

# ROLAND PARK

Quarterly from the Roland Park Foundation • Volume Eighty • Spring 2021

*Transformational Gifts  
Fuel Community Impact*

**Spring Gift  
Guide**



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Cover Photo: Holly and John Hoey with their twins, Ella and Caroline, and dog, Buddy.  
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## Editor's Notes

Martha Marani

In January 20th, many were moved by the powerful words of the country's youngest person to recite a poem during a president's inauguration. At 22, Amanda Gorman is the first National Youth Poet Laureate, an honor she richly deserves. With her performance of "The Hill We Climb," she burst into the national spotlight, hailed by many for what former president Barack Obama called "a poem that more than met the moment" and what Lin-Manuel Miranda, whose "Hamilton" provided Gorman with inspiration, called "perfectly written, perfectly delivered."

Considering where we are in our nation, almost a year into a worldwide pandemic that has shuttered lives and shattered dreams, I find myself returning again and again to Gorman's words:

*Let the globe, if nothing else,  
say this is true,  
that even as we grieved, we grew,  
that even as we hurt, we hoped,  
that even as we tired, we tried,  
that we'll forever be tied together,  
victorious.*

Even in the face of grief, pain and exhaustion, the growing, hoping and trying of the past year is exemplified by the Hoey family, featured in the cover story. Holly, senior vice president and chief principal gifts officer with United Way of Central Maryland, and John, CEO of the Y in Central Maryland, have spent the last several months working hard to shore up support systems for Baltimore's most vulnerable residents. Long dedicated to making what Holly calls "meaningful, measurable and lasting change in people's

lives," the couple have tied themselves and their family to Baltimore, where they are determined to continue their efforts.

Celebrate the wonderful news that philanthropist MacKenzie Scott has made significant donations to each organization—surely a victory for all of Baltimore.

Other victories have been won over and over again throughout the city. Be inspired by our community organizations' stewardship of Greater Roland Park's common spaces, which has led to much-needed improvements to Centennial and Stony Run parks and the Roland Water Tower. Consider the strong case Kathy Hudson makes for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity we have to add a *new* park—one that would be open and accessible to all city

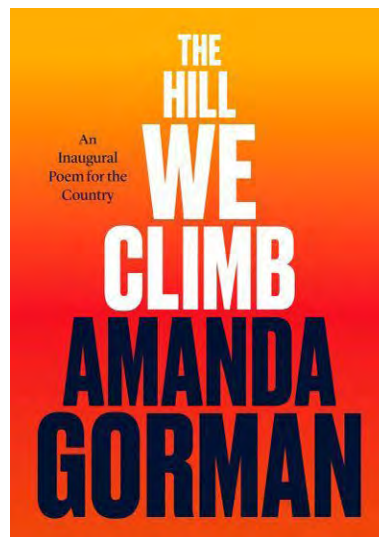
residents—on the 20 acres currently for sale by the Baltimore Country Club.

Another local example has been set by Miss Shirley's Cafe, which, in addition to continuing to provide delicious meals to customers, has raised thousands of dollars and provided hundreds of meals to First Responders at hospitals and local fire stations ([MissShirleys.com/DonateMeals](http://MissShirleys.com/DonateMeals)).

The pandemic has called on us all to be brave—to continue to grow, hope and try. As we head into the warmer months and away from our darkest times, please remember...

*...there is always light,  
if only we're brave enough to see it.  
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

Please continue to wear your mask, check in on your neighbors and be safe. Have a happy, healthy spring. ❖



A special edition of Amanda Gorman's inaugural poem will be published in April. Image courtesy of Penguin Random House

# Transformational Gifts Fuel Community Impact

By Lauren Eisele Walbert, Sandy Hillman Communications

In December, Baltimore received truly remarkable news: MacKenzie Scott, global philanthropist and the second wealthiest woman in the world—who had committed to giving away her fortune in a 2019 pledge—had chosen several local institutions to which she would bequeath millions. These included Morgan State University, Bowie State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland, the Y in Central Maryland and United Way of Central Maryland. The gifts were record-breaking for each of these organizations, meaning they could continue and expand their work exponentially—and they came with a confidentiality clause.

The organizations themselves were alerted earlier, some a full month before the official announcement from Scott herself, and organization leaders were sworn to secrecy—which led to Roland Park couple John and Holly Hoey keeping two big secrets under one roof.



John counsels a teen in the New Horizons II program. Photo courtesy of the Y

“I was stunned when I received that phone call,” says John. “It was 5:30 on a Friday night in late November, and a woman we later learned was part of the team that vetted hundreds of organizations across the country to be chosen for this tremendous giving effort told me MacKenzie Scott was going to give the Y \$18 million, unrestricted. The one requirement was that I not tell anyone until she was ready to talk about it. I had to sit on this huge secret for four or five weeks—and of course, my wife is a professional fundraiser.”

“I knew the day before it was announced to the public,” Holly adds. “When I saw the list on Scott’s Medium post, I immediately called John. It was a really special day. We were a very happy Hoey household.”

United Way of Central Maryland received \$20 million from Scott. Both the Y and United Way of Central Maryland continue to shift their efforts to help those who have suffered the most from the



John and the twins distribute food at an event at the Dancel Y in Ellicott City. Photo courtesy of the Hoey family

health and economic impacts of the pandemic. United Way of Central Maryland immediately established a COVID-19 Fund that has been used to provide meals to those without access or ability to pay for healthy food, eviction-prevention funding, devices to help bridge our region’s digital divide, stress relief kits, gifts and household supplies for the holidays, and more. The Y in Central Maryland has pivoted to distribute food, provide care for the children of first responders and create Academic Support Centers for students learning virtually, in addition to its other offerings. They’ve also converted all of their

Head Start sites, Community Schools and mentoring programs to a virtual environment, and instituted extensive health and safety protocols at all of their Ys and preschool sites.

“I made a career change to United Way because I wanted to be more fulfilled and have a stronger sense of purpose,” explains Holly. “It makes me so proud and humbled when I see that people recognized the critical work of United Way and chose to support it. It’s what keeps me going after 21 years. I love my job. I get up every day with a philanthropic purpose: helping our supporters to fulfill their desire to make meaningful, measurable and lasting change in people’s lives.”

Scott’s gifts will be transformational for the Baltimore institutions she chose, and for our region. For United Way of Central Maryland and the Y in Central Maryland, they can expand their work on a larger scale. That means both expediting newly developed programs, and broadening existing initiatives to reach even more people.

“We’ve been hit hard by COVID at the Y,” John says. “We received no Federal assistance at all. That call back in November was a huge relief. It means that we can keep going, that we can continue providing a safe place for kids to continue to learn, a place for people to continue their focus on health. The Y is all about building community and ensuring a sense of well-being for people. That’s more important now than ever before.”

“Our residents are in such dire need right now—this is truly a gift for the community,” Holly adds. “This extraordinary investment in Greater Baltimore will directly impact people in need—whether it’s education, employment, health or housing. We are so very grateful that she [Scott] entrusted us to be the stewards of these gifts.”



Holly and daughter Caroline volunteer for a United Way Stone Soup event. Photo courtesy of the Hoey family

# TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Holly and John are both Baltimore transplants—she from the Silver Spring area and he from New York—but they have made Baltimore their home for the last several decades and share a love for the community here. That love and commitment to community is something they work hard to share with their children, twins Ella and Caroline (11), and John's son Liam (24), who attends college in Philadelphia.

"We want to instill a sense of philanthropy and the importance of giving back in our kids," Holly says. "We do everything from making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for those in need through our church, Second Presbyterian, to getting involved in food drives for the Calvert School, which our girls attend."

Holly likes to bring her daughters to United Way of Central Maryland volunteer events like the organization's Stone Soup—a day of making ready-for-the-oven, healthy casseroles for patrons of Our Daily Bread—or encourage them to offer 211 Maryland United Way Helpline information cards to people who may be struggling in life. The Helpline provides free, confidential, 24/7 assistance with health and human services needs.

"When there's opportunity for our family to experience life beyond our usual social spheres and volunteer to help others, we jump," Holly adds. "Being in the role that I am at United Way, I see every day that we are blessed to have so many generous,

compassionate people in our region. I am always blown away by how deeply people here care about their neighbors and their neighborhoods. Like any large city, Baltimore has its issues—but the people don't give up. And that's what makes it such a special place."

"I've lived in many different places during my private sector career before I joined the Y," John says. "And I've traveled a lot for work. Baltimore has a real sense of place. It's a big little town—it's where I want to come home to. And the two of us—we're committed to helping this community reach its full potential."

John and Holly Hoey have been Roland Park residents for about 14 years. They, along with their daughters Ella and Caroline, son Liam and labradoodle Buddy, are helping to make Greater Baltimore better every day. ♦



John and Holly work hard to share their commitment to giving back with twins Ella and Caroline, and John's son Liam. Photo courtesy of the Hoey family

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# Hudson's Corner: An Opportunity to Share Open Space

By Kathy Hudson

Open space has been key to Roland Park since its inception in 1891. Since the arrival of the COVID-19 virus in March 2020, we Roland Parkers have renewed appreciation for the open space at home and in the community. Invaluable has been the ease of having an invigorating change of scenery, from home to outdoor green space. Wide, tree-lined streets, lanes, a network of footpaths, Stony Run and many school campuses (open on weekends and holidays) have brought relief and a continued sense of community. We are fortunate in these private and shared spaces.

With the sale of the lower 20 acres at the Baltimore Country Club, we have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve open space and create more space to share with other city residents. By purchasing the land through the Roland Park Community Foundation, the Jones Falls watershed, the environment and Baltimore residents would all benefit. A win-win-win. A greener Baltimore is a healthier Baltimore.

Creating a park would benefit surrounding neighborhoods and the city at large. (See plans on [rolandpark.org](http://rolandpark.org) and in the winter issue of the *Roland Park News*). Think Sherwood Gardens without formal beds and tulips but with winding paths, benches, a green amphitheater, playing fields, pickleball and tennis courts, and a playground near the existing parking lot. Neighbors of all ages could enjoy the space as could residents of other neighborhoods. The green calm that already exists on this rolling hillside would be accessible and enhance city life.

