



ROLAND PARK news

Quarterly from the Roland Park Community Foundation • Volume Eighty-Two • Fall 2021

Lessons Learned: Strengthening Health Care Supports

*PARKS REJUVENATION,
OLMSTED STYLE*



**Roland Park
Master Plan
Review**



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Roland Park News is published quarterly by the



ROLAND PARK
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

5115B Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210
Telephone: (410) 464-2533

Chair, Mary Page Michel
Treasurer, John Kevin

Design & Production: DesignConcept.com

Printer: Advance Printing, Inc.

Deadlines for copy, including announcements and calendar items, are February 1 for spring issue (March-May), May 1 for summer issue (June-August), August 1 for fall issue (September-November), and November 1 for winter issue (December-February).

Editor's Notes

By Martha Marani

Fall is one of my favorite seasons. Like spring, it is a time for fresh starts. For me, the season's sights include spotlessly white back-to-school Keds, chalk-free blackboards and blank notebooks waiting to be filled with ideas. Fall smells like freshly sharpened pencils, Elmer's glue and PB&Js. It sounds like the cheerful chatter of kids walking to school, balls bouncing at recess and the dismissal bell.

My kids are past the Keds, Elmer's glue and recess stage, but I can still see, smell and hear fall this way if I close my eyes. And I can take delight in the fact that my neighbors' kids are planning their first-day-of-school outfits and tucking their sharp Ticonderogas into their new pencil cases. At least, I hope they are.

As of mid-August, when I'm writing this, there is some uncertainty about what the new school year will look like. Baltimore City public schools are currently planning to be open for in-person learning for all students, with some continuing to learn

from home. Face coverings are required indoors at the public schools, as they are now throughout the city. There will be regular COVID-19 testing and symptom monitoring. Neighborhood independent schools will also offer in-person learning, as they did last school year. What cannot yet be known is the impact rising COVID infections will have on schools, to say nothing of the rest that fall has to offer.

I'm hoping for the best—kids back in classrooms, outdoor movie nights at Eddie's (see p. 28), Civic League socials (see p. 4), neighborhood gatherings at the Roland Water Tower (see pp. 16-17) and good news about Hillside Park (see below)—and thanking folks like Amy Lutzky for helping us all to get some kind of normal. I'd also like to thank Amy's son, Zach, for the cover shot and for reminding us of our recent Brood X invasion.

Be well and happy fall! ❖

Hillside Park Project Update

The community's bid to purchase the Baltimore Country Club (BCC) land was submitted on May 13th. We are waiting to hear from BCC on next steps and continuing to fundraise to fulfill the vision to create a community-owned public park on the 20 acres being sold. Thanks to all those who have shown their support of the project so far.

Please visit rolandpark.org/hillsidepark for the latest news, to make a donation or to see a list of our amazing supporters. As always, if you have any questions about Hillside Park or need more information about donating, contact Mary Page Michel, chair of the Roland Park Community Foundation, at communityfoundation@rolandpark.org.

You can also follow our progress on Instagram (@[rolandparkcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/rolandparkcommunity)), Facebook and NextDoor!

Cover: (Left to right) Zach (19), Nick (16), Amy and Steve Lutzky with their dogs Ellie (on Nick's lap) and Obama. Photo: Zach Lutzky

Cicada photos used throughout this issue courtesy Zach Lutzky and Adobe Stock.



Lessons Learned: Strengthening Health Care Supports During COVID and Beyond

By Johanna Alonso

When a state of emergency was first declared due to COVID-19 almost a year and a half ago, the world was put on pause, with many people having to halt projects as they figured out how to work from home.

Not so for those who work in fields like health care or government—or at the crossroads of the two, like Roland Park resident Amy Lutzky, the deputy director of the Children and Adults Health Programs Group, a part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). In this role, she focuses on a range of initiatives, related to everything from outreach and enrollment to quality of care measurements, for children and adults served by Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Basic Health Program.

But when the COVID-19 crisis began in the United States, her office, like governmental offices nationwide, had to jump into action.

It wasn’t the first time Lutzky and the 70-person team she helps to lead had to respond rapidly to an emergency. Hurricanes, tornadoes and the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, all required quick responses from CMS, as officials worked with states to help make Medicaid and CHIP coverage more accessible for families dealing with the disasters.

Those events gave the team a framework for diving head-first into a public health emergency. But, as a global crisis of an unprecedented scale, COVID-19 was a whole different story.

“All those previous emergencies, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, were very regional, very localized.... The scale of this emergency was unprecedented, at least in our lifetime.”

Amy Lutzky



Photo: Adobe Stock

“All those previous emergencies, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, were very regional, very localized,” she explains. “The scale of this emergency was unprecedented, at least in our lifetime.” Plus, she notes, the pandemic was also unique in that the team was dealing with the effects of the crisis while simultaneously working on the response.

Among the vital work that CMS did during the pandemic was a study looking into whether Medicaid and CHIP recipients were partaking in routine screenings and vaccinations—the sorts of things children would normally undergo in an annual checkup, for instance. By and large, they found that the numbers were down significantly from the same time the previous year.

LESSONS LEARNED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“That starts to raise a lot of concerns because, of course, kids, not only do they need to have health coverage, they need to access that health coverage,” including screenings that ensure they are meeting development milestones and recommended childhood vaccines, she says. “No child is really going to be paying attention to schoolwork if they have a terrible toothache and they haven’t been to the dentist in a year.”

From there, the office worked to raise awareness about the importance of catching up on missed care, including encouraging parents to take their children to get all their recommended vaccines ahead of the upcoming school year, which will be largely in person.

Currently, one of Lutzky’s goals is working with the states to ensure that, beyond the COVID-19 public health emergency, those who are enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP stay enrolled, if they’re eligible. When it comes time to renew their coverage, individuals often neglect to respond to requests for additional information.

“[The notice] gets delayed in the mail, they don’t open their mail, maybe they’ve moved and they haven’t updated their address, and they wind up getting terminated from

“I’ve always kept it top of mind how fortunate we are to have health care. And that there are over two million children in this country...that don’t have health coverage and are eligible for Medicaid and CHIP... I keep that with me every single day.”

Amy Lutzky



Photo: Adobe Stock

coverage,” she says. “So, we are really thinking about how we can work with states to ensure that all eligible individuals remain in coverage after the public health emergency ends.”

Lutzky has long worked in health policy; she first became interested in the field thanks to an internship with a non-governmental organization that worked with the United Nations on women’s health issues. In that position, she learned about global health disparities and was even able to attend the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. There, she met people from across the world who were dedicated to fixing health disparities, and she saw Hillary Clinton deliver her famed speech, *Women’s Rights are Human Rights*, live.

“That was my first taste of really understanding health care from a policy perspective,” she recalls. “It was just so powerful to me.”

Since then, connecting children with health coverage has become a passion and priority for her in her career. In fact, her first several jobs involved the early implementation of CHIP, which helps provide coverage to children in families that make too much to qualify for Medicaid.

But that passion was solidified further still after her first son was born.

“He had a heart murmur and, at four days old, he needed to have an EKG. And when you’re looking at your tiny, fragile baby hooked up to electrodes, there are a lot of fears that go through your head, but not once did I have to worry about the cost of the EKG bankrupting us,” she says.

In 2004, Lutzky chose to leave her job working at the Urban Institute, a think tank where she studied and published papers on Medicaid and CHIP, moving to Baltimore due to her husband's job. But in 2010, the landmark passing of the Affordable Care Act—the largest expansion of health coverage since the creation of Medicaid and Medicare almost half a century prior—spurred her to return to work. She wanted to work on the implementation of the legislation, so she applied for a job with CMS, where she has worked ever since.

Over those 11 years in public service, it's hard for Lutzky to choose just one moment that stands out as her greatest accomplishment. But the 2017 reauthorization of CHIP—a process that ended up being more strenuous and challenging than she ever could have expected—stands out as among the most impactful.

"Typically, we don't worry about a program that has bipartisan support and over nine million children in it being reauthorized...but it was due to be renewed by September 2017 and that did not happen," she says. "We were in a situation where states were very worried about running out of money and having to disenroll children from their health coverage."

As the CHIP director at CMS at the time, it was Lutzky's job to keep states and other stakeholders abreast of how the situation was developing, and to keep leadership and Congress informed of what the situation looked like on the ground, which she hoped would urge them to act. The program eventually was reauthorized, but it happened months later than was scheduled.

Moments like that, in which the health coverage of millions of children was at risk—along with the memory of the treatment her first born received as a newborn—continue to motivate her and her work to this day.

"I've always kept it top of mind how fortunate we are to have health care. And that there are over two million children in this country...that don't have health coverage and are eligible for Medicaid and CHIP," she says.

"I keep that with me every single day." ❖



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Planning New and Revitalizing Past Initiatives

Dear Neighbors,

I'm writing my first column as your newly-elected President on the first day of August, while enjoying a steady rain and lovely cooler temperatures—a welcome respite from the hot and dry conditions we experienced in July. Hopefully, when you read this column in September, our windows will be open, we'll be taking more leisurely walks, and we'll be enjoying lingering longer, chatting with neighbors, in front of one of our many fine local shops.

Even before you read this column, the Civic League will have been busy considering whether changes are needed in its structures and operations to better fulfill its mission and serve you (see below). I am fortunate to serve on the Civic League Board with 17 of my neighbors, who are now hard at work planning new and revitalizing past initiatives. To this end, we are:

- **Hosting September Socials.** Throughout the month of September, plat representatives will host outdoor opportunities for some libations and light refreshments and to reconnect in person. Evites forthcoming!



- **Launching a bi-monthly Roland Park Civic League Speaker Series** at 7 pm on Wednesday, October 13th, by welcoming Dr. Paige Glotzer, author of *How the Suburbs Were Segregated: Developers and the Business of Exclusionary Housing, 1890-1960*. This 2020 book examines how the real estate industry shaped residential segregation and focuses specifically on Roland Park.

After surveying neighbors last year, the ad hoc master plan committee concluded that one strong priority of Roland Parkers is a desire to “better understand our [Roland Park] history and how it shapes the present.” Dr. Glotzer's presentation, which will be held on the patio at The Ivy Bookshop (5928 Falls Rd.), is one step in this direction.

- **Reprising efforts to welcome new neighbors** by acknowledging arrivals from this past year with a “Welcome to Roland Park” package. New neighbors should have received acknowledgement in August. If we missed you somehow, please let us know!
- **Examining the current structure of the Civic League** and the affiliated Roads & Maintenance Committee by creating a task force charged with making recommendations at our annual meeting next May regarding how these organizations are structured, collect revenue and carry out their respective missions. The task force was created after unanimous board recognition that the current model is not financially sustainable. If you're interested in participating in this effort or in providing any insight or thoughts, please email me at CivicLeaguePresident@RolandPark.org.
- **Monitoring developments** pertaining to the new Claiborne memory care and assisting living facility to be located just east of the Falls Apartments on Northern Parkway, which was recently approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals, and a City Department of Transportation study regarding proposed changes to Falls Road and its intersection at Northern Parkway.
- **Scheduling our first in-person Civic League meeting** since the pandemic on Wednesday, September 8th, at 7 pm at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church at Roland Avenue and Upland Road. I have asked Tony Foreman of Foreman Wolf (Petit Louis Bistro and Johnny's) to join us to talk about how he and his colleagues are dealing with the changes the pandemic brought to the restaurant industry and, specifically, his Roland Park businesses. If you would like to suggest a speaker for a future 5- to 10-minute presentation, please email me.

