# ROLANDPARKnews

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## The Peregrines Return

## Get Into the Spirits (or Don't)

## An Existential Crisis



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## Editor's Notes

By Martha Marani

ith extreme weather dominating the news, I've been contemplating my part and place in the cycle. Several books and an article in this issue have snapped into focus my obligation to do what I can to "become naturalized."

Helen Macdonald, *New York Times* bestselling author of *H is for Hawk*, published a collection of essays that the *Washington Post* calls "An elegantly written amalgam of nature writing, personal memoir, literary portrait and examination of bereavement." The book, *Vesper Flights*, was a comfort to me during the pandemic. The source of that comfort is Macdonald's essays about bird nests, songbird migration, the murmuration of starlings, the vesper flights of swifts and peregrine falcons—each reflecting what she calls her "love for the glittering world of non-human life around us."

"The Falcon and the Tower" is, for reasons obvious to anyone who follows the Roland Water Tower peregrine falcons as closely as I do, a favorite of mine. It is an homage to this incredible wild raptor—known to be the fastest animal alive, whose hunting dives can reach more than 200 miles per hour.

Of the falcon, Macdonald writes, "What we are watching is a small, feathered rebuke to our commonplace notion that nature exists only in places other than our own, an assumption that seems always one step towards turning our back on the natural world, abandoning it as something disappearing or already lost."

The falcons were not given up for lost by those who carefully planned the recent restoration of the iconic Roland Water Tower; their preservation

was given top priority. Craig A. Koppie, a raptor biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, advised the team to build a temporary nesting box nearby for the falcons to use during the renovation and then to build a permanent nesting box at the top of the Roland Water Tower after completing the project. This spring, two female falcons were hatched in the box (see pictures taken by Koppie and wildlife photographer Marc Butt in this issue's photo essay on p. 16-17). Their parents are among the nearly 50 pairs of successfully breeding peregrine falcons in Maryland and Virginia.

Another inspiring book is *Braiding Sweetgrass*, written by botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Robin Wall Kimmerer. Kimmerer writes, "Even a wounded world is feeding us. Even a wounded world holds us, giving us moments of wonder and joy. I choose joy over despair. Not because I have my head in the sand, but because joy is what the earth gives me daily and I must return the gift."

Devra Kitterman's "Climate in Crisis" article describes the world's wounds and issues a call to action for us all. Kitterman's article and Kimmerer's book both deeply affected me and, taken to heart, I strongly echo their persuasive pleas. As we make impactful decisions about our community, let's be more mindful of our non-human neighbors-the Roland Water Tower falcons; the hundreds of century-old trees that grace our neighborhood, including those on the land that will become Hillside Park; the fox, barred owls and deer; the native bees, Monarch and other butterflies, and 17-year Brood X cicadas: the native black-eved Susans, butterfly weed and little bluestem. Kimmerer encourages us to "become naturalized...to live as if your children's future matters, to take care of the land as if our lives and the lives of all our relatives depend on it. Because they do."

They do.

Happy fall, everyone! 💠

You can support the efforts of the Roland Park Community Foundation (RPCF) to install a pocket park on the Roland Water Tower site and build Hillside Park, the first public park of its size to be built in Baltimore in more than a century. Donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 16214, Baltimore, MD 21210.

Welcome, Kristina Strakna! The Civic League (RPCL) has a new office manager, Kristina Strakna, who was born and raised in the Baltimore suburbs. After relocating for her husband's work to several states along the East Coast, she and her family returned to Maryland in 2006. Strakna is excited to apply her years of experience working for a large HOA in Columbia, MD, to benefit the RPCL. She and her husband Joe are the proud parents of three young adult children and, in her spare time, she enjoys knitting, baking, gardening and long walks through Baltimore's beautiful old neighborhoods. Strakna lives in Homeland with her husband and four cats in a very needy but glorious old house that was built in 1926.

## RPEMS News: Fundraising Kicks Off for Fish Fence

It's a great way to start the day," says Sam Robfogel of the iconic "fish fence" in front of Roland Park Elementary & Middle School (RPEMS), where approximately 1,400 students

arrive each morning. He and his alumnae wife Eleanor have two children attending the school. "There's a lot of energy in that play area," he says.

There's also a lot of artistry in the fence, which was installed in the 1994-95 school year. But time and weather have taken their toll. "It's rusting away," says former principal Mariale Hardiman, who initiated the original fence in 1993 as well as the current project to restore it. "It's a work of art that can never be replaced. We have to value pieces of art; we can't let art deteriorate."

Designed by local sculptor Greg Moring, the first section of the fence was the part that surrounds the gated garden and sections along Roland Avenue. When Moring moved to Ohio, Chris Gavin, a sculpture student at MICA, stepped in to install the long fence from the top of the hill to the street, including the "falling fish" sections along the stairs to the front door.

Current principal Amanda Brown says, "The 'fish fence' is an incredibly important symbol and landmark for Roland Park Elementary & Middle School. It shows the community who we are, a diamond in the rough, as the public school in the area that is priceless for everyone who is a part of the school. It has served as our logo for many years, and it speaks to the pride and value our community holds for art and outdoor learning."

A few years ago, Brown adds, the school built an amphitheater inside of the fence to encourage more performances, outdoor learning and a sense of community.

To bring the area back into pristine condition, the Alumni and Friends of Roland Park Elementary Middle School (AFRPEMS) will launch in September a \$24,000 campaign to restore the fence. Robfogel is treasurer of the organization.

"The fence will remain on site during the three months it will take to remove the rust

and stabilize, prime and paint it," says Tom Gamper, president of AFRPEMS. Gamper also attended the school, as did his two adult children.



Amanda Brown

## The iconic fish fence is rusting and needs repair (left).

Former principal Mariale Hardiman and president of the AFRPEMS are working to raise funds for the fence's restoration (below). Photos: Martha Marani



He and Hardiman are spearheading the fundraising efforts. One event will include a team of runners on October 15th at the Baltimore Running Festival. Foundations are being solicited for donations, as well as alums, area residents and businesses. Traditional fundraising efforts include letters, emails, social media and class gifts. The AFRPEMS Facebook page includes specifics about the Running Festival, upcoming events and the link for electronic donations: Donate with PayPal Giving Fund (paypal. com/us/fundraiser/charity/2064828).