At the time that Frederick Law Olmsted designed Central Park in 1858, the concept of public parks was relatively new. Many parks, like Gramercy in New York, were private, gated and locked. Central Park quickly became emblematic of American democracy.

Olmsted's sons continued his work. In 1897, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., became involved in Roland Park, first in Plat 2, where the Baltimore Country Club now sits, then for decades, in helping the Roland Park Company turn a large portion of North Baltimore into a unified district. Green space was key. Like his father, he believed in the beneficial effect of nature on human beings, a principle that resonates today. Houses were required to have large lots and deep setbacks from the street. This kept residents in touch with nature and afforded privacy within a residential community.

In addition to large parcels of open space on University Parkway, both sides of Falls Road to Edgevale Road and Stony Run, Olmsted included small green islands at various road intersections. His pocket park remains between Edgevale and Englewood Roads. Merryman and Roland courts have common greens.

The Municipal Art Society commissioned the Olmsted firm to create a plan for Baltimore's growth. Its 1904 report stressed the benefits of parks for urban populations and the need to create a more extensive park system. Amid global warming and urban sprawl, that need is more acute today.

In the current Trust for Public Land National ParkScore ([tpl.org/city/baltimore-maryland](http://tpl.org/city/baltimore-maryland)), Baltimore ranks 58th in the nation. Its map shows that most of Roland Park west of Roland Avenue is



*This beautiful stretch of Baltimore Country Club could become a park for all to enjoy. Photo: Anne Stuzin*

in moderate need of a park within a 10-minute walk. Neighboring Medfield is in very high need of a park within a 10-minute walk.

Creating a private park for public usage would give Roland Park a chance to do something for Baltimore City. It would also give Roland Park an opportunity to move away from the racial

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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# Civic League Updates

By Bob Connors, Civic League President

The pandemic that has ravaged our nation rolls on. But there is finally some hope that we will get to a sense of normalcy later this year. A new administration is bringing a renewed focus on scientifically sound medical advice and the expertise to accelerate the delivery of vaccines. Continue to hang in there. Things will be so much better in the coming months. And a brief reminder that if you need help, the Roland Park Pandemic Response Network is still available to you. Your plat representative is the best place to start; their contact information is available at [rolandpark.org](http://rolandpark.org).

Despite the inability to hold in-person meetings, your Civic League is still hard at work representing the community on many fronts. The Board voted to support the Roland Park Elementary/Middle School's "Exercise for Equity", their virtual running festival fundraiser to raise money to get computers, WiFi access and tutoring to students to support them during this difficult year of distance learning. The Board also voted to support a team this spring, as we have done for many years, in the Roland Park Baseball League. Join us for virtual meetings on the first Wednesday of every month. Zoom details are posted on our website and social media accounts.



The Civic League supported Roland Park Elementary/Middle School's EXERCISE FOR EQUITY fundraiser last fall. Photo: April Newton



Several committees of the Civic League, under the guidance of some truly stellar and dedicated committee chairs, have met via Zoom to ensure this pandemic year of social distancing is still fruitful for our city. For example, Martha Holleman chairs The Greater Roland Park Master Plan committee. She has organized leaders from all the surrounding communities to review the Master Plan they drew up together in 2009, and look for opportunities to revise and refine. Devon Dodson, chair of your Transportation Committee, has participated in several meetings over the past few months about the Northern Parkway/Falls Road project. Working together with surrounding communities such as Sabina Mattfeldt and Mt. Washington, Devon has collaborated on feedback to the Department of Transportation and our elected officials to make sure they understand the needs and desires of Baltimore City residents to make this corridor work better and improve the safety for all who walk, cycle, drive and use public transit to keep this city running.

Although we could not do our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, we were still able to collaborate with Eddie's of Roland Park and have residents contribute to the Maryland Food Bank this holiday season. We remain in communication with the Langston Hughes Center in Park Heights, our partner the last few years, and were assured that they also work with the Maryland Food Bank, so our contributions could stay within our district. We fully expect to get back to normal for next year, so we can again service up Thanksgiving deliciousness in person!

We do not know yet whether our plans for a new spring event or our usual summer events will be possible. But even if we cannot gather in person, there are many ways we can still come together as a community. Reach out to your neighbors. Even a simple hello from a distance with a mask can go a long way toward bringing a smile to someone's day...you can see it in the eyes. And take care of yourselves. Bundle up and take walks around this beautiful neighborhood with your family or friends. A bit of nature always soothes the soul. Take some pictures and be sure to tag us on our brand new Instagram account @[rolandparkcommunity!](https://www.instagram.com/rolandparkcommunity/)

I wish you all a safe spring season and look forward to celebrating with you in person very soon! ❖



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# Community Foundation Updates

By Mary Page Michel, Roland Park Community Foundation Chair

## A Community Park on the Old Baltimore Country Club Land

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to purchase land from the Baltimore Country Club this year to create a community park is capturing the imagination of many. A committee was formed years ago to prepare a bid for the purchase of the land, and has been quietly reaching out to some donors and possible partners. The park would be designed in the style of the Olmsted firm that planned the surrounding area (read Hudson's Corner for details about the plans).

Parks are the most democratic spaces and have never been more important in the past year as a place for mental and physical wellbeing. While the park system in the rest of the state of Maryland is constantly adding park space, Baltimore City struggles to maintain its existing parks. The addition of 20 acres of green space available to the public would be a welcome and much-needed addition to both Greater Roland Park as well as to the rest of the city.

The Board will soon be reaching out to raise the much-needed funds to make our park dream come true. Please look for more information to come in the next few weeks!

## The Roland Water Tower

The Roland Water Tower project is a fabulous symbol of hope for the future of our community, our neighboring communities and the city. When you look at the tower, do you think of a utilitarian infrastructure? Really, all that the tower did was to function as a place to hold water. However, in the late 1800s in Baltimore City, the water department embraced a style of architecture called the City Beautiful movement. The core philosophy of this style is for cities to embrace beauty even in the most functional of structures. City Beautiful was very popular around the turn of the century and it lives on in this beautiful structure—a gift from a former time. There are many famous monuments of this style around the country and we have our own, right here in North Baltimore.

The work on the stabilization of the Roland Water Tower continues. Repairs began in October and are on track to be completed in June. The RPCF is the lead on this project and meets biweekly with Lewis Contractors to get updates. A representative from the Baltimore City Department of General Services attends each meeting as a representative of the department that owns the building. Funding has come from the state through Bond Bills, Baltimore City through a grant, and through foundations and individuals. In 2020, the RPCF was awarded three grants totaling \$138,500 from the France-Merrick Foundation, the Middendorf Foundation and the Baltimore City Historic Preservation Fund. The RPCF will be writing many



*A park on what is now country club land would be designed in the Olmsted style.*  
Photo: Anne Stuzin

*Roland Water Tower repairs are underway.*  
Photo: Mary Page Michel



more proposals in 2021 as there is more money to be raised, especially for the new pocket park that is being planned at the base of the tower. ❖

To make a secure donation to any of the RPCF's projects, please visit [rolandpark.org/organizationscommittees/roland-park-community-foundation](http://rolandpark.org/organizationscommittees/roland-park-community-foundation).

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# Enjoying Centennial Park

By Kate Culotta, Roland Park Civic League Landscape Committee

**T**he Landscape Committee hopes that residents will find time this spring to get out and walk the neighborhood, to fully enjoy its natural beauty, paths, walkways and pocket parks.

Last fall, we turned our attention to Centennial Park—the green space between the traffic lanes of University Parkway that begins just east of Roland Avenue, near the restored trolley stop. At that point, Centennial Park is high and broad, with grassy sides that fall to a narrow valley that runs much of the park's length. There is a natural spring in this narrow valley. The green space tapers to a narrow pocket park by the Roland Park sign, near the Johns Hopkins University's Homewood Campus.

Much of the valley is wet and marshy, particularly following heavy rains that raise the water table level. The Landscape Committee has received many inquiries over the years, asking us to eliminate or "solve" what is perceived as a problem with the marshy nature of parts of the park, but the springs are a natural feature that have long been part of the park. Recently, climate change—stronger and more extreme storms and overall rising water levels—may have expanded the marshy areas, but Centennial Park is still a neighborhood gem worth exploring.

Originally designed by the Olmsted firm when Roland Park was created, the park was replanted in the 1980s. Today, many of its mature trees are on the decline, including some of the largest



*Recently, the marshy areas at Centennial Park have expanded due to climate change.*  
Photos: Kate Culotta

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shade trees that may be from the original Olmsted design. What were enormous American lindens and oaks are now brittle with age and thinning from lost limbs. Other trees have been added over the years, though in some cases the plantings were not in line with the Olmsted design.

Last October, the original plans were pulled from the files to see what could be done to improve the park's tree inventory with what is available through the City's TreeBaltimore Program and the committee's own tree coordinator. As a result, several large shade trees, including black gum, swamp white oak and red maple, were planted, filling in empty spots as indicated by the plans.

Flowering ornamental trees were also planted. Featured in the park's original design, the flowering trees, which do not live as long as large shade trees, have long since died and hadn't been replaced. Nine white flowering serviceberries were planted along the edge of the marshy area. These trees love damp conditions and will help mitigate the boggiessness of this area, as will the two swamp white oaks planted near where Keswick Road crosses University Parkway. White fringe trees and Carolina silverbells were planted along the yellow brick path that transects the park.

The serviceberries are early bloomers, so look for white blooms in April. The white fringes and Carolina silverbells will bloom in late April to early May. All three flowering species offer more than just spring beauty. Spring flowers provide nectar for bees, butterflies and other pollinators, and the trees serve as hosts

for various moths and butterflies. Their fruit is eaten by a variety of wildlife. The Carolina silverbell has the added advantage of living for close to 100 years, which is rare among flowering ornamental trees.