I look forward to seeing many of you on walks around the neighborhood. As we consider changes to our Civic League and in our neighborhood, we welcome your input and participation. Feel free to email me at CivicLeaguePresident@RolandPark.org.

Best,
Claudia Diamond, President ❖

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Reviewing the Greater Roland Park Master Plan

By Martha Holleman

Beginning in February 2020, the Civic League's Master Plan Committee initiated a 10-year review of the *2010-2011 Greater Roland Park Master Plan* (planning.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/Greater%20Roland%20Park%20Master%20Plan.pdf), a master work of community participation and thoughtful stewardship led by then Civic League president Phil Spevak and a dedicated committee of volunteers who contributed considerable expertise to the effort. The 2010-2011 plan laid out community priorities and action items in eight categories: open space, transportation, housing, commercial areas, land



Greater Roland Park Home Sales (May–July 2021)

	LIST PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
204 Ridgewood Rd.	\$1,795,000	\$1,700,000
106 Edgevale Rd.	\$1,495,000	\$1,475,000
1 Elmhurst Rd.	\$1,288,000	\$1,308,000
500 Somerset Rd.	\$1,285,000	\$1,300,000
205 Ridgewood Rd.	\$1,268,000	\$1,278,000
101 Ridgewood Rd.	\$1,150,000	\$1,215,101
4704 Roland Ave.	\$1,099,000	\$ 975,000
108 Saint Johns Rd.	\$ 949,500	\$ 925,000
215 Oakdale Rd.	\$ 895,000	\$ 915,000
500 Overhill Rd.	\$ 949,000	\$ 915,000
302 Edgevale Rd.	\$ 899,000	\$ 900,000
218 Oakdale Rd.	\$ 759,000	\$ 803,000
405 Edgevale Rd.	\$ 790,000	\$ 790,000
2 Englewood Rd.	\$ 795,000	\$ 785,000
319 Woodlawn Rd.	\$ 745,000	\$ 760,000
100 Ridgewood Rd.	\$ 749,000	\$ 749,000
317 Woodlawn Rd.	\$ 749,000	\$ 747,260
805 W University Pkwy.	\$ 769,000	\$ 744,000
208 Edgevale Rd.	\$ 680,000	\$ 680,000
106 Hawthorn Rd.	\$ 635,000	\$ 650,000
104 Oakdale Rd.	\$ 599,000	\$ 630,000
13 Englewood Rd.	\$ 629,500	\$ 625,000
4833 Keswick Rd.	\$ 575,000	\$ 565,000
4305 Wickford Rd.	\$ 552,000	\$ 552,000
211 Edgevale Rd.	\$ 450,000	\$ 491,000
4235 Wickford Rd.	\$ 325,000	\$ 351,000
4534 Keswick Rd.	\$ 190,000	\$ 190,500

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use and zoning, infrastructure, streetscapes and livability. It coincided with a rewrite of the City's zoning code and was formally adopted by the Baltimore City Planning Department in May 2011.

To conduct the 10-year review, the Master Plan Committee:

- Met with community members who led the development of the 2010-2011 Master Plan
- Convened surrounding neighborhood associations and affiliated groups, including Evergreen, Wyndhurst, Keswick, the Village of Cross Keys, Hoes Heights, Tuscany-Canterbury, North Roland Park, The Orchards, Friends of Stony Run, Blythewood and Heathbrook, many of which had helped shaped the original plan
- Consulted with current Civic League Board and committee members
- Reviewed progress to-date in each of the eight action areas, and began to surface new priorities and opportunities.

Since the 2010-2011 plan was completed, Greater Roland Park has seen major accomplishments in protecting, preserving and enhancing open space. From planting trees to preserving and restoring the Roland Water Tower; from supporting a *Strategic Plan for Upper Stony Run* (planning.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/StonyRun1217.pdf) to planning and fundraising for the proposed Hillside Park, neighborhood leaders acting primarily through the Community Foundation have joined with others to put more park in Roland Park and to open up public spaces for all to enjoy. Community members consulted thus far express continuing concerns around traffic congestion, and pedestrian and bicycle safety, and would like to develop cooperative relationships with business owners and the commercial strips in our community. And a new set of priorities is emerging around:

- Developing a better understanding of our community's history and how it shapes the present
- Embracing and supporting Roland Park Elementary Middle School and all of its students
- Better serving as a partner to and advocate for neighboring communities, and addressing the broader concerns of the City as a whole

Look for your chance to weigh in on these opportunities and concerns at upcoming plat socials (see Claudia Diamond's message on the previous page) and through an online community survey. Meanwhile, mark your calendars for October 13th at 7 pm for what we hope is the first in a series of community conversations. This event, co-hosted by The Ivy Bookshop at their new location (5928 Falls Rd.), will feature Paige Glotzer, PhD, whose book, *How the Suburbs were Segregated: Developers and the Business of Exclusionary Housing, 1890–1960*, tells the story of redlining at the end of the 19th century by looking at the financing and development of Roland Park. ❖

Roland Park Charmingly Brings a Foreigner Home

By Sofia Schneider

I asked myself how I could explain how much I love Baltimore and especially Roland Park without talking about my personal journey. I came to the conclusion that I can't. You need to know what I went through to understand why I was a foreigner and why now I call Baltimore my home.

My name is Sofía Schneider, and I'm from Argentina. I came to the U.S. to be an *au pair* in April of 2019. At that time, I didn't speak any English and the Baltimore accent was three times more difficult to understand than the accent I had heard in the movies. Being a 21-year-old immigrant wasn't easy in many ways. It took me months to understand what the cashier was asking me at the store. I awkwardly hugged and kissed several people the first time I met them; I didn't know I had to shake hands instead. I wasn't used to having dinner at 6 pm (in Argentina, we eat dinner at 9 pm). I didn't know how to drive automatic cars. I was worried about being too loud or too Latina. I didn't have any friends. I cried at night, missing my mom.

As I was going through major culture shock, I also was very lucky to have two amazing people guiding me. Stephanie and Andrew opened their home on Wickford Road to me. They not only trusted me to take care of their two babies, but also taught me a lot about Baltimore and the U.S. They introduced me to the neighbors and showed me around. They wrote many words on a dry erase board on our refrigerator to help me to learn English. They cooked American food and gobbled up the Argentinian dishes I made. I was going to festivals, having ice cream, travelling to other states, eating crabs and celebrating new holidays. Then, the pandemic hit.

We were really lucky to keep our jobs, to be healthy, and to have food and a house. While we suffered with the world as many people got sick and died, Steph decided to start walking every day. She asked me to join her. In Argentina, I did not walk. I didn't like it at all. But around 3 pm every day, Steph and I put the two kids in the stroller and went for a walk. Walking and talking along the streets of Roland Park made me realize how much I needed that daily movement and how lucky I was to live in such a beautiful place. That's how it started. To love is to pay attention. One year after my arrival, as a then 22-year-old immigrant, I began to pay attention.



Sofia Schneider with her host family (top).

Photo: John Dean

Sofia came to consider Roland Park home (left).

Photo courtesy of author



*“I came to Baltimore
looking for poems
I found those
poems waiting for me”*

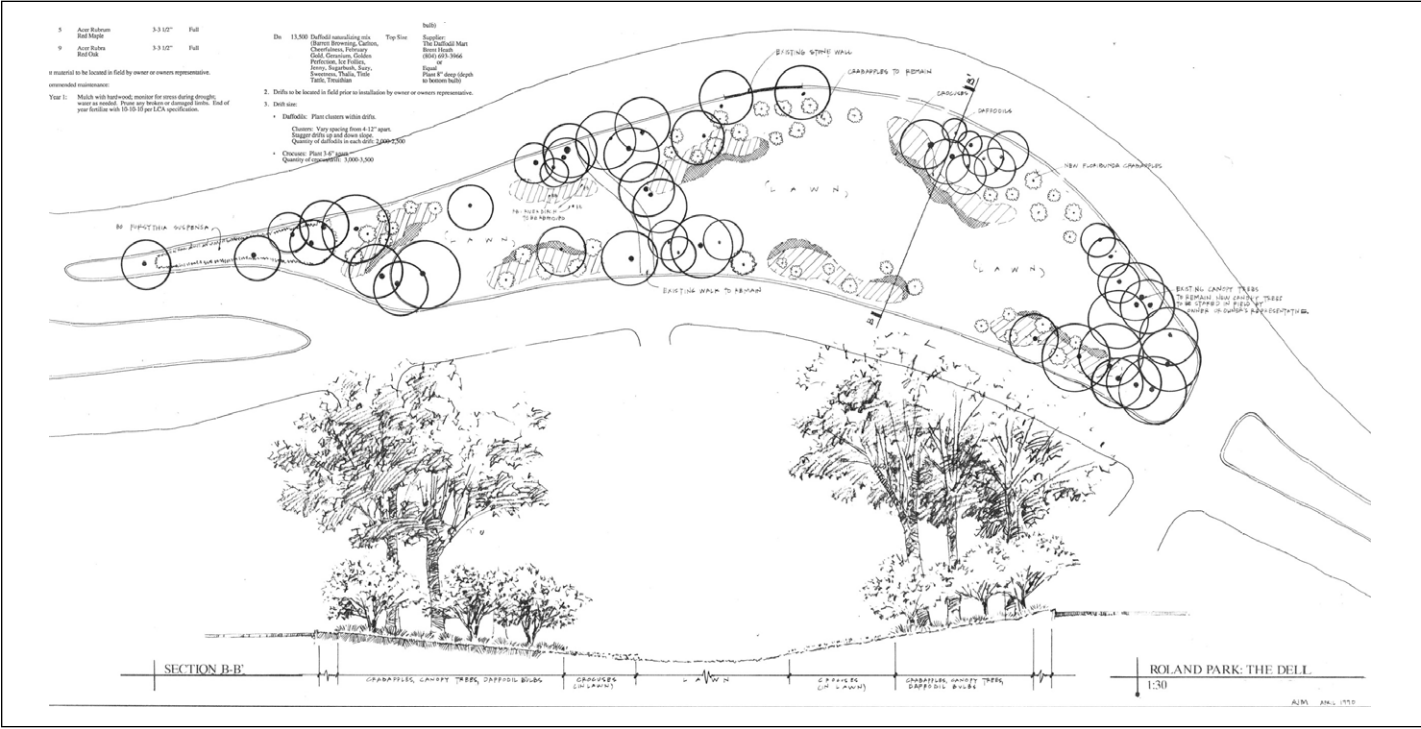
Sofi Schneider

I saw my neighbors taking care of their gardens, and understood that caring for someone or something is what makes things beautiful. I heard the neighbors on my block singing every Sunday from their porches in a socially distant sing-along, and understood that being physically far away doesn't mean we can't still make good memories together. I walked every street and every alley of the neighborhood, and understood that we are like a house. We are what people see of us—the structure—and we also are what is inside, the backyard, and the garage, and we have to take care of everything. I made a sign and we cheered the 2020 graduates that paraded the neighborhood in face masks. I understood that community is important and, in

order to feel part of it, that I needed to get involved. I spent countless hours with my host family, and understood that families don't always share blood. I wrote my first poem in English sitting in Stony Run Park while saying “Hi” to familiar faces that walked by. I felt how the love for Baltimore grew inside of me.