Checks may also be mailed to: AFRPEMS, c/o RPEMS, 5207 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210.

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

## Spring Celebration at Baltimore Country Club

By Anne Stuzin, Civic League Communications Lead

fter a two-year hiatus, the Roland Park Spring Celebration returned on May 13th, with the event held for the first time at the Baltimore Country Club. Close to 200 guests enjoyed cocktails and *hors d'oeuvres* in a beautiful room with high glass windows

that overlooked the land below that will soon become Hillside Park. Among the attendees were several of our local politicians, including delegates Sandy Rosenberg, Tony Bridges and Brooke Lierman (currently running as the Democratic candidate for Maryland Comptroller), and Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton.

The talented Powell Younger Project provided the music, and more than a few party attendees ventured onto the dance floor for a spin! Spirits were high as Community Foundation (RPCF) Chair Mary Page Michel offered updates on





David Sheehy and Ellen and Topper Webb (above). Ellen Lupton and Abbott Miller (left) Photos: Sally Foster

Hillside Park, including the exciting news of donations reaching the \$8 million mark. Additionally, she announced that Hillside Park had received \$1 million from the Governor's budget for use in project build outs. A logo for the park was unveiled by Ellen Lupton, a Roland Park resident and world-renowned graphic designer. As a parting gift, RPCF handed out Hillside Park frisbees to guests.

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RPCF Treasurer John Kevin introduces Delegate Sandy Rosenberg (left). The view of what will be Hillside Park from the Baltimore Country Club patio (below). Hillside Park logo designed by Ellen Lupton. Typeface: Ninna, by Margot Leveque (below, left).



#### All in all, the Spring Celebration was a big success, and it's so good to have it back! It was an evening of community, connecting with neighbors and toasting the creation of a new public park for Baltimore!



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900 W. University Pkwy.	\$ 895,000	\$ 888,550
4905 Roland Ave.	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000
506 Woodlawn Rd.	\$1,050,000	\$1,100,000
212 Northfield Pl.	\$ 899,000	\$1,170,000
2 Hillside Rd.	\$1,595,000	\$1,600,000
307 Somerset Rd.	\$1,988,000	\$1,658,000

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## Examination of Roland Park's Exclusionary History

n recent years, communities and institutions in Baltimore and around the country-from *The Baltimore Sun* to the Episcopal Church-have been examining their relationships to constructing and maintaining racism and segregation. Likewise, in Roland Park there also has been a growing awareness of our own community's exclusionary history. And, sadly, there have been recent reminders that tensions around exclusion, belonging and bias are not only in our past. What can and should we, as a community, do?

Members of the Board of the Civic League (RPCL) and a group of active and engaged residents have been wrestling with exactly this question. At our June meeting, which was dedicated to this topic, members of the Board and community discussed an initial set of action steps grounded in a framework for racial equity that is based loosely on one found on the Race Forward website (raceforward.org/about/what-is-racial-equity-key-concepts). Our proposed framework seeks to:

- · Express a shared value around equity and inclusion
- Better understand our history and the ways in which inequality and inequity are structured in Roland Park and Baltimore.
- Continue building our individual and collective skills to understand and address racism and inequality; and



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• Take decisive action to make our community and Baltimore City more equitable.

Accordingly, at the June meeting the Board affirmed equity, inclusion and diversity goals as important aspects of the RPCL's work and pledged to a "committee of the whole" approach, noting that this is the work of the whole Board and not just some subset of it. To this end, the RPCL charged an ad hoc committee with drafting a written acknowledgement of our shared history and a statement on racial equity for review. The RPCL also agreed to strengthen its connection to and support of our neighborhood's public elementary/middle and high schools, connect with Live Baltimore to make sure Roland Park is included in opportunities for new home buyers in the city, and to be open to opportunities to join as allies with communities and organizations working to address racial inequities across Baltimore.

This framework and initial action steps build on the work of many. Neighbors and local organizations have deepened their own skills and knowledge. They have sponsored book groups and discussion series, many of which continue. "Courageous Conversations About Race", facilitated by community members, were held for the RPCL and the Roland Park school community in 2019 and 2021. The Board of the Roland Park Pool amended its bylaws to promote diversity and inclusion.

Last fall, the RPCL and the Ivy Bookshop co-hosted Paige Glotzer, author of How the Suburbs were Segregated, which details the Roland Park Company's impact on racial exclusion locally and nationally. The RPCL Speaker Series welcomed Dana Moore, the City's Chief Equity Officer. And, the founding of Hillside Park is an exciting and physical manifestation of a broader commitment to the city.

By becoming a more aware and inclusive community, which is better connected to the opportunities and struggles of the city at large, we hope to contribute to building a thriving Baltimore where everyone prospers. While we know that these initial action steps are hardly sufficient, we do hope they are a beginning. Please let us know what you think. Comments are gratefully accepted at **forms.gle/Z6CNqEGk6ophHLXu5**.

### PayHOA

Recognizing the benefits of moving to an electronic platform designed for neighborhood associations, the RPCL will be unveiling a new electronic platform, PayHOA, in September to manage our accounts. PayHOA is a fast, easy and secure way to pay dues, fees and other charges online. With it, we will communicate with residents primarily by email and bill RPCL dues and Roads & Maintenance fees electronically. Need approval for an exterior change to your house? We'll be able to process these requests, and track response time and documentation using the platform. If you haven't shared your email address with the RPCL (or are unsure whether you have), please email our new office manager, Kristina Strakna, who can be reached at **office@ rolandpark.or**g.

## Korean Fusion Delights at Sodam Bistro

By Ingrid Paska and Gabby DeSimone

I like to share the food I enjoy with others," says Katherine Lee, the owner and head chef

of Sodam Bistro, the Korean fusion restaurant tucked between the Loyola University Maryland campus and Royal Farms on Cold Spring Lane.