The Landscape Committee will continue with tree and shrub plantings in the late spring. We will add more flowering trees and also native shrubs. Large shade trees will also be added as an assessment of tree health in the fall revealed that many of the existing trees are nearing the end of their natural life. We continue to plan for a future that maintains this park as a green and leafy oasis.

Stay well and healthy. For more information on planting plans at Centennial Park, email the Landscape Committee at [landscape@rolandpark.org](mailto:landscape@rolandpark.org) or [krculotta@msn.com](mailto:krculotta@msn.com). ❖



*The park was originally designed by the Olmsted firm.*



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National Arbor Day is always celebrated on the last Friday in April, but many states observe Arbor Day on different dates throughout the year based on best tree planting times. Maryland Arbor Day is celebrated on the first Wednesday in April. Consult the “Tree Wizard” created by the Arbor Day Foundation ([arborday.org](http://arborday.org)) to find the best tree to plant.

# Greater Roland Park Home Sales

(November 2020 – January 2021)

	LIST PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
504 Somerset Rd.	\$ 1,359,500	\$ 1,359,500
4820 Keswick Rd.	\$ 650,000	\$ 650,000
205 Woodlawn Rd.	\$ 759,000	\$ 742,000
311 Somerset Rd.	\$ 1,125,000	\$ 1,100,000
564 W University Pkwy.	\$ 469,000	\$ 455,000
4307 Wickford Rd.	\$ 459,000	\$ 459,000
104 Ridgewood Rd.	\$ 929,500	\$ 860,000
16 Midvale Rd.	\$ 1,045,000	\$ 970,000
5203 Falls Rd #2	\$ 159,900	\$ 147,000

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# Notes from the Garden: Malice toward Pruning Malus

By the Cylburn Arboretum Friends Head Gardener

## “The Apple Tree” By Wendell Berry

*In the essential prose  
of things, the apple tree  
stands up, emphatic  
among the accidents  
of the afternoon, solvent,  
not to be denied.  
The grass has been cut  
down, carefully  
to leave the orange  
poppies still in bloom;  
the tree stands up  
in the odor of the grass  
drying. The forked  
trunk and branches are  
also a kind of necessary  
prose—shingled with leaves,  
pigment and song  
imposed on the blunt  
lineaments of fact, a foliage  
of small birds among them.  
The tree lifts itself up  
in the garden, the  
clutter of its green  
leaves halving the light,  
stating the unalterable  
congruity and form  
of its casual growth;  
the crimson finches appear  
and disappear, singing  
among the design.*

**W**e heard the crows again today—a growing murder noisily drawn to the southwest edge of our little wood. They flew indifferently above our work, far too distracted to register a gardener’s presence. Although January now, it was just months earlier when I saw the crows, maybe even these crows, gorging on Cylburn’s crabapple display. In full fruit, this allée draws all kinds of animals—people included. Avian and human visitors fight for occupancy during daylight hours while the deer dine privately each evening. Ironically, it’s the tiny bees and wasps going after grounded summer fruits that elicit the most terror in the human spectators. As the trees dropped their leaves, we appreciated the yellows, oranges and many shades of red



Pruning Cylburn’s crabapple trees is careful work. Photos: Heather Rosenthal

associated with the ripening crabapples. Now, with winter upon us, a gardener’s attention turned to pruning and the desire to straighten out a season or, in this case, many seasons of contorted, gnarly growth.

## Pruning Step One

*Pruning is a seasonal treat that gives the ground-weary gardener a chance to look skyward. The meditative chore has spawned cultural practices around the world that range from bonsai and Niwaki, to coppice, topiary and espalier traditions. It warrants precision, expertise and attentiveness. Step one is to gather the correct supplies and use common sense. These fundamentals, though simple tenets, can be harder to follow than anticipated. Prune with sharp bypass shears, never anvil style pruners. Sharpen your tools annually. With the proper tools in hand, learn the role each plays in removing a branch. Use any of the tools to take the weight off of branches prior to making final cuts. Use a pruning saw to make cuts that are larger than your thumb; do not strain using two hands and a pair of pruning shears. Loppers are fine for taking the weight off of branches, but never to make clean final cuts. If you can’t reach something with ease, use a ladder.*

Gnarly is an understatement. One of these aptly named trees tore a new hole in my overalls today. A crabapple is no longer defined as such if the fruit is consistently larger than two inches in diameter. Rather than its disappointing fruit size, the “crab” antecedent can be attributed to this tree’s habit of producing broadly arching stems loaded with spiny growths evolved from older fruiting spurs. With a team of patient pruners, we descended on this scraggly lot just as the winter sun was beginning to warm the snow-flurried air. Armed with pruning saws, bypass shears and an orchard ladder, we were ready to tame as directed by our commanding officer, the Baltimore City Chief Horticulturist. Cylburn’s crabs were lovingly planted far too near a maintenance access-way. This context will inform today’s pruning. Rambling growth in conflict with truck access, warranted to maintain other trees downslope, must be artfully sacrificed for the greater good. So we approached each of the nine different *Malus* cultivars with fresh eyes.

## Pruning Step Two

*When approaching an arboretum specimen for pruning, first consider the growth habits associated with the particular genus, species and cultivar. In the case of our crabapples, one can expect arching and twisted branches, a preternatural occurrence of epicormic growths and an overall shape consistent with what the guidebooks refer to as “rounded form.” Forms can vary, including “upright” and “weeping;” therefore, use a pruning guide as a tool for understanding the blueprint for each species. George E. Brown’s The Pruning of Trees, Shrubs and Conifers is the guide I was taught to use. Begin by pruning away dead, diseased and dying growth. Next move on to rubbing and crossing branches. Remember to constantly step away from the work to re-evaluate your progress. Pruning away these portions of a tree will promote increased air flow, greater light penetration and better resistance to the many problems acquired by the family Rosaceae. Having determined what’s to be removed, make good cuts. Aside from the correct equipment, anyone pruning should accurately locate the branch collar and make a cut perpendicular to the growth of the stem. The branch collar is the slight ridge of bark between the branch and proximal stem. This area contains the cells necessary to cover the wound made from your cut. Do not make flush cuts. A cut perpendicular to the growth of the stem will ensure the smallest diameter wound possible. Do not forget, woody plants don’t “heal” wounds, as any carpenter knows from knots in wood. Trees cover their wounds.*

Managing so far without personal wounds, I thought again of the crows overhead. Were they clasping their pearls at the site of me ravaging the stems destined to produce next year’s feast? After

all, *Malus* does share an etymology with malice, both meaning “apple” and “evil.” This ominous thought prompted me to check my watch and call for a lunch break among the crew. So far, each taking ownership of one specimen, we have removed the most obvious pruning fodder. I’m told that increased circulation of air and light along with a decreased opportunity for rubbing wounds will prevent the invasion of many blights, diseases and fungal issues that beset our friends, the crabapples. Some of the most common issues include fire blight, apple scab, cedar-apple rust and powdery mildew. Despite their vulnerabilities, some crabapples fare better than others. The crabapple I have been working on is known as ‘Centurion.’ Surely it stands up to mere scabs, scales and rusts. After lunch, we delve into the more challenging pruning decisions.



## Pruning Step Three

*Pruning requires decision-making that will not be as clear as the removal of dead wood. Any two branches in conflict must be selected from. Some present a more promising future for the plant while others may eventually conflict with neighboring branches. The subjectivity in each decision results in no two gardeners pruning the exact same way. Each cut is an impression of aesthetic intent. Season after season, the dialogue between gardener and tree is slowly realized. This is a great illustration of Mac Griswold’s idea that “gardening is the slowest of the performing arts.”*

Just as the dialogue here between narrative and objective instruction has become less objective, pruning also blurs with each season of experience. While tomes of pruning advice espouse the treecare perspectives of air circulation, light penetration and the necessity of dead removal, similar voices once called for the application of poultices and use of brick and mortar as everyday elements of treecare. My point is that pruning is a practice subject to rationalization by a culture of gardeners and industry professionals alike. Is pruning a necessary step implicit in the process of cultivating trees altered from their natural evolutions and wild context? Does the cost of wounding a tree or removing its hard-won growth result in a boon in health and life expectancy? In terms of evolutionary adaptation, cooperative competition and sheer longevity, who knows how best to grow, the Head Gardener or the tree? The more I prune, the harder it is to stake a claim to any one rationalization for spending my day tangled and torn among the branches of a crabapple. When our crabapples begin to flower this May and fruit begins to shine toward the end of summer, I will have forgotten about these questions and the whole process will begin again, birds and all.

Be Well, Do Good Work, and Go Outside ❖

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

# Foreman Wolf Debuts Cinghiale's Italian Pop-Up Market

By Sheila King

With the 2021 spring season approaching, the Foreman Wolf restaurant group has a lot to look forward to. Warmer weather will bring more comfortable outdoor dining and hopefully more indoor dining capacity as well. Foreman Wolf



*Petit Louis Bistro is currently open for limited-capacity indoor dining.*  
Photos courtesy of Foreman Wolf

*The Cinghiale Pop-up Market offers a selection of handmade pastas, fresh bread, wine and more.*

## Fresh English Pea Soup

Chef Cindy Wolf, Foreman Wolf

Serves 4.

### Ingredients

- 1/4 cup shallots, small dice
- 1/4 cup Spanish onions, small dice
- 4 oz. butter
- 2 cups shelled English peas
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 4 cups chicken stock
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

In a stainless steel heavy bottomed pot, melt the butter, then turn the heat up to high and add the onion and shallot. Sauté until tender but no color.

Add the chicken stock and simmer for 30 minutes.



Photo courtesy of Petit Louis Bistro

While the soup is boiling, add the peas and keep on high heat for 1 minute. Then take the pot off the stove and add the cream, salt and pepper. Immediately purée in a blender until smooth.

Strain through a *chinoise* (a fine-mesh conical sieve) and cool in an ice bath if not serving immediately. You do this to preserve the color of the peas.