Baltimore is home. To me, home is the place where I can be myself, where I became my own refuge, where I opened myself to love. Now, as a 23-year-old immigrant, I have to leave the house on Wickford Road that watched me grow into the woman I am today. It is time for new adventures. I say goodbye with my heart full of gratitude. *Gracias*, Baltimore, and especially Roland Park, for making me feel safe and being so good to me. I'll be back, and I know you will *charmingly* welcome me again. ❖





The Dell. Drawing courtesy Roland Park Civic League

The Rejuvenation of Parks, Olmsted Style

By Kate Culotta

Like many Roland Park residents, I've long been familiar with the Olmsteds and their influence on landscape architecture and the configuration of Roland Park in the early 1900s. What I did not realize until I started research for this article is that the Olmsted firm was instrumental in the conception and design of the Baltimore City park system. Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., designed Sudbrook Park and the four Mount Vernon parks. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and Charles Olmsted (stepson of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.) continued to influence park design throughout Baltimore City over the next several decades.

Beginning with a commissioned report in 1904, they detailed an extensive park system to capitalize on the city's streams and valleys, including the Jones Falls, Stoney Run, Gwynns Falls and Herring Run. Over the next two decades, they worked on several aspects of the park system and advised adding playgrounds and additional recreational elements to earlier parks, Druid Hill Park and Patterson Park. The Olmsteds are also credited with landscape designs that turned private estates into community parks, including Clifton Park, Wyman Park, Leakin Park and Carroll Park. They were particularly captivated by the Stoney Run and linking it to the former Wyman estate as an expansive public green space. Named for the Wyman family, the 88-acre park was once part of the Homewood estate owned by the Carroll family. It was purchased by the Wyman family in 1839, which donated the property to Johns Hopkins University in 1902.

In Roland Park, our largest green spaces are Stoney Run Park, Edgevale Park and Centennial Park. Centennial Park, fondly referred to as *The Dell*, is the wide median on

University Parkway. The western end is anchored by the restored historic trolley stop and ends at the Roland Park sign near the Johns Hopkins Homewood Campus.

In response to emails and comments from residents along University Parkway and guidance from a member of the Civic League's Landscape Committee who lives across from the park, members of the committee walked Centennial Park in the fall of 2019, mapping the existing shade trees and noting their condition. Interestingly, it appears that the oldest shade trees in Centennial Park may be original plantings from the early 1900s.

Given the declining condition of the tall, mature shade trees, efforts to find the original plans for Centennial Park began immediately, as did the development of a tree replacement

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

schedule. Although the original plan has yet to surface, we did find a plan that was completed in the late 1980s. Many of the mature trees listed on the later plan dated back to the early 1900s and, combining that information with clues from old photographs of homes along University Parkway, we have been able to piece enough information together to feel confident about that our plan to planting replacement shade trees is in keeping with the Olmsted tradition.

Flowering ornamental trees, part of the original design, have long since died off but replacement plantings were started last fall and additional flowering trees and shrubs are planned for the coming months. Adjustments from the old list have been made to replace non-native trees that were commonly planted during the Olmsted period with natives that do well with our soil and climate.

Planted Fall 2020 in Centennial Park

- 9 serviceberries: early spring, white-flowering understory trees that like the park's moist, boggy area
- 4 white fringe trees: small, late spring, white-flowering trees that were planted near two mature white fringe trees already in the park
- 4 black gums: large shade trees with stunning fall foliage



Efforts to revitalize Centennial Park are in keeping with the Olmsted tradition.

Photo: Zach Lutzky

- 2 swamp white oaks: large shade trees that like moist soil
- 1 American hornbeams: a medium-sized shade tree with a leaf shape similar to that of an elm

Planned for Fall 2021 in Centennial Park

- Flowering pink redbud
- Flowering white native dogwood
- Witch hazel
- Viburnum
- Willow oak, American linden and Princeton elm (shade trees)

Edgevale Park

When planning parts of Plat 6, the Roland Park Company looked to design a section around the concept of the "English Green." Edgevale Park, located between Edgevale Road and Englewood Road, is a private green space that is cared for by neighboring residents, who share in the park's ownership, maintenance and cost. The park is a gem, but no public access means that equipment and materials are difficult to bring in, making maintenance an issue. Many of the remaining large shade trees are in declining health. Any signs of the original flowering trees or shrubs are long gone.

I received a call from a resident two years ago to see if the Free Tree Program in Roland Park could be used to bring new plantings into the park. That started conversations and research to see what trees would fit with the Olmsted tradition, yet work for families, children and pets. A few new shade trees were planted last year, and nearly a dozen flowering ornamentals, native dogwood, redbud and serviceberries were planted this summer. The new flowering trees repeat a color pattern of white and pink that already exists with trees and shrubs planted within the personal property boundaries. The new dogwoods, redbuds and serviceberries work well with the spring-blooming, pink-flowering cherry trees and late summer pink crepe myrtle. Midsummer sees creamy white evergreen magnolia blooms and white fringe blossoms. Five additional shade trees have already been planted, and more are scheduled to be planted once dead tree removal is completed.

Remember, Roland Park offers a Free Tree Program. We schedule two plantings each year—in the spring and fall. For more information, please email me at Landscape@rolandpark.org or krculotta@msn.com. ❖

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OPINION: Bad News, Largely Ignored

By Devra Kitterman

Our children and young people will not know what the world was like 60 years ago, and middle-aged people may not remember it well. As a member of the baby boomer generation, though, I mourn that our current world—our weather patterns, waterways, methods of agriculture, population, fish and wildlife populations, and many other aspects of our ecosystem, all of which are intrinsic to civilization—have devolved considerably from what they were only six decades ago—the blink of an eye in the Earth's history.

Our environment has changed so much that a 2019 United Nations Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which included 132 countries, found that 1 million species are under threat of extinction because of humans. According to a January 2020 issue of *The Revelator* (therevelator.org)—an initiative of the Center for Biological Diversity—“about two dozen species were declared extinct (or nearly so) in 2019, although the total number of species lost this year probably numbers in the thousands.”

According to a study published in 2019 in the journal *Science* (science.sciencemag.org), North America has lost more than one in four birds in the last 50 years, with a loss of nearly three billion birds since 1970. This year has been particularly disastrous for birds on the continent with the outbreak of a not yet identified virus first noticed in the Pacific Northwest. Dead birds being widely reported all over the country. Droughts, forest fires, changed weather patterns, domestic cats, and the loss of food (e.g., insects) and habitat have also negatively affected bird populations.

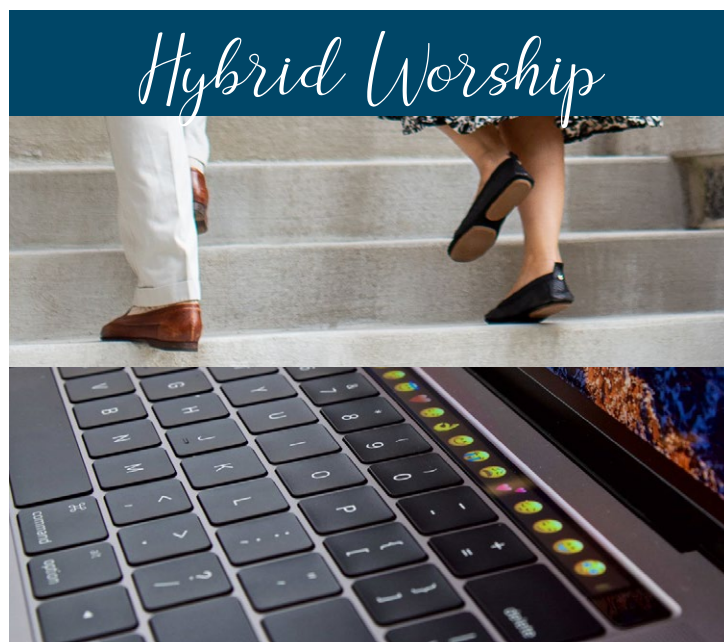
How sad is it that a cursory inspection of our insect-splatter-free automobile windshields and insect-free streetlights confirms the findings of a 2019 study by German biologists Sebastian Seibold and Wolfgang Weisser (nature.com) that 72 percent or more of all flying insects in the world are now gone? Furthermore, the loss of the pollinators on whom agriculture is largely dependent is accelerating, exacerbated by the destruction of millions of acres of habitat through development, farm and lawn chemicals, climate change-caused intensified storms, floods, wildfires and droughts.

Human activity-induced climate change is affecting all atmospheric systems. This year, we've all watched reports of catastrophic wildfires searing their way across not only large sections of the U.S., but in multiple and simultaneous locations on the planet, including Siberia and the Arctic (!), Spain, Portugal, Greece, Chile and Australia, releasing more carbon dioxide, polluting and heating up Earth's atmosphere.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Haze from multiple wildfires in western states has been visible in Baltimore this summer.
Photo: Adobe Stock



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BAD NEWS, LARGELY IGNORED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

To address the accelerated warming of the planet, global deforestation and the exploitative spewing of pollution into the atmosphere, directives are needed to make immediate environmental reversals. The planting and collective care of trees, which create oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide, should be just one of multiple mandates. If we are taking this challenge seriously, the use of fossil fuels should be curtailed; recycling needs to get real (for example, according to Baltimore Brew, just 2.2 percent of Baltimore's trash is recycled), single-use plastics and overpackaging shunned, the use of toxic chemicals to kill everything that moves ceased and consumers encouraged to rethink purchasing all the "stuff" they imagine they cannot live without (most of which will end up floating in the ocean, in our landfills or burned). And we could certainly do better than allowing 40 percent of our food supply, nationally, being simply tossed in the trash. These historically ignored issues demonstrate a severe dereliction of leadership or vision, and a lack of public and civic education of all peoples to the realities of our precious and precarious shared environment.