Born and raised in the seaside town of Busan, Korea, Lee explains how strongly the food of her home country has impacted her life. "My grandma was where I first learned to cook," she reveals. Her grandmother was from the "New Orleans of Korea"

Korean Fusion Bistro

and had an innate talent for the culinary arts. Lee adds, "She would have feasts every month with family and friends." This familial custom would spark Lee's love for traditional Korean foods and inspire her to share them with others.

She explains, "I want to eat more Korean food and there are not that many Korean food places."

Lee hopes to serve the Roland Park community with a taste of her culture. She took a liking to the neighborhood.

"I went to Miss Shirley's...and it's [the neighborhood] pretty: the garden, the houses, the look." The chef also explains how integral the neighbors are to her business. "They take turns ordering from my restaurant to keep me in business." She discovered that Roland Park residents created an email group, encouraging others to try the eatery. This finding made her fall even more in love with the area.

Although Lee has faced many difficulties as a small business owner, the predominant one was the COVID-19 pandemic. The government shutdowns and inflation caused hardships for restaurants. The rise in food prices and safety protocols made it impossible for these businesses to operate. Lee explained how she planned to open in March of 2020, but wasn't able to open until December of 2021. Despite this, her business continues to provide for the neighborhood. The restaurant, which offers in-person dining and take-out, is located at 200 W. Cold Spring Lane. The menu is inspired by Chef Lee's Korean roots. Gelato is available for those looking for a sweet finish to their meal. Photos: Martha Marani

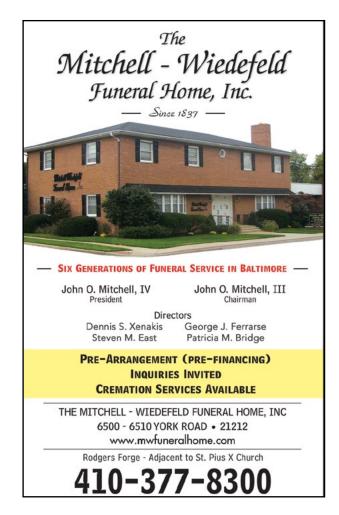
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Lee and her customers encourage you to try her Korean fusion dishes. A

Sodam employee concludes, "Come down and support us at 200 W. Cold Spring for traditional Korean food with a twist!"  $\diamondsuit$ 

Sodam Bistro (200 W. Cold Spring Ln.) is open 11:30am to 9pm. For take-out call 410-889-1955. You can also order online at Grubhub and DoorDash.





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## An Existential Crisis

By Devra Kitterman

or several years now, my concern for protecting and planting habitat for our rapidly disappearing pollinators and wildlife has been my simple motivation for writing articles to share the methods that we each could employ to most effectively protect our environment and food supply. But the larger picture has now fully emerged—one that most people are largely uninformed about—food insecurity.

Although Americans have been hearing about

global warming-caused climate change for about 50 years, conservative naysayers and powerful corporate interests have conspired in muting or denying the message to the point that

the climate change topic has become a hot potato that the public either feels strongly concerned or vaguely indifferent about, or rejects outright. Tragically, the misinformation campaign continues, much to the frustration and astonishment of scientists, environmental professionals and ordinary citizens worldwide. An emergency behavioral U-turn is now desperately needed by everyone, but especially by those who are still pushing such disinformation. One cannot help but wonder if these deniers have children or grandchildren they care about.

This year, we in the Mid-Atlantic area started out the year with cooler temperatures (with single digits in February) and much wetter rainy periods throughout the spring, only to then experience a shock as the other shoe dropped and a prolonged and extreme heat wave arrived affecting us and much of the U.S. and causing many Code Red days.

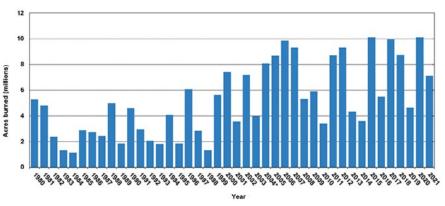
I watched as the early cool/cold spring weather pattern caused nesting birds to postpone their reproductive behaviors a bit and have multiple smaller clutches of young. This could also have been due to a lack of insects to feed their hatchlings, the cause of which could also have been the prolonged cool temperatures and to reduced insect populations in general. During this same time, many farmers in our area were forced to delay planting crops because the ground was too wet.

Most of us by now have viewed the many videos of the 2022 1,000-year rainfall disasters, massive flooding and previously unheard-of extreme heat that has impacted much of the world. Conspicuously, it is happening much more rapidly than experts predicted it would. Concurrent to the flooding, and according to the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor (**droughtmonitor.unl.edu**) as of June 28th, 47.73 percent of the contiguous states was experiencing moderate to exceptional drought. According to Homeowners Insurer Bankrate (**bankrate.com**), 4.5 million homes were at high or extreme risk from wildfires in 2021 and 58,985 wildfires affected more than 7.1 million acres. Complete statistics are not yet available for 2022, but as of July 11st, the Federation of American Scientists reports that more than 35,700 wildfires have impacted about 4.8 million acres (**fas.org**). Wildfires inject



Many Maryland farmers delayed planting crops this spring because the ground was too wet. Photo: Andrii Yalanskyi

massive amounts of carbon dioxide and particulate matter into the atmosphere, further increasing global warming and fueling climate change.



Annual Number of Acres Burned in Wildland Fires, 1980-2021 \*2004 fires and acres do not include state lands for North Carolina. Source credited: National Interagency Fire Center

We can likely agree that the extreme weather events we have experienced over the last few years seem to be happening much more frequently. Cities have had trouble meeting the energy requirements for the higher and more sustained demand for air conditioning, and the Texas electrical grid crashed during an unexpected extreme cold event last year as folks sought to heat their un-insulated homes (which begs all sorts of questions as to why homes in a hot climate are not insulated, and why Texas doesn't modernize or run their grid cooperatively with other states).