Garnish with *crème fraîche*. ❖

restaurants have been the leaders in safe dining protocols during the pandemic and every month has provided its own challenges. Recently, Petit Louis Bistro and Johnny's both debuted easy online ordering through their websites along with delivery within a five-mile radius. Both restaurants continue to serve the community seven days a week.

After the wild success of the Sunday markets at Johnny's, co-owner Tony Foreman decided to continue to offer Roland Park the delicious prepared foods of Cinghiale. The Cinghiale Pop-up Market opened inside of Johnny's, and showcases handmade pastas, pantry items, prepared foods, wine, cheese, freshly baked breads, charcuterie and more. The lineup is an extended menu of the go-to favorites picked up at the Sunday markets in the fall. Filled pastas, pints of sauce and some of the best Italian wines in town are all conveniently ready for quick pick-up Tuesdays through Sundays from 11 am to 6 pm.



*The renovated and retooled Milton Inn is expected to open late this spring.*

Finally, Foreman and chef Cindy Wolf have partnered with longtime colleague, chef Chris Scanga, Executive Chef of Petit Louis, to become the new owners of The Milton Inn in Sparks. Housed in an 18th century mansion, The Milton Inn has been a jewel of the Baltimore County dining scene for more than 70 years. Chasing a more comfortable, less formal style, the re-opening of The Milton Inn is expected for late spring 2021 with interior updates by designer Katie Destefano and a beautiful menu, thanks to the partners.

The need to support our local restaurants is greater than ever before. We all should be so lucky to see our favorites still standing and serving our communities after such a tumultuous year. ❖

**PETIT LOUIS BISTRO**

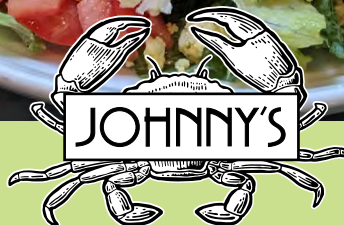
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# Friends School's Kara Carlin Named Athletic Director of the Year

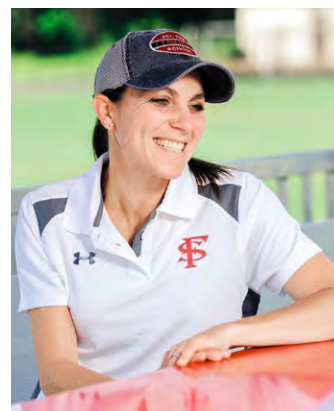
**F**riends School of Baltimore Athletic Director Kara Carlin has been named Athletic Director of the Year for District 10 by the Maryland State Athletic Directors Association. This is the third time Carlin has been honored with this distinction. She is frequently recognized by students, coaches and colleagues for her devotion to her craft, leadership on and off the field, and helping to infuse Quaker values into Friends School's robust athletic program.

"This is a well-deserved honor for Kara Carlin," says Friends School Head Matt Micciche. "Like a top-notch athlete, she brings effort, focus and determination to every aspect of her work as an Athletic Director. As a consummate team player, Kara has shown the ability to bring together and work collaboratively with her fellow ADs, who appreciate her many valuable contributions to both the [Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland] and the [Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association]. We're proud of her accomplishments here at Friends and in the wider world of Maryland athletics."

Carlin came to Friends School in 2017 by way of St. Timothy's School, where she served as athletic director and coached field hockey and lacrosse. She is an inducted member of US Lacrosse Greater Baltimore's Hall of Fame and has served as the head coach of the Israel Lacrosse Association's Women's National Team.

Since her arrival at Friends School, Carlin has been a driving force in shaping and expanding the school's athletic program. Under her tenure, the school has won 10 championships, seen a steady increase in athletic participation, and had 39 student athletes commit, sign and play a wide range of sports at D1, D2 and D3 colleges and universities.

Photo courtesy of Friends School



Despite the harsh limitations imposed on the sports world by a global pandemic, Carlin and her colleagues have come up with a number of creative ways to deliver physical education instruction and support student athletes. For example, in the spring of 2020, Carlin designed and ran a widely popular virtual college signing event and virtual sports ceremony.

In the near future, Carlin is looking forward to cheering on both of her daughters—Friends School senior Bryce, who will be playing field hockey at St. Mary's College of Maryland, and sophomore Quinn, who plays on the school's field hockey team as a starting goalie. ❖

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

## HUDSON'S CORNER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

divide that has characterized our city and this neighborhood for decades. As is true at Cylburn Arboretum, city residents would mingle easily. Open-air concerts and performances would offer possibilities for shared cultures. ArtWalk, which had its debut in Roland Park last fall, could expand. Playing fields could be used by neighboring schools. Biology and ecology classes could study the trees and wildlife on the property.

Five hundred trees would remain to filter city air, lower temperatures, and serve as habitat to many species of birds and beneficial insects. If Baltimore City is to achieve its goal of a 40 percent canopy, the 500 trees on these 20 acres should not be cut down and replaced with 50 new houses.

If the Roland Park Community Foundation is successful in its effort to purchase the 20 acres, the green, tree-filled space will remain. Land that was first community open space, and later home to one of the first 100 golf clubs in America and the fifth U.S. Open Championship (tennis), would again be used by many, including those whose ancestors were prohibited from living in Roland Park.

The community purchase of these 20 acres is a no-brainer. It can only be done through the generosity of today's homeowners. We Roland Parkers have a unique opportunity to preserve open space and to share that space with others. ❖



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# A Strong Foundation for Confident Leaders at Garrison Forest

Helping girls and young women find their voices has always been a mission that drives Garrison Forest School's educational philosophy. In the past year, preparing students to lead in a challenging and ever-changing world has taken on a new urgency; now, more than ever, the world needs the voices and leadership of women who are contributing to important conversations in every aspect of the world.

The foundation to create that change starts right on the 110-acre Garrison Forest campus, with a curricular and co-curricular program that is designed to build confidence, sharpen public speaking and communications skills, and provide leadership opportunities at every stage. Starting in the lower school, Garrison Forest students are encouraged to explore their voices, try new things, and learn to grow from mistakes or missteps.



*Building confidence in public speaking starts in the Garrison Forest lower school. Photo courtesy of Garrison Forest*

"We recognize that strong leaders emerge at all stages of life and possess a mosaic of important behavioral and character traits, skills and competencies," says Gail Hutton, head of the lower school. "We embed effective communication skills, collaborative work with others, creative problem solving and ways to make a difference in our daily work."

As students reach the middle school, they build on these experiences, and continue honing their skills through a comprehensive program that challenges them to think critically and engage with the world around them. The program focuses on building confidence and helping students continue to find and refine their voices while embracing joyful learning. By the 8th grade, students will have conducted in-depth research

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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# Bryn Mawr Builds Partnerships

**D**ozens of Bryn Mawr students are taking part in new academic opportunities offered through school partners, including the University of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Junior Clara Gong is one of 11 Bryn Mawr students enrolled in the first-ever quantum computing course in the nation. Quantum computing uses principles of physics to create computers that can solve more complex problems faster than current computers. Sponsored by IBM in partnership with MIT and The Coding School, the intensive online course introduces students to the emerging field of study.

Gong says it's exciting to be in the inaugural cohort of 7,500 students nationwide that could potentially make an impact on the field of quantum computing.

"My favorite part about the class has been learning about how quantum computing could be applied to the real world in the future. While it is still in the early stages of development, so far it seems like there are many areas where it could be useful like in medicine, cryptography, machine learning," Gong explains. "It has helped to widen my scope of what I would like to potentially do in the future."

Budding student entrepreneurs also have the opportunity to launch new ventures through the Social Innovators program, which guides students in launching ventures of their own that create value and have a positive impact on society. Now in its third year of partnering with Bryn Mawr, nearly 40 students

have participated and earned a Certificate in Social Entrepreneurship from the University of Pennsylvania.

Sophomore Elise Purcell is considering how to launch a free program to teach swimming to Baltimore City children. She was inspired to take Social Innovators class because, "Making a difference for someone else has always been a goal of mine. This program is incredibly important to learn how to be efficient, smart, and successful," she says.

The Social Innovators course has taught Purcell topics ranging from her personal inventory of skills and interests to how to self-start and advocate for the things she is passionate about. Looking ahead, Elise says "I am not sure if I will be an entrepreneur, but the skills I have learned in this class will help me in any class or profession in the future." ❖

The Bryn Mawr School ([brynmawrschool.org](http://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.



*Clara Gong is enrolled in the first-ever quantum computing course in the nation.*  
Photo courtesy of Bryn Mawr

## Caprese Avocado Toast

Miss Shirley's Cafe

Serves 4

### Ingredients

- 4 slices multigrain bread
- 2 ripe avocados
- ½ cup red grape tomatoes, cut in half
- ½ cup yellow grape tomatoes, cut in half
- 1 cup fresh mozzarella, diced small
- ¼ cup fresh basil, rough chop
- 2 T. olive oil
- 1 T. Everything But the Bagel Spice Mix (available at Trader Joe's)
- 2 T. balsamic glaze (see below)
- 2 cups balsamic vinegar
- ½ cup brown sugar



Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Cafe

### Balsamic Glaze

In a small pot over medium-high heat, place balsamic vinegar and brown sugar. Stir together and bring to a simmer. Simmer for 8 to 10 minutes to reduce by half. Be careful not to burn (lower temperature if necessary) and stir occasionally. Balsamic should thicken and just barely coat the back of a spoon. Remove from heat and let cool to room temperature. Note: glaze does not need to be refrigerated.

Peel and scoop avocado into a small bowl, gently mashing avocado and seasoning with

salt to taste. Toast the bread and spread each slice with an equal amount of avocado mash. Top the mash with an equal number of tomato halves and diced mozzarella. Sprinkle each with fresh chopped basil and drizzle with olive oil and balsamic glaze. Sprinkle with Everything But the Bagel Spice Mix

Serve and enjoy! ❖

# Boys' Latin: Keeping Students Connected

By Megan Kenney

While COVID has thrown us many curveballs and has taught us to pivot more times than we like, it has also allowed us to incorporate new practices into our classrooms and our community. For some it has been a time of closeness and togetherness, while for others it has brought isolation and disconnectedness. As school counselors, we have tried to weather this storm, supporting our students and keeping them connected.

