



# ROLAND PARK **news**

Quarterly from the Roland Park Community Foundation • Volume Eighty-One • Summer 2021

*COVID Q & A*

**Parks In  
Roland Park**



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## Editor's Notes

*"...there is such a pleasure, common, constant and universal to all town parks, and that it results from the feeling of relief experienced by those entering them, on escaping from the cramped, confined and controlling circumstances of the streets of the town; in other words, a sense of enlarged freedom is to all, at all times, the most certain and the most valuable gratification afforded by a park."*

Frederick Law Olmsted



Preliminary plans for Roland Water Tower pocket park. Design rendering courtesy of Unknown Studio

By Martha Marani

While Olmsted was referring to a park in Brooklyn, his sentiment is no less true of any public park in any city. This profoundly democratic sensibility drove many of his design decisions and, I believe, those his sons made when they designed our community. And it has inspired many in Roland Park—and beyond—to work tirelessly to ensure the Olmsted legacy is maintained for future generations.

I'm referring not only to Hillside Park, the community-owned public park proposed for 20 acres being sold by the Baltimore Country Club (featured on the cover and in a story by Johanna Alonso), but also to the pocket park currently being considered for around the base of the Roland Water Tower. Another project being driven relentlessly forward by the unstoppable Mary Page Michel, chair of the Roland Park Community Foundation, this potential little jewel of greenspace also draws inspiration from Olmsted's vision of parks as "bastions of the democratic ideals of community and equality," according to "Olmsted's Legacy," an article on the National Park Service website. Michel's partners on the project include at least two representatives from the three surrounding communities—Roland Park, Hoes Heights and Rolden—all

of whom care deeply about preserving greenspace.

Worth mentioning, too, are efforts to replace dead and dying trees at Centennial Park (see the spring issue), to continue to improve Stony Run Park with neighbor-friendly elements like the new Nature Sacred Journal Bench (also covered in the spring), and to tend to our neighborhood's medians, triangles and street verges. Several weekends this spring found new Civic League president, Claudia Diamond, and her intrepid band of trash picker-uppers working their way along Cold Spring Lane, and Greenspring and Cylburn avenues. In this issue, Devra Kitterman gives a well-deserved shout-out to neighbors who are maintaining healthy habitats for birds and pollinators on their own properties.

Olmsted also said, "The enjoyment of scenery employs the mind without fatigue and yet exercises it; tranquilizes it and yet enlivens it; and thus, through the influence of the mind over the body gives the effect of refreshing rest and reinvigoration to the whole system."

It's hard to imagine anything that's more important at this particular moment in time.

Have a tranquil and refreshing summer, all. Be well. ❖



# Hillside Park: A Green Space for All

By Johanna Alonso

For many, the value of the land stretching out behind the Baltimore Country Club's Roland Park clubhouse lies in its wildness. Twenty sprawling acres, covered in untouched trees and uninterrupted vines, curved downward into a large, unleveled hill—hence its tentative name, Hillside Park. Foxes, rabbits and the occasional deer call the land their home, and can be spotted in the distance amid clusters of trees. And it's the perfect place to watch the sunrise, according to one Roland Park resident.

So, if that land were developed, many agree, something magical, important and rare would be lost.

That's why Roland Park residents decided that they would make it their mission to purchase this land and transform it into a park.

It's a mission that's becoming closer and closer to reality, ever since the country club officially announced that it was putting the land up for sale and gave a date, May 13th, when bids from potential buyers would be due.

Now, the only thing that's standing between Roland Park and its dream park is a few million dollars.

## Years in the making

The first push to purchase land from the Baltimore Country Club was in the late '90s, well before the Greater Roland Park Master Plan—the document that officially recorded the neighborhood's intention to purchase the land and other major goals for the community—was written.

Since then, the community has tried to purchase the land, which previously contained a golf course and tennis courts, roughly half a dozen times, according to David Tufaro, who was president of the Roland Park Community Foundation (RPCF), a nonprofit dedicated to improving green space in the neighborhood, at the time of the first offer.



Volunteers who have been working to buy the land for years feel more confident about this opportunity. Photo: Anne Stuzin



People from Roland Park and beyond are committed to transforming this piece of Baltimore Country Club property into a park. Photo: Sally Foster

Most recently, volunteers tried to purchase the land in 2017; before that, they had raised money in 2012 while also fundraising for the now-underway repair of the Roland Water Tower and other projects.

But to the cohort of volunteers working to raise the millions—all of whom have been involved in the effort for at least a decade—this time feels different. Because the country club has officially listed the land for sale, organizers have had a definitive timeframe in which to raise money and prepare a bid proposal. That short timeframe, from when the Baltimore Country Club first told the foundation that it would be selling the land until its early May bid deadline, forced volunteers and donors alike to kick things into high gear.

Professional fundraisers involved in the project say that the normal length of time it takes for an organization and a potential major donor is around six months. The good news was, many of the organizers' relationships with potential donors went back years, decades even, because those donors were their friends and neighbors.

"That kind of turned on a light for us—if your neighbor is telling you this, then that is built on a relationship of many, many years," says Mary Page Michel, chair of the RPCF and the leader of the fundraising effort. "So we were more confident after that."



# HILLSIDE PARK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Many donors appreciate the environmental benefits of preserving the land's wildlife habitats.  
Photo: Sally Foster

## Answering the call

The team began by pitching the project to potential leadership donors—those donating at least \$50,000 up to more than \$1 million dollars—before expanding to do community outreach, which included weekly, public Zoom presentations explaining the project and answering residents' questions.

Tufaro ended up being the first donor to the current fundraising effort, giving a large sum only days after his neighbors first pitched the project to him. In a letter of intent, he dedicated his contribution to "all people who had come to America," he said.

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"The language was meant to be totally inclusive by whatever means they came here, whether it be immigration, through slavery, or by whatever means they had come here," says Tufaro, himself a first-generation Italian American. The dedication aimed to highlight the community's goal of creating an outdoor space that all Baltimoreans—not just the denizens of Roland Park—could enjoy.

Many supporters of Hillside Park, including Tufaro, hope that the park can show that Roland Park has transformed into an inclusive and welcoming community, despite its racist history of excluding Black people from owning homes in the area.

Different elements of the project speak to different donors, according to Rita Walters, a volunteer organizer for the park project who is a fundraiser by trade. On top of the project's inclusive nature, some appreciate the environmental benefits of keeping the space natural, which would include preserving the area's wildlife habitats, maintaining its tree canopy and reducing stormwater runoff into the Chesapeake Bay.

This was the major motivating factor for one major donor, whom Walters declined to name but whom she said is a major philanthropic figure in Baltimore whose "name is on buildings."

"This person really cares about the environment and sustainability...they care about, it seems, all of the humans of Baltimore city, whether it's Roland [Park] or Sandtown," she says.

Those who care deeply about Baltimore's youth might be motivated to contribute due to planned partnerships between the park and its two neighboring high schools—Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and Western High School, which are across the street from the land. The park will likely include recreation spaces specifically designed for the schools to use, and classes will be welcome to do science experiments using the park's streams and other wildlife.

Officials from the two schools penned a letter of endorsement for the project, writing: "We agree wholeheartedly with your vision for creating a beautiful, accessible green space that is open to the community. A new, 20-acre park fronting on Falls Road, directly across from our campuses, would be an amazing asset for our neighborhood!"

One contributor, Amy Lutzky, who has lived in Roland Park for 17 years, gave one simple reason why she decided to donate; "It's the right thing to do," she says.

## What will Hillside Park be?

Currently, organizers have almost no definitive ideas for how the space will look. The team hired a landscape design firm to create a tentative layout for the proposed park, but the additions to the existing landscape are sparse: footbridges over wetlands and a small selection of recreation, such as soccer fields and tennis courts, in the park's southeast corner.

"What we want to do, once we get the land...is to say, 'okay, we've got the land now, but you, public, what do you want to do with it?'" says Anne Stuzin, communications lead for the Roland Park Civic League.





*Suggestions for Hillside Park include playgrounds, recreational space, a stage for small performances and public bathrooms. Photo courtesy of Stone Hill Design*

Organizers are hoping the park will follow the spirit of the landscape architects who designed much of the Roland Park community in the 1800s: Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and John Charles Olmsted, sons of the renowned Frederick Law Olmsted. The Olmsted Brothers design centralized the natural curvature and features of the land and prioritized green space, hence the neighborhood's curved roads and houses set back behind green lawns and gardens.

Community was a focal point in all of the Olmsteds' designs, according to Kathy Hudson, a writer, essayist and Roland Park native. Their influential father helped design Central Park in New York City. He viewed public parks as havens of democracy, where people of different social standings could enjoy the same amenities, the same space and the same company.

"He was always bringing people together," she explains. "In the history of parks, so many parks were private, at the time that he was working...they weren't accessible to all, so that's why it made things like Central Park revolutionary. It's a great equalizer."

In the spirit of democracy, Roland Park residents will help decide what eventually goes into the park, should the bid be successful. Common suggestions include playgrounds, recreational space, a stage for small-scale performances and (most importantly, to some) public bathrooms. The park will aim to be welcoming to three generations, which means that there will need to be both spaces for children to play and places for grandparents to sit and relax.

"Nothing is set in stone, but what is set in stone, conceptually, is that this is not a manicured park like Sherwood Gardens," Stuzin explains. "This is open, green space that, minus cleaning up some trees here and there...[will be] as it is now."

### For community

There is no exact cost for the land, but a recent transaction in the area—the sale of 28 acres of land and a 40,000-square-foot building to the Boys' Latin School of Maryland for \$5.5 million—is considered somewhat comparable. The team is aiming to

raise between \$4 million and \$6 million dollars to purchase the land, plus a couple million to go towards park development and a maintenance endowment.

According to a recent Zoom meeting, they are "within spitting distance" of their initial goal, Michel says, but she declined to say exactly how much money they've raised, so that potential competitors don't know what they're up against.

Organizers believe the community has several advantages over housing developers who may be able to fit around 45 homes. They can offer cash up front to the country club, no zoning changes or permits would be necessary for the park project, and there is strong community support.

There is still no guarantee that Hillside Park will be the winning bid but, according to organizers who have been working on the project for years, there is more optimism and hope going into the bidding process than there has ever been before.

"It felt like, 10 years ago, we were against something. We were against the development.

This time, it feels like we're for something. We're for community, we're for our neighbors, we're for green space, we're for the environment, we're for sustainability," Walters says. "And that feels very different." ❖

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# COVID Q&A

By Lauren Bynum, PhD

**Q:** *How should I navigate family and friends who have different ideas about COVID safety?*

**A:** This can be extremely stressful. Many people are sensitive to the practical concern of becoming infected with COVID, which adds another layer of emotional concern in terms of offending others or causing conflict in relationships. I think the most important mindset going into these conversations is the presumption of good will; everyone is doing their best with the information they have.

