitehall Mill flour mill transformed into a textile manufacturer facility as part of a continuing trend along the Patapsco and Jones Falls. Other mills in the area of the Jones Falls were slowly acquired by what eventually became known as the Mt. Vernon-Woodberry Cotton Duck Company, which held a relatively large portion of the cotton manufacturing business done in the U.S. In February 1925, what had become Mt. Vernon-Woodberry Mills sold the



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WHITEHALL MARKET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



Crust by Mack is a small-batch bakery run by Amanda Mack.

which operated a distribution center from the building. Most recently, Komar Inc. used the property as a main distribution center.

It's easy to imagine historians and the keepers of this old mill in the future telling the story of how Whitehall Market found a way for their merchants and makers to delight Baltimore, even during a global pandemic. Here is a bit more about each of the local businesses that call Whitehall Market home.

Crust by Mack is a small-batch bakery run by Amanda Mack, who is inspired by her love of baking and family traditions. Their signature hand pies draw a crowd, but all of her cookies, brownies, cakes and pastries are an absolute joy to eat and share.

Wight Tea Co. was started by siblings Brittany and Joey Wight. They make beautiful, high-quality tea blends here in Baltimore. Along with their loose leaf teas, Wight Tea Co. offers unique tea drinks and a perfectly paired menu of food and snacks.

Gundalow Gourmet offers gourmet goods and prepared foods. Founder Dana Sicko and her team have curated a shop full of items that can make a night in or your next gathering absolutely incredible. They have a great selection of items for the kitchen that every aspiring gourmet needs and are perfect for gifting too.

Homebody General Store is the vision of ceramics artist Annie Parker. Along with her own beautiful pottery, Homebody General Store is your one-stop shop for carefully curated and handmade home and gift items.

Ceremony Coffee believes coffee should be something special. From their sourcing, to the roastery in Annapolis and service in their shops, their passion for sharing amazing coffee shines.

FireFly Farms Market is a destination for artisan cheese and specialty food and drink. FireFly Farms is Maryland's premier and most awarded cheesemaker. Along with their own cheeses, they carry an extensive selection of local and craft items. Come



Heritage Kitchen Chef Rey Eugenio is inspired by his Filipino heritage.

hungry and enjoy a sandwich or cheese board before you shop.

Heritage Kitchen tells the culinary story of Chef Rey Eugenio. His food is inspired by his Filipino heritage and global and local influences. Heritage Kitchen is the only market stall in our common area seating room. ❖

Friends School Launches STRIDE Program

Educational institutions across the country, in recent times, have taken extraordinary measures to respond to the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic. The rapid shift to distance or virtual learning has the potential to impact classrooms for many years to come. In light of the uncertainty surrounding reopening, many schools have taken a proactive approach to prepare for any possible scenario.

Earlier this year, Friends School of Baltimore partnered with Constellation Learning to launch the Strategic Transition to Remote Instruction Designed for Excellence Program, or STRIDE for short. This innovative program was designed to prepare every Friends School teacher

to deliver the highest quality, distanced-learning-ready curriculum in a variety of settings.



Virtual learning presents its own set of challenges.
Photo courtesy Friends School of Baltimore

Each Friends School teacher worked within a small cohort throughout the summer to learn best practices, strategies and topics around maximizing student engagement in a distanced learning environment. Some of these topics included streamlining content delivery, developing culturally responsive teaching practices in a distanced learning setting and project-based learning. Teachers were also given the opportunity to imagine different possibilities for the grouping of students in their classes. Friends School's Director of Academics, Greta

Rutstein, says that teachers are ultimately learning how to design "pedagogies that pivot." ❖

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

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Pekara: A Welcome Addition

By Martha Marani

During a particularly difficult time, the newly opened **Pekara Bakery** on West Cold Spring Lane has offered sweet (and savory) solace in the form of delicious baked goods. A family-owned business whose name is based on the Serbian word for a bakery, Pekara “prides itself on all handmade products using the finest ingredients without any preservatives or additives.” On offer are a variety of breads, including traditional white, whole grain, rye, buckwheat and spelt loaves. You will also find European-style pastries that are made using traditional recipes from France, Italy, Germany, Belgium and Serbia, and other baked goods whose origins are Bosnia, Croatia and Macedonia, and former Russian republics. In addition, Pekara offers homemade cakes, cookies and cheesecake.

Lois Borgenicht is a big fan. “I lived in Germany for some time many years ago and especially loved the bread,” she explains. “I have never found anything close in my 30 years in Baltimore until I went to Pekara. I bought a very dense and delicious rye last week and I was transported back to Europe. Thank you, Pekara.”

Recently, I chatted with Pekara’s owner, Radomir Mihajlovic.

Q. Tell us something of your background and that of your head baker, Borislav Petkovic.



Much of what is on offer is baked using old family recipes.

Photos: Joe Rubino (joerubinovisuals.net)

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I am native Serbian whose family has a long tradition in the baking industry. My grandparents were acclaimed bakers in Belgrade, Serbia, and Macedonia prior to WWII. Although I have not been trained in this industry—I am a mechanical engineer by profession—I always wanted to re-establish this long-lost family tradition. I joined Rogennart Bakery as a partner, where I met Mr. Petkovic. However, after a couple of years, I decided to open a new bakery.

Mr. Petkovic is an extraordinary baker who is focused on bread and pastry artistry. He has held leading and critical roles as a baker, both



understanding of all necessary procedures and precautions that were put in place in regard to this “new normal.”

Q. What measures are you taking to ensure your employees’ and customers’ safety during these challenging times?

I personally take this pandemic extremely seriously. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of our employees and customers. We follow CDC recommendations and have developed procedures within our team on how to operate the bakery. All our employees are provided masks and gloves and are required to wear them at all times. We have also provided them with plastic face shields. We have built a plexiglass shield between all of our products, employees and customers. We are practicing social distancing (clearly marked throughout the store). We require customers to wear face masks while in the

store. All of our customers are provided with hand sanitizer. Although we are able to offer indoor dining, we have decided not to do it despite the City’s approval. I guess we made a good decision, since the City is rolling back some measures. Additionally, the store is professionally cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis.

Q. Are there any changes planned for when the pandemic abates?

We are planning to have indoor dining and hopefully to expand our menu even further.

Q. What are some of your favorite items from your menu?

I really like everything. It is truly difficult to pick one item.



internationally and in the U.S. Throughout his career, he has won numerous awards within the baking industry. He is also recognized by the American Association of Bakers.

