

ROLAND PARK

Quarterly from the Roland Park Community Foundation • Volume Seventy-Nine • Winter 2020

Feeding Students, Finding Solutions



Keeping Watch on the Tower

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Cover Photo: Principal Peter Kannam and Assistant Principal J.D. Merrill have collected tens of thousands of pounds of food donations for the Henderson-Hopkins community. Photo: Annie Weber

Editor: Martha Marani

Photographer: Sally Foster

Copy Editor: Nancy Chambers

Advertising Manager: Martha Marani

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P.O. Box 16214, Baltimore, MD 21210
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Dan McIntyre (1956-2020): A Personal Recollection

Dan McIntyre was a 30-year Roland Park resident and community leader, active in both the Civic League and the Community Foundation. Many people remember Dan rolling up Roland Avenue in his wheelchair, talking to friends and neighbors. Dan passed away recently and one of those friends, Hap Cooper, remembers him fondly.

I met Dan McIntyre when we had both just joined the Legal and Marketing departments at Alex. Brown. He was tall, soft-spoken and appropriate—with a wry sense of humor. I was none of those things; we hit it off immediately.

For the next decade, we worked together to promote and protect the Private Client Division, and then Investment Banking. In most financial service companies, the folks in legal were the fun police—it was safer to say no. Dan was one of those rare lawyers who could always find a way, even if it required more work and personal risk.

Those were fun years. After work, we spent a lot of time at Water Street drinking everything but. We each had three children and became Little League coaches in sports we knew little about. We watched Alex. Brown become one of the nation's leading underwriters, and we worked diligently to steer clear of the swirling drama that enveloped us.

With the advent of the new millennium, and Deutsche Bank, we left Baltimore for far-flung cities that each spoke a variant of English—his clipped, mine drawn out (London and Nashville). I learned recently that he kept coaching American baseball! His team played on the grounds of a Victorian era prison, built by convicts in 1875, called "Wormwood Scrubs".

I didn't see Dan again until 2007. I had a consulting gig in London and tracked him down. He was in a hospital. I learned about his accident and hastened to visit. Cynthia told me that his physical and cognitive faculties were coming back, but slowly. The instant we made eye contact, I could

tell that he didn't remember me. But after that nanosecond, he forced a smile and welcomed me in. He asked about my family and the old Alex. Brown gang in the States. He was lying there, broken and in pain, but solely focused on making me feel comfortable. I still get misty when I recall that visit and what a gentleman he was.

The McIntyres returned to Roland Park shortly thereafter and, by coincidence, we lived five houses apart. Our families became friends. Dan and I were also fellow lieutenants of Mary Page Michel on the Community Foundation Board. In fact, his family room became RPCF headquarters. He had always been active in the community, dating back to his collaboration with Peter Pearre to install the fancy gutters and

streetlights in the 100 block of St. Johns Road. More recently, Dan worked tirelessly to restore Stony Run Park and the Roland Water Tower, as well as to raise money to purchase 20 acres of green space from Baltimore Country Club.

Dan didn't come from Baltimore, but he had a Roland Park soul. He hailed from a New Jersey community that was largely transient and

focused on wealth and status. That wasn't Dan. He was much more in tune with the historic and eclectic Roland Park vibe that avoided anything shiny and new. When his young family moved into 103 St. Johns in 1991, he found it funny that he'd just written the biggest check of his life, but was told that it would be decades before his residence would be known as anything other than "The Lewis House".

He set about fixing the place up and doing his own yard work. He enjoyed tinkering around the house—but he was far from a perfectionist. Cynthia would wiggle a loose rail and ask Dan if he was done—with an edge of incredulity. Dan would assert that it was good enough. He didn't like spending money unnecessarily, but when he needed help, he loved to identify workmen who were quirky and unique. He found a painter



Photo courtesy of the McIntyre family

Feeding Students, Finding Solutions: One Principal's COVID-19 Response

By Johanna Alonso

Last March, educators around the country grappled with the question of how to conduct classes even as COVID-19 barred them from their physical classrooms.

Peter Kannam, a Roland Park resident and the principal of Henderson-Hopkins, a contract school in East Baltimore operated by Johns Hopkins University, had another priority: feeding kids. At Henderson-Hopkins, a thousand free meals—including breakfast, lunch, dinner and a snack—are distributed to students each day, meaning that, without school in session, it wasn't certain that they would be getting fed.

"Food insecurity in my community is a big deal," Kannam says. "There is not a grocery store in walking distance."

Because of this, food distribution took precedence in the principal's pandemic plan. Quickly, he and his assistant principal, J.D. Merrill, decided to take advantage of the school's existing partnership with the Maryland Food Bank, which had been supplying food for Henderson-Hopkins' monthly grocery distribution days for several years. Within a week, the school shifted from monthly to weekly distributions, giving out 10,000 pounds of food donated by the Maryland Food Bank every Friday outside the school.

The turnout was incredible, Kannam says. Lines of people and cars a mile long would form an hour before distribution began, hoping to grab a bag of fresh fruits, vegetables and nonperishable items, or to have one placed by a volunteer in their trunk. In less than an hour, thousands of pounds of goods would disappear.

The only problem was that, of the hundreds of Baltimore families coming to Henderson-Hopkins for groceries, very few were actually Henderson-Hopkins families. Instead, most were other members of the community, who had heard about the program through word of mouth.

"I felt good about servicing the needs of the larger community, but I also wanted my families, who I knew [usually received] those thousand meals a day, to have access," Kannam explains.

To make sure his students were also getting fed, he decided to rework the distribution system. While groceries were still given out every Friday, volunteers—more of whom showed up each week—also delivered food to students' households. The school continued to offer on-site distribution to anyone and everyone who showed up, but adding delivery meant that his students—the very people that this project had been designed to serve—

weren't going without.

Distributions continued throughout the summer and are still happening every Friday, even as the weather gets colder. But once Kannam felt he had adequately addressed the problem of food access, he then had to figure out how to successfully pivot to online learning for the coming school year.

It wasn't a shift that would necessarily come easily. Prior to the pandemic, the school had really been gaining momentum; only eight years old, it had been designed to bring high-quality education to East Baltimore, and it seemed to be making good on that promise. Over the two years since Kannam had become principal, more and more eighth graders were getting into the city's best high schools. The school's state



Henderson-Hopkins, a Johns Hopkins Partnership School, serves kindergarten through 8th grade students. Photo courtesy of Henderson-Hopkins

were getting into the city's best high schools. The school's state



Peter Kannam was named principal of Henderson-Hopkins in 2018. Photo courtesy of Henderson-Hopkins

test scores were the city's most improved in 2019, and showed particular growth amongst Black students. It had broadened its extracurricular offerings, introducing programs like dance and flag football.

When the pandemic began, it was obvious that some things were going to change. But Kannam wasn't worried about losing the momentum he'd developed.

"The thing I'm most proud about the leadership at our school is that we're really adaptable and we really can pivot, and I think

FEEDING STUDENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that's what makes our school great," the principal says.

One of the first things Kannam realized, after surveying parents over the spring and summer, was that a large portion of them were essential workers. They couldn't stay home while their kids completed online schooling, but their childcare options were also limited by both the pandemic and the high costs of day cares and baby sitters. Data gathered in the spring also showed that online learning wasn't working for a subset of students, who regularly failed to turn in assignments or show up to class.

The solution Kannam developed is called the Safe Center for Online Learning. Funded by a Maryland State Department of Education grant, the center, which opened early in September, operates as a free day care where children can come to complete virtual schooling. This set-up allows parents to attend work, provides students with reliable Internet service and allows the school to provide the kids with meals.

To make a donation to support the school's efforts, please visit secure.jhu.edu/form/soe and designate the Henderson-Hopkins Emergency Programming Fund.



The Safe Center for Online Learning serves more than 100 students every day.
Photo courtesy of Henderson-Hopkins

The center has proven to be an essential part of the school's pandemic response, with at least a tenth of the school's students utilizing the space. Kannam recalls asking a parent on a recent morning, as they dropped their child off at Henderson-Hopkins, what they would have done if the center hadn't been opened.

"Mr. Kannam, I can't even tell you," he remembers them saying, "I didn't have a backup plan. We're very, very thankful."

The operation was so successful that, when Baltimore City schools opened their own virtual learning centers throughout the city later that same month, they used Henderson-Hopkins as one of their sites. In addition to the 60 to 70 Henderson-Hopkins students who learn from the center each day, an additional 40 students—many of whom are homeless—attend as part of the City's program.

Those students who continued to take classes from home weren't left behind, though. Kannam worked diligently to distribute a computer to every student, initially giving away the school's laptops until he was able to get his hands on new ones—a difficult task as worldwide demand caused a months-long delay in their delivery. He also gave hotspots to nearly 100 families who lacked Wi-Fi.

Since the start of the school year, Henderson-Hopkins solutions have proven successful. Students' virtual attendance rates are almost as good as they are in person, parents are thanking Kannam for the high quality of their children's virtual classes and the Safe Center for Online Learning is proving to be a haven for some students.

But Kannam isn't surprised. Having worked in education for over 25 years, he's always believed that all kids have the potential to be high achievers, as long as they're given the support and resources that they need to get there.

"The pandemic just reinforced that belief," he says. ❖

Johanna Alonso graduated from UMBC in May with degrees in English literature and media and communications studies, and now reports for *The Daily Record*. Her writing has previously appeared in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, *The Objective*, *The Retriever* and *UMBC Magazine*. She has also been an intern and written for the *Roland Park News*.

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Sidney Brower (1930-2020): A Good Neighbor

By Kathy Hudson

Longtime neighborhood resident Sidney Brower, who served on almost every Roland Park board, passed away at age 90 on October 8th. Sidney was the Civic League president in the 1970s, a founding board member of the Community Foundation in the 1980s, a key member of the Greater Roland Park Master Plan committee and, most recently, a volunteer for the Village at Home.

His life's work, as architect, city planner and teacher, focused on what makes a good community. The titles of two of his books conjure Roland Park: *Good Neighbors* (1996) and *Design in Familiar Places* (1998).