Even as Mother Earth heats up palpably, procrastination in reversing these trends, and lip service paid by decades of politicians of all stripes has continued apace, with tangible human efforts towards environmental triage now required to correct the environmental dithering. Protection of and

What You *Can* Do

- Plant and care for trees
- Use less fossil fuel
- Buy products that have less packaging and avoid single-use plastics
- Compost food waste
- Reuse and recycle all that you can
- Avoid toxic chemicals used to kill mosquitos and weeds

access to safe water sources is also deemed critical to reverse what has become a rapid critical resource decline nationally. Baltimore and the mid-Atlantic area last experienced a drought eight or nine years ago, and each new drought event in the U.S. is becoming longer and more intense. Planning, if any is actually taking place, should ideally be shared front and center in cooperation with all citizenries for maximum outcomes.

Sufficient food production is something Americans have rarely been concerned about, but with only the current weather trends as a factor, it could well become a concern, and it could happen as quickly as some of the catastrophes that we seem to be seeing every day. Consider how quickly it became difficult at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to get basic, everyday items like toilet paper, hand sanitizer and yeast. Shipping impacts alone are still being experienced more than a year and a half later. Imagine the food production outcomes of farmland burning or crops crashing due to drought. Then, think globally.

I know that some will say, "Hey, this isn't a cheerful, happy topic for the *Roland Park News*!" It is not my intention to induce anxiety, merely action. When I look around our community and our city, I see many dead and dying trees and remember that Baltimore City was recently ranked No. 3 among American cities for its extensive green canopy. I see contractors pumping herbicides into our city sewer lines to kill tree roots, and look up and down our streets at the die-back of the outer tree branches on many if not most of our street trees. We all see our aging infrastructure, our lack of housing, our decrepit public schools, and a myriad of other problems, while most of our nation's political leaders fight only for their individual status and power. Yet somehow, we managed to send a helicopter to Mars. Even though the technology is compelling, I cannot help but wonder if they think they will find water, air and food on Mars, when we have these precious, squandered, irreplaceable things right here.

We surely need everyone to care, to be kinder, to work together, to have each other's back, and to take whatever steps each of us can to protect this amazing, gorgeous planet that we all simultaneously evolved to exist on, along with all the astounding delights and creatures that go along with it.

Saving our planet means saving ourselves. ♦

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.

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Noises Off... A Gentle Reminder

As a gentle and general reminder to all, please be considerate of your neighbors regarding noise, particularly early in the morning, late in the evening and on weekends. Please also understand the following rules established by Baltimore City:


- Noncommercial vehicular repairs and the use of home workshops, power tools and power garden equipment (e.g., leaf blowers) are not allowed after 9pm and before 7 am on weekdays, and after 10pm and before 10 am on weekends and legal holidays.
- Site work, demolition work, pile-driving work or construction work done within 300 feet of any dwelling is allowed only between 7 pm and 7am. This does not apply to an emergency operation that has been specifically approved by the City.

It's worth mentioning that many homeowners and lawn services are transitioning from gas-powered to electric equipment, which is not only quieter but also better for the environment, with zero emissions. In a recent Washington Post article, Tik Root cited a 2019 California Air Resources Board survey, which found that gas-powered leaf blowers generate as much pollution in an hour as driving a Toyota Camry 1,100 miles.

Drain Don'ts

Trash, chemicals, grease, disposable diapers and baby wipes should never be flushed down your toilets or into your home drains or dumped or swept into a storm drain. They kill fish and plants in our waterways and clog pipes, causing sewage overflows. The Department of Public Works offers a free hazardous waste drop-off center as well as information on its Fats, Oils, and Grease program. In addition, construction debris and leaves should never be swept into a storm drain.


Please, if you have a storm drain near your house, rake or shovel off mulch, grass clippings and leaves that periodically accumulate. Many drains in the neighborhood are currently blocked by debris, which causes significant problems during heavy rainfalls, including flooding of roadways and property. ❖

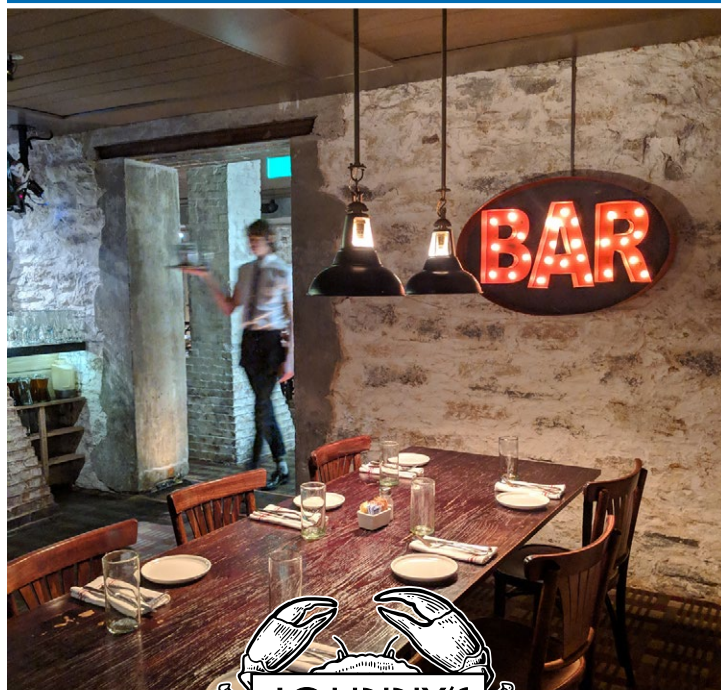
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Meet Rasheita Magor, the Cylburn Arboretum Friends Intern

By Heather M. Rosenthal, Director of Community Engagement, Cylburn Arboretum Friends

As an elementary school student, Rasheita Magor would often leave her Park Heights home unannounced to visit Cylburn Arboretum. This started shortly after a 1st grade field trip there with Pimlico Elementary School. She immediately understood the healing powers of nature and wanted to spend as much time at the Arboretum as possible. However, it wasn't until recently Magor, a mother to two teenage daughters with a career in psychiatric rehabilitation, learned a career in horticulture was an option.

Now Magor, the current intern at Cylburn Arboretum Friends (CAF), is combining her background in healing and her love of plants into a career in horticultural therapy. She is about to complete dual horticulture programs in sustainability and healing to modify her career in psychiatric rehab to incorporate the therapeutic benefits of spending time in nature.

"Understanding horticulture and plant material will make it easier to create effective programming. You might know the overall treatment goals, but not how to use horticulture and plant focused activities to achieve them unless you understand horticulture," Magor explains.

Thankfully for us all, she is gaining her practical horticulture experience this year as an intern with CAF. The internship is sponsored in partnership with Horticultural Society of Maryland and the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc. It is geared toward undergraduate- and graduate-level students

in horticulture looking to gain practical field experience. As a result, the intern also assists CAF in fulfilling its commitment to help Baltimore City maintain the gardens and grounds at the Arboretum.

CAF is lucky to have found someone not only interested in pursuing a career in horticulture, but with knowledge and commitment to the neighboring community, explains CAF head gardener Brent Figlestahler. Figlestahler leads the internship program and was responsible for hiring Magor. The position was advertised with local colleges and Figlestahler selected Magor from more than a dozen qualified candidates.

"Rasheita stood out not only because of her commitment to horticulture and her ability to complete the tasks to help CAF, but because her long history with the property was compelling—she already knew how Cylburn benefits the health and well-being of the community differently than Baltimore's other green spaces," Figlestahler explains.



Rasheita combines her background in healing and her love of plants. Photo courtesy of CAF

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

DIY Chocolate Bark

Eddie's of Roland Park

Family or friends can all pitch in to personalize this fun movie night snack—a great way to repurpose trick-or-treat leftovers!

Prep time: 15 minutes. Cook time: 1 hour. Serves: approximately 12 bars.

Ingredients

- 2 12 oz. bags dark or semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 2 cups Cocoa Krispies (or similar chocolate puffed rice cereal)
- ½ cup toppings (e.g., pretzels, white chocolate chips, candy corn, gummi worms, Nerds, Reese's Pieces, M&Ms or sprinkles)

Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Microwave the chocolate chips on high for 2 to 3 minutes, pausing every 30 seconds to stir and avoid overheating or burning them. When the chocolate is completely melted, fold in Cocoa Krispies using a spoon or spatula, mixing quickly to combine while the chocolate is still warm.

Using an offset spatula, spread mixture onto the parchment paper-lined baking sheet into a large, even rectangular shape, just within the edges of the pan. Sprinkle your chosen toppings on top. Refrigerate until fully set and firm to touch, at least 40 minutes or overnight.

Cut or break into 12 or more pieces/bars.

Eddie's Recipe Tip: Cut the sweetness by topping with dried mango, raisins, nuts, pumpkin seeds or local WOOT! Granola. ❖



Photo courtesy of Eddie's of Roland Park

Twenty years ago, Magor said she knew she wanted to work in horticulture but she didn't know it could be a career to earn her enough money to live and support a family. Plus, there was another obstacle. Historically, Black and Brown people were disenfranchised from public parks and gardens, Magor explains. "I didn't see it as a place for me," she adds, emphasizing the importance of ensuring all people, especially those living an urban experience, can make the "people-plant connection."

Recognizing the traditional lack of diversity in horticulture and that many people, like Magor, don't realize the career potential in the field until after completing school, CAF is expanding its horticulture education program to include a pre-apprentice position and a horticulture club geared toward introducing high school students to the field. CAF

has partnered with Green Street Academy, which has a strong agriculture program, to pilot the horticulture club at Cylburn beginning this fall. However, the partnership is already underway. Brandon Clark, a rising senior from Green Street, worked at CAF as a summer Youth Works intern and is considering applying for the pre-apprenticeship position when he graduates.

The goal of the pre-apprentice program is to give participants practical knowledge that they can use in a sustainable career or to help connect them with area colleges that have horticulture programs so they can continue their formal education in the field and perhaps even return to Cylburn as an intern like Magor.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Friends Seniors Qualify for National Debate Tournament



Photo courtesy of Friends School

In recent times, there has been heightened national interest around topics like "civil discourse" and "polarization" but very few public models for how people can thoughtfully engage in conversations on difficult topics. This is one reason why Friends School of Baltimore launched the Institute for Public Involvement and Responsible Dialogue, or INSPIRED. INSPIRED is one of Friends' Signature Programs and offers students a wide-range of experiences to help them navigate complex conversations, engage meaningfully with their peers and build long-lasting collaborations. Some of these experiences include restorative justice training, off-campus partnerships with organizations like the McKim Center of Baltimore City and a speaker series.

"As a Quaker School, Friends is uniquely positioned to offer the INSPIRED program. INSPIRED shows what's possible when we engage in passionate conversations about controversial issues while respecting, listening to, and

learning from others we may disagree with," says Greta Rutstein, Director of Academics.