Q. Why did you decide to open a bakery in Roland Park?

I have been a Roland Park resident for over 20 years and always thought how great it would be to have a European concept bakery within walking distance.

Q. What has been the neighborhood’s response?

The neighborhood response was great. Everyone is very supportive and, so far, we have been receiving only positive feedback. We truly strive toward making the highest quality products as well as providing exceptional customer service.

Q. Was the timing of the opening or any details about the bakery’s layout or operation affected by the pandemic?

The pandemic certainly affected the opening date. We were ready to open a week before Governor Hogan declared the state of emergency. Considering all circumstances, we decided not to open as planned in March. I believe it was a wise decision since by June (when we opened), we had a much better



Q. Does Borislav use any family recipes?

Yes, he does.

Another Roland Park family that is delighted to have Pekara in the neighborhood is the Walshes.

“We have lived in Roland Park for 5 years now and have always hoped for more family-friendly shops and cafés,” Chrissy Walsh explains. “We were delighted when Pekara Bakery opened and we were among their first customers. Their breads are fresh and crusty and their pastries are delicate and delicious...Even better, they are walkable from our house!”

The word on the street is that Pekara is a welcome addition to the locally owned businesses we are blessed with in Roland Park. ❖

Pekara Bakery (pekarabakery.us) is located at 506 W. Cold Spring Lane. Their summer hours are Tuesday through Friday, 7 am- 4 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 8 am-3 pm. Place orders online or call 443-873-7190.

Shredded Brussels Sprout Salad

Miss Shirley's Café

Yields 4 to 6 portions

Brussels Dressing Ingredients

- 3 oz. apple cider vinegar
- 1 oz. fresh lemon juice
- 8 oz. olive oil
- 2 T. maple syrup
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- ½ tsp. fresh chopped thyme
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- ¼ tsp. black pepper

Whisk vinegar, lemon juice, maple syrup, thyme, salt and pepper together well. Whisk in mustard, slowly whisking oil in until ingredients are combined. Adjust seasoning if necessary. Refrigerate until needed.



Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Café


Brussels Salad Ingredients

- 16 oz. shredded brussels sprouts
- ½ red onion, sliced thinly
- ½ granny smith apple, skinned and diced
- ¼ cup dried cranberries
- ½ cup brussels sprout dressing

In a bowl, mix brussels sprouts, sliced onion, diced apples and dried cranberries. Add dressing and toss well until evenly mixed. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Serve immediately or refrigerate for up to 3 to 4 days. ♦

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300 Woodlawn Rd.	\$790,000	\$710,000
4508 Roland Ave.	\$699,000	\$660,000
200 Longwood Rd.	\$649,500	\$649,500
3 Saint Johns Rd.	\$650,000	\$625,000
110 Hawthorn Rd	\$549,900	\$533,000
4334 Roland Ave.	\$524,900	\$505,000
534 W. University Pkwy.	\$325,000	\$300,000
5203 Falls Rd. #5	\$169,900	\$158,000

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Progress at Oakdale Meadow

By Amy Johanson

The Roland Park Community Foundation (RPCF) and Friends of Stony Run (FSR) are working to improve the Oakdale Meadow area in Stony Run Park, implementing a key element of the 2017 *Upper Stony Run Strategic Plan*.

In recent years, rainfall, groundwater and springs have created a muddy mess that has encouraged park users to circumvent the existing path and form new pathways, inadvertently trampling vegetation and compacting soil around tree roots. In early 2019, a temporary diversion of water from the swampy area of the meadow to the stream confirmed the potential for improved drainage. This temporary hose is still in place.

RPCF commissioned landscape architect Tom McGilloway of Mahan Rykiel Associates to propose a plan for light grading, planting and construction of a relocated pathway. With positive feedback from



A test path constructed of a stone-clay blend has received positive reviews (below left). The Michael Beer Memorial Journal Bench will be placed on a stone platform (above). More native trees and plants will be planted in the meadow (below right).

Photos: Sally Foster



- The Baltimore City Forestry Division has recently assisted in much-needed tree trimming.

The area surrounding the Michael Beer Memorial Journal Bench is also slated for an upgrade. A stone platform for the bench will address erosion, while new plantings will improve screening and provide seasonal interest. The Nature Sacred Foundation and RPCF are funding these improvements.

A Community Weeding and Planting Day will be organized in coming months. ❖

Amy Johanson is the chair of the FSR Communications and Outreach Committee. Find project updates and learn how to support this project and others at stonyrun.org.

an October 2019 community meeting and the RPCF landscape committee, McGilloway completed this plan in early 2020. The design includes a raised pathway interspersed with low wooden bridges through wet areas. Budgeting and fundraising continue toward future project completion. In the meantime, this progress has occurred:

- Temporary fencing around the perimeter of the meadow has kept foot traffic to a defined pathway and allowed regrowth of the meadow.
- A short test path was installed in February 2020 to rave reviews. The path material is a stone-clay blend that has been time-tested elsewhere.
- FSR planted three bald cypress and a persimmon tree in the meadow this spring as the first phase in the planting of native plants and trees that thrive in wet areas.



Travelogue: Roland Park

By Sally Foster

Grab your safari hat, we're going on a tour of Roland Park and Lake Roland Park.

First, there is the *big* game...the fox kits and baby squirrels. Then, there are the exotic birds...the Baltimore orioles, barred owls and red-winged blackbirds.

Have your camera ready to shoot the beautiful flowers on the hillsides, or in gardens and trees.

You don't always have to travel to far away places. Sometimes, you can find treasures in your own neighborhood. ❖

Photos: Sally Foster





Chicken Divan

Eddie's of Roland Park

Since joining the Eddie's team in early 2019, Chef Marie Russell has quickly become a neighborhood fixture—earning customer kudos for her fresh takes on classic recipes, wheeling out the grill for football games and sidewalk events, and finishing 1st place last fall in a Top Chef-style latke-making tournament. Although some autumn traditions may be in flux this year, Chef Marie shared her fall favorites and pastimes that are here to stay.

Favorite fall flavor?

Pumpkin spice

Favorite fall fragrance? Butternut squash soup with fresh ginger



Photo courtesy of Eddie's of Roland Park

Favorite homemade after-school snack? Eddie's oven-roasted turkey, honey mustard with cream cheese, lettuce, tomato and cheddar, in a wrap

Favorite fall activity? Decorating the house—especially for Halloween (I love setting up our giant spider!)