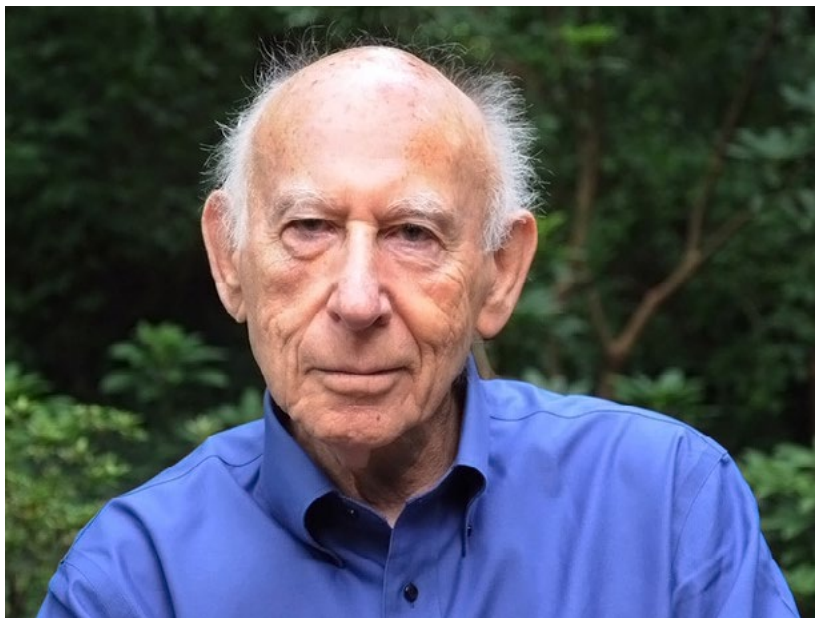


Photo courtesy of the Brower family

A 50-plus year resident of Deepdene Road, Sidney was often spotted on Roland Avenue and on neighborhood footpaths with his students from the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (MAPP).

"He liked to show off Roland Park," says his wife of 59 years, Cynthia, an artist and printmaker, who met her husband when they were students at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. There, in 1953, Sidney received his Bachelor of Architecture degree. He practiced architecture in South Africa before he and Cynthia moved to the United States in 1961. In 1964, he received his Master's degree in city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Browsers came to Baltimore when Sidney was recruited by one of the founding principals to work at RTK&L architects. He worked on planning issues, including an early plan for the Jones Falls Valley. His report suggested recapturing the green spaces along the valley, but the plan was not followed.

In 1970, the family moved to Roland Park. They bought a house next to one of the footpaths on Deepdene Road, and raised their two children. Son Gideon is now a writer in Santa Monica, California. Kate is a landscape designer and urban planner with the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks. At their Deepdene Road house, Sidney designed and planted extensive, shade-loving hillside gardens, which are enjoyed by those who walk Litchfield path.

During the revitalization of Baltimore City, from 1966 to 1979, Sidney worked for the Baltimore City Department of Planning as chief of the comprehensive planning section and, later, as chief of the design research section. He was a social and behavioral planner, with a keen understanding of how people's attitudes and behaviors are affected by their surroundings.

From 1979 to 2011, Sidney taught at MAPP, where he was later professor emeritus. In 1989 and 1995, he was a visiting scholar at Peking University in Beijing. In 1997, he spent six months as a visiting faculty member at the University of Cape Town and, in 2000, he was a guest lecturer at the State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering in St. Petersburg, Russia. A recent project was a year-long user survey of Patterson Park.

In retirement, Sidney pursued his artistic talents as an accomplished weaver and ceramicist. He worked in the Baltimore Clayworks studios. His early scarves

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COVID-19 Update

By Richard Bruno, MD, MPH, FAAFP, AAHIVS

As the pandemic continues to wreak havoc on society worldwide, Roland Park residents have shown amazing resilience in the face of adversity. Many of us have lost neighbors, friends and family members. At the time of this writing, there have been 17,976 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Baltimore, with 504 deaths. In Maryland, we've seen positivity rate tests hover around 3 percent over the past three months [as of early November], down from a high of 27 percent in April. Yet, the U.S. at large has seen a rise in cases lately, with 9.28 million Americans having tested positive, leading to over 231,000 deaths.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, up to 40 percent of people infected with COVID-19 are symptom-free but still contagious, so the use of rapid testing is important for detecting asymptomatic individuals and signaling the need for quarantine. Experts have called for a massive scale-up of rapid testing to 200 million a month (currently we are testing around 25 million a month)—critical to identifying hotspots and preventing further spread. In



Photo: Esben Hansen

Baltimore, some urgent care facilities and pharmacies offer rapid testing, but as of the editorial deadline I did not have a

list. The Baltimore City Health Department has a number of sites offering the traditional nasopharyngeal swabs, with results that may take a few days, and Johns Hopkins Hospital offers same-day results. (Feel free to email me at rabruno@gmail.com if you or someone you care for needs an order for either of these.)

The Roland Park Self-Quarantine Support Network was established in March of this year and has responded to over a dozen requests for help from

neighbors. We have seen nearly a hundred neighbors volunteer to help, showing the gracious spirit of our neighborhood.

According to Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and lead member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine could be identified by the end of this year, with rollout to high-risk individuals early next year. In the meantime, it is important to continue safe practices of maintaining six feet social distance, avoiding crowded indoor spaces, wearing an appropriate mask and washing your hands.

It is also important to consider getting vaccinated with the flu vaccine this season. Although 56 million Americans contracted the flu last season and 62,000 died from flu complications, uptake of the flu vaccine typically hovers around 50 percent. The Baltimore City Health Department has a goal of getting 70 percent of Baltimoreans vaccinated against the flu this season. We are currently at 14 percent city-wide and 16 percent in zip code 21210.

Overall, the benefits far outweigh the risks and, with the potentially lethal combination of flu and COVID-19 looming this year, there is no better time to get a flu shot. No one knows if the current COVID-19 social distancing and mask precautions will limit the spread of flu and cause decreased rates this season, or if susceptibility to the flu virus will be worse if one has already been exposed to COVID-19. But until we have a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, we should do the best we can to protect ourselves and those around us by getting vaccinated and encouraging those we care for to do the same. ❖

Dr. Richard Bruno serves as chair of the Public Health Committee at MedChi (the Maryland State Medical Society) and on the boards of the Baltimore City Medical Society, the Roland Park Civic League, Hampden Community Council and Wyman Park Community Association. He is a family and preventive medicine physician and interim medical director at the Mount Vernon Center location of Chase Brexton Health Care.



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SIDNEY BROWER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

were featured at the Store Ltd. in Cross Keys and later at his home studio.

He was also a baker and made a type of pound cake known in the family as "Brower" cake. Another favorite was raisin bread, adopted from a Hopkins colleague, with raisins soaked overnight in sherry.

"Aside from the taste of the bread, Dad very much enjoyed the idea of drinking the raisin-soaked sherry as part of the baking process," says daughter Kate.

A University of Maryland article captures Sidney well.

"Sidney Brower made his livelihood studying community, but made a life building one. Known for incredible generosity, a wicked sense of humor and an untempered curiosity, he was a magnet for people, including students, colleagues at Maryland, neighbors and friends from Baltimore and his native home of South Africa." ❖

Sidney Brower: In Others' Words

David Rudow, Co-Founder of the Roland Park Community Foundation

Sidney was President of the Civic League when we moved into Roland in the 1970s. He was a real gentleman and fine person.

David Blumberg, Past President of the Roland Park Civic League

I first met Sidney in the mid-80s when I was working as a librarian at the Roland Park branch at the Enoch Pratt library. I had often wondered about living in such a beautiful area, but I did notice at that time the lack of Jews living here. I felt comfortable enough to ask him about his feelings on the subject, and he assured me that our community, despite a prior history of exclusion, couldn't have been any more welcoming to him, Cynthia and the children. A short time later I purchased the house I currently reside in. He was a person whose judgment I always trusted. Even though he was often perceived as quiet, he was a man of strong beliefs and decisive action. I quite enjoyed his understated sense of humor as well.

David Tufaro, Past President of Roland Park Community Foundation

Sidney was active with the Foundation when I got involved around 1990. He played an instrumental role with the early roots of updating the Roland Park plan. Most noteworthy was his highlighting the importance of the Stony Run path running through Roland Park and adjoining neighborhoods.

From Phil Spevak, Past President of the Roland Park Civic League

Sidney was a consistent source of good advice. I remember that when he spoke, he was always calm, thoughtful and kind, and he frequently wrapped his comments with his sense of humor.

Chris McSherry, Past President of the Roland Park Civic League and neighbor

As a neighbor Sidney Brower was a delightful, thoughtful and always courteous person, who pitched in however he could to improve Roland Park. He served on all the Roland Park boards at one time or another, and was instrumental in the Master Plan. He had a wonderful sense of humor and

playfulness, and even managed to laugh when two of the family's cars were crushed by falling trees within a year of each other. He never took himself too seriously and always cared deeply about others and our City.

Melissa Spevak, Board Secretary and Coordinator of Volunteers, Village at Home

I had the pleasure to work with Sidney at the Village at Home. He was a dedicated, reliable and amiable volunteer; he helped many members especially with rides to appointments and events. He became a friend to any member he worked with and all the volunteers as well.



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Keeping Watch on the Tower: Terry Ross

By Sally Foster

“They have their schedule and they don’t always tell me,” Terry Ross quips, referring to the peregrine falcons that live at the top of the Roland Water Tower. Their unpredictable behavior is why he walks the short distance from his home on Roland Avenue to the tower three or four times a day.

Ross describes himself as a birder and he has taken it upon himself to monitor the peregrines’ behavior, not only during periods of great activity, but in the “slow” times as well. He is a widower who retired from his position as program manager for e-Learning the University of Baltimore.

“I walk up to the tower,” he explains. “I go around the tower. I wear a mask. I am able to do this and it’s something rather special.”

Looking dapper in a jaunty hat, with a Japanese anemone from his garden tucked into his lapel, Ross raises his binoculars to scour the tower for any signs of the birds. He knows their favorite perches. They seem to prefer the pilasters, which afford protection from rain and snow and offer superb visibility. Sometimes they are tucked up under the tower’s eaves, barely visible from below.

“There are times when there is a fair amount of action, particularly during the courtship phase or when they are raising their young. People read about the dramatic moments such as the bird in a dive—when it is said to be able to go more than 240 miles an hour. I have seen them go up and come down, but they don’t need to go that fast to get birds around here. Most of the time they are just hanging out...resting, nodding, cleaning themselves, conserving energy.”

According to Ross, peregrines were first noticed on the Roland Water Tower in 2015. The male is banded and is known to have been born on a lighthouse near Hart Miller Island in 2014. When he came here, nobody knows for sure. He was definitely at the tower in 2018, as was a female peregrine.