INSPIRED ultimately seeks to build a culture of responsible dialogue on campus that models best practices for building and sustaining community and prepares students for fuller engagement in wider civic conversations. ♦

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

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Garrison Forest Grizzlies, Ready for the Fall Season

Like many people who made job transitions in the midst of COVID-19, Jessy Morgan knew that she would be facing many challenges and unknowns when she joined Garrison Forest School (GFS) as the new athletic director in summer 2020. While the year certainly brought plenty of both, it also brought opportunities to be creative—like moving volleyball outdoors and implementing virtual training programs.

Challenges of stepping into the role amid a pandemic aside, Morgan is ready for the fall 2021 season and continuing to build upon a strong athletic program at Garrison Forest. “I hope to continue raising the bar at GFS and provide a great team and athletic experience to every girl who wants to play,” she says.

As a former three-sport star at McDonogh School and a member of the Baltimore Lacrosse Hall of Fame, Morgan brings a wide range of experience, creativity and passion to the role. She came to GFS from George Mason University, where she served as the head women’s lacrosse coach. She has also served as head lacrosse coach at Howard University and assistant coach at the University of Virginia, where she was named an All-American



and won an NCAA championship as a player. In addition to serving as the school’s athletic director, Morgan is a member of the GFS residential faculty and lives on campus with her family.

It’s her goal to infuse her love of and passion for all sports, at every level, into the GFS Athletics programs. “Our players are ready to get back out there, and we’re ready to support, challenge, uplift and celebrate them,” she says. “Our Grizzlies are strong, resilient athletes. Whether they’re playing at an elite level or trying a sport for the first time, we want every girl to feel empowered and confident as she builds important skills, on and off the field or court.”

The Grizzlies have long been a formidable athletic opponent, capturing conference championship wins for field hockey, soccer and tennis in 2019. Morgan says, “I’m so proud of the work our athletes have put in over the past year and their dedication to making the 2021-22 year a great one.” ❖

Garrison Forest School (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.



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Boys' Latin's Middle School Day of Service

By Alex Barron

At Boys' Latin, we believe that a life-changing education calls for students to explore new realms and to look beyond themselves. One of the goals of our new middle school head, Pen Vineyard, was to expose students to the world outside of Lake Avenue by creating community partnerships. It was this desire that inspired the middle school's first annual Day of Service.

The idea was for students to take part in several types of service projects in the Baltimore area. The middle school partnered with Jewish Volunteer Connection to link Boys' Latin with several local not-for-profit organizations. Together, students assembled 300 lunches for Our Daily Bread, which serves hot meals to those experiencing hunger, and 350 hygiene kits for My Sister's Place, which aids victims of domestic violence.

Meanwhile, a group of 8th graders journeyed to Bethel Farm Lab, an urban farm located in the east Baltimore neighborhood of Oliver. There, they helped plant crops and beautified the area by cleaning up an adjacent alley.

For Vineyard, the day was a success and an extension of the school's core values. "For us to be able to work with the broader community," he explains, "that's living our motto, *Esse Quam Videri*, to be rather than to seem." ❖



Middle schoolers assembled lunches for Our Daily Bread and hygiene kits for My Sister's Place as part of their day of service. Photo courtesy of Boys' Latin

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

RASHEITA MAGOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Magor is pleased with her decision to alter her career path and join Cylburn as the intern. "It is my life's work. I have found how to make a career out of my passion."

In addition to the horticulture education program for older students and adults, CAF also began Nature In Your Neighborhood (NIYN), which is designed to introduce younger students to nature in their community and encourage them to visit the Arboretum. The program began during the pandemic with virtual Nature Breaks to encourage students to go outside and take a break during online classes.

As the program transitions to in-person classes this fall, Magor, when she is not interning at CAF, is interested in working with the students as part of NIYN outreach and sharing the importance of understanding and spending time in nature.

"We all need nature and to be fully engaged with our environment," she says. "I would like to see horticultural therapy be used for the general health and wellness of all people" and not just for people with diagnosed conditions.

These expanded programs, workforce development initiatives and community outreach demonstrate CAF's commitment to Baltimore City, explains Rebecca Henry, board president. "We are not only dedicated to helping the City maintain the Arboretum, but also to making North West Baltimore a better place to live and work," Henry says. ❖



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Photo Essay: The Roland Water Tower



Finally, after years of planning, the restoration of the Roland Water Tower is complete. Neglected for decades, the structure was falling apart. The stabilization project of this historic landmark included the repair and replacement of missing roof tiles, replacement of the plywood eaves with cement overhangs, new and repaired balustrades, replacement of the gutters and water table—an unexpected part of the project—and new windows. The plinth, or base, of the tower was also cleaned.

Thank you to all the donors who made this project possible and congratulations to the Community Foundation and Friends of the Water Tower for their leadership. ❖

All photos by Sally Foster.



*The tower commands a breathtaking view of the surrounding area.
The area was fenced off in 2009 to protect passersby from falling debris (left).*

The tower has long been home to a nesting pair of peregrine falcons.



Craig Koppie (above), a raptor biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, built a nesting box for the falcons.



Musicians perform on the steps.



Built in 1904, the tower had deteriorated significantly (above). Roof tiles were repaired and replaced (left).



When Life Gives You Lemons, Learn to Juggle

There is an age-old saying: *When life gives you lemons, make lemonade*. In 2020, that seemed like a tall order for the pandemic lemons the world had been given. Luckily, there is another saying: *When life gives you lemons, learn to juggle*.

The first few lemons were tough to get into the air. Back in those early weeks of lockdown, Gilman School administrators and teachers worked swiftly to modify curricula for virtual platforms. By fall, life's lemons were still coming, but Gilman was learning to juggle.

Throughout the 2020/2021 school year, Gilman continued to advance its juggling game. School leaders were determined to tap into the opportunity to discover new ways of enhancing the Gilman experience. Lessons emerged across disciplines.

Athletics: Athletics are a meaningful part of students' lives. Co-athletic directors Russell Wrenn ('96) and Lori Bristow conceived of countless alternatives to the usual approaches, taking into account distancing protocols and smaller student groups. Oftentimes, they got creative. When the baseball team had one cohort with many pitchers and few catchers, they threw into nets. Bristow says, "This year forced us to think beyond traditions...to try new things."

Performing Arts: Though Gilman typically chooses large-



Gilman faculty and students made the best of the challenges they faced during the last school year. Photo: Steve Ruark

ensemble musicals, the sour circumstances allowed theater director John Rowell to put on a timeless production involving only six actors. "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," which casted boys in all of the roles since restrictions didn't allow for neighboring girls' schools to participate, was performed for limited in-person audiences and also livestreamed, another new endeavor.

Libraries: Gilman's librarians were not deterred either. Interactive virtual visits put students in Zoom rooms with authors and illustrators who shared processes for researching, writing and expressing ideas. Students connected with one another, explored history and engaged in rich discussion.

Service Learning: Through its service-learning program, Gilman has supported Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake for more than a decade. But the Middle School's three-on-three basketball tournament, "Hoops for Habitat," would have been impossible with COVID-19 constraints. Enter: *Hula Hoops for Habitat*. Participants raised \$400 for the organization, and one impressive 7th grader clocked the longest hula-hooping time at 19 minutes, 6 seconds.

In his graduation address, Headmaster Henry P. A. Smyth considered the long-term implications of COVID-19 on education: the use of technology to break down the traditional classroom experience and the affirmation of the value of being physically together. To make sense of these two seemingly oppositional ideas, Smyth said, "Most things in life are not either-or propositions...We should take the best from both. With respect to education, we should come together on campus, and use these new technologies to enhance our learning."

Anyone who has left theirs on the counter for a few days knows that lemons don't last forever. As the tart fruit of last school year gets tossed, Gilman is looking ahead to sweeter days this fall—with the full-time return of all students on campus. ♦

Gilman School (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 produce 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.

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Bridges at Bryn Mawr

The Bryn Mawr School and Bridges are formalizing a partnership that will expand the Bridges program beginning in June 2022.

Bridges (bridgesbaltimore.org) is an inspiring and impactful organization that works year-round with Baltimore City youth from elementary school until the start of their careers. Founded in 1993 at The St. Paul's Schools, Bridges expanded to Gilman School in 2014 and now works year-round with nearly 300 Baltimore City youth ages 9-23, providing academic and enrichment programs, guidance and support. Bridges at Bryn Mawr will be the organization's third host site.

"As a school dedicated to preparing young women for considered and consequential lives, we want students of all ages to grow into active citizens who feel connected and engaged with their broader community," says Head of School Sue Sadler. "Bridges at Bryn Mawr will help advance this important element of our school mission."

The program relies on nearly 200 Baltimore independent high school students to volunteer at its host sites after school and

to work throughout the summer with Bridges' youngest students.

Bryn Mawr students have been volunteering with Bridges for many years and several have shared that it was a highlight of their upper school years. The experience creates a space for independent school students of all backgrounds to build close relationships with Baltimore City School students, learn about access and opportunity, and be part of building a more inclusive and equitable community.



Bridges at Bryn Mawr will open in June 2022 with a summer enrichment program for an

initial cohort of about 30 rising 4th and 5th grade students.

This will be followed by an after-school program during the school year. Each year, a new group of rising 4th grade students will enter the program and, over time, Bridges at Bryn Mawr will grow to support the long term success of 150 Baltimore City students and, each year, provide 70 Bryn Mawr upper school students with year-round tutoring and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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Girls Who Code: RPCS Alum Offers Student Internships

For the past three summers, Roland Park Country School (RPCS) students who are interested in computer science have been able to gain valuable hands-on experience through internships at a leading online textbook company called zyBooks, thanks to alumna Nkenge Wheatland, PhD, from the class of 2004.

As an upper school student at RPCS, Nkenge was the only girl in the only computer science class offered at the time, with Gilman students making up the rest of the class. After graduating, Nkenge earned a BS in computer science at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and an MS and PhD in computer science at the University of California, Riverside, before joining zyBooks in 2016. Nkenge is currently a senior manager of content development in computer science and a mentor to rising RPCS seniors who are interested in exploring possible careers in coding.

Since 2019, Nkenge has mentored five RPCS students for summer internships, in which they build coding solutions



RPCS alumna, Nkenge Wheatland, PhD, class of 2004.
Photos courtesy of RPCS

for problems that readers need to solve in online STEM textbooks, using the programming languages they learned at RPCS and teaching themselves new ones along the way. Their names are then published in forthcoming releases of the textbooks.

"All of the student interns have taught themselves how to write in new languages, including C, C++ and Java, in just a few weeks," Nkenge says. "Diversifying their programming language base is an important skill to gain as they pursue careers in computer science."

"I had such a great experience and was excited to teach myself a new

coding language," explains recent graduate Bella Hessler, who is now a freshman at Rollins College and is majoring in computer science. "I also thought it was pretty neat that zyBooks had been holding office meetings on Zoom years before the pandemic started, with employees connecting from all over the country and Canada!"