Before having these conversations, make sure you are clear about your own restrictions. Lack of clarity for you will only lead to ambiguity with others and unintended conflict. This can be difficult because new information continues to come out that may influence and change your level of comfort.

It may also help to talk about what values are driving these decisions. Some people value safety, while others value freedom. Some people may value certainty, while others can tolerate higher levels of uncertainty. Acknowledging that different values are at play may help diminish some of the negative judgments placed on others.

Continue to communicate. Continue to feel entitled to your boundaries.

**Q:** *How do I support my children, or even myself, in being less anxious about re-entry into the world?*

**A:** In communicating with children, I think it is always best to ask them a lot of questions, rather than assuming you know what is causing them anxiety or worry. Sometimes it is surprising what is on their mind. I think once you figure out what specifically is concerning them, try to provide them with age-appropriate information that may assuage their fears. It also helps to create a list of all the things they have control over and focus mostly on that. It is often the aspects of life that are out of our control that cause the most anxiety. Shifting focus can feel more empowering.

I think it also helps for them to understand that you as parents are making the best decisions you can to keep them healthy emotionally and physically. It is okay to let them know that you too become anxious about COVID, but part of life is facing your fears and problem-solving ways through them. They do not need to see you as impervious or all-powerful. What they do need to see you as is resilient.

As adults, we can consider what we miss about pre-COVID life and what we would like to keep in the past. There is no going back to normal. I also think it is important to consider all the ways things have changed, in levels—how the world has changed, how others and our relationships with them have changed, and how we as individuals have changed. Once we have an accurate lay of the land, then we can strategize how to prepare for re-entry.

Lastly, something that would be fun is to create a list of all the things you would like to do once you are vaccinated, once everyone in your family is vaccinated, once we reach herd immunity. Planning for joy and connection can be very anxiety-reducing.

**Q:** *Should I send my kids back to school in the fall?*

**A:** There is truly no right answer to this question. It is a deeply personal decision for each family to make for each of their children. Different children in the same family may benefit from different decisions. In weighing this decision, please consider the following: physical health needs for your child and family members living in the home, the impact of virtual and in-person learning on their emotional health and social functioning, academic need to keep up with expectations, the tradeoff between the value of being in the building and your level of comfort with the school's COVID safety practices, COVID numbers in your immediate community and city, your own mental health needs, and the needs of the family financially (can the family afford for a parent to miss work or hire additional help?). What is really important in this process is honoring our own decisions, and not shaming others for their decisions. We cannot possibly know what another family is going through to compel them to make certain decisions.



Lauren Bynum, PhD

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**Q:** *What are resources to improve coping?*

**A:** I think everyone could benefit from psychotherapy at this time in our society. We have experienced collective trauma, and the unknowns remain numerous and overwhelming. We are exhausted. Decision fatigue, compassion fatigue and physical fatigue are real. Having the space to process our feelings, problem-solve issues unique to our lives, and receive affirmation and support are critical to our mental health. I think that finding and maintaining self-care strategies are equally important. These can be as simple as eating regular meals, getting adequate sleep, engaging in joyful activities, connecting with people who validate us, journaling, and resting, resting and resting. It can also be doing the things we really do not want to do, like exercising, making financially sound decisions and passing on that last drink, that ultimately make us feel better and more in control as well.

**Q:** *How do I parent, work, function when I'm at capacity and have hit a wall?*

**A:** This is an excellent question, and not easily answered. I think all of us at some point during this pandemic have hit a wall, if not several. I have taken time off work, cried, reached out to friends, ordered food, eaten too much, scheduled a therapy appointment, reduced commitments that really were not necessary, significantly reduced expectations for myself and others, and

asked for help. Then I asked for help some more. I rarely ask for help because doing so triggers false notions of weakness. But this pandemic has pushed us to capacity and, if we are wise, we have faced what is truly unsustainable about our lives. For me, it was being perfect and trying to do everything myself. So, my answer to this question is first, figure out what you really need and ask for it. And then once you get your bearings a bit, ask yourself what you need to change so that the next hit will not be so hard, or you will be able to rebound a bit quicker.

Lastly, if you have not already done so, create a village for yourself. The pandemic has made it clear that none of us is getting through this all by ourselves. Your village can be in person or virtual, many or a chosen few; it can be child-focused, career-focused, faith-focused, health-focused...whatever it needs to be. This pandemic has been so isolating and debilitating on many levels, so being connected is incredibly powerful. It is why everyone is craving hugs right now. Your village will nurture you and help you get back up, and you will do the same for them. ❖

Lauren Bynum is a licensed clinical psychologist and co-owner of LoLa's Village ([lolasvillage.com](http://lolasvillage.com)), a group private practice in Roland Park. LoLa's Village, through counseling services, seeks to provide a safe space for people to show up authentically in order to face challenges in their lives, develop healthy resources, and ultimately create the life and relationships they desire. The practice provides individual, group and trauma-focused therapy, community consultation and supervision.

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# Roland Park Girls' Running Group Takes Off

By Ann-Barron Carneal

**Y**ou may have seen Maggie Winstead running down your street. Throughout the pandemic, the junior at Bryn Mawr School has continued to train for cross country and track. Last winter, she decided to share her love of the sport by starting a running group for young girls in the Roland Park area. She wanted to create an opportunity for kids to safely come together outdoors and be active in the time of COVID.

Thinking back to when she was younger, Winstead recalls her participation in Girls on the Run (GOTR), a popular program at schools such as Roland Park Elementary/Middle School. The program helped nurture her love of running to this day. Although she played many sports through middle school, running is the sport that stuck. She is now a leader on the track and cross country teams at Bryn Mawr.

As she reflected on her GOTR experience, Winstead wondered if she could provide such an experience for young girls today—girls who may not have had access to group exercise for months. In creating the Roland Park Girls Running Group, she helped to connect and mentor active young girls. In the process, she has become part of something greater than herself. Indeed, she, too, had been missing connections to the community due to the pandemic.

In January, Winstead launched the winter session, hosting six meetings with only nine girls, due to COVID restrictions, ranging from 3rd to 6th grade. They met every Saturday for six weeks, with girls coming out to participate even in below-freezing



*Bryn Mawr junior Maggie Winstead started a girls' running group during the pandemic. Also pictured, Stella Proctor-Berg. Photo: Ann-Barron Carneal*

temperatures. Though cold, the winter session was a great success. Seeing the girls' smiling faces and their pride in their running efforts was gratifying for Winstead.

By April, the popularity of the program had grown and, with COVID restrictions easing, the size of the running group nearly doubled. With this growth, Winstead's friend and fellow runner Isabelle Watriss, a Bryn Mawr senior, began to help out. Together, they successfully led the first running group with 17 girls.

Winstead's plan was to pilot the running program in Roland Park and eventually try to expand it to other parts of Baltimore City. This would connect her with more young runners who might one day follow in her footsteps long after the pandemic has ended. ❖

## Orzo Pasta Salad

Miss Shirley's Cafe

Serves 16

### Ingredients

- 32 oz. cooked orzo
- 8 oz. garbanzo beans
- 2 cups cucumber
- 1 pt. red grape tomatoes
- ¼ cup red onion, diced
- 2 T. parsley, chopped
- ½ tsp. garlic, chopped
- 8 oz. citrus vinaigrette

Place cooked, drained and cooled orzo in a large bowl. Cut red grape tomatoes in half lengthwise, slice and quarter cucumber, drain and rinse garbanzos, and dice red onion. Add all ingredients to orzo. Add chopped garlic and chopped parsley, and vinaigrette and mix everything together well. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve or refrigerate for later. ❖



Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Cafe



# Message from the Civic League President

By Bob Connors, Civic League President

This will be my last update to you as president. Indeed, as you read this, the Civic League will have had our annual meeting and a new slate of Roland Park residents will have been voted in to represent you. I was honored to serve you over these past three years and I thank you for trusting me.



There are so many exciting things happening in our neighborhood. Work on the Roland Water Tower and surrounding pocket park continues. I can't wait to join you all when the work is finished, maybe with some live music and food trucks! I hope very much that when this update is published our bid to purchase the Baltimore Country Club land in order to create a wonderful new park has been accepted. How fantastic would it be to see you all there on your picnic blankets watching the kids play?



Bob Connors (3rd from left), who is leaving his post as president of the Civic League after three years, pictured with his family—parents Bob and Terri (to his left), son Jack (4th from right), husband Jonas David Grey (3rd from right), daughter Katie (2nd from right) and ex-wife Mary Catherine Beach (right). Photo courtesy of Bob Connors

The pandemic has certainly renewed our appreciation for the outdoors and wide open spaces for everyone to enjoy. Work has begun on the revitalization of the Village at Cross Keys and the much anticipated renewal of our beloved Eddie's should be starting soon! All of this is made possible by the tireless work of resident volunteers who make up the boards and committees of the Civic League and Community Foundation. Please consider joining one this year.

I wish the new president and board much success in the coming year. And I wish you and your families much joy in the upcoming post-pandemic bliss! ❖

## Greater Roland Park Home Sales

(February 2020-April 2021)

	LIST PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
6 Upland Rd. #Q-1	\$169,900	\$172,000
610 Somerset Rd. #201	\$235,000	\$238,000
616 W. University Pkwy.	\$430,000	\$415,000
558 W. University Pkwy.	\$525,000	\$535,000
849 W. University Pkwy.	\$614,000	\$585,000
3 Beechdale Rd.	\$559,000	\$600,000
216 Oakdale Rd.	\$649,000	\$615,000
123 Hawthorn Rd.	\$629,900	\$630,000
104 Elmwood Rd.	\$710,000	\$725,000
511 Hawthorn Rd.	\$818,323	\$829,500

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# Healthy Habitats

By Devra Kitterman

For most Americans, the beginning of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic meant a collective hunkering-down in our homes to avoid potential germs and pathogens carried by our fellow humans, paranoia from touching anything handled or breathed-on by another person, and cheerful endurance of what had previously been an unimaginable state of social isolation and restaurant withdrawal. In our area, an ambient quietude ensued. The sudden absence of the usual cacophony of traffic and jet engines created a peace that must have been just as stark and delightful to wildlife as it was to us, however briefly it was experienced.

One of the tangible benefits of our “Great Shutdown” has been a massive and renewed interest in nature and the delights of the great outdoors. Our National Park System found itself completely overwhelmed with record numbers of visitors seeking the peace and relative safety of nature and wild areas. Garden centers boomed as people eagerly purchased implements, trees, pottery, landscape services and pollinator plants to reinvent the newly precious oasis around their homes and on their decks and balconies. Birdfeeders enjoyed renewed popularity as bird and other wildlife sightings became an emotional balm for the housebound soul.