Ross explains, “Peregrines mate for life. Courtship takes place every year. The male has to reestablish himself. He has to show the female he is a good provider. He brings her food. Mating

takes place on the lower edge at the belvedere. She will be there. He is up higher. She calls. For three weeks, they can’t get enough of each other.”

Ross describes the sounds peregrines make. There is the alarm noise: a loud cracking sound, “kak, kak, kak”. Young peregrines do this when they are in trouble and adults will when vultures are flying a little too low. Another call is “ee-chup”, which the birds make during courting. Sometimes there are sustained wails.

February is mating season, and eggs are typically laid in March. Ross explains that the female spends more time on the eggs than the male. For this period, she develops a brood patch that allows her skin, which is warmer than her feathers, to be in direct contact

with the eggs. When she needs a break, the male takes over. Sometimes neither bird is on the eggs.

Generally, the eggs hatch in April. The usual number of hatchlings is three or four. Five is the maximum.

Ross relates a story from this spring. “The first [nestling] this year landed on the ground. It had never flown and didn’t know what flight was. Up until now, he had only hopped and flapped his wings on the tower ledge. Now he was faced with a problem: how to get back to the tower. He managed to hop up onto an air conditioning unit. Then, to make matters worse, a blue jay flew practically into his face. The baby falcon hopped and flapped and landed on the fence around the tower. The blue jay came around again, bugging him. This time, the youngster hopped and flapped and managed to fly and land on the building across the street. All this time, the parent was calling to the young and he was calling back.”

Ross continues, “Now the youngster is not being fed. The father flew over but did not feed him. The father returned to the tower and eventually the young [peregrine] managed to fly up and across the road to join him.”

“It’s not easy,” Ross muses. “Flight is a new thing. Light is a new thing. Wind is a new thing. Once out, they hop around the tower



Terry Ross has taken an particular interest in the Roland Water Tower peregrine falcons.
Photo: Sally Foster

to the least windy side. It's hard to get back inside."

He continues, "A parent will generally feed the young on the tower. The offspring learns how to strip the feathers from the caught bird. He learns what his claws can do."

One day, Ross watched the father teach his offspring how to grab a bird in flight. He took off with a bird carcass in his talons, the young peregrine following. The father slowed down and dropped the carcass, but the novice raptor missed it. The father swooped down and caught the carcass underneath.

"The young will be fed," Ross says. "But the parent might make the offspring hop over to a nearby place to get the bird. The young's next assignment will be to catch his own pigeon, mourning dove, cardinal or blue jay in mid-air. Good luck."

"Half of the fledglings make it to their first year," Ross adds. "They don't have many predators around here, but they can

have accidents. They can fly into buildings or they could be chased off by other peregrines." He adds, "The young ones are kinda stupid. They can be hit by a car if they see something in the street and go after it."

In July, there was a catastrophe. Ross got a call from a neighbor. The female peregrine was injured and on the ground in front of the tower. Phoenix Wildlife Center was called. Someone brought out a blanket and a box. Ross says, "I tried to make sure people wouldn't get too close. She rolled over on her back and tried to right herself, but she couldn't. It was upsetting."

The bird died.

"The bird meant something to me," Ross explains. "I meant nothing to the bird. The bird was a wild creature. She had never been banded. I guess it's the wildest thing I've ever had a one-sided relationship with. It didn't have a name. It wasn't a pet or a toy. It was just a wild thing living on my block and it had been a great mother to three falcons this year."

The restoration of the Roland Water Tower has begun and accommodations for the peregrines are part of the plan. The renovated tower will include a nesting box, which has already been approved by the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation. So these rare, fascinating birds will be with us for a long time. ❖

Greater Roland Park Home Sales

(August-October 2020)

	LIST PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
322 Hawthorn Rd.	\$829,999	\$830,000
4327 Wickford Rd.	\$760,000	\$764,500
6 Englewood Rd.	\$749,000	\$749,000
112 Longwood Rd.	\$749,900	\$737,000
4 Merryman Ct.	\$694,500	\$703,000
502 Edgevale Rd.	\$695,000	\$695,000
605 Somerset Rd.	\$699,999	\$675,000
4602 Roland Ave.	\$649,500	\$649,500
4836 Keswick Rd.	\$575,000	\$575,000
605 Edgevale Rd.	\$559,000	\$550,000
116 Ridgewood Rd.	\$575,000	\$525,000
33 Merrymount Rd.	\$519,000	\$524,000
4612 Roland Ave.	\$537,000	\$500,000
620 W. University Pkwy.	\$485,000	\$470,000
209 Edgevale Rd.	\$459,900	\$450,000
4816 Keswick Rd.	\$449,900	\$449,900
5103 Falls Road Ter.	\$419,900	\$405,000
4211 Wickford Rd.	\$395,000	\$370,000
6 Upland Rd., #K-2, L-2	\$375,000	\$349,500
6 Upland Rd., #A-4	\$265,000	\$272,000
4401 Roland Ave., #209	\$99,500	\$95,000
4401 Roland Ave., #110	\$95,000	\$90,000

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The Park School's StoryWalk

By Jillian Van Ells, Director of Library Services

I came to Park in part because I love the ways in which the curriculum imagines the outdoors as a vital learning space. An appreciation of nature is at the core of my family's values, and to find a school that shared that felt special.

As a librarian, my job traditionally resides in the space of the library, but I believe strongly that the library is much more than a collection of books in a walled-in space; I am always looking for ways to bring the library to the kids. This is now more important than ever.

In the summer of 2018, I found myself at Walden



Park's StoryWalk typically feature a children's book, but Van Ells looks forward to collaborating with her colleagues on creative ways to connect with the school's community. Photo courtesy of Park School



I feel my teachers incorporate everything that is important for children to learn in this day and age.

They discuss with us what's going on in the world with honesty.

I get so much from every class.

—Olivia, 7th Grade

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



Pond in Massachusetts with my two little ones. There is a lovely trail that leads around the pond, but with little legs in tow, making it a mile around the pond was daunting. Enter the StoryWalk. My children's eyes lit up when they saw the first panel of a picture book biography of Henry David Thoreau right there on the trail. After reading the first pages together, my once reluctant hikers raced down the trail to find the second panel, and the third and fourth, and, before I knew it, my children had enjoyed a story together, learned about Henry David Thoreau, and made it the mile around the pond. Each page on display acted like a sort of breadcrumb, leading my eager story lovers through the pages of the book and down the trail. I knew right then that the StoryWalk was something I needed to bring back to Park.

Combining stories with a walk in the woods feels like pure alchemy, and so I got to work. Everyone I spoke with at Park about the idea of creating a StoryWalk here on campus was excited, and we soon had a plan in place.

COVID-19 had other ideas. Instead of a spring opening, our first StoryWalk story, *The Hike* by Alison Farrell, was installed in time to welcome Lower School students back to campus this September. Knowing that all of our classes would be venturing outside more frequently, we reimagined our initial plans, adding questions and activity suggestions to make the StoryWalk a more interactive learning experience. Whether for a class out on the

trail during the school day, or a family taking a weekend stroll, the StoryWalk allows us to bring a little bit of the library into the woods.

With many classes eagerly making their way around Park's pond this fall, our students are engaging in learning and building community by connecting shared stories with the wonders of the Park campus. While most months the display will feature a children's book, I am excited to have the opportunity to collaborate with some of the amazing faculty here at Park to imagine new and creative ways to engage our community.

My hope is that our community will find the same sort of magic around Park's pond that my children did when they first encountered a story spread along a trail at Walden Pond. ❖

The Park School of Baltimore (parkschool.net) is a private, coeducational, non-sectarian, progressive day school for children in pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

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Community Foundation Update: The Baltimore Country Club Land

By Mary Page Michel, Chair, RPCF

On September 30th, the leadership of the Baltimore Country Club (BCC) invited members of the Civic League and Community Foundation to a meeting at the Club. They announced that they have completed a master plan and voted to sell the 20 acres of surplus land along Falls Road. They invited Roland Park to submit a bid.

When Roland Park was first developed, the Roland Park Company recognized that a requirement for this meticulously planned neighborhood was the creation of shared community recreational space. They carved out park space and later established the Baltimore Country Club, which added the new sport of golf. The community recreational space was here before the country club, seen as a necessity for attracting homeowners.



A map envisions the features a park in Roland Park could include.
Map courtesy of RPCF

The sale of the land, expected in the next few months, creates a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to finally put a park in Roland Park. Purchasing this land was one of the highest priorities identified in the 2010 *Greater Roland Park Master Plan (GRPMP)*. The land is all that remains of the first and last holes of the golf course, as well as historic tennis courts. The golf course once included land now used as the Jones Falls Expressway, Baltimore Polytechnic and Western High School and Cross Keys. The golf and tennis activities were moved to BCC's suburban location decades ago. The remaining green space is stunning and would create a community gathering space that we could leave as a legacy to the next generation.

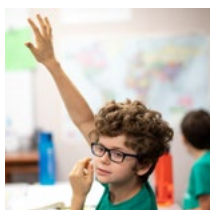
In the *GRPMP*, the community vision for this park includes space for picnicking, playground play, dog walking, frisbee and soccer, among other activities. The park would be private, but open to the public, in the style of Sherwood Gardens or Pierce's Park in the Inner Harbor. It would be designed in the style of Frederick Law Olmsted who, with his sons, planned much of our community. Olmsted's designs embraced the natural topography of the land, so our own Olmsted Park would have winding paths and a very natural feel. Olmsted is known for designing urban parks that soothe the soul and allow neighbors to engage with one another. The Roads and Maintenance Corporation has been taking care of green spaces in the community for more than 100 years, so the community knows how to maintain park space.

The other bidders for this property would be real estate developers, who could build roughly 50 single-family homes. The Boys' Latin School recently purchased 28 acres of land adjacent to its campus for \$5.5 million, which gives us a rough idea of the price, although that sale included a building that the school needs to establish a boarding program.

Over the past several months of COVID-19, people have spent more time than ever outside. According to a National Parks and Recreation survey, 83 percent of adults find exercising at local parks, trails and open spaces essential to maintaining their mental and physical health during the pandemic. Never has home been more important and access to green space more treasured.