Since Nkenge's time as a student, the STEM/STEAM programs and computer science offerings at RPCS have grown significantly. There are now two upper school computer science classes offered: AP Computer Science Principles and Introduction to Computer Programming, and other classes incorporate programming as well, such as the STEM I Robotics class. RPCS also offers a robotics club, which uses Java programming, and a CyberPatriot club, which focuses on forensic computer science to explore Windows and Linux operating systems and detect and protect against vulnerabilities. There is also a concentrated effort in the school's newer K-8 STEAM program to incorporate programming and the design thinking process as students move through the two divisions.

For students who are interested in pursuing computer science, Nkenge's biggest piece of advice is to practice! "Write code as often as you can, until it's almost second nature," Nkenge says. "And don't get discouraged when things get hard. Continue to work at it and things will click into place!"

To learn more about the RPCS Summer Internship Program and mentorship opportunities, visit rpcs.org/internships. ❖

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




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Miss Shirley's Cafe

Serves 10 (4 oz. portions)

Ingredients

- 2 lbs broken shrimp (meaning they might have a tail or a portion of the shrimp broken off)
- 1 ¼ cups mayonnaise
- ½ oz. blackened cajun spice (e.g., Chef Paul Prudhomme's Blackened Redfish Magic®)
- 1 tsp. dijon mustard
- ¼ cup celery, chopped
- ⅛ tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp. fresh lemon juice
- ½ tsp. ground black pepper

Peel, cook and cool broken shrimp. Rough chop half the shrimp into large pieces and place in a bowl. Small chop the rest of the shrimp and add to the bowl. Small chop celery and add to the bowl. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix together well. Label, date and refrigerate. ❖



Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Cafe

BRYN MAWR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

learning experiences. Together, Bridges and Bryn Mawr will hire a site director and Bryn Mawr will provide in-kind fiscal sponsorship, facilities and administrative support.

Sadler and Bridges' executive director, Rob Paymer, have been working together since 2017 to bring the program to Bryn Mawr. Sadler is grateful that Bridges at Bryn Mawr will expand on-campus volunteer opportunities for students and, "importantly, establish a mutually-enriching partnership that will strengthen our connections with the people and communities of Baltimore."

Paymer is thrilled about the program expansion. "Opening a third site in Baltimore is an extraordinary milestone for Bridges, and we are grateful for the supporters and partners that have continued to invest and help steadily expand Bridges' impact," he explains. ❖

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

Best Breakfast Sandwich in America	America's Favorite Family Friendly Restaurants	Best Fried Green Tomatoes in Maryland
Restaurant Hospitality Magazine	FoodNetwork .com	Southern Living Magazine

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Best Pancakes in the Country, Food Network

Cold Spring Lane California Chicken "BLT"
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The Book Nook

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

Hello, everyone! We are pleased to announce plans for in-person programming at the library this fall. Of course, all COVID protocols must be followed (currently, health and temperature checks, contact tracing information, masks and social distancing) for these events. All events are subject to change.

Programming at the Pratt

FOR KIDS

- September 28th, 3:30 pm. **Hispanic Heritage Month: Sidewalk Chalk Murals.** Help create a sidewalk chalk mural in honor of Mexican muralist Diego Rivera. This outdoor program is limited to 10 participants and pre-registration is required. Call 410 396-6099 x35503.
- November 16th, 3:30 pm. **The Three Sisters: Maize Craft & Readers Theater.** An afternoon of crafting and Readers Theater to celebrate National American Indian Heritage Month. This indoor program is limited to 10 participants and pre-registration is required. Call 410 396-6099 x35503.

FOR ADULTS

We are partnering with the Keswick Wise & Well Center for Healthy Living for several programs to be held on-site at Keswick. Please call the Wise & Well Center for Health Living at 410-662-4363 to register.

October 25th, 1 pm. **One Maryland/One Book Book Discussion: *The Book of Delights* by Ross Gay**

November 10, 11:30 am. Library Tech - Overdrive/Libby for eBooks & eAudios. Learn how to use Overdrive and the app Libby to download and enjoy eBooks and eAudiobooks. Have your computer, tablet or smartphone ready, and you'll be guided through downloading and accessing our reading and listening material.

All Pratt libraries will be closed on September 6th for Labor Day, October 11th for Indigenous Peoples' Day/Staff Development Day, November 11th for Veterans Day and November 25th for Thanksgiving.

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

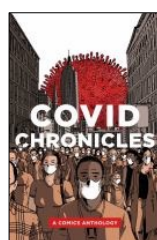
Our branch email is rln@prattlibrary.org. Please summarize your question in the email's subject line (e.g., "book request").

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



Fiction

Nothing the Same, Everything Haunted: The Ballad of Motl the Cowboy by Gary Barwin. A middle-aged Lithuanian Jewish man dreams of becoming a cowboy in this darkly humorous and affecting yarn. Motl decides to set aside his Western novels and father a child as a rebuke to the Nazis approaching his home in Vilna in 1941. But first, he must retrieve his testicles from a Swiss glacier, where they were accidentally shot off by poet Tristan Tzara during WWI. He hits the road with his acerbic mother, Gitl, and after they're separated by the Nazis, Motl hides in the woods with some fellow Jews. Motl and fellow refugee Esther pose as Karaites (a Jewish sect declared not racially Jewish by the Nazis) and are given papers to deliver to Himmler in Berlin. They stumble west in a series of wild, narrow escapes, hoping to find Gitl. While infiltrating the Vilna ghetto, Motl worries they'll be uncovered as "Jews pretending to be Karaites pretending to be Jews." Later, they meet a group of Polish people posing as Lakotas, then join a circus, where they're offered one last unlikely escape plan. While a conclusion with 80-year-old Motl lacks the punch of the preceding adventures, the fantastic one-liners deepen the poignancy of the horrors. This inventive, madcap novel is a stunning testament to Jewish humor and survival.



COVID Chronicles: A Comics Anthology edited by Kendra Boileau and Rich Johnson. Extraordinary circumstances inspire a range of extraordinary artistic response, as this anthology attests. As the pandemic lengthened and deepened, the response across the comics community intensified—first online, where many went viral, a turn of phrase that tinged a few shades darker

in light of the circumstances. This volume launches the Graphic Mundi imprint from Penn State University Press. In the preface, Boileau, the publisher for the new imprint, writes that these comics "are documentary, memoiristic, meditative, lyrical, fantastic, and speculative, offering a view onto the countless ways the COVID-19 pandemic has changed lives." All of the entries share one defining quality: the immediacy of the moment—a response to the crisis from within it. A few are day-by-day diaries, including the opening narrative by Jason Chatfield, about testing positive, in which he writes about his inability to meet his writing goal of trying "to finish a sentence." Hatiye Garip's "Corona Diary" is brief and wordless, achieving eloquence through a variety of shifting shapes and images. In "COVID Hardball," Rich Johnson and Eli Neugeboren lay out a series of baseball cards of significant figures of the pandemic era, including New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern; Singapore's Halimah Yacob; Donald Trump, who "repeatedly held large campaign rallies without requiring masking;" and Anthony Fauci, the "M.V.P. (Most Valuable Physician)." The collection also includes superheroes battling evil monsters and entries on the pandemic's effects on Natives and other marginalized populations. Of course, there is the tragedy of death but also the inspiring poetry of trying to come to terms with what it all means. Boileau sums it up well: "Strange, perhaps, for these emotions to resonate so clearly in a medium that people

often assume is either directed toward children or there for our amusement. But comics have a history of tackling weighty and mature subjects—and doing it well.” Add this book to that history. In a diverse, impassioned book, these quick responders illustrate the impact of the pandemic with work of lasting value.

The Removed by Brandon Hobson. Also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook. Signs and wonders animate a Cherokee tale of family and community abiding through trauma. Stories are “like medicine, but without the bad taste,” says Wyatt, a 12-year-old Cherokee boy in foster care who is preternaturally gifted in telling them. He spins mesmerizing, ambiguous fables about snakes and birds and an underworld, called the Darkening Land, for children at a shelter in rural Oklahoma. Wyatt, whose father is in jail and mother is in the wind, is spending a few days with Maria and Ernest Echota, the only Cherokee placement available. Fifteen years earlier, a White policeman shot and killed the couple’s middle child, Ray-Ray, outside a mall. Now Wyatt’s quirks and buoyant impersonations startle the Echotas by echoing those of Ray-Ray. More remarkably, the presence of this child appears to draw Ernest back from the fog of Alzheimer’s. Maria, her surviving son, Edgar, and daughter, Sonja, all take turns narrating. So does Tsala, a mysterious figure who declares, “We are speakers of the dead, the drifters and messengers...We are always restless, carrying the dreams of children and the elderly, the tired and sick, the poor, the wounded. The removed.” The talented Hobson conjures both the Trail of Tears and family fracturing, as he did in *Where the Dead Sit Talking*, a finalist for the National Book Award. The traumas of forced removal and Ray-Ray’s killing twine in Maria’s depression, Edgar’s meth use and Sonja’s drifting detachment. “I used to stare out the window, envying trees,” she says. “This became a regular pattern of thought for me...that I stared at a tree outside and envied its anonymity, its beauty and silence...A tree could stand over a hundred years and remain authentic.” Edgar, in his own Darkening Land, fights a treacherous fellow named Jackson Andrews, an evocation of Andrew Jackson. Each of the Echotas gropes toward their annual family bonfire commemorating Ray-Ray on the Cherokee National Holiday. Spare, strange, bird-haunted and mediated by grief, the novel defies its own bleakness as it calls forth a delicate and monumental endurance. A slim yet wise novel boils profound questions down to its final word: “Home.”

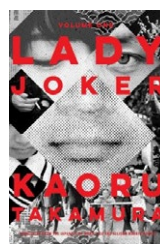
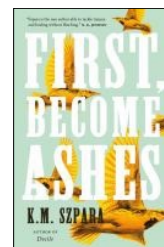


Dial A for Aunties by Jesse Q. Sutanto. Also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook. Murder is never funny, except when it is. In Sutanto’s rollicking debut, which she describes in a “Dear reader” foreword as “a love letter to my family—a ridiculously large bunch with a long history of immigration,” a fatal accident begets family reconciliation, true love at second sight and happy

beginnings all around. Meddy is convinced her sprawling Indonesian, Chinese, Singaporean and American family is cursed: all the men die or leave. She’s the only Chan of her

generation who has stayed in California with her mother and three aunts, even working in the family wedding business as the resident photographer. Although Meddy is not even close to 30, Ma is convinced that she’s practically an old maid, never mind that Meddy chose family over romance years before. Ma is desperate enough to impersonate Meddy on a dating app, sending her off with a potential rapist. So he dies. Sort of. *Dial A for Aunties*, indeed, as they navigate a high-profile wedding with a corpse in tow. Sound preposterous? Perhaps, but you’ll be glad you went along for the yacht ride.