It has been gratifying to see how much our neighborhood landscapes have been changing too, each one an altruistic acknowledgment of the increasing environmental concerns affecting all of us. Clearly, many more efforts are on display to plant more pollinator-friendly trees and plants, and more neighbors each year have decided to cease the use of toxic lawn treatments. The emphasis is increasingly on creating not only relaxing, but safe, environmentally conscious outdoor spaces.

I will periodically highlight a Roland Park neighbor or two who have created healthy habitat for birds and pollinators using plantings, minimized lawn areas and eliminated the use of chemicals to treat their lawns.

**Susan and Paul Newhouse, 4901 Roland Avenue.** Almost 22 years ago, when I first moved to Roland Park, I walked past this house and said to myself, “I need to meet these people!” Their yard stopped me in my tracks. It is remarkable as a very fine example of a conifer garden, based on a variety of mostly medium and dwarf conifers (evergreen cone-bearing seed plants), although there is a large dawn redwood (metasequoia, a deciduous conifer) that looks over the rear of the property. Several types of holly share the perimeter areas, along with unusual pine, weeping hemlock and spruce specimens.

This is a gorgeous habitat for humans, birds and chipmunks and,



*The Newhouse property is a gorgeous habitat for humans, birds and chipmunks. All photos: Sally Foster*

over the years, several unusual trees—including the fluorescent Kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa* ‘Wolf Eye’)—Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum* ‘Shishigashira’ and ‘Viridis’), horizontal-growing Maryland spreader hollies, many hellebores and other pollinator perennials plants have been added. Several large seasonal pots of annual salvia (*Salvia guarantica*) attract hummingbirds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Bird and bee baths offer cool refreshment.

As a result, this yard presents a lovely, verdant oasis of wildlife and privacy. A tiny kiddy pool-sized patch of grass in the front yard is the only lawn.

**Gigi Farley, 4800 Keswick Road.** On March 26th, my lovely neighbor, Craig Pulford, texted me that bees were swarming in a yard on the corner of Upland and Keswick roads. As a beekeeper, I rushed over to see for myself, knowing that a honeybee swarm was unlikely this early in spring. I was amazed at the tens of thousands of small, dark bees that were, indeed, flying along the ground of the entire front yard of the house. Upon closer inspection, I could see thousands of tiny new holes in the ground and I realized that these were a type of Maryland-native miner bee emerging from the underground tunnels where they overwintered. I also realized that it was impossible to be stung by these very perceptive bees, as they never let me get close to them, moving out of reach or phone camera view.

This event was particularly exciting to see, as I had never before witnessed so many ground-nesting bees emerge at one time. I examined the yard to determine what made this particular lawn so desirable to miner bees and soon realized it was untreated. I also saw that three of the top forage trees for bees lived in or on the perimeter of the yard: a 125- to 150-year-old tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), three American basswoods or silver lindens (*Tilia americana*), and two sugar maples (*Acer saccharum*).



I have been enthusiastic about Gigi's yard before because she also has two (!!) magnificent cucumber magnolias (*Magnolia acuminata*). These are large forest trees of North America—very hardy, with very large leaves of up to 10 to 12 inches long. You just don't see these much anymore; they are considered old fashioned, whatever that means. The only other cucumber magnolia I have seen in the area is on a bare, hilly parcel next to an old farmhouse on Ivy Hill Road, near Beaver Dam Road in the Cockeysville area. I always marvel at it when I drive by and remain hopeful that it won't be chopped down before its time.

Thank you, Gigi, for providing such a safe and protected space for our disappearing native bees.

*Miner bees overwinter underground (right).  
A lovely cucumber magnolia grows on  
Keswick Road (below).*



Finally, I need to mention again that lawn chemicals kill absolutely everything but grass. Many of Maryland's over 400 types of native bees are ground dwellers, including bumblebees, miner bees and leafcutter bees. Chemicals are decimating our native bees and non-native honeybees, all of which are critical to the pollination of our food supply. If you do not have dandelions (AKA pollinator food), you have a treated lawn.

Further, lawn chemicals include herbicides, pesticides and fungicides that are carcinogenic and endocrine disruptors. These chemicals end up in our rivers, streams and, ultimately, the bay and ocean, and are destroying myriad species. Clearly, you do not want your children or pets playing on treated lawns, and wildlife of all types suffer as well.

Together, we can exact a better outcome for our environment, food supply and ourselves.

Thanks to everyone! ❖

Devra He'ui Kitterman is a Baltimore City beekeeper. She runs multiple classes and workshops for beekeepers and others. She formerly owned and operated He'ui Horticultural Services, which provided

commercial interior plant services and exterior landscape design and maintenance for 27 years. To receive her free pollinator plant list, contact her at [devra.kitterman@gmail.com](mailto:devra.kitterman@gmail.com).

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# A Neighborhood Favorite Gets an Upgrade

By Jared Earley, Marketing Director,  
Eddie's of Roland Park

Customers who, for decades, have cherished Eddie's traditional services and recipes will soon have state-of-the-art amenities to complement the company's 77-year charm, as Eddie's of Roland Park is about to embark upon a landmark, multiphase renovation project, bringing upgraded features and a polished new look to its Roland Avenue store.

"This is incredibly exciting for us," says Eddie's vice president Michael Schaffer, the third-generation co-owner who is helping steer the remodel to success. "It has literally been years in the planning, and my family is grateful to the longtime shoppers and devoted fans who have been cheering on this process with great anticipation."

Some of those fans include members of the Roland Park Civic League, who were presented with a preview of the timeline and scope of work during their March meeting. Schaffer explained then that the store would remain open throughout the remodel, with construction lasting up to 15 months, including a pause during the busy holiday shopping season.

And, while much of the initial planning has occurred



Michael Schaffer, Nancy Cohen and Andrew Schaffer, co-owners of Eddie's, have been planning the renovation for years. Photo courtesy of Eddie's

behind-the-scenes, the first phase of the project will be anything but. In addition to the basement and back-of-house improvements due to start this summer, construction will also commence on the store's façade, including an expansive, steel, cantilevered canopy erected front and center above the store's main entrance.

"The canopy will provide protection from the weather when entering the store, a shaded place for seating and a location for vendor events," explains Ann Powell, a Roland Parker, frequent Eddie's shopper and principal at ZigerlSnead, which is the project's architectural firm.

"This store was destined to be a place for gathering," adds Nancy Cohen, president/co-owner and daughter of the late Victor Cohen, who founded the store. "My father always felt that the key to a successful business was treating your customers like family, making

them feel at home. This will be like adding a covered porch to our house—a space to share meals and events with the community."

Originally named "Victor's Market" and situated further south on Roland Avenue, the independent, family-operated business has undergone many changes and expansions since its 1944 founding, but service and quality have remained a constant.

"Eddie's of Roland Park has been an anchor to the Roland Park community for decades, dedicated to a high level of customer service in a neighborhood setting," says ZigerlSnead partner Doug Bothner. "We are honored to be working with Eddie's to bring needed updates and improvements to the shopping experience to ensure a sustainable future for the store."

The future is looking bright—and, indeed, sustainable—with the addition of windows inviting natural light into the retail space, as well as LED illumination, improved circulation, and new, energy-efficient



Improvements to the Eddie's façade are due to start this summer. Image courtesy of ZigerlSnead Architects

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12





## Tomato Vinaigrette

Petit Louis Bistro

"This versatile summer recipe can be used to dress grilled summer vegetables and fish, but can also pair nicely with grilled meats such as chicken, or lamb. It's even great just as a snack on some grilled bread!" Executive Chef Chris Scanga

### Ingredients

- 1 qt. cherry tomatoes from the market
- Chopped parsley
- 1 T. chopped chives
- 1 T. chopped tarragon
- 1 oz. red wine vinegar
- 4 oz. olive oil
- Salt, to taste

Halve or quarter the cherry tomatoes, depending on size, and put into a mixing bowl. Add the remaining ingredients and let stand at room temperature until the liquid from the tomatoes starts to leach out and incorporate in the vinaigrette. Mix delicately but thoroughly immediately before serving. ❖

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# EDDIE'S UPGRADE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

refrigeration and freezer cases throughout the store.

The shopping experience will also feel more open, thanks to an exposed wood ceiling, wider aisles, improved flow and wayfinding, along with nearly 1,000 additional square feet of retail space with all-new shelving, fixtures and categorization.

"I don't know who is going to enjoy this more, the staff or the shoppers," jokes store manager Dave Jachelski.

"Even the space for offices, storage and employee breaks is fantastic."

Full-service departments such as deli, bakery, cheese, coffee and gourmet-to-go will receive a complete upgrade—outfitted with new equipment and modernized signage. In produce, shoppers will enjoy a significantly expanded salad bar, while the store's wine and spirits department will

relocate to the front of the store, and—similar to its North Charles Street location—Eddie's signature catering service will move near the checkout, making it more convenient for customers to order.

Additional amenities will include a new vestibule with automated doors, a water fountain with a bottle filler and two front-of-house, gender-neutral public restrooms.

"This store is rich with history, and we hope to share some of that story through the interiors, while introducing many new elements to heighten the Eddie's shopping experience," Schaffer explains.

Powell characterized the interior design as a "market-style approach," with an eye for open space and freshness on display. To support that vision, the material palette includes

## Chef Mel's Mediterranean Dinner

Eddie's of Roland Park

"Cooking is relaxing and exciting at the same time," says Melanie Reichard, who has worked as a chef at Eddie's of Roland Park since 2011. "When a new dish I am experimenting with comes together perfectly, it is very satisfying."

At home, Chef Mel (as she is known amongst staff and shoppers) approaches meal planning not through cookbooks or traditional recipes, but by stocking the kitchen with a variety of essential items for creating fast and delicious meals on the fly.

"I like to keep things around that can come together quickly," she explains. "I always have eggs and rotisserie chicken. When it's cold, I make sure we have plenty of ingredients for soups or stews. My spice rack is overflowing, and I usually keep cilantro, sriracha and Duke's mayo within reach."

"My husband has a hearty appetite," she adds. "He gets to benefit from all of my creations."

The *Roland Park News* invited Chef Mel to recommend an easy-to-assemble, family-sized menu, using a \$50 budget and her tried-and-true meal planning approach.

"Mediterranean food is so flavorful, and also so healthy—I love all the ingredients," she says. "This meal is quick—perfect for a couple, or even a single, and provides some leftovers to snack on the next day."

Prep time: 15 minutes. Cook time: 15 minutes. Serves: 4, with leftovers.

### Ingredients

- 10 oz. pkg. Near East Original Couscous
- 32 oz. Kitchen Basics chicken stock
- 1 pkg. baby spinach
- 1 English cucumber, chopped
- 2 Roma tomatoes, chopped
- 8 oz. bottle Annie's Organic Goddess Dressing
- 8 fully-cooked chicken or beef meatballs from Eddie's Gourmet-to-Go
- 1 pkg. large Greek-style pita rounds, brand of choice
- 1 pkg. classic hummus, brand of choice
- 1 pkg. crumbled feta, brand of choice

Cook couscous according to package instructions, using chicken stock. Fluff with a fork when finished. Chop cucumber and tomatoes, and combine with half-cup dressing. Set aside.