Please take a look at the map of what this community space might look like and what an incredible asset it would be, not only for our current residents but also for future generations. It would fit with Olmsted's vision for neighborhood parks and be a gift to Baltimore City. As we move to creating a winning bid, we will need your support. ❖

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Notes from the Garden: To Stack Stones

By the Cylburn Arboretum Friends Head Gardener

The Stones

by Wendell Berry

I owned a slope full of stones.

Like buried pianos they lay in the ground,
shards of old sea-ledges, stumbling blocks
where the earth caught and kept them
dark, an old music mute in them
that my head keeps now I have dug them out.
I broke them where they slugged in the dark
cells, and lifted them up in pieces.

As I piled them in the light

I began their music. I heard their old lime
rouse in breath of song that had not left me.

I gave pain and weariness to their bearing out.

What bond have I made with the earth,
having worn myself against it? It is a fatal singing
I have carried with me out of that day.

The stones have given me music
that figures for me their holes in the earth
and their long lying in them dark.

They have taught me the weariness that loves the ground,
and I must prepare a fitting silence.

So much of gardening and designing gardens is about being able to both tell and recognize stories in the landscape. Instead of offering the latest gardening advice, I would like to share a few stories about how making changes to the landscape, whether by cultivation or construction, are left up to interpretations steeped in a historic relationship to the natural world.

One of my first paying jobs back in rural Ohio was picking up stones from the fields of neighboring farms. A loader was driven back and forth across the field while stones were tossed into the bucket for easy piling on eroded stream banks, sinkholes or washes. This geological shortcut was exhausting (I never drove the loader). Instead, I got intimately acquainted with a variety of fieldstones. Several, deposited by glaciers thousands of years ago, wore the scars of disc blades and patterns of various other farm machinery. Farmers referred to these as “devil seeds” because they rose in a seemingly endless stream from the depths to wreak havoc on human backs and agricultural equipment.

No longer beholden to a farm identity, I now see that beauty can be found in a fieldstone’s palimpsest qualities. The uses and abuses of stones over time tell the story of those placemakers with the strongest relationships to a given landscape—in this case, farmers. However, life in the anthropocene is riddled with more complicated people-to-stone relationships than that of the mason or farmer.

As humans, we have intentionally stacked stones since prehistory—sometimes of necessity, sometimes of superfluity—and some are mysteries yet to be understood.



The new arrangement of stones at Cylburn are a tribute to one of Cylburn’s biggest supporters, Jean Silber and the Silber family. Photo: Alan Gilbert

Whether building walls to hold and divide property or erecting a permanent artistic exclamation, stone-stacking behavior is political. It is an assertion of presence and identity.

Colloquial terms like “devil seeds” help focus our lens on the unending relationship between landscape and culture. Words like these shape how we conceptualize our surroundings. Bits of stone migrating toward the surface from bedrock below could just as easily have been known as “heavenly gifts” as their parent material is responsible for the soil in which crops are grown. By naming, the landscape is interpreted by people on a spectrum of positive to negative. In either case, a name is what makes it a place. Places are stewarded by virtue of being named. As a steward of the landscape named Cylburn, I would like to introduce one of our more recent plantings and the narrative we hope it tells.

Instead of trees, we have seeded stones. Between the Vollmer Center and the neighboring Maple Collection lies an outcropping of bluestone. These stones are an intentional arrangement meant to resemble the winged seed of a maple tree, known as a samara. Like the landscape, this particular pile of stones is also subject to our interpretation and, more pointedly, our understanding of the processes that shaped it. For every natural process evoking a perceivable landscape change, there is a corresponding cultural and political narrative.

It has been said that beneath all great gardens lies a great rock. Although we did not use our underlying Baltimore gneiss, we did find an appropriate local stone for the task. Counterintuitively, we chose to use bluestone for its ephemeral nature in the geologic sense.

The samara is meant to be ephemeral by design, though its lifespan is measured by a different time scale than ours. Like a natural outcropping, these stones will be subject to weathering. The slabs have been placed with their vulnerable end grain exposed to our winter’s freeze-thaw cycle. Similar to granite, the underlying Baltimore gneiss would have degraded very slowly, mainly into sand and silica. Bluestone, on the other

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Learning Outdoors at Roland Park Country School

Long before COVID-19, the students at Roland Park Country School (RPCS) could be found outside for class. In the early 20th century, the school had open-air classrooms, requiring students to come to school equipped with blankets, sweaters and boots. In fact, during the 1932/33 school year, RPCS had the best health record of all schools in Baltimore, with no confirmed cases of infectious disease, which was attributed to the 60 degree classrooms.

As different as things are today, the emphasis on learning outside, particularly in the Lower School, is stronger than ever. For years, the school's curriculum has focused on lessons beyond the classroom walls that encourage problem solving and risk taking. Learning outdoors also empowers students to make healthy choices in their daily lives, helps them understand how humans interact with their environment and lets them discover how to become stewards of—and eventually leaders in—their communities.

"There are endless benefits to bringing education outdoors," says Lisa Teeling, head of the Lower School. "Nature has a calming influence on children and adults. It allows us to feel part of something greater than ourselves and reduces the stress that a typical school day can bring. By creatively using our beautiful campus, we have built in ways to enhance the Lower School curriculum."

Lower School Outdoor Curriculum

The RPCS outdoor classrooms allow Lower School teachers to apply their lessons in interdisciplinary ways. The art classes have always used the campus gardens and woods for inspiration. Math classes use the outdoors to explore shapes, angles, measurement and probability. And last year in science class, third graders learned about sustainable farming with chickens. After watching baby chicks hatch, they conducted a study of how chickens on campus could supply the dining hall with eggs. Now, as fourth graders, they are building coops to house the chickens in a spot they carefully researched and selected.

Fortunately, this intentional approach to outdoor learning also helps students and teachers stay healthy during this unusual year. "We were perfectly set up to take learning outdoors in what we know is a safe space for our students right now," says Teeling. "Our campus and small class sizes allowed us to continue a full program with added benefits."

For example, the music teacher now offers recorder classes in the courtyard and walks through the woods to teach the complexity of bird sounds. Every student has her own bag of chalk as the walls and walkways have become canvases for murals. The girls are even more in tune with changes in the weather and the progression of plants in the gardens as they read, play and construct outside each day.



Photo courtesy of RPCS

Gardening and Environmental Education

Building a love of nature, and learning to respect and care for it, are at the heart of outdoor and environmental education at RPCS. The school's Garden Educator, Cheryl Carmona, coordinates outdoor learning for students using six gardens that produce healthy food and herbs, create safe rainwater runoff, encourage butterflies and bees to survive, and teach about native plants. Students learn about everything from plant life cycles to the benefits of biodiversity, composting, storm water runoff, and how to deal with erosion and invasive species. By posing questions and learning about the world around them, Lower School students are also introduced to concepts of environmental sustainability and social justice.

Additional Outdoor Spaces

Last year, the school built an outdoor makerspace with natural resources and materials carefully curated for building and engineering activities for students to explore a variety of ideas and solve an assortment of problems. The ability to freely collaborate with others is enhanced outside and, this year, the makerspace is in use every day.

In addition, RPCS maintains the Backwoods, five acres of old growth forest under forest conservation, as an outdoor classroom. Students of all ages explore this area, which includes a high oak canopy, native trees and perennial plants, wildlife, a spring-fed stream, a bridge, and a dam and spring house built in the 1850s. It is also used as an outdoor classroom for stream water quality testing, nature poetry writing, habitat studies, and stewardship activities, such as invasive plant removal.

With authentic, hands-on learning opportunities that activate the senses and provide a context for the cognitive skills RPCS students are developing this school year, the outdoor learning classrooms are proving to be a timeless method of instruction! To learn more about Roland Park Country School, visit rpcs.org.

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. ❖

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Leadership in Action at The Bryn Mawr School

The Bryn Mawr School is launching a new character, curiosity and community-building program, called Leadership in Action, for all pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students.

“For decades, Bryn Mawr students and alumnae have been known as confident leaders in the classroom, community and in a variety of diverse fields and professions,” says Head of School Sue Sadler. “Now, through programming and structure, we’re aiming as a school to be deliberate about how we’re developing these women of consequence.”

Leadership in Action is a distinctive initiative that brings together personalized leadership development for each student, community engagement experiences and social impact opportunities through both new and longstanding programs at Bryn Mawr. Students will be involved in programs at each divisional level. Community highlights include the Leadership in Action Speaker Series, which provides opportunities to hear from and engage with inspiring leaders to help foster active engagement and responsibility to the broader community, and a Social Impact Expo, a spring festival where students from all divisions will share their impact-driven work.

Through the Leadership in Action, Bryn Mawr students will:

- Feel empowered in self-discovery
- Become responsible global citizens by having an impact in the world



Bryn Mawr is launching a new Leadership in Action program. Photo courtesy of the Bryn Mawr School

- Partner with and serve communities in the Baltimore area
- Immerse themselves in real-world experiences beyond the classroom
- Share their work with the community

Many pieces of Leadership in Action are already happening on Bryn Mawr’s campus this fall, including an entrepreneurship program and leadership lunches in the Lower School; Social Institute and Empowering Female Voices workshops in the Middle School; and, in the Upper School, conflict resolution training, leadership seminars, and programs like UPenn Social Innovators, Invest in Girls and Edith Hamilton Scholars. Through these opportunities

and more, students are getting experience in important skills like pitch development, goal and mission setting, interview techniques, networking, financial literacy and more.

“Developing women who lead considered and consequential lives exemplifies The Bryn Mawr School mission and we are proud to carry this legacy forward with Leadership in Action,” Sadler says.

Learn more about the program and take the “What’s Your Leadership Superpower” quiz at brynmawrschool.org/leadership. ❖

The Bryn Mawr School (brynmawrschool.org), founded in 1885 as the first college-preparatory school for girls in the United States, is an independent, nonsectarian all-girls school for grades K-12, with a coed preschool.

Home-Whipped Cream

Eddie’s of Roland Park

Impress your guests with a dollop of this professional-quality, homemade whipped cream—the perfect way to top off a slice of Eddie’s baked-in-house pumpkin pie.

Prep time: 10 minutes. Serves 8.

Ingredients

- 1 pint heavy whipping cream, chilled
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup confectioners’ sugar
- Optional Ingredients
- 3/4 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1 T. bourbon

Pro tip: “Cold” is key to the perfect whip. Before starting, chill the bowl and whisk attachment of your stand mixer for 5 to



Photo: Nichole Bryant

10 minutes. Add the chilled cream and vanilla extract to the bowl. Whip on medium-high speed until frothy. Gradually add in sugar, continuing to beat until cream thickens and stiff peaks form.