First, Become Ashes by K. M. Szpara. Also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook. Members of a secluded cult grapple with sudden immersion in the outside world in the intense latest from Szpara (*Docile*). Lark has been raised as an Anointed, taught that strict discipline and pain will unleash his magical powers, and that one day he’ll be called to fight monsters. He’s eager to leave the compound in Baltimore’s Druid Hill neighborhood, where he lives, to put his training to the test but, two months before his 25th birthday, the FBI raids the compound with help from Kane, Lark’s former lover and a closet nonbeliever. Lark flees and stumbles into a fan convention, where he meets Calvin Morris, a cosplayer who longs for magic to be real and who agrees to help Lark search for monsters. Meanwhile, FBI agent Miller pursues Lark with the help of Kane and Deryn, Lark’s sibling. Calvin witnesses Lark performing what seems to be genuine magic and agrees to help Lark recharge his powers through pain as they hurtle toward an uncertain showdown. Szpara intercuts the thrilling chase with flashbacks to the abuse and sexual violence Kane and Lark endured in the Fellowship of the Anointed. The rotating viewpoints showcase Lark’s intense certainty, Kane’s guilt, Deryn’s bitterness and Calvin’s urgent credulity. Szpara mixes trauma and magic to mesmerizing results.



Lady Joker, Volume One by Kaoru Takamura. Takamura makes her English-language debut with an excellent crime novel centered on a kidnapping. In 1995, Kyosuke Shiroyama, the head of one of Japan’s leading companies, Hinode Beer, is snatched from his home by a criminal or criminals, who leave a message simply reading, “we have your president.” A massive police inquiry ensues, which focuses on ascertaining who might have an axe to grind against the company. The investigators probe a possible connection to events from 1990, when a dentist, after his son died, accused Hinode of improperly denying his child employment. Between that accusation and the abduction, various characters from a wide range of society are introduced—a truck driver, a lathe operator, a banker and a disgraced cop—who eventually unite in plotting Shiroyama’s kidnapping. This approach raises the emotional stakes leading up to the crime and its aftermath, though the resolution awaits the second volume. Readers open to delaying gratification will be hooked. Takamura shows why she’s one of Japan’s most prominent mystery novelists.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

BOOK NOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Nonfiction

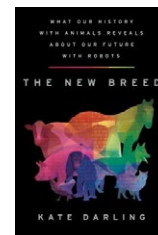
When Women Invented Television: The Untold Story of the Female Powerhouses Who Pioneered the Way We Watch Today by Jennifer Keishin Armstrong. Also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook. Armstrong (*Seinfeldia*) takes a look at four female pioneers in the early days of television whom she believes deserve far more credit than history has given them. Focusing on the late 1940s and early '50s, Armstrong deftly illustrates how this quartet of women battled skepticism, sexism and even the infamous Cold War blacklist to become vital players in the burgeoning days of the small screen. Comedienne Gertrude Berg successfully introduced her radio comedy "The Goldbergs" to television, breaking barriers not only as a woman but also by bringing a Jewish family into viewers' living rooms. Hazel Scott, a gifted pianist, became the first African American to host a weekly variety show in prime time, but fell victim to Senator Joseph McCarthy's now-infamous hunt for communists, which destroyed the careers of many Hollywood professionals. Irna Phillips, a daily soap opera innovator, succeeded in bringing the enduring format from radio to television, in the process creating the longest-running scripted show in history, "The Guiding Light". And Betty White, best known today for her



role in the 1980s sitcom "The Golden Girls", starred in both a sitcom and her own daytime talk show in the '50s. With crisp, electrifying prose, Armstrong recounts the hard work and struggles of four women trailblazers who shaped the dawn of television.

The New Breed: What Our History with Animals Reveals about Our Future with Robots by Kate Darling. "Just like animals, robots don't need to be a one-to-one replacement for our jobs or relationships," writes Darling, whose work at MIT's Media Lab focuses on robot ethics. "Instead, robots can enable us to work and love in new ways." As clear headed as that approach sounds, it's really complicated.

Thus, even as humans partner with animals who have, for millennia, done our heavy lifting, transported us, fed us, clothed us, even befriended us, we're only now addressing the misunderstanding we brought into that partnership—for example, the specious hierarchy of the animal world that we have constructed, and the often-tragic consequences of that. So it will be in our relationship with robots, says Darling, who lays out in detail the vexing issues—robot rights, robot accountability, our fears of a robot takeover, our deep-seated anthropomorphism that leads to surprising attachments to these machines—more than resolving them. But it's a thoughtful, constructive starting point.



Alone Together: Love, Grief and Comfort in the Time of COVID-19, edited by Jennifer Haupt. As the pandemic rages worldwide, writers are speaking out about its impact. Benefiting independent booksellers, with profits going to the Book Industry Charitable Foundation, this anthology explores the pandemic experiences of 90 writers, providing a guide for negotiating the fear, isolation, grief and exhaustion of this difficult time. Compiled



by novelist and journalist Haupt (*In the Shadow of 10,000 Hills*), these poems, essays and interviews by literary notables such as Kwame Alexander, Nikki Giovanni, Dani Shapiro and Lidia Yuknavitch, along with those by lesser-known authors Eson Kim and Rebecca Mabanglo-Mayor, capture the pain everyone is experiencing. Yet underneath the devastation lies a current of interconnectedness and hope. In a time when even getting out of bed takes a conscious effort, positive messages can be transformative. For instance, Jennifer Rosner's essay, "Recipe for Connection", tells of a 90-year-old mother and her daughter who talk nightly on the phone about what they will cook for dinner and look forward to when they can eat together again. Elsewhere, the experience of delivering provisions from a food bank, with its fleeting personal connections, brings comfort in the knowledge that one has helped, even if in a small way.

The Young Crusaders: The Untold Story of the Children and Teenagers Who Galvanized the Civil Rights Movement by V. P. Franklin. Also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook and eAudio. A lively history of the teenagers and young adults

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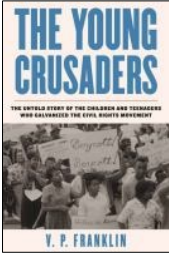
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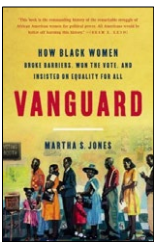
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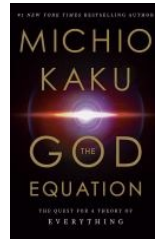


who fought some of the hardest battles of the civil rights movement. Franklin, a former professor of history and education, begins with a moment unknown to most students of the civil rights era: its largest single demonstration, “not the August 1963 March on Washington, but the system-wide school boycott in New York City on February 3, 1964, when over 360,000 elementary and secondary school students went on strike.” Across the nation, schools became battlegrounds, with the students who integrated such places as Lanier High School in small-town Mississippi, some of them fresh from sitting in at a lunch counter in Jackson, serving as frontline soldiers. They were subject to verbal and physical abuse, and one young woman who answered back was expelled from Little Rock’s Central High School. Franklin reports the absurdities built into public school systems around the country as they integrated, willingly or not. In Milwaukee, for instance, Black students were bused to a White school in the morning, bused back to their old school for lunch, then bused back to the White school for afternoon classes. The young people who rose up in protest were sometimes brave, sometimes merely sick and tired, as when, nine months before Rosa Parks, 15-year-old Claudette Colvin refused to relinquish her seat on a public bus. “I was just angry,” she explained. “Like any teenager might be. I was downright angry.” No matter what their motivation, the students eventually won allies—the adult leaders of the civil rights movement, of course, but also Mexican American and White students who, radicalized in the later 1960s, took their side. The author finds reason for the struggle to continue today. “Children and teenagers must mobilize and demand that student loan debt be forgiven and that future generations of students leave college debt-free,” he urges, among other planks in a youth platform for today. A compelling narrative that sheds light on a little-known aspect of the struggle for social justice.



Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All by Martha S. Jones. Also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook and eAudio. Beginning with her own history as a descendant of enslaved people, Jones shares stories of women in her family who created paths to political power as freedom did not lead to liberty or dignity. This standout social history shows how the 19th Amendment did not guarantee Black women the right to vote—state laws, including literacy tests, poll taxes and restrictions on descendants of enslaved people, were implemented to suppress turnout. Jones masterfully outlines how Black women used the pen, pulpit and podium to share information in the 19th and 20th centuries, and how teaching each other how to read and write was the greatest form of resistance. Moving chapters follow journalist Mary Ann Shadd Cary, poet and orator Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, educators Charlotte Forten Grimké and Mary Church Terrell, and writers Harriet Jacobs and Anna Julia Cooper, among others, as they sought to link voting rights to civil rights. Notably, Jones recounts how these women, and

others, such as Fannie Lou Hamer, faced danger for their visibility while often being ignored by White suffragists.



The God Equation: The Quest for a Theory of Everything by Michio Kaku. Also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook. Theoretical physicist and best-selling author Kaku (*The Future of Humanity*) eloquently reviews the structure of our universe, highlighting contributions from intellectual giants and those continuing the daunting, decades-long quest for the elusive theory of everything.

Lay enthusiasts will appreciate Kaku’s clear descriptions that reinforce the simplicity and elegant symmetry of accepted equations representing the particles, fields and forces that make up and influence all matter. After an illuminating primer, Kaku moves to the formidable search for the so-called God equation that will unify the “four forces of nature: gravity, the electromagnetic force, and the strong and weak nuclear forces.” String theory, which argues that at a fundamental level the universe is made of “tiny vibrating strings, with each note corresponding to a subatomic particle,” may be the answer, but it is thus far untestable and unproven. Examining this tantalizing theory, Kaku outlines its promises, problems and the breathtaking, almost inconceivable array of possibilities it presents. Kaku’s latest captures the awesome and mysterious beauty of the universe, of our planet and of ourselves, and will intrigue anyone who ponders existence. ♦

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KidLit Picks

By Rona Sue London

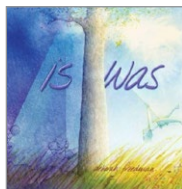
Picture Books (Age 3-6)



Beatrice Was a Tree by Joyce Hesselberth. Featured in the new StoryWalk® on the grounds of The Ivy Bookshop (5928 Falls Rd.).

The night is dark and the sky shimmers, and Beatrice wants nothing more than to immerse herself in the world outside. She imagines how wonderful life would be as a tree, with glorious limbs and delicate leaves, watching the passage of seasons and experiencing the weather. From the blustery winds of autumn to the shimmering snow of winter and the beauty of the unfurling spring and, finally, the long glorious days of summer, Beatrice revels in this connection to nature and the world around her. She would surely be home to a miraculous menagerie of animals and insects, extending her roots deep into the dark soil and reaching her branches to the stars. But Mother is insistent and Beatrice's warm bed awaits. Thankfully, she can drift off to sleep imagining the wonder of her life as a tree.

Is Was by Deborah Freedman. This subtle and ethereal book is a study in the profundity of change. We follow the sky, weather and animals, as one page flows into the next, observing the way in which one thing transforms into another. With gentle, dappled watercolor illustrations and spare, poetic text, relish the visceral experience of both the impermanence and the eternal glory of nature as a single day unfolds.