Favorite fall recipe? Chicken Divan

Try Chef Marie's family recipe—an easy, hearty dish that is perfect for busy weeknights, and is just as delicious when reheated!

Prep time: 15 minutes. Cook time: 10 hours. Serves: 6, with leftovers.

Ingredients

- 1 whole Eddie's rotisserie chicken, pulled and shredded
- 3 heads broccoli, stems removed and cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 2 T. curry powder
- 2 T. lemon juice
- 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 cups mayonnaise
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 cups shredded cheddar
- 1 cup seasoned bread crumbs

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Prepare a large, deep baking dish with cooking spray. Add chopped broccoli and shredded chicken to the dish, then set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, stir together mushroom soup, curry powder, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, mayonnaise and sour cream. Spread sauce evenly to cover the broccoli and chicken. Sprinkle shredded cheddar over sauce. Top with bread crumbs. Cover with foil and bake for 45 minutes.

Remove the foil and let cook an additional 3 to 4 minutes to crisp the top.

Serve immediately, alongside Eddie's rice pilaf or traditional stuffing. ❖

Eddie's tip: Save \$3 on Eddie's whole rotisserie chicken every Thursday!

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Distance Learning Brings RPCS Community Closer Together

When Maryland schools closed in mid-March to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Roland Park Country School (RPCS) community quickly rose to the challenge of adapting to distance learning and has embraced the new virtual environment. Throughout the spring, teachers, students and their families have been flexible, resilient and creative, while continuing to engage in rigorous learning from home.

"Overall, the distance learning program has been great, and our spirited community here at RPCS never fails to make the best out of any situation," says 9th grader Sofia Mollica.

Instead of feeling confined to the digital realm, students are embracing this learning model and finding new ways to take intellectual risks and grow. "It's been a profoundly exciting way to see the power of technology and its ability to connect," says Lindsay Fitzpatrick, Upper School English teacher. This spring, her seniors used their distance learning to experiment and create unique final assessment projects that apply literary devices and critical lenses they studied all year, including a podcast exploring motherhood in literature, an interview series about modern feminism and family constellations, and a video project examining White privilege through poetry. "Distance learning has been going well because, ultimately, I teach such wonderful students," says Fitzpatrick. "They are deeply dedicated to their work and, while the formatting has changed, that dedication has never wavered."

In 8th grade history class, the students paused their study of Ancient Rome to document their own history in the making. They researched and reflected on issues related to the coronavirus pandemic, identified interview subjects, and learned the technology to create their own podcasts on topics that included mental health, small business, grocery store shortages, racism, masks and more.

Upper School calculus students made a coloring book using polar coordinates that they shared with Lower and Middle School students, and plenty of learning took place "outside" of the classroom through video lectures, short documentaries and

course readings to gain deeper understanding of the material.

"As an educator, you're energized by students who stretch themselves and produce work that reflects commitment, creative thinking, and effort," says Scott Jackson, Upper School history teacher.

"Without missing a beat, RPCS has provided much needed structure in the girls' lives and has been flexible and creative with scheduling and content," says Shena Bachman, parent of an RPCS 7th grader. From classes on Zoom and Google Meets to virtual office hours, group games and online art galleries, the students and



Illustration: Richard Bruno

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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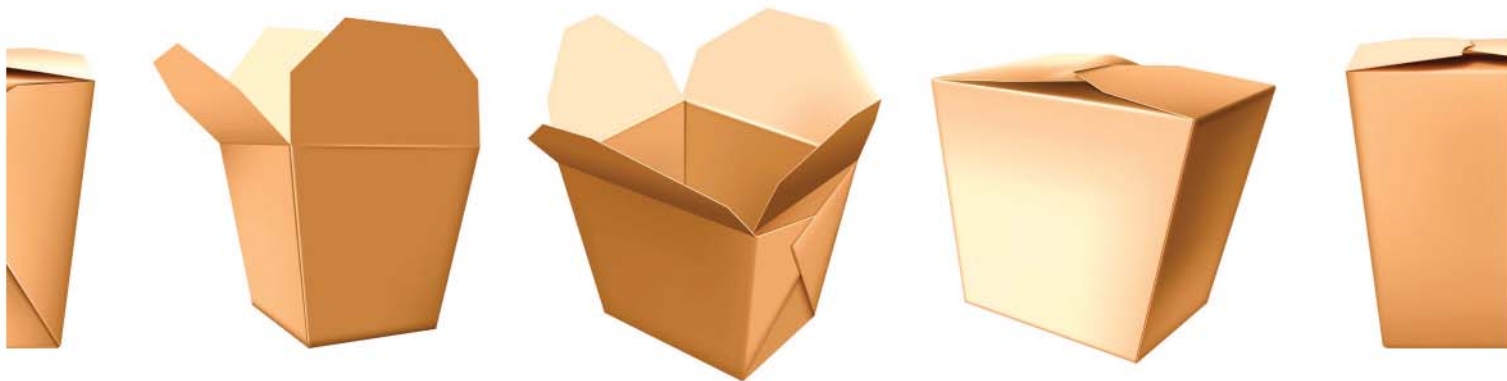
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Meals in the Time of COVID

By Jay M Harrison

Foodcentric. Is that really a word? Whether it is or isn't, we are all thinking more about food, and most likely eating more as well. Avid chefs and bakers have been with us forever. They share recipes, post their food porn on Facebook, and are talking about food all the time.

Along comes a pandemic forcing everyone to shelter in place and the next thing I know, everyone is making hand-made pasta, inventing new muffins or perfecting their naan bread. It's like the food fairy came down and sprinkled magic cooking dust over the entire world. Now everyone you know is talking about what they are cooking and baking.



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When restaurants were forced to shut down, it left millions of people jonesing for the sociability and entertainment that was central to going out to eat. If you could no longer meet friends for dinner out, the next best option was to cook at home for loved ones. Early on in the shutdown, you would go to a grocery store and realize that eggs and flour were sold out...shelves were emptied. The baking and cooking had begun and pity the cooks who did not get their supplies in time.

The supply chain recovered and we're all taking advantage of carry-out food, as a break from our own cooking, but also to try and support hard-hit restaurants that are doing everything they can to hang on. Stuck at home for much of the time, we're turning to dead tree cookbooks and recipe websites to come up with new ideas for mealtime, and we're not looking for fruity pancakes or tuna casseroles. No ma'am. We're going for the hard stuff. Exotic Indian food, empanadas, lobster ravioli, shaksuka, and lemon merengue pie. Seven days a week, 3 meals a day. It's a lot of pressure. Try not repeating the same meal for a month or more.