For a “spiced” variation, add pumpkin pie spice with the sugar. For a “spiked” version, add your favorite bourbon to the cream as you whip.

Serve chilled whipped cream over your favorite pie, cake or hot beverage.

Eddie’s tip: Prepare this topping up to two days in advance. Just be sure to keep it in the refrigerator in an air-tight container. ❖

Chicken and Corn Chowder

Miss Shirley's Café

Yields 6 to 8 servings

Ingredients

1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breast, baked and shredded
 ½ cup bacon, diced
 3 celery stalks, diced
 1 small white onion, diced
 1 red pepper, diced
 1 tsp. chopped garlic
 1 large sweet potato, peeled and diced, then blanched
 1 cup roasted corn
 4 green onions, chopped
 1 T. fresh parsley, chopped
 1 pt. heavy cream
 1 pt. whole milk
 1 qt. chicken stock
 1 bay leaf



Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Café

Dash of Tabasco

Salt and pepper to taste

4 oz. unsalted butter

¼ cup flour

Melt butter in a small pan over medium heat. Using a wire whisk, slowly add in flour, stirring to remove lumps. Cook for 1 to 2 minutes over low heat, stirring constantly. The mixture should be the consistency of wet sand. Remove from heat.

Sauté bacon in a large stock pot over medium heat, stirring constantly until bacon begins to brown and get crispy. Add onions, celery, bay leaf, garlic and red peppers, and cook for 2 to 4 minutes until the vegetables begin to soften, stirring occasionally. Add cream, milk and stock, and bring to a boil. Lower heat to a simmer and, using a wire whisk, slowly add in the flour/butter mixture, stirring constantly to remove lumps. Add in sweet potatoes, corn, chicken meat, green onion and parsley. Stir well. Add Tabasco and season with salt and pepper to taste.

To serve later, remove from heat and let soup cool before refrigerating.

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



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Boys' Latin: Prepared for School

By Stephanie McLoughlin

As we entered the summer of 2020, the Boys' Latin School of Maryland began to prepare campus for the students to return in the fall. Not just for some students—for all students. While we knew that guidelines might require us to teach virtually or operate in a blended model, our goal was to be able to have our entire community back on campus, because, at our core, we are a community that thrives on being together.

Under the direction of Steve Dubin (1979), director of facilities, Bill Ryan, director of safety and security, and Wayne Cornish, facilities technical specialist, we began to ready our campus. Their hard work and that of their team made the result nothing short of miraculous.

We reduced density in classrooms and building spaces to ensure proper social distancing. Every classroom was measured, desks were rearranged and our small classes became even smaller. Non-traditional areas were turned into classroom spaces, and we added tents, modulars and other outdoor learning spaces to increase our flexibility.

Traffic patterns within our buildings have been reimagined and, throughout campus, signage reminds students to wash their hands and stay six feet apart. Student drop-off has become a



Lower School students enjoy safe outdoor play on the Boys' Latin campus.
Photo: Stef LaPenna

well-orchestrated ballet to safely bring students into buildings. All community members are required to wear masks and our enhanced cleaning protocols keep the community safe. An integrated two-camera system in every classroom allows for the live-streaming of classes so boys can engage in their lessons if they are unable to come to school. This offers families the option of an entirely virtual learning experience.

Our combined community efforts have made it possible to keep Boys' Latin connected. Our faculty have worked tirelessly since the pandemic began to provide students with unparalleled learning experiences—experiences that are meaningful, creative and purposeful. Our families have shared in our mutual responsibility and our students are learning to do what's difficult, and what's right

If the pandemic has taught us anything it is that the need to be flexible is paramount. For now, watching Lower School boys gleefully lunch on the hillside and an Upper School physics class launch rockets—witnessing our campus come alive with our Laker spirit—makes it all worth it. ❖

Boys' Latin School of Maryland (boyslatinmd.com) is an all-boys, university-preparatory school. Founded in 1844, it is the oldest independent, nonsectarian secondary school in Maryland.

STACK STONES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

hand, will more rapidly weather into nutrient-rich regolith—loose unconsolidated rock, dust and soil that sits on top of bedrock.

What's more, any vertical gaps between stones will be eligible for the catchment of debris. We hope that in the distant future this debris will include hybridized seedlings of the surrounding heat-tolerant sugar maple planting, allowing our stone samara to collect and germinate real samaras. In this light, Cylburn's assemblage of stones represents a window into geologic time and the hybridization of trees. It forces us to pay attention to the subtle changes that escape the perception of our far too rapid lifestyles.

But stones don't stack themselves on public property. There is a political narrative here as well. These stones tell the story of committee meetings, city government and philanthropic donation. The landscape's political narrative is that of commemoration. The feature itself was sponsored by and in tribute to one of Cylburn's biggest supporters, Jean Silber and the Silber family.

As stacked stones are put up and simultaneously toppled around the country, assembling stones should be subject to more equitable review and participation. Interpretation should be grounded in language and values that are shared among the

members of the community that will inherit the legacy of those stones. In our case, we chose to communicate in the language of the Cylburn landscape—that of trees, decay, nourishment and hybridization.

The impermanence of monuments is something we must come to understand as a culture. This is true of our natural and our constructed monuments. Planning for ephemerality lends itself to intermittent reinterpretation, impermanence and preoccupation with the future instead of the past. We hope all these qualities are present in the stone samara and the Cylburn landscape at large.

As a metaphorical seed, we hope that our little assemblage of stones will inspire curiosity among visitors. We hope to inspire the use and reuse of stone as a palimpsest, recording the constant iterative relationship between cultural and natural processes. And lastly, we hope to plant a seed of hope in our community—hope for the future of our city, her people and her trees.

Come have a climb on our stones and lounge in the shade of our trees.

Be Well, Do Good Work, and Go Outside

The article is submitted by Cylburn Arboretum Friends (cylburn.org), the non-profit organization that helps maintain the gardens and grounds at the Arboretum and offers nature education programs for all ages.

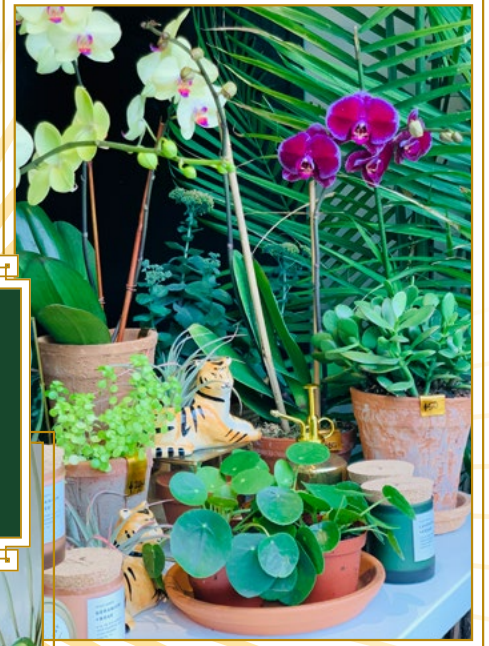
Holiday Gift Guide

The season of giving is upon us. We asked our wonderful local merchants to suggest some of their favorite ideas for holiday giving. Visit them to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list! Or call about private browsing, curbside pickup and delivery.

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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

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DAN MCINTYRE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

who mixed his own paint and he loved the eccentric wallpaper remover, Mr. Creech! Jeff Pratt at Schneider Paint & Hardware was his go-to source for affordable, off-the-grid talent. Some thought Dan was cheap, but that isn't quite right. Frugal is a better word. But the truth is, Dan was simply not a materialist, and Roland Park didn't push him to be otherwise. Along with the eccentricity and tradition of Roland Park, he really liked the understated nature of the people.

Dan wasn't one to sit at home. In the macro sense, he was a planner and a traveler, who often pored over travel books and maps. He thought Trip Advisor was for sissies. But when in Baltimore, he liked being out and about as well. He thought there was nothing better than discovering a new hole-in-the-wall restaurant in Remington or Hampden and trying it out. In fact, he loved taking us all there in his modified van. He really enjoyed driving his hands-on Odyssey and was good at it. The only part that would make Cynthia cringe was his failure to look over his shoulder before changing lanes. He knew this got on her nerves, so he developed a gratuitous head flip that simulated checking the next lane, but really only provided plausible deniability should she call him out.

Dan also loved wheeling around the neighborhood. He'd take himself to the Civic League meetings at the church and refuse to be picked up when returning in the dark was dangerous.

He'd push the limits of what he could do in the chair; one time he experimented with walking the dog, which didn't end well. He pitched out of his chair or fell in the house numerous times over the years—sometimes really injuring himself. But he didn't complain. He moved through the world on his own terms and took the bad with the good.

This past year was especially difficult, following his diagnosis with brain cancer and living his final months in a pandemic. But there was a silver lining. He was able to spend much of that time with his children—Liam, Cecily and Peter—who were not tied to desks in far-off cities. Dan's mother gave Cynthia hundreds of letters he had written home from college during his years at Lafayette. He had corresponded with his parents by mail every week! As Dan's body began to fail and he was losing consciousness, the family would read him the letters, bringing back distant memories and triggering a twitch of recognition or a nostalgic smile.

So, the RPCF Board will someday reconvene somewhere other than what is now known as "The McIntyre House". And it will start off feeling the same as it did in pre-COVID days. We will sort through the nutritionally correct fruit plates and cheese boards while deciding whether to snag the comfy armchair or unselfishly choose to spend the next three hours on the renitent bench with no backing. And then, as we begin to confer, it will feel different. There will be silence at a point when Dan would have asked an incisive rhetorical question, gently letting us know we were veering off course. We will have to solicit a volunteer to ask the question, "What would Dan have said?" ❖

Area Dining Options

Some restaurants and grocery stores offer gift certificates or gift cards, which make terrific presents for friends and family members! Buying them also helps to support a local business that may have been hard hit by the pandemic. You can even buy them for your favorite essential worker! While some offer gift certificate/card sales online, some do not. When in doubt, please stop by or call the restaurant. Remember, now more than ever, it is important to shop locally.