The pandemic has created challenges for our students like never before, and we know that now, more than ever, our boys need to be seen and heard. We are committed to working with them as they continue to balance their academic, social and emotional needs.

In the lower school, our counselor creates a calming environment during her Laker Lessons, teaching coping skills through relaxation techniques. Students end the week with an activity on gratitude, which benefits both their mental and physical health.

Developmentally, our middle school boys need the most social stimulation, so we have given them more intentional time with their advisory groups. We have created Zoom rooms so students can interact across grade levels, no longer possible in person due

to designated cohorts. Clubs remain a priority, allowing the boys to pursue their interests and interact with one another outside the classroom.

Upper school also relies heavily on the advisory and club programs to create a strong sense of community and connectedness.

Students begin each day with a morning advisory check-in. In designing our cohorts, we have allowed the upperclassmen to remain together, enriching their brotherhood and continuing relationship-building.

Counselors will continue to keep the mental health and wellness of all students at the forefront, working hard to meet the needs of each and every boy. ❖

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



Megan Kenney is director of counselling at Boys' Latin. Photo courtesy of Boys' Latin

## GARRISON FOREST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

on topics of their design, learned how to design a persuasive presentation—and delivered it in front of their peers and faculty—and had multiple opportunities to lead in and out of the classroom.

In the Garrison Forest upper school, leadership opportunities abound. From student-led clubs that host schoolwide fundraisers to Jenkins Fellows who complete an immersive internship and then present their experiences, upper school students have the support and resources to fully explore their interests. In the classroom, through clubs or on the field, court or stage, students embrace the power they have through using their voices, finding their passions and emerging as leaders.

"Meeting the needs of girls where they are has been the core of Garrison Forest School, and we have the amazing reward of seeing the benefits unfold as students move through the middle school, the upper school and beyond," says Hutton. "Because we tell our girls, 'we believe in you, we have confidence in your talents and abilities, and we will support your efforts and your potential'—they soar." ❖

Garrison Forest School in Owings Mills is a day and boarding school educating girls in grades K-12, with a coed preschool. Daily transportation is offered to the Roland Park area.



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# Spring Gift Guide

We asked our wonderful local merchants to suggest some of their favorite ideas for spring giving—birthdays, anniversaries, Passover, Easter and Mother's Day. Visit them to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list! Or call about private browsing, curbside pickup and delivery. ❖

*House plants, orchids, succulents and air plants, and soy candles from Slow North.*  
Photos courtesy of Crimson & Clover

## Crimson & Clover Floral Design

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*National Park soy candles by Good & Well Supply and plant-dyed bandanas*



*Printed tea towels and tote bags by Claudia Pearson, and Camp Craft cocktail mix*

*Eddie's all-inclusive, chef-prepared Passover-in-a-Box*  
Photos courtesy of Eddie's of Roland Park



## Eddie's of Roland Park

5113 Roland Ave.  
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*Michel Design Works lavender collection*  
Photo: Sophia Belitsos

*Jellycat Bashful Bunnies and spring-themed Jelly Belly Easter Carrot Bags*  
Photo: Sophia Belitsos



Colorful mosaic bird beeder  
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Curated art boxes and kits for kids  
Photos courtesy of Tiny Easel



# SPRING GIFT GUIDE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

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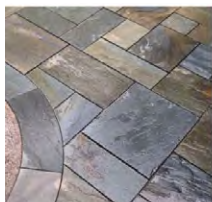
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# Park School *Journal* Receives Scholastic Magazine Award

Congratulations to the *Park Journal*, Park's upper school academic journal, on receiving 1st place in the Scholastic Magazine Awards by the American Scholastic Press Association for the spring 2020 issue! The *Journal*, which is published twice a year, is a collection of student work consisting of essays, history papers, drawings, paintings, science projects, independent study reports, solutions to math problems and more. Pieces are nominated by faculty members and, with the student's permission, submitted to a rotating editorial board made up of students and teachers for consideration. The staff members that oversaw the issue were seniors Parrish André, Eva Elbert and Lilah Lichtman.

Inspired by the work of his students, upper school history teacher Daniel Jacoby started the *Journal* in 2014.



Cover art by Park senior Parrish André. Image courtesy of Park School

"To me, one of the most wonderful things about Park—and one of the most important—is the work that students produce in class," says Jacoby. "But students usually only see their own work, and teachers only see the work they assign; much of it is not visible. I don't know what students have created in English, art, math or science, and the *Journal* provides an audience for a tiny fraction of that work to everybody. It's exciting to get a glimpse of what students are doing in other subjects."

The editorial board, comprising four students and three faculty members, reads through all submissions (which are anonymous to the board), and meets for an afternoon to deliberate. The group discusses and carefully considers each piece, and decides which should be included or not. ♦

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# Soak Up that Rain!

By Devra Kitterman

As a horticulturist, beekeeper and environmentalist, I am always seeking practical ways to improve my own knowledge on how to be a better steward of our planet. For the past few years, I have periodically volunteered for and been greatly influenced by one particular 82-year-old gentleman, Paul J. Solomon, of New Freedom, PA, who has spent his life in pursuit of protecting the environment. Solomon recently retired as a Shrewsbury Township Supervisor in York County, and is a private forest landowner, Pennsylvania Forest Steward and Master Watershed Steward Volunteer. He worked for the Baltimore County Office of Planning for 25 years as Head of the Environmental Planning Section. He has restored seven farm properties with an emphasis on proper utilization of land and forests. He believes the water that falls on his land to be both his responsibility and his opportunity. He has installed diversion swales on his current hillside farm, along with multiple catch-ponds, and, most recently, a rain garden to ensure that no erosion ever occurs or affects the stream that crosses the bottom of his property. He describes this little spring-fed stream as a tributary of Little Falls, which is, in turn, a major tributary to the Gunpowder Falls, a major water supply source for metropolitan Baltimore. He has personally financed and installed permanent plantings of hundreds of trees for cover that is specifically beneficial to pollinators and birds and he continues to mount his tractor to plant rotations, some permanent, of forage crops specifically for their benefit. He is an environmental hero.

Because of Solomon's influence, I want to pass along my appreciation for the historic and curvaceous stone and brick curbs and gutters that have survived throughout parts of our verdant community. Most residents of Roland Park have likely noticed these lovely, functional pervious structures, the historic design of which turns out to have been prescient, relative to current environmental concerns.

**Pervious surfaces**—also referred to as porous or permeable surfaces—which can be constructed of brick, stone, pavers, wood decks and other materials, allow stormwater and snowmelt to seep into the soil, recharging soil moisture content for our trees and plantings, and help filter pollutants (e.g., oil from streets) from groundwater and stormwater that would otherwise wash into our waterways.

Environmentally, it is considered optimal to keep as much rain on your property as possible, especially with the increasing



*Pervious gutters allow stormwater to seep into the soil. Photo: Devra Kitterman*

potential for drought that inevitably comes with the vagaries of climate change. Consider installing pervious surfaces when planning future upgrades to driveways, sidewalks, patios and pool areas, for example. Consider diverting roof water to rain barrels, rain gardens, cisterns or retention pits, planting areas or trees.

**Impervious surfaces** (e.g., concrete curbs and gutters, road pavement and parking lots), let stormwater rush, chute-like, along gutters and into storm drains, often overwhelming drains and pipes, and the sanitary sewer lines that flow directly into our streams, rivers and estuaries, taking pollutants, sediment, nutrients and chemicals from treated lawns along with it.

Recently, more municipalities, faced with devastating floods and other effects of climate change, are taking a renewed interest in renovating older infrastructure with new pervious surfaces, the use of which reduces standing water on streets and the need for sewer upgrades by reducing the amount of stormwater entering sanitary sewer lines.

As all Baltimore residents

know, The Jones Falls is regularly overwhelmed during heavy rainstorms with raw sewage overflows, which end up in the Inner Harbor and our precious and increasingly endangered Chesapeake Bay.

I am hopeful that we will be able to work with the City to resist further efforts to replace our functionally lovely, pervious brick and stone gutters with any further concrete curb and gutter installations, and to possibly work together to obtain more pervious surfaces when replacing sidewalks and other non-roadway infrastructure.

Concerns for our storm drains remind me to ask all neighbors to please remove the leaves from the street in front of or along the sides of homes (for those on a corner lot). Leaf matter becomes pulverized by traffic and, during rain storms, flows into our storm drains, causing serious blockages. This is one of those civic duties incumbent upon being a homeowner. Thanks to all! ♦

If readers are interested in an article or two by Paul Solomon, including *Stormwater—What's a Property Owner to Do?*, please contact me at [devra.kitterman@gmail.com](mailto:devra.kitterman@gmail.com).

# Asparagus & Tomato Pesto Pasta

Eddie's of Roland Park

Bright, tender asparagus marries sunny, springlike qualities with traditional Italian ingredients in this vibrant, flavorful dish.

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 10 minutes

Serves: 4

## Ingredients

12 oz. farfalle, cavatappi or fusilli pasta

1 lb. fresh asparagus, trimmed, cut in 1-inch pieces

1 pint grape tomatoes

2 T. olive oil

Coarse kosher salt, to taste

Fresh ground pepper, to taste

6 oz. basil pesto

1/3 c. fresh grated Parmesan

1/3 c. kalamata olives, pitted



Photo courtesy of Eddie's of Roland Park

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

Cook pasta according to directions on the box. While pasta is cooking, prepare the asparagus and tomatoes as described above.