I'm not sure where all this is going to end, but it's safe to say that meals in your house have either gotten a lot more interesting or there's a huge pile of used take-out containers to go to recycling. ❖

Jay Harrison is a graphic designer and writer whose work can be seen at DesignConcept. His mystery novel, *Head Above Water*, is available on Amazon and Kindle. You can also visit his author page at jaymharrison.com.

DISTANCE LEARNING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

teachers maintained a relatively normal schedule to keep things as consistent as possible. Even clubs, organizations and division-wide meetings went online.

"While we miss seeing each other every day, the learning that has been happening in our virtual sessions has been rich, rigorous, and supportive," says Tonette Runde, 8th grade math teacher, Middle School math department coordinator and Math Department co-chair. "I am so impressed with each of my students' willingness to stick with it and their continued passion for learning in such a stressful and uncertain time in their young lives."

An unexpected benefit to distance learning is the accessibility to others. Upper School performing and visual student-artists were able to speak directly with several acclaimed artists and industry professionals via Zoom about pursuing careers in the arts. Other Upper School students met with community members, including Baltimore City Councilman Ryan Dorsey and the program directors at local environmental non-profit organizations, to talk about important issues as equals. In the Lower and Middle

School, students took virtual field trips, including going on a "ride" at Walt Disney World.



"While we are all staying safer at home, our instant reach is unlimited—so our students' experiences are augmented," says Peter Metsopoulos, Director of Leadership & Entrepreneurship.

The RPCS community has not only adapted to distance learning, but has also seized the unexpected bright spots to make the most out of a virtual learning experience. Our teachers and students have been fierce in their determination to connect with and empower each other in new ways. At RPCS, we

believe that girls and young women who build each other up will thrive—this spirit will always define our community—especially when the ways in which we connect look a little different. ❖

Roland Park Country School (rpcs.org) believes that young women who build each other up will thrive. As an independent school in Baltimore for girls in grades K-12, the all-girls culture is rooted in the notion that female empowerment begins with young women empowering one another. This enables RPCS students to build courage and confidence in an environment where female leadership across all areas of study is the norm, not the exception.

I like to see things through the eyes of people who lived a while ago. At Park, we read a lot of primary source material, so you can almost live in the moment that they're living in and it's really cool to experience that.

In math this spring, we investigated how the COVID-19 virus was going to continue to spread in the U.S. We used an equation that scientists were using, applied the current numbers, and we mapped it out in Google. The virus was on all of our minds, so it was really interesting to put ourselves in the shoes of scientists and see how their work is done — and how we could do it, too.

Park is special to me because of the ability to collaborate with my peers throughout the entire day; the encouragement to develop and explore new interests; and the opportunity to pursue sports along with a huge range of clubs and activities.

I've definitely grown as a writer. I've grown as a leader and as someone people can look to when they need help. I've grown as an advocate for myself and for others.

—Sam, 12th Grade

The Park School of Baltimore is a Pre-K through 12 school with the mission of supporting young people in becoming confident questioners and responsible citizens of the world. www.parkschool.net



The Book Nook

By Julie Johnson

I hope everyone has been able to use some of the Pratt Library's services this summer. We now offer Sidewalk Services—which allow you to pick up books and other materials, prints and mobile hotspots—at 14 locations, Drive-In Wi-Fi at eight locations and Community Wi-Fi via the Bookmobile at nine locations (visit prattlibrary.org/community-wi-fi to see the schedule). Our wonderful virtual programming is available to all with an Internet connection. The schedule is posted at calendar.prattlibrary.org.

For customers who use our digital download services, we have news regarding RBDigital (prattlibrary.rbdigital.com). Earlier this year, it was announced that one of the streaming media site's primary investors purchased a competitor, OverDrive (overdrive.com). It has more recently been announced that RBDigital will be discontinued and its eBooks and eAudio products will be transferred to OverDrive (you may be more familiar with OverDrive's Libby app for smartphones). In the late summer or early fall, the Pratt's RBDigital products will be transferred to OverDrive and the RB Digital links will be removed from our website and catalog. We will make an announcement on the website when we have the exact date for the transfer.

Overall, we anticipate that this will be a positive move. OverDrive's Libby app is used significantly more than RBDigital

and generally causes fewer problems. However, please note that active holds and checkout history will not transfer. You will be able to download your RBDigital transaction history to retain that information and to resubmit holds using OverDrive. Specific instructions will follow as we get closer to the conversion.

All Pratt libraries will be closed on September 7th for Labor Day, October 12th for Columbus Day/Staff Day, November 3rd for Election Day, November 11th for Veterans Day and November 26th for Thanksgiving Day.

I always update the first voice message recorded on the branch phone (410-396-6099) when there are changes to our public service 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").

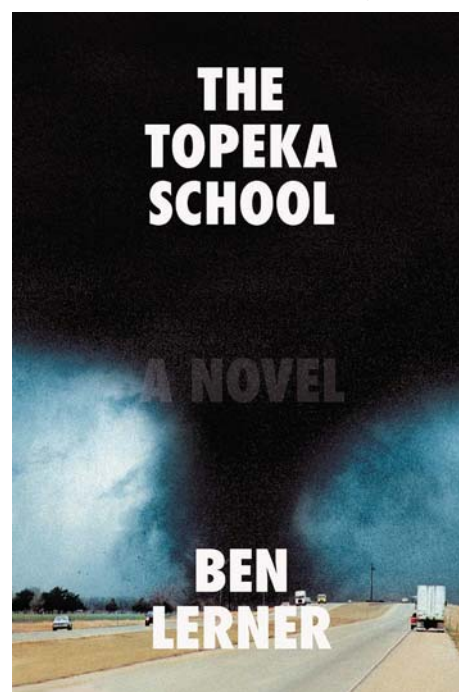
As always, the following reviews are excerpted from the library's online catalog (prattlibrary.org). Where noted, titles are also available on OverDrive (overdrive.com) and HooplaDigital (hoopladigital.com), free services offered by libraries and schools that let you borrow ebooks and audiobooks.