Name	Location	Phone No.	Gift Cards	Website
Alonso's	415 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-235-3433	✓	alonsos.com
Ambassador Dining Room	3811 Canterbury Rd.	410-366-1484	✓	ambassadordining.com
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Corner Pantry	6080 Falls Rd.	667-308-2331	✓	corner-pantry.com
Eddie's of Roland Park	5113 Roland Ave.	410-323-3656	✓	eddiesofrolandpark.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
Namaste 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
Starbucks Coffee	1340 Smith Ave.	410-435-6530	✓	starbucks.com
Village Square Café	66 Village Square	410-433-2233	✓	villagesquarecafe.com
Whole Foods Market	1330 Smith Ave.	410-532-6700	✓	wholefoodsmarket.com

RPEMS Hits the Streets to Raise Money

By April Newton

You may have spotted a few extra exercisers in the neighborhood as Roland Park Elementary Middle School (RPEMS) hit the streets for EXERCISE FOR EQUITY, the fall 2020 fundraising campaign organized by the Roland Park Annual Fund. More than 230 people participated in the virtual walk, run or wheelchair ride all over the neighborhood to raise money throughout October and into November.

The fundraiser was entirely virtual, with participants logging their miles each day on a website created by Mike Gosse, with design from Damian Mathews. The group “traveled” nearly 3,000 miles as of November 6th.

As planning began for the fundraiser, the country was in the grip of the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting deep differences in health outcomes for Black and brown people. People across the country were taking to the streets to protest continued racial injustice. In recognition of these events and in



As of November 5th, Heather Moore and her son, RPEMS 8th grader, Matthew Moore, logged the most student miles in RPEMS' EXERCISE FOR EQUITY fundraiser. Photo: April Newton

support of the school's Black and brown families, participants in EXERCISE FOR EQUITY were encouraged to “visit” an array of Black history sites in Baltimore, the state and across the country on an online map as they logged their miles. Some Baltimore highlights included Druid Hill Park, where participants could learn about the effort to desegregate the tennis courts, the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum, and the Eubie Blake National Jazz and Cultural Center.

The Annual Fund is a parent-led fundraising group for RPEMS that supports a number of early literacy, STEM, tutoring and learning programs for the school. The yearly fall fundraiser

is at the core of an effort to fill in the gaps in the school's budget. This year's goal was \$50,000, which will allow the Annual Fund to purchase computers for families and supports for teachers while everyone is distance-learning. The money will also make sure tutoring is available to Middle School students in particular, who arrive at RPEMS from a variety of learning backgrounds.

As of November 6th, participants raised over \$42,000. The total

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



Girls Who Code Comes to Friends School of Baltimore

Girls Who Code is a national organization dedicated to “building the largest pipeline of future female engineers.” According to the organization’s website (girlswhocode.com), 37 percent of computer scientists were women in 1995. Today, it is down to 24 percent. The website also notes that only 19 percent of students who receive a degree in computing identify as female and only 2 percent identify as women of color. It is precisely these types of inequitable outcomes that inspired one Friends School of Baltimore teacher to dedicate her teaching career to create more equitable STEM experiences,

Claire Cunliffe says she was inspired to become a math teacher, “after taking an honors Algebra II course in high school where [her] teacher only called on the male-identified students.”



Imani White (2018) speaking at the February 2020 STEAM Expo for rising 9th grade women. Photo courtesy of Friends School

Cunliffe ended up dropping out of her other rigorous STEM classes and didn’t reconnect with her passion for math again until college. At Friends School, she is instructing all levels of learners in the Upper School, which she says has been an amazing experience.

Friends School’s Girls Who Code chapter is led by faculty advisors Gab Sussman, Tracy Thompson and Cat Noppenberger, along with Cunliffe. The club, which has 19 students from all three divisions (Lower, Middle and Upper schools), is currently working on a Java chat bot project and an animation game. Members are also hoping to participate in the Creatica Hackathon with some of Upper School teacher Heather Romney’s students. According to its website, Creative (creatica.io) “is New York City’s first virtual hackathon for women and non-binary individuals in high school and college from around the world.” Participants do not need to be from New York City.

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

RPEMS HITS THE STREETS

was partially achieved by generous donations from Pepe’s Pizza on Falls Road, Clark Burger on York Road, Chipotle on 41st Street and The Verandah Kitchen on 36th Street, each of which shared a portion of their sales on RPEMS fundraiser nights. Sponsors for EXERCISE FOR EQUITY include the Roland Park Civic League, Spine and Sports Rehab, The Herber Home Team of Berkshire Hathaway Homesale Realty, The Verandah Kitchen, Namaste Baltimore, Alonso’s, Pepe’s Pizza, Clark Burger, Chipotle, Dr. Mokerrom Hossain, New Connections Counseling Center and Modern Signal. The family of Shepard and Finn Obriecht made a very generous \$10,000 donation.

The Annual Fund is grateful for the support of all the participants, donors and sponsors who made this year’s fundraiser a success, despite a variety of challenges. The community support from people who are no longer affiliated with the school, or maybe never were, has been remarkable. Donations are still welcome and can be made online at rpemsannualfund.networkforgood.com/projects/110991-exercise-for-equity-rpems-2020 or by contacting me at aprilspraynewton@gmail.com.

Roland Park Elementary Middle School (sites.google.com/bcps.k12.md.us/roland-park-233/home) empowers its diverse community to achieve success for the whole child through academic rigor, hands-on learning and the creative arts. The school community fosters an environment that prioritizes equity and positive relationships to promote social and emotional wellness to ensure all students have access to challenging academic content and skills.

 A photograph of two students, a boy and a girl, looking at a laptop screen. The background is a bright yellow and red gradient.

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The Book Nook

By Julie Johnson

I hope everyone has been able to take advantage of the enhanced services the Pratt Library has been offering since the summer, which include our Sidewalk Services, which allow you to pick up books, CDs, DVDs, prints, mobile hotspots and more at 14 locations throughout the city (visit prattlibrary.org/services/sidewalk-service for more information). Along with 13 other locations, the Roland Park Branch is now offering monthly Take & Make craft kits. Call 410-396-6059 to make an appointment to pick up a kit via Sidewalk Service. The kits come with all (or most) supplies and complete instructions.

We also offer Drive-In Wi-Fi at eight locations (prattlibrary.org/services/drive-in-wi-fi) and Community Wi-Fi via the Bookmobile at nine locations (prattlibrary.org/community-wi-fi).

Our wonderful virtual programming is available to all with an Internet connection. We offer an array of digital programming, both live and prerecorded. Check the events calendar for all the possibilities (calendar.prattlibrary.org).

In digital news, RBDigital is now the Pratt Library's portal to more than 2,000 magazine titles. Because the streaming media site offers services around the globe, you can choose an international photography title such as *Photo* (in French) or *Digital Camera World* (from the United Kingdom). The child in your life may

want to peruse *High Five Bilingüe* in Spanish and English. The choices are wide, and include automotive, health and fitness, cooking, entertainment, film, history, outdoors, motorcycles, science and nature, sports and travel magazines. Just use the filter to pick your genre.

If you already have the RBDigital app on your mobile device, laptop or desktop, simply log in to your account as before and you will see the magazine search screen displayed. If you need to create an account, please follow the link on the Pratt Library Books & More page (prattlibrary.org/books-and-more) to RBDigital.

All Pratt libraries will be closed on December 25th for Christmas Day, January 1st for New Year's Day, January 18th for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, and February 15th for Presidents 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 web page 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

Followers by Megan Angelo (also available in Overdrive/Libby in eBook and eAudio formats). Orla is a celebrity gossip blogger by day and at night she fantasizes about a life as a successful author. Her roommate, Floss, has her sights set on becoming an A-list celebrity. Both in a career slump, they scheme up a plan using social media to jump-start their careers. The tool driving their ambition ultimately becomes the catalyst for their downfall. The story also jumps ahead 35 years to the year 2051, after a catastrophic data spill hacks all technology for three days. Readers meet Marlow, a government-appointed celebrity who lives in a controlled village, Constellation, where her every move is monitored by followers and every decision made by executives at the network. Angelo masterfully intertwines the lives of Orla, Floss and Marlow while reflecting a painfully accurate picture of our current fame-driven, tech-obsessed society and its possible destruction. Her writing is crisp and the familiarity of the characters is refreshing. Angelo also weaves in a perspective on contemporary political decisions and the effect they could have on us all in the not-so-distant future. This is an intricate and brave story of friendship, ambition and love, and the lengths people will go to protect it all.



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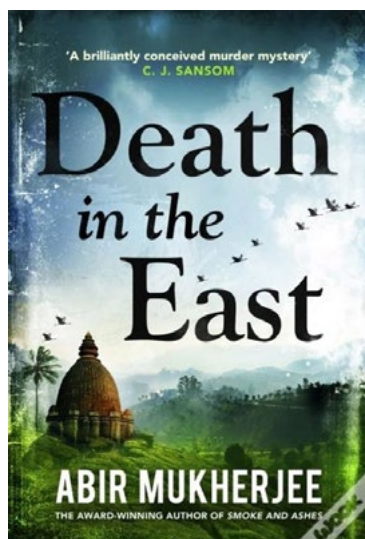
7081 Milford Industrial Rd., Pikesville, MD 21208

AATreeExperts.com

The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich (also available in Overdrive/Libby in eBook and eAudio formats). Patrice, 19, supports her family by laboring at the jewel bearing plant and splitting logs to heat their humble home on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota, and it is Patrice who journeys to Minneapolis to search for Vera, her missing older sister. Thomas is the plant's night watchman and the guiding conscience in this spellbinding, reverent and resplendent drama by the paramount storyteller of the northern plains. In her 16th novel, a work of distinct luminosity, Erdrich based soulful, disciplined and witty Thomas on her grandfather.

Accordingly, Thomas is a member of the Chippewa council, and deeply concerned about a 1953 bill pending in the U.S. Congress that threatens to terminate the legal status of their Chippewa band. As Patrice ventures into the horrific underworld she fears has claimed Vera, Thomas writes perfectly penned letters to federal officials, and marshals the community destitute but for their cherished land and culture for a trip to Washington, DC, to ensure their voices are heard. Each risky mission to confront insidious forces endangering Chippewa lives and heritage generates a stream of involving, concurrent stories of longing and love. Through the personalities and predicaments of her many charismatic characters, and through rapturous descriptions of winter landscapes and steaming meals, sustaining humor and spiritual visitations, Erdrich traces the indelible traumas of racism and sexual

violence, and celebrates the vitality and depth of Chippewa life.