Between extreme temperatures and storms, extremely dry conditions and flooding, heat and drought are affecting agricultural production in the U.S., per both the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and "have important implications for the agricultural economy." According to the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), "as of March 8, 2022, more than 10 percent of alfalfa hay acreage in the U.S. was experiencing extreme or exceptional drought conditions." Further, "The NDMC indicates that the percentage of alfalfa hay acreage affected by drought in the summer of 2021 was the largest in the past decade. The historically severe drought conditions in the West have implications for the broader agricultural economy. For



Drought is affecting agricultural production in the U.S. Photo: Ponsulak

example, alfalfa hay is an important input for livestock and dairy operations, and much of its production concentrates in the Western U.S. Drought conditions affecting alfalfa hay acreage have the potential to reduce yields which may influence feed and consumer prices." The bad news continues. "As of March 8, 2022, drought conditions are most severe in the States of Texas, Oklahoma, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Montana, and New Mexico," and, on the same date, "more than 20 percent of land in the Western states was classified as experiencing extreme or exceptional drought."

NOAA also monitors other countries. This year was disastrous for most of Europe's agricultural crops, with temperatures that hovered above 100 degrees Fahrenheit for extended periods. Remember too, that extreme drought desiccates all flowering plants, leaving no food for pollinators, which will mean no fruits, nuts or vegetables for us or wildlife.

Maryland residents have been mostly lucky in 2022. A tour of surrounding rural areas shows gorgeous fields of corn, soybeans and other crops that are currently in abundance. But although we may now be enjoying a bubble of relative weather pleasantness, we could any day be next in line for drought, which is not restrained by state lines or political divisions.

So, what can we do to help mitigate the effects of climate change and the destruction of our home planet?

- · Be aware of the weather around us.
- Pay attention to agriculture in our country and respect the efforts of our farmers more.
- Waste less food (we currently waste about 40 percent).
- Waste less water and protect our priceless waterways and fisheries. Prettyboy Reservoir could easily become Lake Mead.
- Reduce the use of fossil fuels as much as possible by using alternate modes of transportation. Walk, bike, or take a train or bus.
- Consume less. How much stuff do we really need? Much of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



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## Growing by Necessity: Why Your Cheese Plate is Not as "Curated" as Your Local Arboretum

By Brent "Fig" Figlestahler, Cylburn Arboretum Friends Head Gardener

erard Moudry, Cylburn Arboretum's first chief horticulturist, planted whips (very young trees) and small trees in rows, most notably on the southern slopes of the property, setting into motion a chain reaction of investments in the landscape that are still maturing to this day. The trajectory of all gardens and arboreta is toward growth. By nature, gardens produce a bounty–flowers, fruits, divisions, seedlings, hybrids, sports, suckers, runners and sprouts. In the right hands, a garden's immensely productive energy can be harnessed.

The question that I've been grappling with lately is how to "grow" an arboretum; a question undoubtedly asked by Moudry and many others doing this important work. William Friedman, director of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum, sums up the definition of an arboretum as "a collection of woody plants with provenance in a designed landscape." I am partial to this definition because its meaning is derived from a relationship between people and plants. An arboretum, as a designed landscape, is the result of our collective need to interact with natural landscapes and the explicit desire to learn from that interaction. The idea of "provenance" is an attempt to mitigate the variables surrounding the nature vs. nurture paradox. Occurring at one of the poles of human-plant interaction, provenance is the knowledge of how and where a specimen was grown. Also, who grew, sourced or collected the plant. To experience a landscape brimming with this much intention and recorded history makes explicit the often implicit relationships between woody plants, like trees, and the people treading beneath their branches.

Cylburn, unlike Arnold, does not have the patronage of Harvard University or any academic institution for that matter. Our education and research efforts cater to our visitorship, which consists primarily of Baltimore citizens, Baltimore City Public School students, industrious homeowners and the occasional garden enthusiast. We strive to be Baltimore's arboretum. Our collection philosophy reflects the role we hope to play in the community and the region. Informed by our past and existing collections, here's how we think about growing in the future. As a horticultural resource for the public, we will showcase and preserve the beauty and value of regionally appropriate plants, and model best practices in design and maintenance. We aim to inspire passion for woody plants and the consequent stewardship of one's own greenspace. As a horticultural resource for industry professionals and enthusiasts, we hope to advance the work of plant introduction through trials and public displays as we plant for climate change, native introductions, ecological value and horticultural potential undervalued by the industry.



The Cylburn collection, including this flowering crabapple, is curated to inspire passion for woody plants. Photo courtesy of Cylburn Arboreturn Friends

Our collection priorities can be broken down as follows:

- Demonstrate horticultural significance, including the range and beauty of regionally growable and promising plants within the ornamental horticulture industry. Emphasis is placed on plants with local origins attributed to Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic legacy of nurseries.
- **Display for public education and engagement** plants that inspire and excite through varied forms, natural histories, origins, historic value to the property and ease of educational interpretation. We believe woody plants are great teaching aids for more than horticulture. Collecting and interpreting specifically for cultural significance allows Cylburn to reach a broader audience.
- Develop a botanical and taxonomic collection of our region's biodiversity with a concern for rare, threatened or endangered plants and for representing some of our most common trees in accessible ways. Collections organized by genus or family should also be present at Cylburn. When collecting taxonomically, we will prioritize diversity in species, rather than cultivars, in an effort to reveal both diversity and commonality among plant classifications.

Just as a museum curator catalogs, cleans, restores and displays artifacts, so too is the nature of our work at Cylburn. A collection must be strategically planned, and maintained for proper health and beautiful display. It must be documented, and new materials must be sourced and old material removed. This is the work of curation. As we grow Cylburn's collections and their interpretation, we hope you will have a more meaningful experience of the property. We hope that the Cylburn landscape will become legible in new ways, and that your observations here will inform your perspective of people and plants in your own neighborhoods.

Cylburn Arboretum Friends (**cylburn.org**) is the non-profit organization that has been partnering with the City of Baltimore since 1954 to maintain the grounds and gardens at Cylburn. As a 501 (c)(3), nonprofit organization, it provides support and stewardship for Baltimore City's Cylburn Arboretum as a place of natural beauty, tranquility, culture and learning, open to all.