Microwave meatballs for 3 to 5 minutes on low setting (or heat for 10 to 12 minutes in a preheated oven at 350° F). Wilt spinach in sauté pan with 2 T. chicken stock (or serve raw,



Photo courtesy of Eddie's of Roland Park

for additional texture). Slice each pita round into 4-6 triangles.

Plate each portion to include one serving of couscous, two meatballs, one serving of cucumber salad, one serving of spinach, one dollop of hummus, and four to five pita triangles. Sprinkle each portion with crumbled feta and serve immediately.

Chef Mel's tip: "Meatballs are a great choice for portion control, and the type of meatball can be changed around—we sell harissa, Greek, Italian—whatever's in the case. We even have an eggplant bite that would be great for vegetarians!"

Pairing option: "I'm partial to Eddie's ice cream aisle—we have such a unique, gourmet selection, you really can't go wrong!" ❖



light grey, Cradle to Cradle Certified® ceramic tiles, clean lines and neutral, stainless steel finishes, allowing the warm exposed-wood ceiling and product displays to bring color and life to the retail shopping experience.

While the past year has posed numerous challenges to the grocery and retail industries, Eddie's has continued to thrive, earning an award from the National Grocers Association and hitting the national radar with a February cover story in *Progressive Grocer* magazine about the state of independently owned grocery stores.

"Eddie's of Roland Park worked hard throughout 2020 to retain its tradition of personalized, community-minded service, and succeeded brilliantly," the article noted.

"The year was not without its difficulties," admits Cohen. "But we have a wonderful staff that really pulled together. Between our employees' dedication, the loyalty of our



*The store will have a more market-style feel.* Image courtesy of Ziger/Snead Architects

community and vendors, and now this amazing project finally getting underway, there is a lot to be optimistic about and thankful for." ❖

## Friends Seniors Qualify for National Debate Tournament

Henry Geller ('21) and Parker Hollendoner ('21) have qualified for the National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL) 2021 Grand National Tournament after an outstanding run at the Baltimore Catholic Forensic League (BCFL) Metro Championship Tournament. The team was also named the BCFL Metro champions for public forum debate after winning the final round. Sophomores Francesca D'Alessio and Ally Wolfe also participated in the tournament as the #10 ranked team out of 79.

Upper school students have been active in virtual debate tournaments throughout the year, with the following winning medals:

### Varsity Debaters

Henry Geller and Parker Hollendoner (one gold and one silver)  
Ally Wolfe and Francesca D'Alessio (two bronze)

### JV Debaters

Noah Ripke and Keller Handwerk (one gold)

"None of this would have been possible without strong student leadership," says upper school history teacher and debate team faculty advisor Travis Henschen. "Thank you to the debate team co-leaders: Henry Geller, Parker Hollendoner, Ellie Proutt and Joseph Badros. I also want to thank Molly Smith for supporting the team's research activities and giving up several Saturdays to judge tournaments throughout the school year." ❖

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.

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# Garrison Forest Robotics Team Finds Global Success

At Garrison Forest School (GFS), girls and young women find many opportunities to deepen and explore their interest in STEM-related fields and projects. This year, students and teachers are finding creative ways to continue their work virtually, navigating technical challenges while staying focused. The GFS Robotics Team, Bearly Awake, has found ways to stay engaged and connected even while some of the members were on different continents. It's a testament to the group's love of robotics and dedication to the field. Earlier this spring, Annie H. ('23), representing the GFS Robotics Team in the New York City (NYC) Remote Qualifier, was awarded 1st place for the Think Award and 2nd place for the Performance Award—and advanced to the NYC FTC Championship!

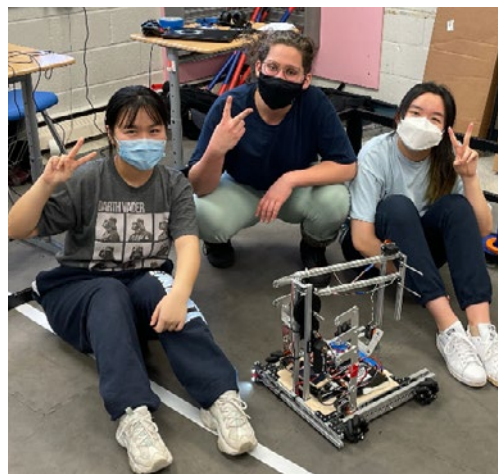
"Bearly Awake has done tremendous work this year," says the group's advisor, Jim Beam, an upper school and Residential Life faculty member. "Our nine team members have operated as an international engineering and design team with students both in various parts of China and right here on campus. Our team has now been able to compete in three remote competitions, bringing home three awards, and has advanced to the NYC [FTC] Championship competition. Though complicated, it has been a very exciting year."

Beam noted that even the creation of the robots spanned the globe. One of the robots was built here in the GFS Maker Space,

while another one was created in a lab in Shanghai that belongs to a Chinese First Robotics Challenge team that was kind enough to let the GFS team borrow its facility during the off-season.

For the GFS team, navigating the distance and technology was well worth it to continue working on something they enjoy so much. Through weekly Zoom meetings and WeChat, the group shared their progress and stayed connected.

"Time differences are nothing when you are passionate about something," Annie says. "I absolutely love my lovely teammates. I can feel our passion for robotics through my screen. We are very



Members of the robotics team, Bearly Awake, work on their robot. Photo courtesy of Garrison Forest

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



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# Meet Boys' Latin's Pen Vineyard

By Alex Barron

**S**tarting a new job in a new city in the middle of a pandemic certainly isn't for everyone, but when the new Middle School Head Pen Vineyard heard about the opening at Boys' Latin, he jumped at the opportunity. Vineyard had been teaching at Fairfield Country Day, a small K-9 boys' school in southwestern Connecticut. Partly thanks to the International Boys' School Conference he attended several times, he knew of Boys' Latin's reputation, and once he stepped onto campus, he quickly fell in love with what he identified as its "intimate, highly relational culture."

"The middle school is the best-kept secret of Boys' Latin," says Pen, who will teach Spanish on top of his duties as an administrator. "It's a highly functioning team built by [previous Middle School Head] Brandon Mollett, and I feel lucky to be stepping in." (Mollett will be moving into the role of dean of academics.)



Photo courtesy of Boys' Latin

Vineyard has a particular passion for boys' middle school education, which he sees as his professional niche.

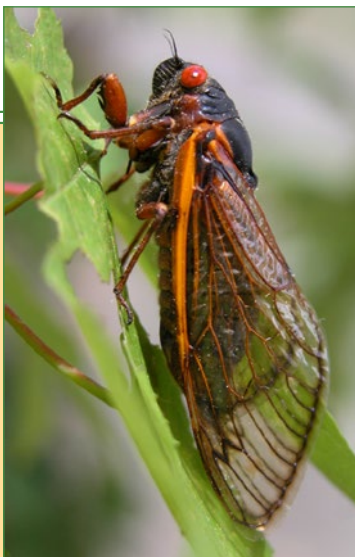
"I love how much development happens during these years," he explains. "Particularly in a boys' school, where all faculty are dedicated to building relationships."

His top priority as an educator is to instill in his students a sense that they belong: "Relationships create belonging, and from that sense of belonging, incredible things can start to happen." ❖

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.

**Q:** What is the difference between Brood X cicadas and locusts?

**A:** Annual locusts generally have green bodies and belong to the same family of insects as grasshoppers. Locusts are more destructive than periodical cicadas. Locust swarms feed on a wide variety of plant life and can be very destructive to parks and croplands. By comparison, cicadas (*Magicicada septendecim*) do not feed at the same level as locusts and, although young trees should be protected from damage caused by egg-laying females, the leaf-munching damage caused by males is much less severe. Generally, mature vegetation can withstand it.



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# Adventurelogue: My Excursion in a Flying Fortress

By Jim Considine

The adventure started at the Carroll County Regional Airport in October 2017. My companion for the day was George Atkinson, who has been a Roland Park Baseball League coach for more than 20 years. Both George's father and mine flew B-17s (aka Flying Fortresses) during WWII. My father, as pilot, chose his plane's name, "The Baltimore Oriole", as a tribute to his favorite baseball team. He was in the 91st Bomb Group, 324th Bomb Squadron, most noted for having suffered more deaths than the entire U.S. Marine Corps during the war.

Overcast skies kept our flight grounded until late in the afternoon. We were supposed to fly over the Gettysburg battlefield, but the delay forced a route change. We flew west instead, at an altitude of 2,000 feet, with an airspeed of between 180 and 200 miles per hour. We sat on the floor during take-off and landing, seatbelted to the plywood floor. The biggest thrill came when we were permitted to stick our heads out of the top hatch of the plane. The view of western Maryland was splendid.

Sadly, the plane that flew us on that late fall day in 2017, the "Nine-O-Nine", crashed in Connecticut two years later, killing the pilot—the same that flew our plane—his co-pilot and six passengers.

To see videos of my adventure, please visit [photos.app.goo.gl/53S3VRVpVPVajEYu9](https://photos.app.goo.gl/53S3VRVpVPVajEYu9).



Jim Considine.

Photos courtesy of Jim Considine and George Atkinson



## THE SUN Pilot Of "Baltimore Oriole" Promoted To First Lieutenant

March 6, 1944

James I. Considine, 23, pilot of the Flying Fortress "Baltimore Oriole," has been promoted from second to first lieutenant, the commanding general of the Eighth Air Force recently announced. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Considine, live at 3019 Barclay street.

Lieutenant Considine has made 14 daylight bombing attacks on Germany and the occupied countries since being assigned to a heavy bombardment group in the European theater. He is the possessor of the Air Medal, with an oak leaf cluster.

Lieutenant Considine graduated from City College in 1939 and was formerly employed by the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company.