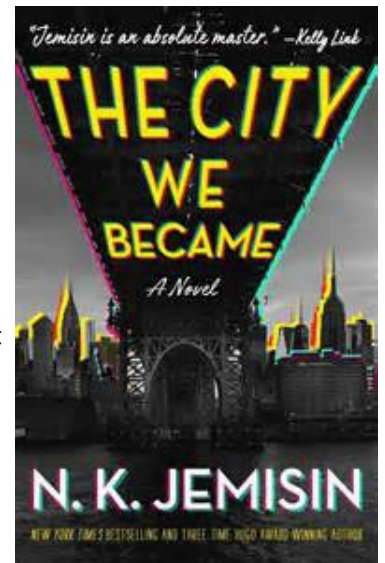
Death in the East by Abir Mukherjee (also available in Hoopla in eBook format). Edgar finalist Mukherjee's excellent fourth mystery featuring Capt. Sam Wyndham and Sgt. Surendranath "Surrender-not" Bannerjee of the Calcutta CID (after 2019's *Smoke and Ashes*) deepens the relationship between his two leads and adds detail to Wyndham's complicated past, all while toggling between two mysteries. In

1922, Wyndham goes to an ashram in Jatinga, Assam, where he hopes to be cured of his opium addiction, a struggle complicated by his belief that he's seen a dead man, someone who tried to kill him almost 20 years earlier. Flashbacks to 1905 Whitechapel gradually fill in that tantalizing backstory, as Wyndham, then a young police constable, investigates the murder of 20-year-old

Bessie Drummond, whom he once courted, after she's found in a locked room with her skull bashed in. The case of Bessie's murder and the mystery Wyndham encounters in Assam are both cleverly plotted, and they're matched by Mukherjee's growing assertiveness as the movement for his country's independence grows and of the almost palpable torment experienced by an addict desperate to get clean. The sky seems to be the limit for this extraordinarily talented author.

The City We Became by N.K.

Jemisin (also available in Overdrive/Libby in eBook and eAudio formats). The staggering contemporary fantasy that launches three-time Hugo Award-winner Jemisin's new trilogy (following the *Broken Earth* series) leads readers into the beating heart of New York City for a stunning tale of a world out of balance. After hundreds of years of gestation, New York City is awakening to sentience, but "postpartum complications" threaten to destroy it.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

ROLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Amy

she/her
Deacon
Attending since 2018



What keeps bringing you back to church?

The people are what keep bringing my family back to RPPC. My children love Sunday School and the congregation has become family to all of us. I have previously been part of a large congregation but prefer a place where everyone knows my name.

**Join Us Online for
Christmas Eve Worship 5 p.m.**

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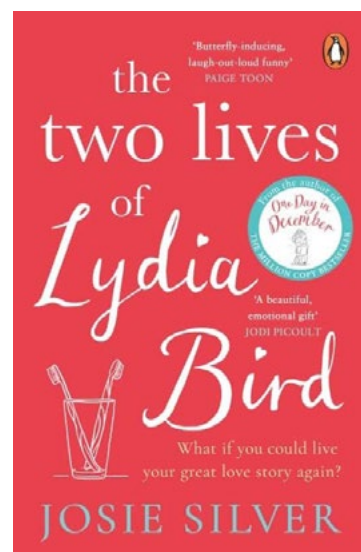
BOOK NOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

An alien, amorphous force, personified by the Woman in White, launches an attack on New York. Five people—one for each of the city's five boroughs—are called to become avatars dedicated to protecting the city. If they can combine their powers, they'll be able to awaken the avatar of the city as a whole and defeat the Woman in White, but first they'll have to find each other. While the Woman in White works to undermine them, the five avatars, whose personalities delightfully mirror the character of their respective boroughs (the Bronx is "creative with an attitude," Manhattan is "smart, charming, well-dressed, and cold enough to strangle you in an alley if we still had alleys"), learn the extent of their new powers. Jemisin's earthy, vibrant New York is mirrored in her dynamic, multicultural cast. Blending the concept of the multiverse with New York City arcana, this novel works as both a wry adventure and an incisive look at a changing city.

The Two Lives of Lydia Bird by Josie Silver (also available in Overdrive/Libby in eBook and eAudio formats). Lydia Bird's waking life is a nightmare. The love of her life, Freddie, has just been killed in a senseless car crash on her birthday. Without Freddie, she spends her days in misery, grief and despair. But at night she is transported by a new kind of sleeping pill into hyper realistic dreams, to a world where Freddie is still alive and she can be with him. Now she splits her time between her real life, where she takes tentative steps to deal with her grief, and the

dream life. But can you ever really heal when you spend half your time in a fantasy? As much a meditation on healing after loss as it is a gently developed love story (Lydia eventually comes to care for Jonah, Freddie's best friend), with excellent characters who all get a chance to experience growth, Silver's wonderful follow-up to *One Day in December* (2018) will be sure to appeal to existing fans and draw in new ones with its humor, heart and excellent prose.



Nonfiction

Three Tigers, One Mountain: A Journey through the Bitter History and Current Conflicts of China, Korea, and Japan by Michael Booth. Journalist Booth (*Super Sushi Ramen Express*) explores East Asian power dynamics in this entertaining yet glib account. While the region's three strongest democracies (South Korea, Taiwan and Japan) "ought to be the firmest of allies" aligned against China's superpower aspirations, according to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

The St. Paul's Schools

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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

Keeper of the Wild Words by Brooke Smith

Together We Grow by Susan Vaught

I Promise by LeBron James

Let's Talk About Race by Julius Lester

From Ed's to Ned's by Gideon Sterer

Sometimes People March by Tessa Allen

If You Come to Earth by Sophie Blackall

Facts vs. Opinions vs. Robots by Michael Rex

Outside In by Deborah Underwood

Be You by Peter Reynolds

Ages 6-9

Wondrous Rex by Patricia MacLachlan

Ways to Make Sunshine by Renée Watson

I Hate Reading by Beth Bacon

Itty Bitty Princess Kitty: The Newest Princess by Melody Mews

A Piglet Called Truffle by Helen Porter

Our Friend Hedgehog: The Story of Us by Lauren Castillo

Colossus of Roads by Christina Uss

A Time of Green Magic by Hilary McKay

Field Guide to Getting Lost by Joy McCullough

Stepping Stones by Lucy Knisley

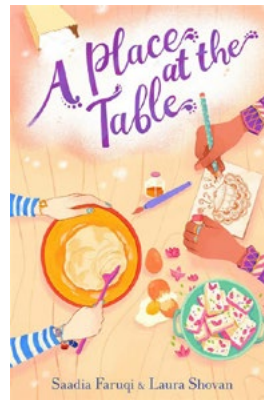
Ages 10-13

One Time by Sharon Creech

Allies by Alan Gratz

Here in the Real World by Sara Pennypacker

Chirp by Kate Messner



Spy School: Revolution by Stuart Gibbs

A Place at the Table by Saadia Faruqi and Laura Shovan

Anthem by Deborah Wiles

On the Horizon by Lois Lowry

The Way Back by Gavriel Savit

When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

Ages 14-18

Amazons, Abolitionists, and Activists: A Graphic History of Women's Fight for Their Rights by Mikki Kendall

Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang

I'm Not Dying With You Tonight by Kim Johnson and Gilly Segal

Kent State by Deborah Wiles

Again Again by E. Lockhart

Faith Takes Flight by Julie Murphy

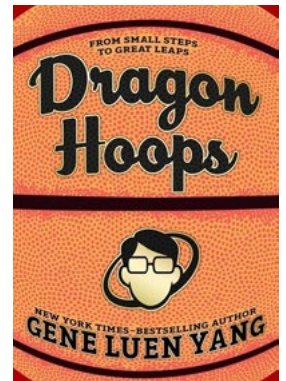
Yes No Maybe So by Becky Albertalli and Aisha Saeed

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

The Mall by Megan McCafferty

Admission by Julie Buxbaum

As The Ivy Bookshop's Children's Book Curator, Rona Sue London loves matching every youngster with his or her perfect read. The Ivy, now at 5928 Falls Road (theivybookshop.com), 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.



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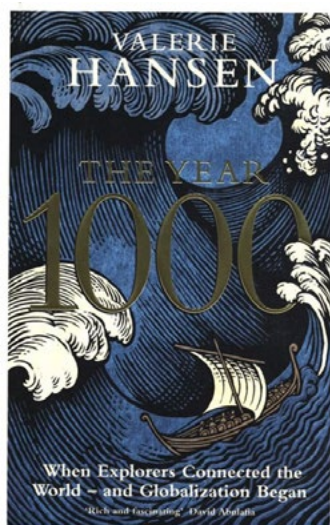
BOOK NOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

Booth, wars, colonialism and deep-seated ethnic distrust add up to a “noxious pan-regional family feud” that shows no sign of abating. He explains how the 1937 Rape of Nanjing, visits by conservative Japanese politicians to a Tokyo shrine that includes war criminals, and Korea’s postcolonial agonies contribute to regional discord; describes the opening of Japan to the West by 19th century U.S. naval captain Commodore Perry; and touches on lighter subjects such as Taiwan’s profound influence on fashion, design and food trends in mainland China. Though Booth does a credible job getting expert opinions—often from British expatriates

who’ve taught in the region for decades—his mix of witty travelogue and adept historical recaps doesn’t allow any single facet to be explored in great detail. Cheerfully digressive and intellectually undisciplined, this enthusiastic account will whet readers’ appetites for a more in-depth treatment of the political, cultural and historical forces at play in the region.

The Year 1000 : When Explorers Connected the World -- and Globalization Began by Valerie Hansen. The year 1000 CE marked the first chapter in the story of globalization, according to this vivid and edifying account by Yale University history professor Hansen (coauthor, *Voyages in World History*).

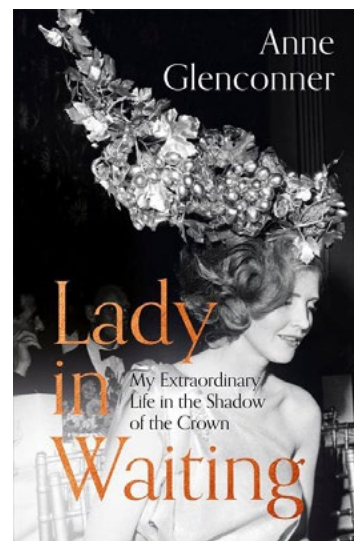


Contending that trade networks established during this period set the stage for Europe’s age of exploration five centuries later, Hansen highlights Viking voyages to North America, goods and information that traveled 2,000 miles between the Mayan city of Chichén Itzá and Chaco Canyon in present-day New Mexico, and the slave and fur trades that linked the Byzantine Empire to Scandinavia. Hansen also documents the spread of Islam to Africa and central Asia, China’s thirst for Middle Eastern aromatics, and the arrival of Malaysian sailors in Madagascar.