This sky is
the same sky that was blue,
and now is
spilling down in drips and drops...
until rainclouds pass...

This book is a meditation on pausing, breathing deeply, and reveling in the fleeting and ephemeral beauty of the natural world.



Early Readers (Ages 6-9)

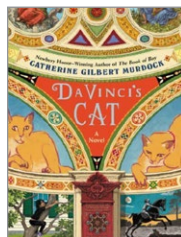
Ways to Grow Love by Renée Watson. How wonderful to be invited back into Ryan Hart's (*Ways to Make Sunshine*) world! It is the summer before 5th grade and Ryan is anticipating a blah vacation. With the imminent arrival of her baby sister, many

things are changing. Mom is on bed rest and Dad is working the night shift, and so much of what has made past summers fantastic is not possible now. Thankfully, there are things that remain the same, though in a slightly altered state. Her family and her best friends are there for Ryan through thick and thin, her grandmother provides sage advice, the amusement park rides await, and the library is full of books for the offering. As Ryan navigates friendships and life with kindness and flexibility at home and at church camp, she begins to learn the ways in which love expands to include new people and ideas. As her grandmother suggests, growing up involves being a bit like a rose. "Ryan, you have a lot of beauty to protect. You don't need to shrink to make anyone else feel important. Sometimes you're going to have to stand up for yourself—and others might think you're being a little prickly. But it's okay to let people know what you need and want." With many fun summer memories to make and a new family member to welcome, Ryan embraces it all with heart, intelligence and optimism.

Harry Versus the First 100 Days of School by Emily Jenkins. Six-year-old Harry is about to start 1st grade and he is a bundle of emotions. Sure, he has his older sister to help, but he is brimming with all kinds of concerns. Will he make friends? What will he do if the classroom pet is a dreaded guinea pig? How will he possibly gather 100 furies by the 100th day of school? With a warm, nurturing teacher, a wonderful single mom and fun classmates by his side, Harry has a great time learning about the tooth fairy, how to decode the silent "e", tricks to working on a team and strategies for drawing boundaries to stop teasing. With 100 short chapters that are accompanied by adorable illustrations, this is a superb early reader that captures the essence of a child beginning a new adventure.



Upper Middle Readers (Ages 10-13)



Da Vinci's Cat by Catherine Gilbert Murdock. Voyage into a world filled with temperamental and legendary artists, a cat that appears and disappears at will, an unsigned masterpiece, and a time-traveling cabinet. Frederico, 11, lives in the Pope's palace, held hostage in luxury and adored by his Highness while his father fights for the kingdom. To pass the time, the lonely

boy models for the painter Raphael and converses with Michelangelo, who is working on the Sistine Chapel as the rivalry between the two artists intensifies. One day, a cat appears, and then a man, both of them through a cabinet from 1940s New Jersey. Meanwhile, in present time, Bee, an Italian American girl with two mothers, is pulled away

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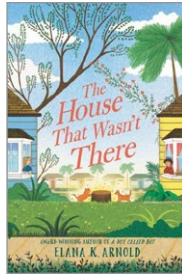
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from her usual summer trip to her grandparents in Italy to spend time in New Jersey. Everything changes when Bee meets her nextdoor neighbor, a struggling elderly woman who has an unsigned Raphael drawing that looks exactly like Bee. When she uses the cabinet to travel back to 1511, Bee meets Frederico and, together, they concoct a plan to entice Raphael to sign his artwork and Michelangelo to finish his ceiling, though trying not to alter history is proving more difficult than the children expected. Join this marvelous romp through Italy as Frederico and Bee have adventures galore all in the name of saving priceless works of art.

The House That Wasn't There by Elana K. Arnold. Outside the window of the house Alder shares with his widowed mother is a gorgeous walnut tree. That is, until a new neighbor moves into the house next door and cuts the tree down. Now, Alder finds himself in the uncomfortable position of sharing his 6th grade classroom with the culprit's daughter, a girl named Oak. After realizing they have adopted kittens from the same litter, the two tentatively begin to form an unlikely friendship. When unusual incidents involving a taxidermied opossum named Mort, teleporting cats, and a house that mysteriously appears and disappears brings the two together, their bond strengthens as they work together to solve the mysteries. A wonderfully unusual book with hints of magic and mystery invites us to entertain the idea that things



are not always as they seem, and that family and friendship can be found in the most unlikely places.

Young Adult (Ages 14-18)

Instructions for Dancing by Nicola Yoon. Evie is a hopeless romantic. That is, until she catches her father with a woman who is not her mom. Now, Evie is cautious and refuses to believe in love, going so far as to give away all of her favorite romance novels to a Little Free Library. There, she meets a mysterious woman who insists she take a book titled *Instructions for Dancing*, which leads her to a dance studio run by an older Black couple who are completely in love with one another and their incredibly hot grandson, Xavier, who says "yes" to everything. In an attempt to save the floundering dance studio, she and "X" enter a ballroom dancing contest and Evie discovered she has an unusual superpower. She can, while watching a couple kiss, see, in her mind's eye, the entire arc of their relationship, including the usually tragically sad end. When Evie gets a glimpse of the trajectory of her relationship with X, she has a dilemma. She needs to decide if it is really better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all? ♦



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

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Calendar Highlights

Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Cylburn's hours change seasonally. It is closed on Mondays and Federal holidays. The grounds and gardens are open Tuesday through Sunday, 8 am-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 call 410-396-0180 or visit cylburn.org for the most current information on programs and to register.

- Wednesdays in September and through October 13th, 5:30 pm. **Evening Walks**. Cylburn Arboretum Friends (CAF) is hosting hour-long evening walks, during which a range of topics from the history of the former Tyson estate to an in-depth exploration of the arboretum's tree collections at the Arboretum will be discussed. Meet at the Vollmer Center. Free for CAF members.
- First Thursday of the month, 5:30 pm. **Cylburn Garden Club**. Free for CAF members. Register by emailing cylburnfriends@cylburn.org.
- October 9, 9 am. **Yoga Hike**
- October 24, 9 am. **Zen Walk**
- October 22, time TBD. **ArBOOretum**. Fun activities abound in the shadow of Cylburn's 1860s mansion at this annual fall event.



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

- October 1st. **Outdoor Movie Night**
- October 8th. **Outdoor Movie Night**

Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301 York Rd., Lutherville-Timonium. The museum is open Saturdays 10 am-4 pm, with social distancing and mask use enforced. Family memberships are \$7. Contact Amy at alandman@firemuseummd.org for information. 410-321-7500, firemuseummd.org.

- October 23, 6 pm. **Lantern Night**. Experience the old-fashioned glow of the past as the museum lights candle and kerosene lanterns on its dazzling fire apparatus. Also enjoy re-enactors in period attire, hammered dulcimer folk music and refreshments for sale. Visit the website for details.

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-4 pm, except on Wednesdays. 410-557-9570, 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. August 10: Old Fields, Meadows and Insects; September 14: Fall Bird Count; October 12: Fall Nature Exploration. 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.
- Thursdays in September through early November, 4 pm most days. **Virtual Garden Lecture Series**. Enjoy a variety of garden-related topics in the areas of floral design, horticulture, garden design, vegetable gardening, botanical art and the environment. Speakers include Dan Hinkley, Aaron Bertelsen, Anne Thompson Blackwell and April Lutter. \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. For more information, visit ladewgardens.com/Event-Calendar/Events-at-Ladew/Virtual-Lecture-Series.

Lake Roland, 1000 Lakeside Dr. Lake Roland has a variety of programs for all ages. A few are listed below. To find out about additional programs or to register, call 410-887-4156 or visit lakeroland.org.

- Fridays, 9 am. **Friday Walks**. Exercise while enjoying the sights and sounds of Lake Roland. Meet at Lake Roland Nature Center. Adults only. Email lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov to register.
- September 11th, 9 am. **Lake Roland Environmental Preservation Committee Volunteer Outings**

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. Programs include:

- Sundays, 10 am, **Weekend Art Activity** (ages 5-10); 11:30 am, **Paint & Play** (ages 3-6); and 1 pm, **Pop-Up Class** (ages 10-16)

- Tuesdays, 10 am, **Paint & Play Plus** (ages 4-7); 2:45 pm, **Studio Sketchbook** (ages 5-10, includes pick-up for Roland Park Elementary Middle School students); 4 pm, **Afterschool Art Activity** (ages 5-10); 5:15 pm, **Advanced Sketchbook** (ages 10-16, online)
- Wednesdays, 1 pm, **Arts Integration In-Studio Session** (ages 6-12); 4 pm, **Advanced Art Series** (ages 10-15)
- Thursdays, 9:30 am, **Adult Open Studio**, 1 pm, **Paint & Play** (ages 3-6); 2:45 pm, **Studio Sketchbook** (ages 5-10, includes pick-up for Roland Park Elementary Middle School students); 4 pm, **Afterschool Art Activity** (ages 5-10); 6 pm, **Happy Half-Hour** (adults)
- Fridays, 9:30 am, **Art & Artists** (ages 4-8); 1 pm, **Paint & Play Plus** (ages 4-7)
- Saturdays, 3 pm, **Creative Process Seminar** (ages 14 and up)

Please also watch for details about the second annual **Roland Park Art Walk!** Follow [@socialstudiobaltimore](#) and [@rolandparkartwalk](#) on Instagram for more information.

Village Square Cafe, 66 Village Square. The restaurant hosts live music, weather permitting, every Saturday evening from 6-7:30 pm on their patio.

- September 4th, **Roger Friskey** (Blues/Folk/Jazz)
- September 11th, **Mark & Judy** (Guitar/Violin)
- September 18th, **Transcontinental Railroad: Lauren Weiner, Julie Riffle & Paula Bocciardi** (Folk/Rock)

The Civic League meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Starting on September 8th, these meetings will once again be held in person at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church at the corner of Roland Avenue and Upland Road (4801 Roland Ave.).

The Civic League's new speaker series kicks off on October 13th at 7 pm with Dr. Paige Glotzer, author of *How the Suburbs Were Segregated: Developers and the Business of Exclusionary Housing, 1890-1960*. The presentation will be held on the patio at The Ivy Bookshop (5928 Falls Rd.). Glotzer's book will be available for purchase.



- September 25th, **The Dharma Bums** (Folk/Rock/Indie/World Beat Blues)
- October 2nd, **Vagabond Motel** (Americana Folk Rock)
- October 9th, **Dallas Jacobs & A Clever Form of One** (Country/Blues)
- October 23rd, **Con Brio Trio** (Classical Guitar)
- October 30th, **Rusty Frank** (Folk/Rock, and a bit of the Blues)

Please send calendar announcements to magazine@rolandpark.org.



Math is everywhere.
Even in my social studies class.
And the library.

I know this because I go to Park.

—Andrew, 5th Grade

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