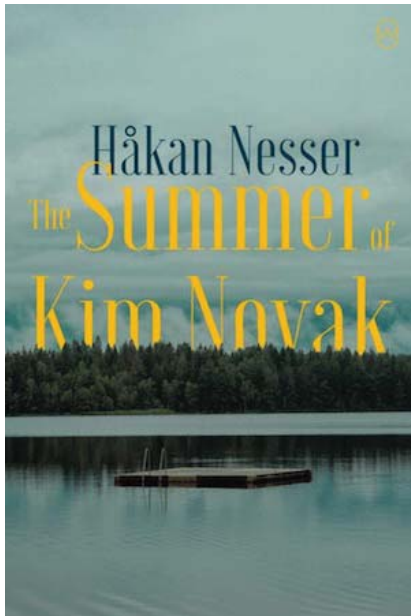
Fiction

The Topeka School by Ben Lerner (available on OverDrive). Straddling a fine line between fiction and memoir, this book reintroduces Adam Gordon, the narrator of Lerner's acclaimed debut novel, *Leaving the Atocha Station*. Adam's youth in Topeka, KS, is unveiled in

alternating chapters told by his parents, Jonathan and Jane, practicing psychologists who reveal more about their own emotional lives than their son's. We do learn that Adam is a top-notch debater who excels at the art of employing words to obfuscate more often than to explicate, perhaps a perfect metaphor for a novel set on the campus of The Foundation, an institution dedicated to the efficacy of talk therapy. And these characters do talk, seeking explanations for traumas large and small. Parental abuse, infidelity, rampant sexism, and the complexity of aging and memory are all subject to Lerner's scrutiny. Threaded throughout the Gordon family's story is the ominous tale of Adam's schoolmate and Jonathan's patient, Darren Eberheart, whose precarious hold on reality might be shattered by the bullying of his peers.

The Summer of Kim Novak by Håkan Nesser (available on Hoopla). At the start of this moving elegy for lost innocence from Nesser (the Inspector Van Veeteren mysteries), 49-year-old Erik, the book's narrator, promises to tell the reader about "a





terrible and tragic event" that occurred the summer he was 14. In 1962, as Erik's mother is dying of cancer, his grieving father sends the boy to the family's ramshackle lake cabin with 14-year-old Edmund, a fellow student Erik hardly knows, and Erik's older brother, a reporter who intends to write the Great Swedish Novel that summer. After a lazy month of swimming and fantasizing, handball champion Berra Albertsson is found dead in a gravel parking spot near where the boys are staying, his skull caved in.

His fiancée, Ewa Kaludis, the boys' substitute teacher and the object of their dreams, is a suspect. Erik and Edmund embark on a protracted murder investigation that leads them into the mysteries of sex. Nesser sensitively probes the agonies and ecstasies of adolescence, making this an exquisite example of Nordic noir's ability to reveal the darkest emotional depths beneath a cloudless summer sky.



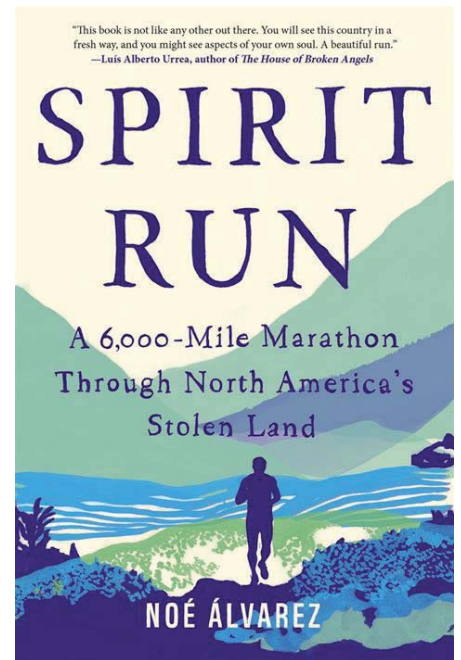
Mrs. Mohr Goes Missing by Maryla Szymczkova. Set in 1893 Cracow, this exceptional debut and series launch from Polish author Szymczkova (the pen name of writing duo Jacek Dehnel and Piotr Tarczynski) introduces Zofia Turbotyńska, a 38-year-old professor's wife, who finds household management, novel reading and the search for social prestige insufficient outlets for her prodigious energy. At a nursing home run by nuns that she visits to promote a charitable cause, she becomes involved in the search for a missing resident,

Antonina Mohr, a judge's widow. Zofia questions the home's staff and residents, hiding her unofficial investigation from both the mother superior and her husband. After Antonina's suspiciously pink-hued corpse is found in an attic, Zofia pressures the resident doctor until an autopsy reveals cyanide poisoning. The strangling of one of the home's impoverished residents complicates the puzzle. The preface offers helpful context on place and period, while the translation showcases the novel's deliciously ironic voice. Fans who like colorful locales and tongue-in-cheek mysteries will eagerly await Zofia's next outing.

Nonfiction

Spirit Run: A 6,000-Mile Marathon through North America's Stolen Land

by Noé Álvarez (available on OverDrive and Hoopla). Like many memoirs about running, this one describes a journey of self-discovery. *Spirit Run* is an eloquently written memoir by a young man straddling the world of his Mexican immigrant parents in the migrant-worker community of Yakima, Washington, and the mainstream society that beckons after he receives a full-ride scholarship to college. Not unlike many first-generation minority students, he struggles with the transition. While attending a student-activist conference



CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



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Barrie

she/her
Sunday School Teacher,
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Attending since 1979

RPPC is a focal point for my husband and me. We love our friends and the welcoming spirit that pervade every service and event. The warmth of the messages from the pastor and the music make the services spiritual and meaningful in our lives.

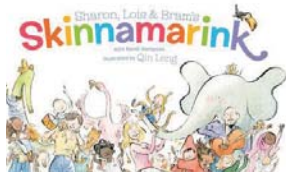
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KidLit Picks

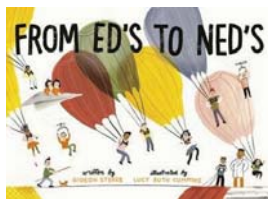
By Rona Sue London

Picture Books (Age 3-6)



Sharon, Lois & Bram's **Skinnamarink**. "Skin-na-ma-rink-y dinky dink, skin-na-ma-rink-y doo, I love you!" So begins this wonderful sing-along book filled to the brim with joy. Follow along with the lyrics and hand motions as you and your little one explore the ideas of

empathy and compassion. With bright colors and soft watercolor illustrations that leap off the page, bursting with life and love, this book is an absolute delight and one that will have you singing for a long time to come.



From Ed's to Ned's by Gideon Sterer.

This book is so much fun to read! Two kids leave their house and find inventive ways to travel, winding their way through the neighborhood, picking up friends along the way.

Soon, the group joyously romps along with parachutes and propellers, slides

and swings, diving and digging, never touching the ground as everyone is included in this exuberant call to play.