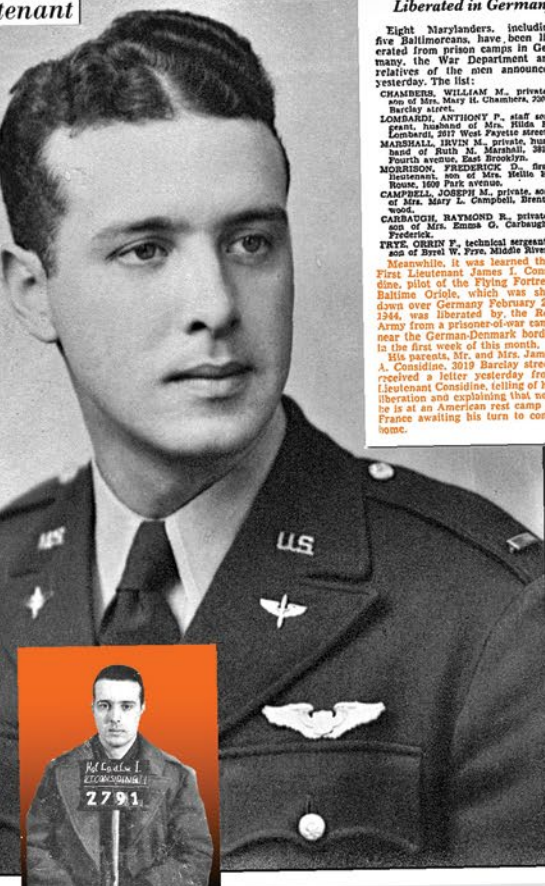
## THE SUN March 10, 1944 LIEUT. MYER SILBER KILLED IN BRITAIN

13 Marylanders Missing in Action, 7 Baltimoreans

A Baltimore navigator on a bomber was killed in a crash in England; 13 Marylanders, including seven Baltimoreans, are missing in action and another has been wounded, the War and Navy departments reported yesterday. Meanwhile, parents of two Baltimore soldiers were notified by the War Department that their sons are prisoners of war in Germany.

Shot Down Over Germany

The War Department informed Mr. and Mrs. Considine that Lieutenant Considine, pilot of the Flying Fortress "Baltimore Oriole," was shot down over Germany on February 22. He had been reported missing. Lieutenant Considine wears the Air Medal with oak leaf cluster. He graduated from the City College in 1939 and was employed at the Justice Iron and Steel Corporation plant here before entering the army in March, 1942.



## THE SUN May 30, 1945

### Eight Maryland Men Liberated in Germany

Eight Marylanders, including five Baltimoreans, have been liberated from prison camps in Germany, the War Department and relatives of the men announced yesterday. The list:

CHAMBERS, WILLIAM M., private, son of Mrs. Mary H. Chambers, 2009 Barclay street.

LOMBARDI, ANTHONY P., staff sergeant, husband of Mrs. Hilda E. Lombardi, 2017 West Fayette street.

MARSHALL, IRVIN M., private, husband of Ruth M. Marshall, 3817 Fourth avenue, East Brooklyn.

MORRISON, FREDERICK O., first lieutenant, son of Mrs. Helio M. Boone, 1609 Park avenue.

CAMPBELL, JOSEPH M., private, son of Mrs. Mary L. Campbell, Brentwood.

CARRADON, RAYMOND R., private, son of Mrs. Emma G. Carbaugh, Frederic.

FATZ, ORREN F., technical sergeant, son of Byron W. Fatz, Middle River. Meanwhile, it was learned that First Lieutenant James I. Considine, pilot of the Flying Fortress "Baltimore Oriole," which was shot down over Germany February 22, 1944, was liberated by the Red Army from a prisoner-of-war camp near the German-Denmark border in the first week of this month.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Considine, 3019 Barclay street, received a letter yesterday from Lieutenant Considine, telling of his liberation and explaining that now he is at an American rest camp in France awaiting his turn to come home.

George Atkinson's father (standing, second from right) and his crew.



(Left) Lt. James I. Considine. (Inset) German-issued POW identification.





(Left) Farms of western Maryland.  
(Below) Life magazine cover showing Memphis Belle.



Bombardier's position



(Left) Nose of the Nine-O-Nine. (Above) Remains of the Nine-O-Nine.



# Gilman Enhances Wellness and Support Program for Students

In naming Christina Kim as its first Director of Wellness and Support, Gilman School is preparing to launch a comprehensive, schoolwide student support program. The goal of the program—to ensure that students receive the appropriate support to nurture their physical, emotional and academic well-being—recognizes the essential relationship among these different components of overall student success.

“We had a very strong pool of candidates for this position,” says Headmaster Henry P. A. Smyth, “which, I believe, reflects the growing understanding of student wellness as an integral part of the educational experience and development of our boys.”

Gilman seeks to prioritize students’ physical and mental health as part of its overall strategic plan. Smyth says, “We are very excited to fill this new position that will help us realize an important part of our strategic vision.”

The creation of this position was the chief recommendation of a task force charged with examining student emotional wellness at Gilman. Kim will work with the team of counselors, learning specialists and health professionals at the school to oversee three critical elements of student wellness: program development, shared communication between appropriate people and departments, and coordinated responses to student health emergencies. She will also collaborate with the heads of

each of the three divisions and other departments to ensure continuity of the program throughout Gilman.

“Typically, when we think about school, we think about educating the mind. But we know that supporting the whole child—academic, as well as physical, emotional and social, best promotes educational learning,” Kim says. “The great thing about Gilman is that these values are in their mission statement. At Gilman, I hope to establish a comprehensive approach to holistic well-being. I look forward to promoting a culture of wellness for all members of our community.”

Kim brings a wealth of experience, most immediately from The Park School, where she served as a counselor for the 2020-2021 school year. Prior to moving to Baltimore, Kim served for five years as the Director of Student Life at The Willows Community School in the Los Angeles area, where she oversaw social-emotional programming for students, faculty and parents. Additionally, she has worked in many other capacities over her career—as a field instructor, teacher, learning specialist, school social worker and clinical social worker.

Kim holds numerous degrees: a bachelor’s from New York University, a Master of Education and a Master of Social Work through Bank Street College of Education and Columbia University School of Social Work, and another Master of Education from Teachers College, Columbia University.


She officially joins the Gilman team on July 1. ❖

Gilman School ([gilman.edu](http://gilman.edu)) is a pre-kindergarten through 12th grade independent school, with an enrollment of approximately 1,000 boys. A diverse community dedicated to educating boys in mind, body and spirit, Gilman seeks to develop men of character and integrity who have the skills and ability to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live and work.



Photo courtesy of Gilman

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## GARRISON FOREST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

supportive of each other, and communicate super well, even if most of us are in different places.”

Robotics is an exciting, interesting field for students with a lot of varied interests—and it can help build unexpected skills.

“Robotics isn’t just about computer science and engineering,” Annie explains. “We need to have solid writing skills to record our works, take good notes of our progress, reach out to sponsors, and sometimes go and present our work to lower and middle schoolers. This is the beauty of robotics—it provides everyone on the team a unique experience!” ❖

Garrison Forest School ([gfs.org](http://gfs.org)) 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.



# Bryn Mawr's Leadership in Action Student Expo



To culminate its year-long Leadership in Action program, The Bryn Mawr School showcased student projects that demonstrate service, problem-solving and social entrepreneurship in its inaugural Leadership in Action Student Expo.

"The Expo highlights the personalized leadership skills that our students are developing across all grades at Bryn Mawr, whether that is through service projects, community outreach, student-led activities and clubs, or the leadership lessons that our teachers instill in their lessons," says Justin Curtis, senior director of Academic and Strategic Initiatives.

More than 30 projects were presented by lower, middle and upper school students seeking to solve a community issue or problem. Projects included a kindergarten mitten drive, an app coded by a group of 5th graders to promote recycling, a "My Little Library" box, and a student-written and -directed stage production of Little Women. In addition, an upper school student was selected as keynote speaker at the Johns Hopkins Global Health conference. Students participating in the Expo are also eligible to receive one of five funding awards if their project demonstrates a need for resources, such as buying supplies or purchasing a website domain to apply for a patent.

The Expo is designed to foster growth and curiosity both for student participants and those who may want to pursue a project in the future. Students "further develop their pitch skills, connect with their peers and understand the impact their work can have

on the world," Curtis explains.

There is hard work involved in each project, but student growth is more than hard work and learning, it is discovering "four kids can change the world," according to one of the 5th grade participants.

While this year the Expo was held virtually due to pandemic restrictions, the plan is for future events to be in person.

"We hope that the Expo becomes a yearly celebration and to be woven into the fabric of student work at Bryn Mawr," Curtis says. "We have always looked for natural ways to build time for student work exhibitions, and the Expo provides us with a way to celebrate students across all divisions simultaneously."

The Leadership in Action program at Bryn Mawr is another example of the school's mission to encourage students to create positive change. Curtis describes the Expo as an event that "pulls our entire community closer together and creates a shared movement using the leadership skills our students have developed during their time at Bryn Mawr to make the world a better place." ❖

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.

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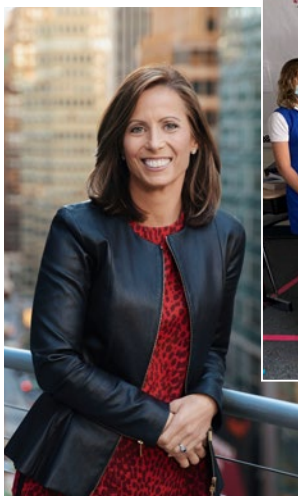
# RPCS Welcomes Back Alum and President and CEO of Nasdaq to Inspire Women's Leadership

This past spring, Roland Park Country School (RPCS) hosted alumna Adena Friedman ('87) to speak to lower and upper school students about leadership, finance and investment.

Friedman is the president and CEO of Nasdaq. She is the first woman to lead a global exchange company and was named by Forbes in 2017 as the third most powerful woman in finance. She graduated from RPCS in 1987, earned a BA in political science from Williams College and an MBA from Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Management.

Friedman spoke with RPCS 5th grade students who are participating in The Stock Market Game through Towson University, where they work in groups to invest (using a simulated approach) in companies like Apple, Google and Disney+. Her audience also included upper school students from the school's newly formed Power Lunch, a pilot initiative of the Gore Family Leadership Institute. Power Lunch launched in early 2021 to teach RPCS upper school students about networking and investing.

Friedman spoke with students about leadership, investments and



Photos courtesy of RPCS

her time at RPCS. She answered many thoughtful questions on topics ranging from the hardest parts of her job to her best advice for students who want to pursue a career in finance.

When asked about how she became a president and CEO, Friedman told the girls: "I worked very hard and had a lot of different jobs. Early in your career, you want to try a lot of different things, and I was lucky to learn and grow in so many areas of this business."

After the presentation, Alexis L., a fifth grader, says, "Today, I learned that it could take a while for my dreams to come true, but if I really work hard, I can make them happen."

This conversation served as the unofficial launch of the Gore Family Leadership Institute, a K-12 program that connects our students to local and national communities through experiences that develop the leadership capacity of every student at RPCS. Paula and Kyle Gore are parents to three RPCS graduates. The Gore family has been instrumental in the founding of the Gore Family Leadership Institute that bears their name.

"We're fundamentally focused on investing in education and the community experience. An investment in RPCS is an investment in the young women of today and tomorrow who will change the world for the better in ways we cannot yet imagine," Mr. Gore explains.