## **EXISTENTIAL CRISIS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

what we buy ends up in the trash eventually.

- Consider our individual impact on the environment and the amount of trash we contribute to our landfills and oceans.
- Don't sit in your parked car with the engine running.
- Think twice about using chemicals that affect all systems and wash into our waterways and wells.
- Think about our children and what we are leaving them. Take them outdoors to appreciate the living Earth now.
- Plant a native yard habitat that doesn't require lots of water or powered machinery solely to maintain grass.

Prior to the mid-20th century American lawn obsession, people's yards—front and back—hosted vegetable gardens, fruit trees, berry patches and poultry. People were healthier, thinner and more self-sufficient, all of which made them much more attuned to nature and to the weather. Children actually participated in the gardening and the care of animals, which nurtured a pragmatic

and empathetic view of our food supply and of the world. Homes had cisterns in the ground and barrels to store the rainwater that ran off their rooftops. It was used to water food crops and animals. A lot less of everything was wasted.

I am not trying to over-romanticize how things were in the last century, but there were certainly aspects of life then that were more conducive and practical towards a healthier life and planet. Many of those things simply would be more difficult to practice in today's

careening world, where housing is barely affordable for most or unattainable at all, consumerism has led to a pathological waste stream, and many children are raised to be competitively careeroriented or headed for a sedentary computer-based job. What type of alternatives can be created for people who wish to live sustainably and in a more positive way on the planet?

Climate change will increasingly and negatively affect all of us if we continue treating it as a non-emergency, and food insecurity, especially amid a global population of 8 billion, has already started. We can and must do better.

Devra He'ui Kitterman is a Baltimore City beekeeper. 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**.

410-650-0606

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Kitterman's yard is a wildlife and pollinator paradise. Photo: Devra Kitterman

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## Award-Winning Art Teacher Begins New Adventure

tarting in 2012, local artist and art teacher Laura Lynn Emberson taught visual arts in the middle school at Roland Park Elementary & Middle School (RPEMS), earning her the "Outstanding Art Teacher of Baltimore City" for the 2012/13 school

year. This fall, she begins a new adventure. After 18 years of painting the walls at RPEMS and 10 years of teaching art, she'll start teaching at Baltimore Polytechnic (Poly).

Her contributions haven't been limited to the classroom and walls of RPEMS. Emberson has created three beautiful murals, in Sandtown (with Gina Pierleoni and Jose Vigo) at Westmont Avenue and North Mount Street, under the Jones Falls Expressway at President and Holliday streets, and in Charles Village at 33rd and Barclay streets. In addition, she worked with then-principal Thomas Shepley on his renovation of the Mount Washington Elementary School's library, spending more than 100 hours transforming its walls into a living story with her murals. Emberson also created murals on the school's exterior double doors, each reflecting a different artistic movement: organic, pop, surrealism, realism, and in the cafeteria.

In addition to being a teacher, she is an artist, painter and muralist, and mother of three beautiful daughters.

A graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) Master of Arts in Art Education program in Art Education and Research, Emberson continues to serve as an adjunct professor for MICA's Masters of Art graduate program. She earned her bachelor's of fine arts from MICA and her Maryland Certification in Teaching Art from the College of Notre Dame.

*RPN* had a few questions for Emberson about her time at RPEMS and her plans for the future.

#### **RPN: What fuels your passion for teaching?**

*LE:* I became a teacher because I love kids and I love being an artist. Combining both aspects into one job was a perfect fit for me...I remember my art classes when I was little and how my imagination was able to grow there because I could sit and dream and think my thoughts. This is what I hope to provide our kids because the art classroom is a very special place,where we connect in a different kind of way with ourselves and each other.

## RPN: Of your many significant contributions to the RPEMS community, of which are you the most proud?

*LE:* I really like how my murals force you to be somewhere else than where you actually are (the trees in the stairwell, the giant bird and flowers in the cafeteria, etc.) but I am most proud of the murals my students have painted over the years. The most recent mural shows colors stitched together on a large wall that looks like a patchwork quilt but, to me, it represents how we have pieced ourselves back together as a community after COVID.

RPN: During your 18-year involvement, as a contributing artist and then teacher, what changes have you seen at the school?



Emberson's contributions to Baltimore—as a teacher and artist—have had a trememdous impact, but she is most proud of the murals her students created at RPEMS. Photos: Laura Lynn Emberson

*LE*: RPEMS is a part of my family and we have persevered through some educational growing pains, such as homogeneous class grouping that reinforced the socioeconomic divide between our students, eventually moving to a heterogenous, diverse class grouping that puts everyone on more of an equal playing field for success. I've seen our school come together after the death of Freddie Gray and the growing pains of learning how to become a more anti-racist community with the Black Lives Matter movement.

#### RPN: Tell us about your new job at Poly.

*LE:* I will be teaching juniors and seniors at Poly this year in Fundamentals in Art and AP Studio for college credit. I'm really excited to be working with older kids who want to develop their technical skills, and also want to dig into the process of thinking like an artist and creating a body of work that says something.

## **RPN:** How is teaching high schoolers different from teaching middle schoolers?

*LE:* Being around Poly this summer I was shocked how quiet the art classroom is compared to middle school. High schoolers seem to work more independently and slower-middle schoolers work fast and want to move onto something else right away. I love my middle schoolers and their silliness always cracked me up. I hope I get to laugh just as much with the kids at Poly. I do have to say though, it is going to be nice working with older kids who are looking to investigate what they are making and why.

#### RPN: What will your focus be in your Poly classes?

*LE:* My lesson plans will focus on teaching the fundamentals of art and design, which is about developing technical skills, visual storytelling, art history and criticism for juniors. For the seniors, I will be teaching an AP Studio class that gives them college credits and has them work very hard at developing a portfolio of work that is submitted to the college board for review. Poly's legendary art teacher, Matt Adelberg, created an incredible art program that Lauren Jackson and myself will continue to grow, offering more art classes with two teachers instead of one. We will also have an afterschool Art Club for all students.