Early Readers (Ages 6-9)

Wondrous Rex by Patricia MacLachlan.

There is magic in the air. Grace, 7, just doesn't know it yet. She loves words and desperately wants to write, but thinks she has nothing important to say. When a magician and his dog, Rex, show up at Aunt Lily's door, things change. Aunt Lily has writer's block and has advertised for an assistant to help. Rex, it turns out, is not only smart, charming and fond of lemon cake; he can read and write, and has the uncanny ability to pull up just the right quote from the Internet for any moment. Rex's first gem is Toni Morrison's, "If you find a book you really want to read but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it." Before you know it, Aunt Lily is writing again. Grace, however, feels unmoored. She has the feeling that she, too, is a writer, but she can't seem to overcome her fear of the blank page. With the help of Rex, Lily, an encouraging teacher, and her best friend, Grace overcomes her reluctance and finds her voice. This slim volume is a wonderful bridge to chapter books, with sweet illustrations and a lovely story about the magic of words and man's (and girl's) best friend.



Charlie & Mouse Outdoors by Laurel Snyder. Charlie and Mouse are back and are venturing into the great outdoors. On a camping road trip with their parents, the boys are predictably

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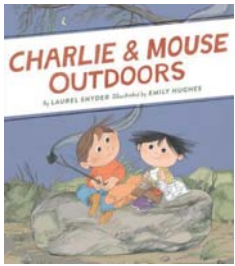
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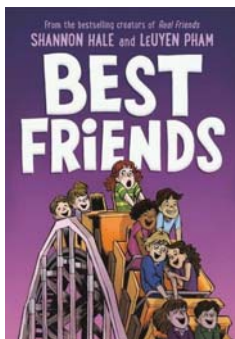




bored until dad suggests making up a story. Charlie and Mouse start spinning an imaginative tale, complete with dragons and hawks. Their creative adventure continues on a family hike and in their tent, as the boys battle monsters and defend their land. Night falls and the boys and their parents gather around the campfire, roasting marshmallows and reveling in the warmth of family. A

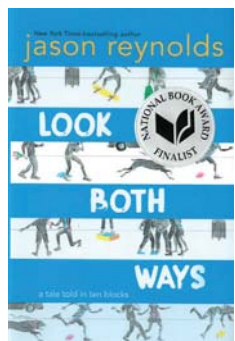
wonderful early chapter book from the Geisel Award-winning Snyder celebrates both spending time in nature, and the importance of creativity and imagination as a way for children to combat boredom, work out their fears and explore their surroundings.

Upper Middle Readers (Ages 10-13)



Best Friends by Shannon Hale and LeUyen Pham. In this graphic novel memoir, words and illustrations collaborate perfectly to capture the essence of the transition from elementary to middle school, complete with the daily and sometimes moment-to-moment leaps from complete confidence and swagger to unease and anxiety. As the big kids on campus in their 6th grade class in 1985, Shannon and her friends are the queen bees. Shannon is part of the popular group, but as she tries

to navigate the passing whims and potential minefields of boys, the role of girls in our society and her own sometimes overwhelming anxiety, she is often left feeling like friends, new and old, are the buried treasure on a map to which she is not privy. Taken from stories Hale wrote as pre-teen, the story rings true and clear. She is an introspective young woman struggling to be a good and happy person in a complex world that sends mixed messages at every turn.



Look Both Ways: A Story Told in Ten Blocks by Jason Reynolds. As the dismissal bell rings at Latimer Middle School, 10 students, tasting freedom, rush out the door. Each kid encounters a different experience on the 10 blocks between school and home. One deals with the first twinges of a crush, another must confront a bully, a group of five free-lunch students steal pocket change to bring ice cream to a mother undergoing cancer treatments, and another provides compassion and understanding to a

friend dealing with homophobia. The stories twist and twine together with Miss Wockley, the principal, Miss Post, the crossing guard, and Ms. CeeCee, who sells penny candy from her home, each appearing throughout to form a tapestry of issues big and small that middle schoolers deal with on an average day. This is a wonderful short story collection that warms the heart and enlightens the soul, reminding us that we are all connected in ways both mundane and profound.

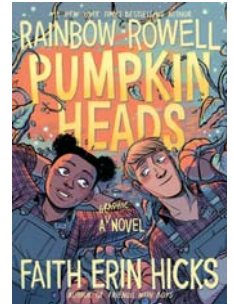
Young Adult (Ages 14-18)

Amazons, Abolitionists, and Activists by Mikki Kendall and A. D'Amico.

Except for a few key figures, the history of the struggle for women's equality is vastly unknown. This gorgeous graphic novel seeks to rectify this by exploring all facets of the women's rights movement from ancient times through the present, with context and complexity. As a diverse group of students gather in a classroom, an AI futuristic instructor transports them back to antiquity and then guides them on a journey to discover leaders fighting for women's justice. It spans colonialism, slavery, suffrage, civil rights, sexual revolution, gender issues, sexual harassment and more. Highlighted are leaders from all walks of life, fighting for different causes related to the role of women in society, firmly placing the fight as a call to action vital to the human race.



Pumpkin Heads by Rainbow Rowell. Deja and Josiah are seasonal friends. Every autumn for the last six years, the pumpkin farm opens and the two work together, reigniting their friendship. On Halloween, Josie, MVP of employees, who believes in fate and is a bit shy, still has not spoken to the girl of his dreams who works at the pumpkin fudge shop. Deja, who emphatically subscribes to the notion that you are the captain of your own destiny, decides that their mission for the evening will be for Josie to ask his dream girl out on a date. Though they are foiled by goats, mischievous children, Frito pies, chicken races and other festive fall obstacles and delicious snacks, Josie eventually speaks with the girl. Will she live up to the fantasy or is reality more to his taste? This is a wonderful graphic novel about taking chances, savoring the season and discovering that sometimes friendship can evolve into romance.



As The Ivy Bookshop's Children's Book Curator, Rona Sue London loves matching every youngster with his or her perfect read. The Ivy (5928 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

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In Praise of Rainwater Cisterns

By Devra Kitterman

As is happening to many of us, my water bill has gone up significantly, due largely to the increasing cost to renovate and modernize a 130-year-old water delivery system in Roland Park (older in some parts of Baltimore). We have enjoyed clean and cheap water in the Mid-Atlantic, at least throughout my life, but that is coming to an end as we face the considerable tab for needed upgrades.