Place trimmed asparagus on a sheet pan. Toss with 1 T. olive oil and spread in a single layer on the pan. Season with salt and pepper. Repeat, using the grape tomatoes on another sheet pan. Roast the asparagus and tomatoes for 10 minutes, or until the asparagus is tender and vibrant green, and until the tomatoes start to brown and begin to split. Remove from oven and set aside until pasta is done.

When pasta is cooked, drain and toss with pesto, asparagus, tomatoes and olives. Top with Parmesan.

## To Serve

This dish may be served hot or at room temperature. ❖

Eddie's Recipe Tip: Find the freshest basil pesto in our cheese case—or jarred varieties in our pasta aisle. Add a fresh squeeze of lemon over top when enjoying at room temp.

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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](http://prattlibrary.org/services/sidewalk-service) for more information). We also offer Drive-In Wi-Fi at eight locations ([prattlibrary.org/services/drive-in-wi-fi](http://prattlibrary.org/services/drive-in-wi-fi)) and Community Wi-Fi via the Bookmobile at nine locations ([prattlibrary.org/community-wi-fi](http://prattlibrary.org/community-wi-fi)).

**Mobile Hotspots.** Need access to the internet at home (or better access)? Mobile hotspots are now available to borrow from the Pratt Library, allowing you to connect up to 15 devices to free Wi-Fi. The hotspots can be picked up and returned at any of the Pratt Library Sidewalk Service locations. You are limited to one hotspot per account. You must be 13 or older to borrow these devices.

**Tablets for Students.** Tablets provide access to apps and also function as hotspots with which you can connect up to three devices to free Wi-Fi. Students ages 10 through 19 may borrow one device per account. Like the mobile hotspots, they can be picked up at any of our Sidewalk Service locations.

Instructions are provided with each device. Need help? Download a user manual PDF ([files.customersaas.com/files/dBWOL-pqIV9BtrfHBiVn3n3d.pdf](http://files.customersaas.com/files/dBWOL-pqIV9BtrfHBiVn3n3d.pdf)), or read more about enabling a hotspot and clearing browsing history at [t-mobile.com/support/devices/android/alcatel-joy-tab](http://t-mobile.com/support/devices/android/alcatel-joy-tab).

All devices have three-week loan periods, but can be renewed up to three times as long as there are no holds. Users need to make a Sidewalk Service appointment to return a device to any Pratt Library branch. Data is turned off on overdue devices. Once returned, fees are removed for overdue devices. The cost to replace a lost mobile hotspot is \$103 for the LINKZONE 2 model and \$97 for the T9 model, and the cost to replace a lost tablet is \$100. Fees to repair or replace damaged devices and missing parts are charged accordingly. Missing or damaged USB cables and adapters cost \$8 each.

The library is not responsible for data uploaded or downloaded to the tablets. All data will be cleared from the tablet upon return.

All Pratt libraries will be closed on April 2nd for Good Friday and May 31st for Memorial Day.

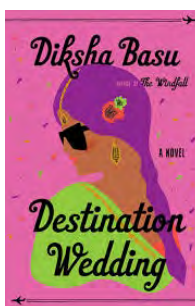
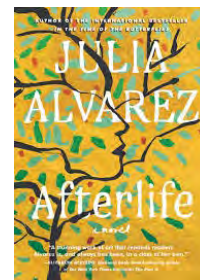
I always update the first voice message recorded on the branch phone (410-396-6099) when there are changes to our public service schedule. Changes are also posted, usually as a banner, on the Pratt webpage at [prattlibrary.org](http://prattlibrary.org).

Our branch email is [rln@prattlibrary.org](mailto: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](http://prattlibrary.org)). Where noted, titles are also available on OverDrive ([overdrive.com](http://overdrive.com)) and HooplaDigital ([hoopladigital.com](http://hoopladigital.com)), free services offered by libraries and schools that let you borrow eBooks and audiobooks.

## Fiction

*Afterlife* by Julia Alvarez (also available as a book on CD, in Hoopla as an eBook, and in Overdrive/Libby as both an eBook and an eAudio). Dominican American author Alvarez's many fans will be thrilled to see her return to adult fiction long after *Saving the World* to present a novel that can be read as an exploration of how the sisters in *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent* might have turned out. Here Alvarez creates four Vega sisters—older women wrestling with the challenges of age. The main focus is on Antonia, a retired college professor and novelist who is finding it hard to face life after her husband's sudden death. In the tranquil Vermont college town in which she lives, Antonia's grieving process is upended when she finds Estela, a pregnant, undocumented teenager, hiding in her garage, a situation that invites comparison to her own more benign immigration experience. On top of that, older sister Izzy goes missing, and her two other sisters impose on Antonia to help with the search. The sisters' dynamic relationships brim with a funny but genuine Latina exuberance, flowing from deep-rooted love. As she grapples with the urge to turn her back on the needs of others and hunker down in her grief, Antonia's inner voice is engaging, troubled and, ultimately, hopeful. A charming novel of immigration, loss and love.



*Destination Wedding* by Diksha Basu. Tina Das is an Indian American who doesn't feel either Indian or American. Like many first generation Americans before her, Tina straddles a line of two different cultures that neither accept nor deny her. Traveling to Delhi for her cousin's wedding, Tina is hoping to become more in tune with her Indian side. But if she can't even cross a busy Delhi road without freaking out, how Indian can she be? Along for the ride to the wedding are Tina's divorced parents,

her mom's boyfriend and Tina's best friend, Marianne. The wedding is the main event for the visit, but each character has their own agenda as well: Mr. Das is meeting an online date for the first time; Marianne is trying to escape the comfort that is her fiancé. And, amidst the wedding festivities, Tina wonders if she'll find romance—but with musician Sid or jet-setting Rocco? *Destination Wedding* is a fun contemporary novel with characters that charm and writing that snaps.

*Above the Bay of Angels* by Rhys Bowen. Prepare to savor this engaging new novel from the Agatha, Anthony and Macavity Award-winning Bowen (*The Tuscan Child*). In 1896 London, Isabella Waverly, trapped in servitude despite her aristocratic background, witnesses Helen Barton's accidental death and acquires a letter promising a job interview at Buckingham Palace. Assuming Helen's identity and securing the position of undercook in Queen Victoria's kitchens, Bella unwittingly exposes herself to a life of subterfuge and blackmail. As her cooking skills improve, bringing her to the notice of the queen herself, Bella loves her newfound independence. Asked to join the royal household in Nice, Bella grabs her chance for betterment, unaware that blackmail and death will dog her steps. When a royal sickens and dies after eating her cooking, Bella



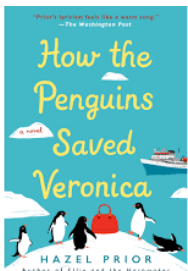


becomes a suspect in a murder investigation. Will she find the killer or die on the gallows?

*The Death of Vivek Oji* by Akwaeke Emezi (also available in large print and in Overdrive/Libby as both an eBook and an eAudio). For Kavita, an immigrant from India, assimilation into Nigerian culture promises acceptance and companionship. With the Nigerwives—

fellow transplants married to Nigerians—she practices recipes and accedes to social norms, accepting husband Chika's plan to "toughen up" sensitive son Vivek with military school. Afterward, Kavita deflects concerns about Vivek's abrupt return from university, detachment, weight loss, late-night wanderings and flagrantly unusual hairstyle. On the day political unrest instigates rioters to burn the marketplace, Kavita discovers Vivek's body, stripped of clothing, wrapped in smoke-tinged fabric and left on her veranda. While Kavita relentlessly probes the mystery of Vivek's death, Vivek's cousin and childhood friends, with whom Vivek sought refuge from the identity he could not assimilate, harbor answers about his life. Artfully structured with multiple viewpoints and flashbacks, Emezi's (*Freshwater*) heartrending, redemptive story garners outstanding narration by Yetide Badaki and Chukwudi Iwujii, who convey a vivid sense of place and add dimension to even minor characters. Both narrators express emotions compellingly—depths of grief and remorse, quieter moments of devastating epiphany, and the nuanced sparring and sharing among Vivek and his contemporaries, whose revelations allow Vivek to finally be seen and heard.

*Lake Life* by David James Poissant. In Poissant's masterfully crafted first novel, the bonds that hold together a dysfunctional family unravel over the course of a single weekend. Even before a tragic boating accident upends the annual Starling vacation, Richard and Lisa, career academics on the verge of retirement, announce their decision to sell the family lake house against the wishes of their sons, Michael and Thad, who wrestle with demons of their own. Michael, a not-so-stealthy alcoholic, and his wife, Diane, struggle to make ends meet and must confront the pressing question of whether to have children. Thad, a fledgling poet, and his wildly successful boyfriend, Jake, debate the future of their open relationship. Over a tense three days, dark secrets bubble to the surface and threaten to explode the family dynamics. Simultaneously heartbreaking and hilarious, the novel's brisk pace and perfectly executed moments make for a stunning, unforgettable story. As in his first short story collection, *The Heaven of Animals*, Poissant's compassion for his characters generates empathy for even their most disastrous actions. A totally engrossing story of the long shadows cast by troubled relationships and the glimmer of hope that dawns after painful confrontation.



*How the Penguins Saved Veronica* by Hazel Prior. Veronica McCreedy has good reason to be a curmudgeon: dozens of them, honestly. She's lived a tough life in her 85 years, and her heart has toughened up in response. Financially secure but emotionally closed off, she plans to leave her substantial fortune to a

penguin research program in Antarctica. When Veronica decides that she deserves to see precisely where her money will go, she hops on a plane (and another plane and a boat) to the research station on Locket Island. The tight-knit group of scientists are aghast that an 85-year-old would be willing to make the trek, but they gamely welcome Veronica into the flock. After witnessing how she can benefit generations of penguins and at least one generation of the humans studying them, Veronica realizes that it's not too late to open her heart. A charming journey of a stubborn old lady hoping to counter her many hardships with an altruistic act, Prior's (*Ellie and the Harpmaker*) second novel will be welcomed by fans of Liane Moriarty, Maria Semple and Erica Bauermeister. Prior has done her homework on Adélie penguins and Antarctic research conditions, immersing readers in a captivating world that's otherwise hard to reach.