## RPN: How does your work as an artist affect your teaching, and vice versa?

*LE:* They are kind of the same, to be honest. I am always trying to express myself in my artwork and I encourage my students to

## Get Into the Spirits (or Don't)

hese cocktails and "zero proof" drinks will help you transition into the cooler months. Some, like the Maryland Mule, feature locally distilled spirits. Others are equally spirited in taste, but alcohol-free.

#### **My Summer Crush**

This summertime recipe will fit the bill perfectly for those inevitable hot September days. It features Miss Shirley's Café's Strawberry Lime Jalapeño Jam (see p. 23 for recipe).

#### Ingredients (from missshirleys.com/blog)

#### raw sugar

- 1 oz. Strawberry Lime Jalapeño Jam
- 1½ oz. bourbon (eg., from Marylanddistilled Fiore Winery & Distillery, Fordham Lee Distillery, or Meinelschmidt Distillery)
- lemon wedges fresh mint

1/2 oz. triple sec

Rim a mason jar or glass of choice with raw sugar. Fill the glass with ice and then add Strawberry Lime Jalapeño Jam, bourbon and triple sec. Fill the rest of the way with strawberry lemonade (brands include Simply Lemonade). Garnish with a lemon wedge and a fresh mint sprig and enjoy!



My Summer Crush will help you hold onto your summertime groove a little longer. Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Café

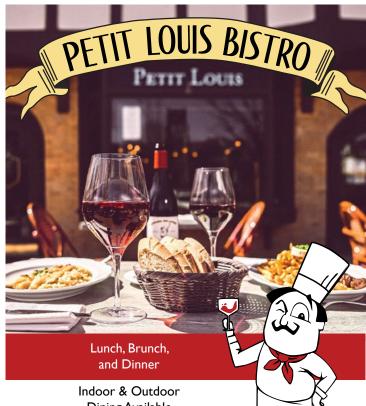
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



LANDSCAPE DESIGN | MASTER PLANNING | CUSTOM DESIGN | TREE INSTALLATION | ARTISAN STONEWORK | FIREPLACES | GARDEN STRUCTURES NATURAL STONE, BRICK & STRUCTURAL MASONRY | WATER FEATURES | GARDEN CONSTRUCTION | PONDS, WATER FEATURES | WATERFALLS & STREAMS

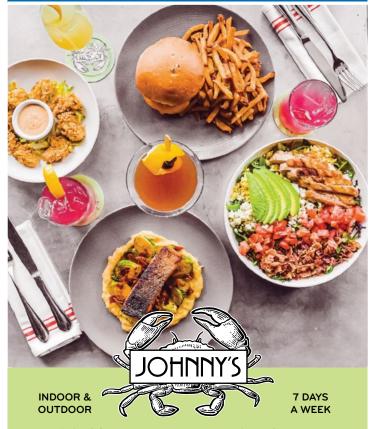


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## SPIRITS OR NOT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

## **Apple Cider Crush**

This autumnal take on the classic Orange Crush has just a few simple ingredients that make the most of apple-picking season

#### Ingredients (from VisitMaryland.org)

- crushed ice
- 3 oz. apple cider

1 oz. vodka (eg., from Patapsco Distilling Company)

2 oz. gingerale

Fill a class with crushed ice, and add cider, gingerale and vodka. Stir. Add an apple slice, cinnamon stick and a dash of cinnamon.

### **Maryland Mule**

Spicy ginger beer and sweet lime are the constants for a mule cocktail, traditionally served in a copper mug. A Maryland Mule gives a nod to the state's liquor tradition and uses rye whiskey as the alcohol of choice for this refreshing, bright libation with Sagamore Spirit leading the charge. (Source: VisitMaryland.org)

#### Ingredients (from SagamoreSpirit.com)

2 oz. Sagamore Spirit rye	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> lime, squeezed
whiskey	lime and mint, for garnish
4 oz. ginger beer	

Fill a copper mug with ice, pour in Sagamore Spirit rye, squeeze lime into a mug and top off with ginger beer. Garnish with a lime wedge.

### **Apple Cider Sangria**

Blend the flavors of summer with fall's spicy aromas.

#### Ingredients (from edgarsnyder.com)

1 bottle chilled sparkling apple cider	2 apples, cored and thinly sliced
24 oz. club soda	1 cup blueberries
12 oz. can ginger ale	ice
1 cup raspberries	

Put apple slices, raspberries and blueberries into a pitcher. Add ginger ale and club soda, then sparkling apple cider. Stir and serve over ice.

### **Grüvi Fig and Honey Bubbly Rosé Smash**

With Halloween marking the end of Sober October, this zeroproof drink will be sure to delight your guests.

#### Ingredients (from getgruvi.com)

Grüvi Bubbly Rosé	1 tsp. honey	
(alcohol- and gluten-free)	0.5 oz. lemon juice	
2 fresh figs, diced, or		
<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> tsp. fig preserves		

Combine figs, honey and lemon juice, and gently muddle. Fine strain into a glass over ice, pressing down to get as much of the liquid as possible. Top with Grüvi Bubbly Rosé, and enjoy! 💠

## Meet Friends' New Head of School, Christian Donovan

hristian Donovan comes to Friends School of Baltimore (Friends) having previously served as the assistant head of school and director of strategic research at Head-Royce School in Oakland, CA, following seven years as the school's director of enrollment management. Donovan played a critical role in leading Head-Royce's COVID-19 response team and is nationally acclaimed for his enrollment management work. Prior to joining Head-Royce, he served as director of admissions and enrollment management at his alma mater. George School, a Quaker school in Newtown, PA, and in college counseling and admissions roles at The Athenian School in Danville, CA.

In his welcome message to the school community, Donovan shared some meaningful thoughts on our history and the valuable outcomes of a Friends education.