Noting that travelers who met each other in 1000 CE “were much closer technologically” than 16th century Europeans were to the indigenous peoples of the New World, Hansen suggests that the period offers a key lesson for today: “Those who remained open to the unfamiliar did much better than those who rejected anything new.” She displays a remarkable lightness of touch while stuffing the book full of fascinating details, and

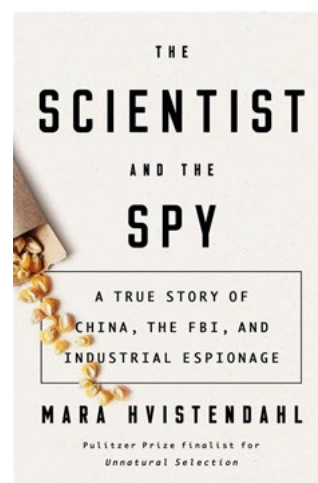
easily toggles between the big picture and local affairs. This astonishingly comprehensive account casts world history in a brilliant new light.

Lady in Waiting: My Extraordinary Life in the Shadow of the Crown by Anne Glenconner (also available in Overdrive/Libby in eBook and eAudio formats). Inspired to share her stories by visits from Helena Bonham Carter and Nancy Carroll in preparation for their roles in the third season of Netflix’s *The Crown*, Glenconner weaves a captivating narrative that hooks readers from the start. From her early childhood in Norfolk to being Maid of Honor at Queen Elizabeth’s coronation to her position as Lady in Waiting to Princess Margaret and beyond, Lady Glenconner provides an open and honest look into the private lives of England’s royal family and the most elite members of society. The author’s sense of humor shines through in her writing, bringing levity to some of the difficult times that peppered her life. While her lifelong friendship with Princess Margaret allows readers to see a different side of the royal family, some of the most fascinating stories involve the author’s husband, Lord Glenconner.



The Scientist & The Spy: A True Story of China, the FBI, and Industrial Espionage by Mara Hvistendahl. Not since Alfred

Hitchcock’s *North by Northwest* has a cornfield produced so much excitement. Science writer Hvistendahl writes about how the sighting of an Asian man wearing a suit and bending over corn in an Iowa farmer’s field led to a two-year, multifaceted FBI investigation into industrial espionage by China. This book centers on corn—its value to the U.S. and the world, the rivalry between Monsanto and DuPont to develop designer hybrid seeds, and the on-the-ground kidnapping of seeds by spies for the Chinese agronomic corporation DBG, whose goal was to develop and market their own seeds after stealing U.S. trade secrets. Hvistendahl makes industrial espionage both understandable and riveting, chiefly by focusing her narrative on two scientists (one Chinese, one American, both manipulated by DBG) who, wittingly and unwittingly, are forced into collecting seeds and information for DBG. This is a complex story, but it’s presented clearly and vividly, thanks to Hvistendahl’s background as a science journalist here and in China, her exquisite pacing, and her narrative skills. Unlike many current spy books, which focus on long-ago espionage, this one examines an investigation into the pressing, ongoing problem of industrial espionage. Hard to put down and harder to stop thinking about. ♦



Calendar Highlights

Houses of Worship	Phone	Website
Bolton Street Synagogue, 212 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-235-5354	boltonstreet.org
Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St.	410-464-4000	cathedralofmary.org
Cathedral of the Incarnation, 4 E. University Pkwy.	410-467-3750	incarnationbmore.org
Church of the Redeemer, 5603 N. Charles St.	410-435-7333	redeemberbaltimore.org
Congregation Beit Tikvah, 5802 Roland Ave	410-464-9402	beittikvah.org
First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-1506	rolandparkcc.org
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Baltimore, 102 W. University Parkway	410-467-7974	christiansciencebaltimore.org
The Gathering of Baltimore, 5802 Roland Ave.	410-252-7816	thegatheringbaltimore.org
Grace United Methodist Church, 5407 N. Charles St.	410-433-6650	graceunitedmethodist.org
Mt. Olivet Christian Church, 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-1506	rolandparkcc.org
North Baltimore Mennonite Church, 4615 Roland Ave.	410-467-8947	enbmc.org
Roland Park Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Ave.	410-889-2000	rolandparkchurch.org
St. Andrew's Christian Community, 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-9470	rolandparkcc.org
St. David's Church, 4700 Roland Ave.	410-467-0476	stdavidsrolandpark.com
Stony Run Friends, 5116 N. Charles St.	443-703-2590	stonyrunfriends.org

Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Cylburn's hours change seasonally. It is closed on Mondays and Federal holidays. The grounds and gardens are open Tuesday through

Sunday, 8 am to 5 pm. The Vollmer Visitor Center is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm. The mansion is open

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



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the first weekend of each month, 9 to 10 am, and by appointment. 410-396-0180, cylburn.org.

■ **Cylburn Arboretum Friends Holiday Sale.**

The annual holiday sale of amaryllis, wreaths and mixed greens, along with boxwood wreath-making kits and a tutorial, is being offered through the online marketplace (cylburnmarket.org). Items may be picked up Dec. 5th. Email cylburnfriends@cylburn.org with questions.

■ **First Thursday of the month, Cylburn Garden Club.** The newly formed club meets once a month and offers a virtual garden tour once or twice a month.

Eddie's of Roland Park, 5113 Roland Ave.
410-323-3656, eddiesofrolandpark.com/events.

■ **Dec. 10th, times vary, Hanukkah Storytime.** Free via Zoom. Registration required. Celebrate Hanukkah online with the Jewish Museum of Maryland and other community partners joining together nightly for a children's story, activity and candle lighting.

■ **Dec. 19th, 1 pm, Christmas Vibes Live!** Jazz up the holiday season with a 30-minute performance of songs from the new Warren Wolf (warrenwolfmusic.com) album, *Christmas Vibes* (a limited quantity of autographed CDs are available in Eddie's gift department). Free, socially-distant sidewalk musical performance outside on the Roland Park Library's second floor terrace, overlooking the public sidewalk. Spectators will be asked to observe mask guidelines and maintain social distancing. Attend virtually via Facebook Live at facebook.com/eddiesofrolandpark.

■ **Through Jan. 10th, Virtual Food Drive.** Demand for food assistance is growing quickly during this critical time and Eddie's is proud to support the Maryland Food Bank with a contribution of \$5 from every dinner box sold this holiday season. In addition, Eddie's invite you to support its Virtual Food Drive to help combat hunger in our community. Visit mdfoodbank.fenly.org/drive/eddiesofrolandpark to make an online contribution. The drive may be virtual, but your impact is real.

Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301 York Rd., Lutherville-Timonium. The museum is open 10 am-4 pm, with social distancing and mask use enforced. Family memberships are \$75 and give families free admission for a year, as well as discounts on birthday parties and in the gift shop. Memberships make a great holiday gift from grandparents, family and friends. Contact Amy at alandsman@firemuseummd.org for information. 410-321-7500, firemuseummd.org.

- Saturdays, 11:30 am (weather permitting), **Fire Engine Rides.** \$5 per person; free for kids under 2.
- Saturdays in December and Dec. 28th to 31st, **Holiday Train Garden.**

Please send calendar announcements to magazine@rolandpark.org.



Cylburn Arboretum's holiday sale will feature amaryllis, wreaths and mixed greens.
Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboretum Friends

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Pandemic Perambulations

By Claudia Diamond

You know you're getting older when the saying "the days are long, but the years are short" perfectly captures where you're at in your life. I have now lived in Roland Park for almost a quarter of a century, which sounds a lot longer than 25 years but, either way, I've been here for a while. When my husband and I first moved to Keswick Road, we were taking a chance on Baltimore, a city new to both of us. We settled on Roland Park because we wanted a walkable neighborhood. Recently married, sans kids, we bought a century-old American Foursquare home that needed lots of love (and money). One daughter eventually joined us. We moved in and met our neighbors, many of whom are still our neighbors. Sadly, some of them who were the age we are now have since passed on.



The tree at the corner of Wyndhurst and Blythewood is one of many delights encountered on a leisurely walk through the neighborhood. Photo: Claudia Diamond

The days were certainly long at times, but they also were accompanied with a need to be quick—really quick, like super-fast—to get everything done. So exercise took place before the sun was up. We ate breakfast standing while getting ready for school and work. Work was followed by errands, fun and not-so-fun parent and child activities, homework, more work, then bed. The to-do lists were long. The goals were many: careers had to be started and pursued; the child educated and nourished. And we did it in our walkable neighborhood. How wonderful to have an Eddie's for that last-minute grocery item, a coffee shop for a caffeine fix and work or volunteer meeting, and the bank and the post office for those necessary errands. We walked to the library, the toy store and the now-gone-but-very-much-missed Children's Bookstore. We grabbed supplies from Schneider's Paint & Hardware. We did walks along Stony Run and birthday parties at the pool. We crossed off the to-dos in record time.

Then, the pandemic struck. The daughter is now grown and gone. Perhaps most fortunate to not be considered essential, the husband and I work from home. The house has now been loved and not much left needs fixing. Venturing out beyond our and other nearby neighborhoods is rare these days.

So what to do? We walk. Every day. And despite living here for 25 years, we are discovering new neighborhood delights, and

oddities that amuse and make us curious. Our days of rushing around this wonderful neighborhood of walkable conveniences have been replaced by days of walking with no destination in mind. Just a few of our meanderings have led to exploring every Olmsted-inspired walking path and sneaking a peak in the windows of the empty house on Ridgewood that looks untouched since the 1930s, with its original unpainted woodwork. We gaze at the tree at the corner of Wyndhurst and Blythewood that has a beautiful canopy no matter what season. And, as we climb Indian Lane, the second steepest incline (Poplar Hill seems steeper!), we ponder our answer to the question on the big and colorful sign on a back gate asking what we have done today to dismantle racism. We admire the children's hand imprints in concrete and wonder where those youngsters are now. And we observe from afar the families walking by with their brand new children in strollers, silently urging them to slow down and enjoy their walks, as the years will be short even when the days are long. ❖



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