## Nonfiction

*Had I Known: Collected Essays* by Barbara Ehrenreich. Ehrenreich, best known for her exposé, *Nickel and Dimed*, shares a look back at her considerable body of published essays. The pieces, written between 1984 and 2019, appeared in publications such as the *New York Times*, *Mother Jones*, *the Nation*, and *Harper's Magazine*. In her introduction, she notes journalism's declining status and urges better support for the profession. To that effect, she has started a nonprofit, the Economic Hardship Reporting Project. The work is divided into six broad topic areas: "Haves and Have-Nots", "Health", "Men", "Women", "God",

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



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## Daniel

he/him/his  
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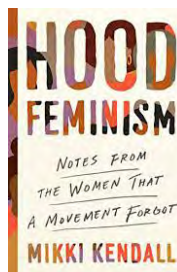
## BOOK NOOK

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Science, and Joy” and “Bourgeois Blunders”, each containing essays published decades apart. Interestingly, the problems Ehrenreich highlights have not changed much over the years. The technology of the times may have altered, but the social problems remain. In a 1986 *New York Times* article, she asked, “Is the Middle Class Doomed?” Her 1987 *Mother Jones* essay, “Welcome to Fleece U,” documented the high tuition of colleges and universities. Unchanged by time, however, is the author’s stylish prose.

*Show Them You’re Good: A Portrait of Boys in the City of Angels Before College* by Jeff Hobbs (also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook). In the summer of 2016, Hobbs (*The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace*) began closely following the lives of several senior boys in two L.A. high schools: Ánimo Pat Brown Charter High School (APB) in South Los Angeles and Beverly Hills High (BH). At APB, Carlos becomes known as “Princeton” as soon as word of his early acceptance gets around; Tio skateboards, runs a marathon and plans to study engineering in college. BH student Owen considers staying in LA after graduation to be close to his chronically ill mother and study acting; Sam thinks the University of Chicago could offer the right combination of rigorous and far away. In chronological chapters, Hobbs cycles through sections centered on these boys and five others, pausing to delve into topics like the college admissions process, the California state university system, and college board

exams. With his fly-on-the-wall reporting style, life happens and the boys emerge fully themselves: driven, funny, sweet, wise, terrified, excited. A uniquely illuminating window onto the lives of young people in the midst of a hugely consequential year.



*Hood Feminism: Notes From the Women That A Movement Forgot* by Mikki Kendall (also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook and as an eAudio). A New York Times bestseller and *Washington Post* Notable Nonfiction Book of 2020. A potent and electrifying critique of today’s feminist movement with a fresh new voice in Black feminism. Today’s feminist movement has a glaring blind spot and, paradoxically, it is women. Mainstream feminists rarely talk about

meeting basic needs as a feminist issue, argues Kendall, but food insecurity, access to quality education, safe neighborhoods, a living wage and medical care are all feminist issues. All too often, however, the focus is not on basic survival for the many, but on increasing privilege for the few. That feminists refuse to prioritize these issues has only exacerbated the age-old problem of both internecine discord, and women who rebuff at carrying the title. Moreover, prominent white feminists broadly suffer from their own myopia with regard to how things like race, class, sexual orientation and ability intersect with gender. How can we stand in solidarity as a movement, Kendall asks, when there is the distinct likelihood that some women are oppressing others? In her searing collection of essays, Kendall takes aim at the legitimacy of the modern feminist movement, arguing that it has

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chronically failed to address the needs of all but a few women. Drawing on her own experiences with hunger, violence and hypersexualization, along with incisive commentary on politics, pop culture, the stigma of mental health and more, Kendal delivers an irrefutable indictment of a movement in flux. In this unforgettable debut, she has written a ferocious clarion call to all would-be feminists to live out the true mandate of the movement in thought and in deed.

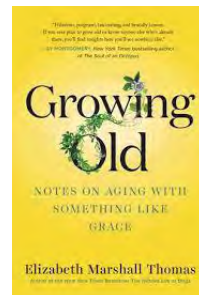


*Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art* by James Nestor. We all take more than 25,000 breaths each day, usually without giving much thought to the process. Nestor is determined to change that, and he's not above using himself as a test subject: he has his nose taped shut for 10 days to rely on mouth breathing, he experiments with extremely short breaths and extremely long exhales, and he inhales excessive carbon dioxide. He travels to Sweden to interview an

expert (and lures him back to the U.S. for a study) and journeys to the tunnels beneath Paris to examine ancient skulls. He digs into ancient tomes, attends breathing classes and traces the evolution of humanity's sinuses. It turns out that breathing has been touted for centuries as the way to increase life force, calm the mind, energize the body and reset the immune system. Nestor delves into the science of the mechanics and the art of the techniques designed to bring back human beings' innate breathing abilities. (An appendix details specific instructions.) The result is a surprisingly entertaining study that will help readers tune into and hopefully fine-tune their own respiration.

*Forgiving What You Can't Forget: Discover How to Move On, Make Peace with Painful Memories, and Create a Life That's Beautiful Again* by Lysa TerKeurst (also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook and an eAudio). Bestseller TerKeurst (*It's Not Supposed to Be This Way*), president of Proverbs 31 Ministries, again plumbs the depths of her heartbreak to help readers through the difficulties of forgiveness in this excellent, revealing rumination. "Forgiveness is God's divine mercy for human hearts that are so prone to turn hurt into hate," she writes before

referring to betrayals that hurt her, particularly her husband's affair, and the emotional struggles related to forgiveness, such as bitterness and resentment, that kept her "tortured and, even worse, unable to move forward." Her advice involves "collecting the dots" (knowing one's story), "connecting the dots" (understanding the past and how it influences the present) and "correcting the dots" (changing perceptions to see things differently). Throughout, TerKeurst reminds readers that "the goal with forgiveness isn't perfection—it's progress" and that none of it is possible without Jesus: "I am forgiven. Therefore, I must forgive." An appendix of relevant scripture verses and an assortment of downloadable resources available through the book's companion website round things out. TerKeurst's fans will love this stirring, realistic look at confronting the arduous aspects of forgiveness.



*Growing Old: Notes on Aging with Something Like Grace* by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas. Octogenarian Thomas (*The Hidden Life of Dogs*) tackles old age in this clever and astute memoir. From her home in rural New Hampshire, the widowed great-grandmother looks back upon her life and offers advice for readers approaching old age—"a venture to the unknown." Thomas, who claims to have cheated death four times (once in Namibia when a lion charged at her), isn't

afraid of dying, and she doesn't mince words when describing funerals, burial procedures or facilities for the aged. She finds her failing memory fascinating—particularly how she can't always recall people's names, but the Finnish word for sugar, which she learned from childhood caregivers, unexpectedly surfaces. Thomas touches on the challenge of technology, losing her hearing and breaking a hip as she shares some of her unusual experiences, among them living among the San in South Africa and treasuring a tiger turd she keeps in the freezer. She offers practical tips, such as scoping out retirement communities before it's time to relocate, maintaining social ties and keeping busy "with something you like." Marshall is an inspiring example of a life well lived, and her sense of humor, honesty and curiosity will resonate with aging readers. ❖

## KidLit Picks

By Rona Sue London

*Together We Grow* by Susan Vaught. With dark skies looming and rain lashing the farm, a cacophony of animals seek shelter in the warm barn. As the thunderstorm continues, more and more animals crowd into the space that provides a haven from the torrential downpour. Soon, it is crowded and arguing ensues. One small critter speaks up, showing empathy and compassion, welcoming all into their secure refuge. Gorgeous illustrations and sweet rhyming couplets invite us all to live in harmony and unity, grace and gratitude.

### Early Readers (Ages 6-9)



[starla.jean.jpg] *Starla Jean: Which Came First, the Chicken or the Friendship?* by Elana Arnold. Starla Jean and her dad are out riding bikes one day when they come upon what is possibly the ugliest, skinniest chicken ever. In spite of that, Starla Jean is enamored, and when her father dubiously challenges her by saying if she can catch it, she can keep it, Starla Jean cleverly succeeds. With chicken in hand, the two arrive home, where Starla Jean's mom is less than thrilled. What follows in the next three charmingly illustrated

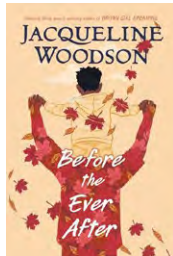
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## KIDLIT PICKS

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chapters is very entertaining. The chicken, now named Opal Egg, teaches Starla Jean's little sister her first word, "bawk!", wears a diaper and finds a home. This is a sweet early chapter book that makes an excellent bridge between picture and chapter books as children learn to read on their own. It also provides some fascinating, little-known chicken facts!

### Upper Middle Readers (Ages 10-13)



*Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson. Winner of the 2021 Coretta Scott King Author Book Award. ZJ, 12, worships his dad, Zacharias Johnson Sr., which is no surprise since his father is a star NFL football player with a Super Bowl ring to prove his dominance on the field. Life is full of joy for ZJ's family and his four best buddies. The spotlight is large and there is so much fun to be had. But when

ZJ's father gets hit one too many times, life drastically changes. Now they are never sure who will awake in the morning—the dad of old, joyous, calm and inspiring, or the more recent dad, who forgets things, has debilitating headaches and, when not yelling, sits sullenly in a chair staring out the window, sometimes even forgetting ZJ's name. As the family makes the rounds of doctors, it becomes clear that, in 1999, they don't know much, though there is mounting evidence among the NFL families that something tragic is happening. A heartbreakingly beautiful homage to a father-son relationship, this is a look at the before and ever after, and at one boy's effort to reconcile the two.