"Founded in 1784, with Quaker values

as our foundation, we are proud to be Baltimore's first school. For over 235 years, Friends has understood that a meaningful and rigorous education is not simply a transaction, a string of achievements on a linear, fixed path. It is a continuous, lifelong journey—a search for truth that requires both inward reflection and connectedness with others. It involves the capacity to listen deeply to oneself and to others —including and perhaps especially to those that see the world differently. Discernment and deep understanding is the best way to prepare ourselves and our students to tackle the pressing questions and challenges we face today and will face in the future.





Donovan is Friends' 13th head of school. Photo courtesy of Friends School

"At its heart, Friends is a school with an academic program that encourages students to have a lifelong love of learning through vigorous, purposeful exploration and discovery. Using the backdrop of Baltimore, a city with a deep history and culture, our students dig deeply into their passions, learn what is important to them and how to apply that learning to impact the world. The Friends mission calls our students to be courageous change-makers and it is here where students can let their light shine and challenge each other to become the person they were meant to be.

"I am deeply honored to be Friends School of Baltimore's 13th head of school and I invite you to come see for yourself what makes Friends unique and special."

We are excited to welcome Christian to Friends and to the Roland Park neighborhood!

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







The Journey Matters. FRIENDSBALT.ORG

## Welcoming New Academic Leaders to GFS

he 2022-23 school year at Garrison Forest School (GFS) will start with two new faces at the helm of the preschool and upper school: Lauren Bussey has joined as head of the upper school and Sandi Uehlinger has come onboard as director of early childhood education, overseeing the GFS preschool and daycare programs.

Lauren Bussey comes to GFS from Minnesota, where she was the K-12 chair of mathematics at St. Paul Academy and Summit School. She has taught virtually every level of upper school math from Algebra I through Honors Calculus and AP Statistics. She also served on the Leadership Task Force and advised the school's student council. In addition, Bussey has served on the Equity Task Force for a state mathematics council, and served as a math specialist and consultant for the largest school district in Minnesota. She is a graduate of an all-girls school and has taught in single-sex schools. She also has roots in Maryland, having lived and worked in Baltimore early in her career.

"Garrison Forest feels like a return home in many ways," Bussey says. "I believe in and have experienced the positive impact of an all-girls school and am excited to be back in such an environment. I am excited about being a part of the GFS



community because of the emphasis on academics and social-emotional development of young women. When I visited campus, I saw and met with students who were interested in learning GFS welcomes Bussey (left), head of the upper school, and Uehlinger (below), director of early childhood education. Photo courtesy Garrison Forest School



and continuing to bring joy to campus through the cherished traditions at GFS. I also met with many other members of the school community who valued this balance for their students.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



## **Garrison Forest School**

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## Upper School Students Embark on Service Trip to Puerto Rico

By Owen Reid (2022)

his summer, 18 Boys' Latin School of Maryland (Boys' Latin) upper school students embarked on a week-long community service trip to Maricao, Puerto Rico. The trip marks the third service opportunity Boys' Latin has sponsored for students to go to Puerto Rico, dating back to the summer of 2018.

Mac McDonald, upper school dean of students, initiated the first trip in response to several hurricanes that ravaged the islands of Puerto Rico in 2018. He spearheads all the planning and organizing and, with his wife, Jennifer, who is the school's accounting manager and serves as a dorm parent in the boarding program, chaperones the now-annual trips. McDonald has a personal connection to the island, which is where his grandmother is from, and describes the purpose of the experience, "The goal is centered around service to others, exposing our students to new opportunities, and instilling in <image>

On this year's trip to Puerto Rico, BL upper schoolers rebuilt a home in Maracao. Photo courtesy of Boys' Latin

them a drive to be compassionate and contributing members of a global society. At its core, that's what this is about."

Logistically speaking, the students journey for one week in June to a location in Puerto Rico. The trip is facilitated by Walking Tree Travel, a school travel organization that coordinates the experience and connects the group to the service opportunities. This year, students spent their time rebuilding and renovating a family's house in Maricao; the family had been displaced multiple times in the last four years due to both hurricanes and earthquakes, and had recently settled in a house without electricity, running water and proper structural integrity. The Lakers dedicated time to renovating their kitchen, securing the roof and structure, repainting much of the house, and renovating the home to be more hurricane-resistant. Thanks to the volunteer effort, the family now plans to install a solar power system and will have electricity for the first time in their new home.

Rising sophomore Tyler Slowikowski participated in the service project this summer. "Doing service in a community that isn't as fortunate as mine was one of the most enlightening and eyeopening experiences of my life. I feel like I can appreciate all the blessings in my life a little more now. Throughout the trip, the rest of the 17 boys and I grew closer and made memories that I won't ever forget," Slowikowski says.

Like Slowikowski, Boys' Latin students thoroughly enjoy the Puerto Rico trip both for the valuable time spent with friends, and for the humbling, powerful, grounding experience of community service.

"This trip is one of those formative experiences," McDonald explains. "At first, our students' perspectives might be superficial, but as they move forward, they gain a deeper appreciation for our values, for the community they served and, more broadly, for humanity." Boys' Latin and the McDonalds plan to continue this tradition for years to come.  $\clubsuit$  Boys' Latin School of Maryland (**boyslatinmd.com**) is an all-boys, universitypreparatory school. Founded in 1844, it is the oldest independent, nonsectarian secondary school in Maryland.

> HE BOYS LATIN CHOOL OF MARYLAND





www.boyslatinmd.com/openhouse 822 W Lake Ave, Baltimore, MD 21210 Œ

Seven- to 10-day old eyases (right). Photo: Craig A. Koppie



## Soaring Back: The Peregrines Return

hen the Roland Water Tower restoration was being planned, there was significant concern about the fate of the peregrine falcons that had been living in the tower for years. Under the guidance of raptor expert Craig A. Koppie, a temporary nesting box was installed nearby to give these longtime residents a place to live during construction. Though the female falcon died after suffering an injury in July of 2020, neighbors were thrilled to learn that the male had returned with a new partner in September, moving into the permanent nesting box that was installed in the tower. In May, it was confirmed that the pair had hatched two eyases (baby peregrine falcons). Pictures of the nestlings were soon being shared on the Friends of the Roland Water Tower Facebook page. More recently, images of the two female fledglings have been taken.