This increased cost of water has heightened my concerns about how we waste our precious treated water and my feelings of guilt about using it to water plants in my yard, wash my vehicle (once or twice a year) or add water to my frog pond, especially when we are in periods of drought. Ideally, we should try harder to minimize using treated water from our reservoirs for such purposes, especially when one considers the billions of people on the planet who have no such access to any clean water source whatsoever.



Baltimore City water is used to replenish the frog pond. Photo: Devra Kitterman

My primary reason to water my habitat-oriented yard is to keep the pollinator plants from drying up in the extreme heat that we suffered through in July (26 of 28 days over 90 degrees), thereby keeping the flower nectar flowing for the many pollinators that suffered in the heat right along with us. The desiccation of flowering plants by heat and drought highlights the disaster that a drought could create for wildlife and our pollinators, and could ultimately limit our ability to sustain agriculture. Climate change will increasingly affect our lives, with already hotter summers and dryer winters, and we humans are really, truly not focusing sufficiently on it, particularly with the focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and other disasters, natural and man-made, that are occurring around us with startling frequency.

A decade or two ago, I considered expanding my landscape business to include installing residential cistern systems to capture rainwater. I approached a few contractors about this environmental business potential but none were interested because global warming was “noise in the background” in the day-to-day lives of most Americans, who were not interested in investing in installing tanks, overflows and pre-filters in the ground next to their homes or in their basements. Such an ambitious business endeavor would have required knowledge and expertise in conscientious and innovative plumbing, and structural electrical engineering, and the purchase of expensive equipment like backhoes. The concept made all the sense in the world to me, just not to anyone else at the time.

Interestingly, the ongoing renovation and installation of a water storage tank system in the city’s Druid Hill Reservoir gave me hope that the concept of below-grade water storage is now being embraced by some municipalities. An interesting study from the University of South Florida, “Examining Potential Participation in Financial Incentives to Mitigate Impervious Surface Effects in Howard County, Maryland,” offers insight into the interest, or lack thereof, of homeowners to invest in cisterns, permeable pavers (which serve the same purpose as pavement but allow rainwater to slowly soak into the ground rather than run off) and rain gardens and can be found at scholarcommons.usf.edu/subsust/vol2/iss1/2.

Cisterns are essentially waterproof underground reservoirs that hold and store rainwater. They are believed to have been invented around 2500 BC. (An online search on “cisterns” and “drought” is illuminating). Many houses in the early 1900s had cisterns and wells, both of which were very low-tech at the time.

Modern cisterns installed underground do not suffer from algal and microbial development due to the absence of light. Harvested rainwater can be set up to supply flush toilets, washing machines and more, depending on how intricate the system is, but the water must be treated for sanitary applications like showers. Tank systems can be installed in basements, but take up space that some basements simply do not have. These basement systems need to be treated periodically for algae and microbes, and cannot tolerate freezing, as can underground tanks.

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Only one state, Colorado, makes it illegal to harvest rainwater. It is legal in every other state with some limitations, and is encouraged in many states. In western states, there are restrictions due to old laws that stated that all precipitation belongs to existing water rights owners (people have killed each other over water rights).

For some sobering facts about droughts, see the National Integrated Drought Information System at drought.gov/drought/what-nidis. For the week of July 22nd this year, 27.4 percent of U.S. land was in drought, affecting 54.3 million people. Severe drought is present in 20 states. You can also visit mawsweather.com/drought.html to see the notable Mid-Atlantic dry spells with a breakdown of drought for several years.

Calendar Highlights

Many organizations are only offering virtual events as of press time. Please check the websites of your favorites for current information. The following is a selection of a few offerings for this fall. Please follow all local, state and CDC guidelines when participating in any group activity.

Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301 York Rd., Lutherville-Timonium. The museum is open 10 am-4 pm, with social distancing and mask use enforced. 410-321-7500, firemuseummd.org.

- Saturdays, 11:30 am, **Fire Engine Rides**. \$5 per person; free for kids under 2.

Irvine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Rd., Owings Mills. 443-738-9200, explorenature.org.

- **The Nature Preschool at Irvine**, a smaller and mostly outdoor version of Irvine's program. Visit website for details. explorenature.org/classes-camps-programs/early-childhood-education-programs/the-nature-preschool
- **Guided Nature Hikes**, including Whimsical Wigwams, Summer Songbird Search, Unearthing the Woodland Garden and Wetland Wonders. \$50 for a family of four and \$10 for each additional person. Contact Emily Ludy at 443-738-9237 or LudyE@ExploreNature.org.
- **Family Camp-Out Night (Naturalist-Led)**, includes help in arranging your campsite, getting your tent set up and starting a campfire, all the fix-in's for S'mores, and extra firewood. \$100 for a family of four and \$10 for each additional person. \$25 rental/sanitation fee for Irvine-provided tent. Contact Emily Ludy.
- **Family Activities and Hiking/Camping Add-Ons**, including Animal Presentations, Aviary "Behind the Scenes" Tours, Butterfly House Tours, Geocaching Hikes, Tech Introduction to iNaturalist and eBird, Campfire & S'mores, Meadow Sweep Netting, Stream Searching and Night Hike to see Owls and/or Frogs. \$25 per person for half an hour and \$50 per person for an hour. Contact Emily Ludy.
- **Family Mini-Courses**, including Native Gardening, Rehabilitation and Falconry and the Basics of Birding. \$150 for a family of four and \$25 for each additional person. Contact Emily Ludy.

Lake Roland, 1000 Lakeside Dr. (main entrance). Due to COVID-19, program registrations are mandatory and limited. Programs

For more information on some of the available cistern systems, please check out conservationtechnology.com/rainwater.html (formerly Resource Conservation Technology) for more information about the multiple permutations available for these systems. They are an amazing company located right here in Baltimore City.

Think stewardship! ♦

Devra He'ui Kitterman is a Baltimore City beekeeper. She runs multiple classes and workshops for beekeepers and others. She formerly owned and operated He'ui Horticultural Services, which provided commercial interior plant services and exterior landscape design and maintenance for 27 years. To receive her free pollinator plant list, contact her at devra.kitterman@gmail.com.


may be cancelled on short notice. Masks must be worn. 410-887-4156, lakeroland.org.

- Fridays in September through November, 9-10am, **Friday Walks**. Masks are required. Meet in the front of the Nature Center. For adults only. Free, but pre-registration is required.
- Sat., Sep. 5, 2-3 pm, **PawPaw, the Wild Banana**. Learn about the largest fruit native to North America, the pawpaw. Ages 5 and up. , but pre-registration is required.