*Anthem* by Deborah Wiles. It's 1969. Barry and his father have fought endlessly about the Vietnam War while Molly and her mom stand quietly by. One day, Molly's beloved brother, Barry, leaves home without saying goodbye. He's been gone a year and now Barry's draft notice has arrived. Molly's mom decides to send Molly, 13, and her cousin, Norman, 17, across the country to find Barry and bring him home. Norman, an aspiring drummer, agrees to this arrangement only if he can listen to music along the way. In her third volume of the Sixties Trilogy, Wiles, an award-winning author, paints a vivid picture of an alienated country with hippies in search of a better life, music as social commentary, veterans divided and a feeling that this

turbulent decade will change everything. Molly and Norman grow as they encounter others who hold different opinions. With contextual information, including photos, news stories, speeches and song lyrics, this is a fantastic portrait of a pivotal time and place in American history told through the eyes of those for whom the inheritance is in question.

### Young Adult (Ages 14-18)



*A Song Below Water* by Bethany Morrow. Tavia and Effie are grappling with prejudice. They are friends who are as close as sisters, both Black and magical, marginalized by society. Tavia is a siren whose mythical voice must be silenced. Effie is changing daily but is unsure what form her magical appearance and abilities will take. As the Renaissance Festival, their favorite time of year, draws near, a young Black siren is murdered and the women's lives become even

more complicated. In a world filled with mermaids, gargoyles and sprites that are both feared and revered, the girls must find a way to fully become who they are meant to be. This is a compelling book that sensitively explores marginalized groups, celebrates sisterhood and embraces the differences that make us each unique.

*A Children's Bible* by Lydia Millet. "Once we lived in a summer country. In the woods there were treehouses, and on the lake there were boats." So begins an extraordinary environmental cautionary tale for the ages. Evie, our narrator and big sister to tender, gentle Jack, explains that their group of family friends has rented a mansion for the summer. Jack is given a children's bible and it fast becomes his favorite book, even more than Frog and Toad. Jack sees parallels between their world and the stories, and innocently begins collecting animals and plants. Before long, the kids, disgusted with their parent's drinking and selfish indulgences, retreat into their own world. With total freedom and autonomy, they revel in this idyllic life until a cataclysmic hurricane ravages their Garden of Eden. With reality mirroring his book, Jack comes to the conclusion that God equals nature and Jesus equals science, and we need to heed both if we are to survive. With destruction quickly approaching, the young people shelter on a farm on higher ground, but this is not without drama. Parents need help and vicious marauders take over the farm. With the revelation that their parents are ill-equipped to save them, and politicians and journalists did not heed the warnings, the children must rely on their own wit and resources, becoming the adults in this dystopian modern-day tale of climate change. ❖

As The Ivy Bookshop's Children's Book Curator Rona Sue London loves matching every youngster with his or her perfect read. The Ivy (5928 Falls Road) is Baltimore's independent literary bookstore, carrying a broad range of titles with an emphasis on new fiction, non-fiction, biography, art, interior design, cooking and, of course, children's books. [theivybookshop.com](http://theivybookshop.com)

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# Calendar Highlights

For information on Passover and Easter services, please call or visit the websites of these Roland Park area houses of worship.

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
Episcopal 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 Episcopal Church, 4700 Roland Ave.	410-467-0476	stdavidsrolandpark.com
Stony Run Friends, 5116 N. Charles St.	443-703-2590	stonyrunfriends.org

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# CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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**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 the first weekend of each month, 9 to 10 am, and by appointment. Please consider donating to Fig's Flower Fund to help Head Gardener Brent "Fig" Foglestahler add to the garden's beauty. Visit [cylburnmarket.org/collections/cylburn-arboretum-friends/products](http://cylburnmarket.org/collections/cylburn-arboretum-friends/products). 410-396-0180, [cylburn.org](http://cylburn.org).

- First Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm, **Cylburn Garden Club**. The club meets once a month and offers a virtual garden tour once or twice a month. In the March meeting, a local herbalist will discuss Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), approaches that include acupuncture, tai chi and herbal products. In April, a landscape architect will discuss creating texture in the garden.
- May 7 and 8, **Market Day**. Cylburn's annual tradition, the plant sale, will be entirely online this spring. Pre-order your items at [Cylburnmarket.org](http://Cylburnmarket.org) starting in late April and arrange to pick them up on May 7 and 8.

**Fire Museum of Maryland**, 1301 York Rd, Lutherville-Timonium. The museum is open Saturdays 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 gift from grandparents, family and friends. Contact Amy at [alandman@firemuseummd.org](mailto:alandman@firemuseummd.org) for information. 410-321-7500, [firemuseummd.org](http://firemuseummd.org).

**Ladew Topiary Gardens**, 3535 Jarrettsville Pike, Monkton. The historic manor house, 22 acres of gardens, Nature Walk trail and seasonal butterfly house are open April 1st to October 31st, 9 am-3 pm, except on Wednesdays. 410-557-9570, [ladewgardens.com](http://ladewgardens.com).

Ladew' **Spring 2021 Virtual Lecture Series** is scheduled for Wednesdays from March 17th to April 21st. Join for six weeks of informative and inspiring lectures on horticulture, garden design, floral design and more.

- March 17, 4 pm. "Return of the Periodical Cicadas and Other Garden Pests" with Mike Raupp, University of Maryland entomologist. As we prepare for the return of the Brood X periodical cicadas this spring, learn about their fascinating strategy for survival, when they will appear, and what mischief they will cause to your landscape trees and shrubs.
- March 24, 3 pm. "Wild Creations" with Hilton Carter, plant stylist and author. Carter will help make your home feel more lush and vibrant, and inspire you to make your own wild creations.
- March 31, 11 am. "Royal Horticultural Society Show Gardens" with Butter Wakefield, garden designer. Wakefield will discuss the process, inspiration and design aesthetic for creating award-winning show gardens.
- April 7, 4 pm. "Gardening, Tending Flocks & Entertaining Friends: A Year at Clove Brook Farm" with Christopher Spitzmiller, designer and author. Spitzmiller will share his new book, which is filled with tips on garden planning, creating seasonal flower arrangements and living with animals.
- April 14, 4 pm. "Proven Perennials" with Richard Hawke, Chicago Botanic Garden. Hawke will share information on perennials that have proven to be beautiful, reliable and hardy in the Chicago Botanic Garden's evaluation trials.
- April 21, 4 pm. "Local and Sustainable Floral Design" with Ellen Frost, Local Color Flowers. Frost will share her passion for locally grown flowers and sustainable floral design as she creates a floral design using flowers, foliage and flowering branches sourced from local farms.

**The Roland Park Swimming Pool Board** is working hard to prepare for the 2021 season opening, to ensure that the pool supports an active lifestyle and offers a place for neighborly fellowship for multiple generations to share. Vigilant regarding COVID-19, the Board will employ similar procedures to those used in the past, along with software systems and protocols, if needed. The Board is also prepared to respond to a changing environment if changes or lesser precautions are merited. New social activities will allow members to maintain safe distancing. The Board is excited for the future of the pool, and looking forward to feeling the warm sunshine at this safe and welcoming summer retreat. To apply or renew your membership for the 2021 season, visiting [rolandparkpool.org/renew](http://rolandparkpool.org/renew).

Please send calendar announcements to [magazine@rolandpark.org](mailto:magazine@rolandpark.org).

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# Meditations in Nature: Journal Bench in Stony Run

By Janet Felsten, Nature Sacred Firesoul and Friends of Stony Run Board Member

**A** "Nature Sacred Journal Bench" is a distinctively designed bench with a compartment beneath the seat in which a pen and blank journal are stored, awaiting

*"Thank you for this bench, this water,  
these surrounding trees,  
this journal with other people's thoughts,  
and for this moment.  
May others have good moments here, too."*

*"Hello. How are you?  
I just wanted to tell  
anyone who needs to hear it,  
you are loved, you are appreciated,  
and you are NOT WORTHLESS."*



The TKF Foundation helped fund improvements around the Nature Sacred Journal Bench in Stony Run Park. Photo: Janet Felsten

inscriptions from anyone who chooses to write. This draws forth messages to the world at large: observations about nature; venting of anguish or fears; encouragements; suggestions for those seeking help; drawings; jokes; favorite poems; quotations; and more. Our Stony Run journal bench, located on the stream's west bank, 125 feet north of the Oakdale Road entrance, was recently reinstalled on a new flagstone platform. This spring, we will ask for community members' help to improve its setting by planting more native species, creating a verdant, peaceful surround.

## Bench History

In 2010, the TKF Foundation and the Jones Falls Watershed Association collaborated on placing one of TKF's Journal Benches in Stony Run Park, overlooking the stream—a spot selected by Dr. Michael Beer. Dr. Beer, a retired Johns Hopkins professor, lived at the foot of Oakdale Road and spent immense energy on stewardship activities in the park and watershed. The bench included a plaque honoring his recently deceased wife, Margaret. In subsequent years, plaques honoring daughter Wendy and, sadly, Michael himself had to be added. Neighbors who knew them refer to it fondly as the "Beer Family Bench."

TKF has evolved into a national organization, Nature Sacred ([NatureSacred.org](http://NatureSacred.org)), with more than 130 restorative sites. As the "firesoul" caretaker for this bench, I've gathered and replaced the journals every few months, occasionally sharing entries with Nature Sacred for its collection. When the organization

*"I love coming here,  
reading everyone's  
notes, and watching the  
water. I'm so grateful  
for this spot :- )"*

offered funding for improvements and programming around existing benches, I applied for money to reset the bench and be intentional about native plantings in that immediate area. The Roland Park Community Foundation had Tom McGilloway of Mahan Rykiel Associates, a Baltimore landscape architecture, urban design, and planning firm, sketch out the plan, then added to the Nature Sacred grant to fully fund the improvements.

## Enhancing the Setting. Please Volunteer!

This spring, we will tackle the removal of invasives, and then will plant new native shrubs and plants in the surrounding area, aiming to allow a restorative experience somewhat screened from the now heavily trafficked main path. If you would like to be notified of opportunities to volunteer, please email me at [jfelsten@placewise.us](mailto:jfelsten@placewise.us) with "Stony Run Bench" in the subject line.

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