The Gores see their family values reflected in the school and in the education and upbringing of their three daughters. They are happy to support a cause that makes such a huge difference in the lives of RPCS students and, ultimately, all with whom they interact, in the years to come. The Gore Family Leadership Institute is part of the school's larger campaign, This Is Our Moment: The Campaign for RPCS. Learn more at [rpcs.org](https://rpcs.org).

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

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# Bookends: A Conversation with Shawn Nocher

By Martha Marani

The bio Blackstone Publishing offers for Shawn Nocher's debut novel site reads:

"Shawn Nocher's compelling short stories have appeared in numerous literary magazines, including *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *Pithead Chapel*, *Eunoia Review*, and *MoonPark Review*, and she has been longlisted or won honorable mentions from both *SmokeLong Quarterly* and *Glimmer Train*.

She earned her master of arts in writing at Johns Hopkins University, has given wings to two children, and lives with her husband and an assortment of sassy rescue animals in Baltimore, Maryland, where she writes in a room of her own. This is her first novel."

Those of us in Roland Park know that there are details missing. Like the fact that for more than 10 years Nocher worked at The Children's Bookstore, which used to be on Deepdene Road. She also managed the shop's non-profit, The Children's Bookstore Foundation, which provided free books to underserved classrooms in Baltimore city. And that she owned The Floral Studio, offering custom-designed arrangements and flower design workshops. The shop, which Nocher started with her daughter, closed in 2018. Nocher is a 25-year resident of Roland Park.

I knew about The Children's Bookstore and The Floral Studio, but was surprised when Nocher emailed me in March, offering to share an Advanced Reading Copy of *A Hand to Hold in Deep Water*. She dropped the book off a few days later and I curled up with it on a chilly spring day. By page 106, I was hooked, writing to Nocher, "I am deeply invested in the characters you've created. It's a compelling story that I fear will break my heart a little."

Back on the Blackstone site, the blurb reads:

"*A Hand to Hold in Deep Water* is a deeply felt narrative about mothers and daughters, the legacy of secrets, the way we make a family, and the love of those who walk us through our deepest pain. It is about the way we are tethered to one another and how we choose to wear those bindings. These are characters you won't soon forget and, more so, won't want to leave behind when you turn the last page."

**Q:** You apparently are a woman of many talents. How long have you been a writer?

**A:** Like most writers, I've been writing as far back as I can remember. I learned to write using an experimental phonetic alphabet so I could write anything I wanted by the time I was six years old. But I wrote the first chapter of this book when I was twenty-seven as a short story for a workshop class, set it aside for two decades and went back to it. The first draft of the book was finished twelve years ago and I got a wonderful agent who couldn't sell it. She advised me to start a second book and let this one sit, but I'm not one to have unfinished creative endeavors sitting around, so I went back to school and got my MA at Hopkins, rewrote it, and the same agent was able to sell it almost



Photos courtesy of Shawn Nocher

immediately. In the meantime I did start that second book—thankfully, because I sold *A Hand to Hold in Deep Water* in a two-book deal.

**Q:** How long have you been working on *A Hand to Hold in Deep Water*?

**A:** I guess you could say I worked on it in earnest for the last decade, but I didn't sit down and make it my daily job until I was able to close The Floral Studio. Event floral design is demanding and didn't leave me enough time to immerse myself in the writing in the way the story demanded.

**Q:** The characters are so finely and authentically wrought. How much of the story draws upon your own experiences with trauma, loss and illness?

**A:** Both of my children have suffered serious health crises and so it was very easy to draw on those emotions from a mother's perspective. And while I never suffered the extreme trauma that May suffers, I have experienced, like so many others, a violation of sorts from someone I trusted, so I simply drew upon that experience and explored those confusing emotions to understand what is going on with May.

**Q:** Why did you decide to use May's journal entries to tell most of her story?

**A:** A diary, to me, feels secretive and when it's embedded in a book, it's a way to make the reader feel as though they're eavesdropping—digging into a place they're not supposed to go, violating someone's privacy. When my mother-in-law passed many years ago, she left behind her diaries from the last years of WWII when she was just a confused young teen and I had all of those feelings as I read them. That experience of reading them, especially knowing how her life turned out years later, was such a powerful experience for me and I wanted to recreate that feeling for the readers.

**Q:** The family at the heart of the story—May, Willy, Lacey, Tasha, Mac and Kat—might be considered unconventional. How do you define family?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



# The Book Nook

By Julie Johnson, Branch Manager, Roland Park Branch,  
Enoch Pratt Free Library

**G**reat news, neighbors! The library is open with a limited capacity for browsing and limited computer use. As of May 1, our hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Tuesday and Thursday, 12 to 7 pm. To enter any Pratt Library, we ask that you:

- Wear a mask or face covering for the duration of your visit
- Get your temperature checked
- Undergo a health screening
- Provide your name and contact information for contact tracing
- Maintain social distancing

If you prefer to pick up your materials, we are happy to bring your materials to the table by the front door. Just call 410-396-6059 when you arrive.

This summer, the Pratt will offer a variety of interactive programs for all ages. Keep an eye out for more information about Summer Break Baltimore, a citywide, all ages, summerlong program; and Roland Park's Juneteenth Take & Make Kit and Olympic Election, a chance to explore the world of voting in Baltimore, including voter registration, early voting and mail-in voting, all in the Olympic spirit.

All Pratt libraries will be closed on July 5th for Independence Day and September 6th for Labor 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



*Leave the World Behind* by Rumaan Alam (also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook and eAudio). An interrupted family vacation, unexpected visitors, a mysterious blackout—something is happening, and the world may never be the same. On a reassuringly sunny summer day, Amanda, an account director in advertising; Clay, a college professor; and their children,

Archie, 15, and Rose, 13, make their way from Brooklyn to a luxury home (swimming pool! hot tub! marble countertops!) in a remote area of Long Island they've rented for a family vacation. Shortly after they arrive, however, the family's holiday is interrupted by a knock on the door: The house's owners, a prosperous older black couple—George Washington and his wife, Ruth—have shown up unannounced because New York

City has been plunged into a blackout and their Park Avenue high-rise apartment didn't feel safe. Soon it becomes clear that the blackout is a symptom (or is it a cause?) of something larger—and nothing is safe. Has there been a nuclear or climate disaster, a war, a terrorist act, a bomb? The story unfolds like a dystopian fever dream cloaked in the trappings of a dream vacation: Why do hundreds of deer show up in the house's well-maintained backyard or a flock of bright pink flamingos frolic in the family pool and then fly away? What is the noise, loud enough to crack glass, that comes, without warning, once and then, later, repeatedly? Is it safer to go back to the city, to civilization, or to remain away, in a world apart? As they search for answers and adjust to what increasingly appears to be a confusing new normal, the two families—one Black, one White; one older, one younger; one rich, one middle-class—are compelled to find community amid calamity, to come together to support each other and survive. As he did in his previous novels, *Rich and Pretty* and *That Kind of Mother*, Alam shows an impressive facility for getting into his characters' heads and an enviable empathy for their moral shortcomings, emotional limitations and failures of imagination. The result is a riveting novel that thrums with suspense yet ultimately offers no easy answers—disappointing those who crave them even as it fittingly reflects our time. Addressing race, risk, retreat and the ripple effects of a national emergency, Alam's novel is just in time for this moment.



*The Order of the Pure Moon Reflected in Water* by Zen Cho (also available Overdrive/Libby as an eAudio and as a book on CD). The newest novella by Cho (*The True Queen*) is set in a wuxia-style [martial arts adventure] world where the scattered remnants of the Tang independence movement battle with their former allies and "liberators" from the Protectorate. Tet Sang, the level-

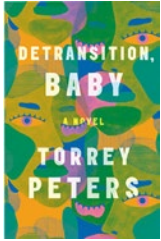
headed second in command of a group of Tang rebels turned "contractors," intervenes when his handsome but impulsive superior starts a fight with a rude customer harassing a waitress. To Tet's surprise, the waitress, Guet Imm, a former member of the Order of the Pure Moon Reflected in Water, shows up the next day demanding to become a part of their group. Tet must try to not only keep Guet from disrupting the group's latest mission but also prevent her from learning some secrets about the Tang's origins and history with the Pure Moon. A slim but eventful story, Cho's latest combines the pace and action of the wuxia tradition with a fantasy world reminiscent of occupied Manchuria.

*Fifty Words for Rain* by Asha Lemmie (also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook and eAudio). Lemmie's debut novel is a gripping historical tale that will transport readers through a myriad of emotions. Noriko Kamiza is the illegitimate child of a Japanese aristocrat and an African American GI. When her mother abandons her, leaving her with her Japanese grandmother in the years following the end of WWII, Noriko soon learns that her very existence is considered a stain on the family name. Eventually, she finds an unlikely ally in her half-brother, Akira, the legitimate heir to the Kamiza estate, and the two form an unbreakable bond that will lead to profound and unexpected consequences in their lives and the lives of all they come in





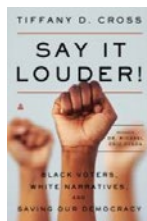
contact with. Lemmie has a gift both for painting pictures with lush descriptions and for eliciting horror with the matter-of-fact way in which she recounts abhorrent acts. She intimately draws the readers into every aspect of this complex story, leading us through the decades and across the continents this adventure spans, bringing us to anger, tears and small pockets of joy. A truly ambitious and remarkable debut.



*Detransition, Baby* by Torrey Peters (also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook and eAudio). A wonderfully original exploration of desire and the evolving shape of family. Reese's specialty is horrible married men—and she has carefully analyzed all the reasons why. She is, in fact, exquisitely self-aware when it comes to her self-destructive tendencies. When her ex, Ames, asks her to be a second mother to the baby his lover, Katrina, is carrying, Reese knows exactly why she doesn't say no: She believes that motherhood will make her a real woman. Ames has issues of his own. Fatherhood is not a role he wants for himself—which is not to say that he doesn't want to be a parent. It's his hope that, by bringing Reese into their ménage, he might make Katrina consider other, less binary, possibilities. Set in New York and peopled with youngish professionals (and folks who are, at least, professional-adjacent), this novel has the contours of a dishy contemporary drama, and it is that. What sets it apart from similar novels are the following details: Reese is a trans woman. When she and Ames were together, Ames was Amy and also a trans woman. Detransitioning—returning to the gender assigned at birth after living as another gender—is a fraught subject. People who change their minds about transitioning are often held up as cautionary tales or as evidence that trans identity is a phase or a sickness, not something real. Peters, a trans woman, knows this and, in Ames, has created a character who does not conform to any hateful stereotype. Ames is, like every other human, complicated, and his relationship to his own body and his own gender is just one of his complexities. Reese is similarly engaging. She's kind of a mess, but who isn't? There's no question that there will be much that's new here for a lot of readers, but the insider view Peters offers never feels voyeuristic, and the author does a terrific job of communicating cultural specificity while creating universal sympathy. Trans women will be matching their experiences against Reese's, but so will cis women—and so will anyone with an interest in the human condition. Smart, funny and bighearted.