Please send calendar announcements to magazine@rolandpark.org.

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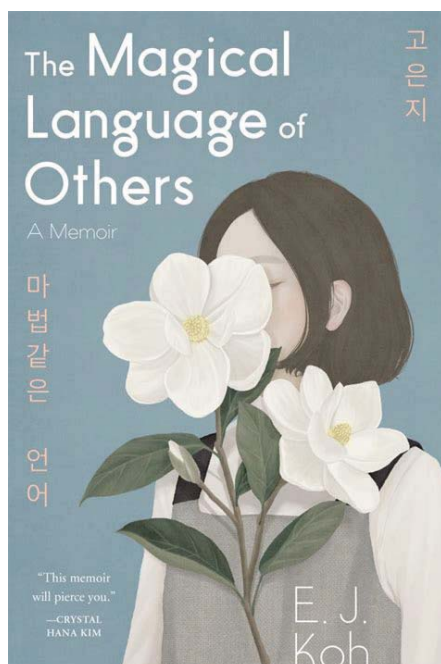
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BOOK NOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

and workshop on Native American spirituality, he learns about a 6,000-mile relay run from Alaska to the Panama Canal called the Peace and Dignity Journey. This spiritual-prayer run takes place every four years and celebrates indigenous people and the breaking down of barriers. Álvarez drops out of college to join the group endurance run. He traverses mountains and remote stretches of land, challenging his mental and physical abilities. This is a powerful American coming-of-age story about a Mexican American who seeks to embrace his heritage while forging his own path forward. Certain to make a lasting impression on readers across generations and backgrounds, all of whom will be inspired by the young Álvarez.

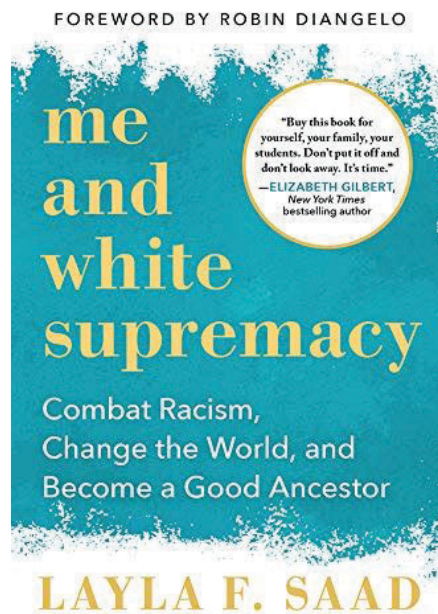
The Magical Language of Others by E. J. Koh. At 15, Koh stayed behind in the U.S. while her parents followed a job opportunity to Korea, from where they'd emigrated before the author was born. As a three-year contract stretched to five years, then seven, Koh's mother wrote her letters, some of which the author uncovered while unpacking boxes after graduate school,



where she studied poetry and translation. Here, Koh translates several of the letters followed by facsimiles of the originals, letting readers see her mother's Korean script, occasionally interrupted by English words or little drawings. Between the letters, Koh narrates her memories of a parallel time and tells her grandmothers' stories: her mother's mother's broken heart and tragic death, and her paternal grandmother's costly survival of the Jeju Island massacre. Koh captures their pasts, and her own, with the lack of straightforwardness memory evinces as sentiments echo across generations: daughters will someday have daughters just like themselves; one day, a daughter will be her mother's mother. Both creative tribute and personal reckoning, this is a finely wrought, linguistically rich, provocative memoir.

Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World and Become a Good Ancestor by Layla F. Saad (available on

OverDrive and Hoopla). Saad has written an important book about taking ownership of racist behavior and making changes that are not easy, convenient or comfortable. The book, with a foreword by Robin DiAngelo (*White Fragility*), was inspired by Saad's Instagram challenge, #meandwhitesupremacy, and her digital *Me and White Supremacy Workbook*. She offers steps for beginning work toward antiracism that feel as honest, straightforward and actionable as they are difficult. She lays out courses of action over the span of 28 days that are designed to help readers slowly and intentionally unpack White privilege, acknowledge their participation in the oppressive system of White supremacy, and begin dismantling the system for themselves and within their communities. The book is organized first by week and then by day, with quotations, definitions, examples and journal prompts designed to set a strong foundation for enduring, ongoing antiracist work. ♦



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Area Restaurants

Some restaurants are offering pickup and delivery, and some are just offering delivery through one of the food delivery services like GrubHub, DoorDash, UberEats, Postmates and Seamless. Some are offering outdoor dining, which is being allowed as of the magazine's deadline. Please call the restaurant or visit their website to determine whether a restaurant is offering outdoor dining and, if indoor dining is being allowed in Baltimore City, if it is taking reservations for dining indoors.

Name	Location	Phone No.	Website
Alonso's	415 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-235-3433	alonsos.com
Ambassador Dining Room	3811 Canterbury Rd.	410-366-1484	ambassadordining.com
Chow Mein Charlie	508 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-889-8886	
Corner Pantry	6080 Falls Rd	667-308-2331	corner-pantry.com
Evergreen Café & Deli	501 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-235-8118	evergreen-cafe-deli.business.site
Johnny's	4800 Roland Ave.	410-773-0777	johnnysdownstairs.com
Miss Shirley's	513 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-889-5272	missshirleys.com
Namasté Baltimore	415 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-889-2233	namastebaltimore.com
Pekara Bakery	506 W. Cold Spring Ln.	443-873-7190	pekarabakery.us
Petit Louis Bistro	4800 Roland Ave.	410-366-9393	petitlouis.com
Roland Park Bagels	500 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-889-3333	rolandparkbagels.com
Starbucks Coffee	5129 Roland Ave.	410-435-4029	starbucks.com
Village Square Café	66 Village Square	410-433-2233	villagesquarecafe.com

Roland Water Tower Restoration Pledge Form

Please cut out and mail this form to the Roland Park Community Foundation at P.O. Box 16214, Baltimore, MD 21210.

In support of the Open Space Campaign and to assist in the preservation and improvement of the environment of Greater Roland Park, I/we hereby pledge \$_____ to the Roland Park Community Foundation, Inc., for the use of the Roland Water Tower.

- ☐ I/we have enclosed a check for \$_____
- ☐ I/we have donated by credit card on the Foundation's website (rolandpark.org/rpcf)
- ☐ I/we prefer to make pledge payments of \$_____
- ☐ annually over the next ____ years (pledges may be paid over a period of up to five years)
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