## Nonfiction

*Say It Louder! Black Voters, White Narratives, and Saving our Democracy* by Tiffany D. Cross (also available as an eBook in Hoopla and Overdrive/Libby). In this debut, political analyst and media commentator Cross takes on cable news networks, venture capitalism, a century of Russian attempts to influence American politics and more as she examines the role of Black voters in U.S. politics. Cross shares her experiences as a young aspiring journalist who is forced to drop out of college owing to financial pressures but is able to win jobs, first at a local radio station and, shortly after, at CNN. She later produced a successful daily email newsletter analyzing recent news and politics, leading to regular appearances on cable news shows. Cross provides numerous examples of U.S. political and cultural systems working as



they were designed—upholding Whiteness and suppressing those who are not White, including the media's focus on recent Russian influence on Black voters while downplaying American White supremacy's long role in erasing Black voters and their votes (literally, in some cases). Cross writes with entertaining and personable prose, almost as if readers are listening to her speak. She incorporates history extensively into her text, connecting the past to the present while looking ahead to the future.



*Girl, Gurl, Grrrl: On Womanhood, and Belonging in the Age of Black Girl Magic* by Kenya Hunt (also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook and eAudio). In the vein of Roxane Gay's *Bad Feminist* and Issa Rae's *The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl*, but wholly its own, this is a provocative, humorous and, at times, heartbreaking collection of essays on what it means to be Black, a woman, a mother and a

global citizen in today's ever-changing world. Black women have never been more visible or more publicly celebrated than they are now. But for every new milestone, every magazine cover, every box office record smashed, every new face elected to public office, the reality of everyday life for Black women remains a complex, conflicted, contradiction-laden experience. An American journalist who has been living and working in London for a decade, Hunt has made a career of distilling moments, movements and cultural moods into words. Her work takes the difficult and the indefinable and makes them accessible; it

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## BOOK NOOK

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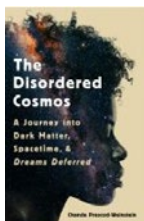
is razor-sharp cultural observation threaded through evocative and relatable stories. *Girl Gurl Grrrl* both illuminates our current cultural moment and transcends it. Hunt captures the zeitgeist while also creating a timeless celebration of womanhood, Blackness and the possibilities they both contain. She blends the popular and the personal, the frivolous and the momentous in a collection that truly reflects what it is to be living and thriving as a Black woman today.



*Conditional Citizens: On Belonging in America* by Laila Lalami (also available as an eBook in Overdrive/Libby). In the opening pages of this propulsive, fascinating and infuriating account of citizenship in the U.S., acclaimed Moroccan American novelist Lalami (*The Other Americans*) explains how her relationship with her adopted nation and its bureaucratic apparatus is “affected

in all sorts of ways by...being an immigrant, a woman, an Arab, and a Muslim.” Lalami employs highly charged personal anecdotes (on two different occasions, U.S. Customs officers asked her husband how much livestock he traded for her) to launch an eye-opening, uncomfortable examination of the many ways U.S. citizens find themselves differentiated based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion and language. These “conditional citizens” are “people whose rights the state finds expendable in the pursuit of White supremacy.” Beginning with

negative media depictions of Arabs in the early 2000s, such as in the Fox TV series “24”, Lalami broadens her scope to address the plights of Latinx, Black, Asian and Native American groups that have faced immigration restrictions, racist profiling, forced migration and genocide. Though certainly timely for the current political moment, Lalami historicizes these trends, which turn out to be as American as apple pie. Lalami treats this complex, incendiary topic with nuanced consideration and blistering insight.



*The Disordered Cosmos: A Journey into Dark Matter, Spacetime, & Dreams Deferred* by Chanda Prescod-Weinstein (also available as an eBook in Overdrive/Libby). A renowned physicist describes the beauty and wonder of the universe while interrogating the discriminatory sociocultural systems that support scientific practice. In this powerful and compelling book,

Prescod-Weinstein patently lays out that racist and sexist policies and behaviors are rampant across all scientific disciplines. As a result, minorities are poorly represented, in particular in physics, astronomy and related fields. Yet the cosmos offers a siren song to all humans, and changing the centuries-old framework dictating how science is constructed, perceived and taught is imperative not only to make room for diverse scientists, but also to enrich the pursuit of knowledge itself. Prescod-Weinstein, who is the first Black woman to hold a tenure-track faculty position in theoretical cosmology, rightly points out that “creating room for Black children to freely love particle physics and cosmology

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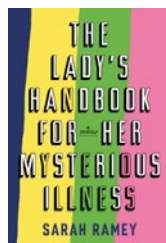
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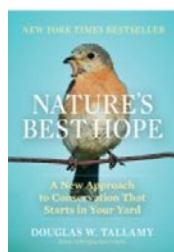


means radically changing society and the role of physicists within it." In a pleasing combination of passionate and cogent prose, the author demonstrates the entanglement of scientific pursuit and colonial histories, and explains how her own exploration of math and physics cannot be separated from the history of racism and oppression. After all, she writes, "physics and math classrooms are not only scenes of cosmology...but also scenes of society, complete with all of the problems that follow society wherever it goes. There is no escape." From the hunt for dark matter (her area of expertise) to the often fraught relationship among Indigenous peoples, their lands and high-tech experiments, Prescod-Weinstein's deep dives into complex subjects are accessible and exhilarating. But it's her crystal-clear vision of the transformation equality could affect in the world that makes this book a must-read. Her belief in what the future could hold—of "what freedom looks like"—should serve as an inspiration for all readers. A timely, necessary, stellar book—a game-changer.



**The Lady's Handbook for Her Mysterious Illness: A Memoir** by Sarah Ramey. Ramey's induction into becoming what she has dubbed a WOMI, a Woman with a Mysterious Illness, began when she was in college and a swim in Walden Pond led to a lingering urinary tract infection. It was treated with a horrific, botched procedure, which led to another infection, which led to Ramey being dosed with powerful antibiotics. Rather

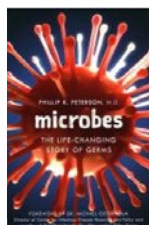
than that being the end of her ordeal, this kicked off a 17-year nightmare in which doctors and modern medicine failed Ramey again and again. Her quest to get to the root of undefined, oft-dismissed conditions like chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia, which plague women more often than men, led her on a veritable journey to the underworld as doctors doubted her or, worse, exacerbated her condition to the point where she became a complete invalid. In her agony, Ramey deduced that the problem went far beyond women being disbelieved; it stemmed from humanity's rejection of the feminine as valid. Ramey finally found the solution for managing her condition in functional medicine, a more holistic approach involving diet, exercise and stress-reduction, as well as medication. A visceral, scathing, erudite read that digs deeply into how modern medicine continues to fail women and what can be done about it.



**Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation in Your Yard** by Douglas W. Tallamy (also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook). Readers of Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home* and *The Living Landscape* (with Rick Darke) will recognize some familiar themes in his most recent offering: How important native plants are to our ecosystems, how our landscaping practices should be more friendly

to both wildlife and humans, and how the "renaturing" of our backyards en masse could create a giant wildlife corridor the author calls "Homegrown National Park." Tallamy accentuates practicality and "fixing problems" like biodiversity loss, habitat fragmentation and climate change, and is candid about the obstacles ahead. His plan relies on individual effort, yet, as he acknowledges, millions of people remain "clueless" about nature. He provides some answers in a down-to-earth,

personalized style, citing his own backyard as a demonstration lab—"Tallamyland"—and emphasizes small steps to local ecosystem recovery (removing alien plants, shrinking the lawn, fostering insects, planting oaks and other "keystone" genera). The book's solid organization, including FAQs at the rear, and striking photography also aid his cause.



**Microbes: The Life-Changing Story of Germs** by Phillip K. Peterson, M.D. Infectious disease specialist Peterson (*Get Inside Your Doctor's Head*) provides a fascinating overview of germs in his educational and timely primer. He begins by explaining how germs, despite the threat they pose to other living things by causing disease, appear at the "very root" of the "Tree

of Life," as the predecessor to multicellular organisms. Peterson then surveys epidemics over the course of human history, such as smallpox or the bubonic plague, and those of the modern world; in the early 1990s, he notes, medical professionals were experiencing an "onslaught of new or reemerging infectious diseases." He covers more than 20 in all, notably including killer viruses such as HIV and Ebola (though not the virus that causes COVID-19). In a final section looking to the future, he cautions that "we still have a very long way to go" in vaccine development. But though the "nature of many germs remains profoundly mysterious," he stresses that there are many scientists committed to solving these mysteries. Lay readers should find this an eye-opening and illuminating look at the pressing issue of infectious disease. ❖

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# KidLit Picks

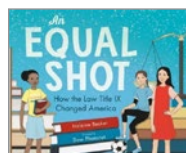
By Rona Sue London

## Picture Books (Age 3-6)



*Welcome Flower Child, The Magic of Your Birth Flower* by Brigette Barrager. "Flowers bloom inside this book. Turn the pages. Take a look. A flower blooms each month anew. Find the flower just for you." Get lost in a world of color, texture and beauty in this lovely book that is the perfect harbinger of spring. With

each month represented by a different flower and a short sweet verse extolling the special virtues of that birth month, readers celebrate the bounty of gardens and the glory and potential of each flower within. The book's final page opens up to a luscious spread and the words, "No matter what the time of year, you were born to be held dear. Adventure through the garden bed. Travel where your heart has led. The greatest bliss I'll ever know will be to watch you grow, grow, grow!"



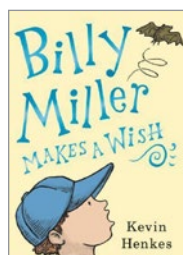
*An Equal Shot: How the Law Title IX Changed America* by Helaine Becker. It takes just three words to change the world, "It isn't fair." And it took just the 37 additional words that comprise Title IX to revolutionize life for American girls and women: "No person in the United States

shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Prior to its passage, women who married or became pregnant could lose their jobs. Women seldom had access to higher education and rarely explored careers in medicine, science and engineering, and there were few opportunities in sports. Title IX, which passed in 1972, changed everything. With engaging illustrations and a wonderful, uplifting story, this book encourages females to thrive and to reach their full potential.

## Early Readers (Ages 6-9)

*Arlo & Pips: King of the Birds* by Elise Gravel. With sly humor and lots of interesting facts, we meet Arlo, self-proclaimed King of the Birds, as he strikes up an unlikely friendship with Pips on his first day in the city. As the two explore Arlo's new digs, they

find lots of adventures—discovering shiny things at the beach, feasting on good food (even if others would consider it trash) and employing methods to trick other birds. As Arlo boastfully brags about his abilities and accomplishments, we learn that crows are, indeed, incredibly intelligent. They are able to count, use tools, collect objects, commit subterfuge and remember things. In this early chapter book that is also a graphic novel, with scientific sidebars to boot, Arlo and Pip will win your hearts and you will surely develop a newfound respect for these winged creatures.



*Billy Miller Makes a Wish* by Kevin Henkes. Make a wish and blow out your candles! This is just what young Billy does in this charming sequel to the Newbery Honoree, *The Year of Billy Miller*. We join Billy on his 8th birthday, which coincides with the first day of summer vacation before 3rd grade. Billy hopes for something exciting to happen, and happen it does, though it turns out excitement isn't always what it's cracked up to be. There's

the bat in the basement, a fire in the chimney, a slightly embarrassing mishap with Sal, his little sister, delivering his parent's old love letters to every neighbor on the block, and the perfect summer day. These are the wonderfully silly, mundane experiences that make the warmth of Billy's family so irresistible. Join Billy and delight in the simple pleasure of air conditioning on a steamy hot afternoon, special junk food at the pool's snack bar, and the epiphany of seeing your teacher in the grocery store and realizing she is a normal person, in this perfect early reader.

## Upper Middle Readers (Ages 10-13)

*What Lane?* by Torrey Maldonado. Stephen is in 6th grade, has tons of diverse friends, lives in NYC and loves comic books. He is also bi-racial, with a White mom and a Black father. He idealizes basketball player Marshall Carter, who has an astounding ability to score from every part of the court. Every time Marshall puts points on the board, he proclaims "What lane?!" Stephen also wants to be like that:



he wants to be in every lane and to have no particular lane. When his best friend's cousin, Chad, moves nearby, the dynamics within Stephen's groups of buddies change. He likes his White friends, but begins to notice that people treat Stephen differently than the others. He also enjoys hanging out with his Black friends, but they keep bringing up uncomfortable topics. As Stephen opens his eyes to the world around him, becoming aware of the Black Lives Matter movement and what it means to be a minority in America, he struggles with where he fits in and how unfair life can be. He has conversations with his father about the perils and precautions that a young Black man must be aware of, while avoiding letting these limitations define him. This is a wonderful coming-of-age story, perfect for middle schoolers, about moving in and out of your lane with a steady hand, clear eyes and an open heart.

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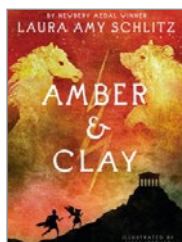
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*Amber & Clay* by Laura Amy Schlitz (a Park School librarian). "I walked with grief in one hand and hope in the other." As a slave boy, Rhaskos travels through life holding both within him. He is the beloved child of a woman from a marginalized sect of Greeks who finds himself, at 10, abruptly alone. "Common as clay," his true emotions are closely held, though he is eager to be molded into a good human who loves art and is capable of self-determination. Melisto, in contrast, is "precious as amber," bright, glowing and precocious—an aristocratic girl growing up beloved by her father and spurned by her mother. Although she has countless advantages and knows her mind well, she is relegated to the weaving room and a predestined life of marriage and children. Each chapter is introduced with an artifact and its context, and we hear from an array of characters, including the children themselves, Greek gods and Sokrates. With alternating sections of verse and narrative, the lives of Rhaskos and Melisto twine together to form a wonderfully rich story with layers of history, culture, art, philosophy, spirits, ghosts and wit. Reading Newbery Medalist Schlitz's rich and complex book is a revelation!



### Young Adult (Ages 14-18)

*Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas. In this riveting prequel to *The Hate U Give*, we

meet Starr's father, Maverick, as he turns 17 and his world both expands and contracts. Pressure comes from all sides. His friends want him to stick with the gang and continue selling drugs to make some real money to help with his family's bills, his mama wants him on the straight and narrow, his father, a former gang member in jail, wants a different path for his son, his girlfriend, Lisa, wants him to go to college, and his community sends him a steady stream of mixed messages about what it is to be a Black man. In spite of all the noise, Mav thinks he's got it all figured out, working for the King Lords like his daddy, until an unexpected pregnancy and then a second throws him a curveball. Mav realizes that he must be there for his baby son, Seven, and tries to extricate himself from the gang, working at the local grocery store while balancing school, friends and family. When his cousin and best friend, Dre, is murdered, Mav needs to make some unfathomably difficult choices. He has to figure out what responsibility, loyalty and honor really mean on his way to becoming Seven's and Starr's inspiring father. Starkly realistic, but filled with hope and optimism about controlling your own destiny, this book is an homage to young Black men who face life-and-death decisions every day in a world in which the deck is stacked against them, and yet they still rise to fight another day. ❖

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

**Cylburn Arboretum**, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Cylburn's grounds and gardens are open Tuesday through Sunday, 8 am-5 pm. The Vollmer Visitor Center is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am-4 pm. The mansion is open the first weekend of each month, 9-10 am, and by appointment. Please consider donating to Fig's Flower Fund to help Head Gardener Brent "Fig" Figlestahler 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).

- June 5, 9 am. **ZENwalk**. Led by Dagmar Bohlmann, Kripalu-certified Mindful Outdoor Leader and experienced RYT500 yoga teacher. \$20. Register at [dagmarbohlmann.com/yogahikes.html](http://dagmarbohlmann.com/yogahikes.html).
- August 5, 5:30 pm. **Cylburn Garden Club**. The club meets once a month and offers a virtual garden tour once or twice a month. Free to members of Cylburn Arboretum Friends. Register by email to [cylburnfriends@cylburn.org](mailto:cylburnfriends@cylburn.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).

- Second Tuesday of the month, 9:30 am. **Wild Walks, Talks, Yoga and More**. Join ecologist John Canoles to explore

Ladew's Nature Walk. Each season brings something new to explore along the mile-long trail. June 8th, Tree and Shrub Count; July 13th, Invasive Species; August 10th, Old Fields, Meadows and Insects. Ages 13 and up. \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members (price includes admission to the gardens). Register at [app.mobilecause.com/e/\\_2bRw?vid=iltef](http://app.mobilecause.com/e/_2bRw?vid=iltef).

**Lake Roland**, 1000 Lakeside Dr. Lake Roland has a variety of programs for all ages. A few are listed below. For more information or to register, call 410-887-4156 or visit [lakeroland.org](http://lakeroland.org).

- June 13th, 1 pm. **Tracks, Scat and Plaster Casts** (ages 5 and up). Join on a ranger-led hike and learn how to identify some tracks, scat and other clues an animal might leave behind. \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members.
- June 20th, 8 am. **Father's Day Canoe Fishing** (ages 6 and up). Bring your own fishing gear. \$13 for members and \$15 for non-members.
- July 18th, 8 am. **Willow Island Clean-Up** (ages 8 and up). Trash bags, nets, gloves and grabbers will be provided. Free if you bring your own canoe, \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members.
- July 23rd, 8:30 pm. **Firefly Lanterns** (ages 5 and up). Join a staffer for a stroll in the dark to find fireflies. Bring a flashlight. Jars provided. \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members.
- August 8th, 2 pm. **Mud Day**. Explore the world of mud, including a muddy obstacle course. Bring towels and spare clothes.

**Social Studio**, 737 Deepdene Rd. Social Studio offers quality visual art opportunities for everyone from toddlers to adults. Register for classes and workshops at [socialstudioart.com](http://socialstudioart.com).

- June 19th (Weaving and Fibers), July 17th (Wood and Metal) and August 21st (Painting and Printing), 1-5 pm. **Art Camp for Adults**. Treat yourself to a day of making each month this summer. \$300 for three sessions or \$125 per session.
- Tuesdays, 5-7 pm. **Pop-Up Class** (ages 10-16). Immerse yourself in a paint, pastel or printmaking project. \$260 for June 15th through August 17th or \$35 per class.
- Thursdays, June 17th to August 19th. **Creative Process Seminar**. Commit to your own creative process with this seminar and fill a sketchbook showcasing your art experience. \$300.

**Village Square Cafe**, 66 Village Square. The restaurant hosts live music, weather permitting, every Saturday evening from 6-7:30 pm on their patio. A few are listed below. For more information, visit [villagesquarecafe.com](http://villagesquarecafe.com).

- June 5th, **Buzz Merrick** (Classic & Original Acoustic Folk)
- June 12th, **The Old Part of Town** (Americana)
- July 3rd, **Hully & The Candy Man** (Blues, Americana, R&B, Folk, Light Jazz)
- July 10th, **The Dharma Bums** (Folk/Rock/Indie/World Beat Blues)

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

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# SHAWN NOCHER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

**A:** Family is all about the way we are tethered to one another. Sometimes we feel it as an obligation and we get careless with that connection, as Lacey tends to do in the beginning of the book. But family also feels our pain and joy as if it is their own, and they can't help but respond to it in their own best possible way. Family is, on some level, a Venn diagram in which our joys and sorrows overlap one another.

**Q:** *Most Roland Parkers will recognize places from the story—farmland in northern Baltimore County, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Towson. Some may know the part of southern Maryland where Lacey has a cottage, on a peninsula “cradled between both the St. Mary’s River and the Chesapeake Bay.” They may realize the words you use to convey the sights, smells and sounds of Ocracoke Island are spot-on. Why did you choose to set the book in these places?*

**A:** These are the places I know in my bones (though I did take some liberties with the geography of northern Maryland) and I think place informs our emotions. Setting the book in these three places allowed me to use the natural environment in a way that easily mirrored the characters.

**Q:** *You have another book, *The Precious Jules*, coming out in 2022. I understand that it’s set in Roland Park. What can you tell us about it?*

**A:** The book centers around a large family in Roland Park who sent one of their daughters, a mentally challenged seven-year-old, to The Rosewood Institute in 1977. When the book opens in 2009, The Rosewood Institute is closing its doors on its dark history and the complicated task of reassigning residents has begun. An adult Ella Jules must rely on the state to decide her future. Ella’s aging parents have requested she be returned to their home, much to the distress of Ella’s siblings, but more so to Lynetta, her beloved caretaker who has been by her side for decades. The five adult children, haunted by their earliest memories of their sister, and each dealing with her banishment in their own flawed way, are converging on the family home, secrets in tow, arriving from the far corners of the country to talk some sense into their parents and get to the root of their inexplicable change of heart. *The Precious Jules* examines the thin line between selfishness and what passes for love. It’s a family story that asks what is best for one child in light of what is perceived as the greater good, and just what is the collective legacy of deep family secrets, shame, and helplessness. ❖

For more about Shawn Nocher, visit her website at [shawnnocher.com](http://shawnnocher.com), or follow her on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. *A Hand to Hold in Deep Water* is available to pre-order at The Ivy Bookshop or wherever books are sold.

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