The best way to follow the falcon family is to visit the Roland Water Tower (and look up!) and to join the Facebook group, Friends of the Roland Water Tower (facebook.com/groups/rolandh2otower), where images are regularly posted.

One of the fledglings aged between 32 and 35 days (above). Photo: Craig A. Koppie





Brooklyn, the female adult so named because she was banded at the Brooklyn Tower of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, looks on while the young birds explore the tower's ledge (right). Photo: Marc Butt, Inspired Photography

With wingspans of up to just under four feet, an adult falcon can reach speeds of more than 200 miles per hour during a hunting dive (below). Photo: Craig A. Koppie

## 

The newly installed nest box inside Roland Tower (left). Photo: Craig A. Koppie

The fledglings appear to be as curious about their neighbors as we are about them (below). Photo: Marc Butt, Inspired Photography





## Focus on Wellness: We're In It Together

ith the addition of Gilman's director of Wellness and Support, Christina Kim, in the 2021-22 school year, the entire school community engaged in new wellness initiatives.

"During the pandemic, people were struggling, and many were coping with that on their own," Kim says. "I wanted to find a way to connect them to resources and make wellness visible and fun."

Programs included a visit from bestselling author Dr. Michael Thompson, who gave engaging in-person talks to students, parents, faculty and staff over two days in March. In April, Gilman parents gathered via Zoom for an evening with psychiatrist Dr. Arman Taghizadeh (class of 1995), aka "Dr. T", as he guided parents to identify the pressures students face, recognize potential mental health vulnerabilities and understand the psychological impact of using intentional language to support children.

In partnership with research organization Authentic Connections, Gilman surveyed students, parents, faculty and staff, and the results provided insights into the factors most impacting students' well-being, ways in which students feel most supported and potential areas of improvement.

When math department head and track coach Jeff Gouline realized that athletes need support not only in physical fitness



Kim and Parent Wellness Committee Chairs Meisha Dockett and Erika Slater attend Gilman's wellness fair. Photo courtesy of Gilman

but also in mental wellness and growth mindset, he developed a character education curriculum to help students overcome performance pressure and develop resilience. Further promoting social-emotional learning, three Gilman teachers attended "RULER" (Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing, Regulating) professional development at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence.

In the fall of 2021, Kim partnered with Gilman's parent wellness committee and the faculty and staff wellness committee to plan the pinnacle event of the year—a wellness fair held over two days in early May.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20





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## A Second Chapter for the Roland Park Elementary Middle School Library Fundraiser

By April Newton

hrough October, the Roland Park Annual Fund will raise money to renovate and update Roland Park Elementary Middle School (RPEMS) library for the 2022-2023 school year. This year's campaign is called "Same Book, Next Chapter," honoring the second year of fundraising for the significant project.

Last year, the Annual Fund raised more than \$85,000, with a special assist from neighborhood organizations like the Civic League and from neighbors like David Blumberg, who donated personally. A gift of \$10,000 from the family of Shepard and Finn Obriecht, two RPEMS students, was key to helping the fundraising team meet last year's goal.

The library at RPEMS is an essential space for the school community, with books to expand and entertain hungry minds, research material and computers for learning, communal spaces for fun and sharing, and tutoring and learning spaces. In order to continue providing safe, equitable, modern and practical resources for the students and teachers, the library needs updated infrastructure, technology, books and furniture, and even a bit of paint. The renovation and updates are a big job, and so is the fundraising necessary to get it all done.

The Annual Fund centers its largest fundraiser every year around the Baltimore Running Festival. It's a way to incorporate healthy activities and a love for Baltimore into strengthening and assisting our school community. The money raised each year takes pressure off the school's budget, and provides money for much-needed services, materials and opportunities that would not be otherwise possible. The Annual Fund is entirely parent-led and -driven, and its support has made it possible to provide early literacy services and programming, teacher support across grades and learning needs, tutoring services, technology and access to wifi for students learning at home during the pandemic, and much more.

Anyone who loves a good library and wants to join the "Same Book, Next Chapter" team should sign up at eventbrite.com/e/ rpems-2022-same-book-next-chapter-tickets-334937305497. You don't have to be a current RPEMS family to take part. The team accepts donations for the library project online at rpemsannualfund.networkforgood.com/projects/164678-samebook-different-chapter-rpems-2022.

The Roland Park Annual Fund and the Roland Park PTA thank the community for its support of the school and the children as we get settled into another busy and exciting year of learning and growing.

Donations can be made online at rpemsannualfund. networkforgood.com or by contacting me at aprilspraynewton@gmail.com. 💠

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

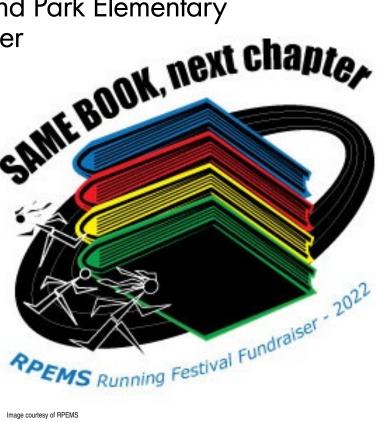


Image courtesy of RPEMS



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## GARRISON FOREST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

The GFS community is not only something I am looking forward to joining as an educator but also joining as a parent."

Sandi Uehlinger comes to GFS most directly from her role as assistant director at Grace Preschool in Baltimore. Prior to that, she served as the education coordinator at Cool Progeny. Sandi has also taught pre-1st and 1st grades at multiple schools, including nine years teaching at St. James Academy in Monkton.

"For as long as I can remember, I've always wanted to be a teacher," Uehlinger says. "A song that I heard in high school sang, 'If I have a care in the world, I have a gift to bring,' and it started me on the journey of advocating, nurturing and caring for young people. I have spent the last 20 years of my career as a teacher, volunteer, administrator and mother, and treasure the small moments when a child feels seen, a parent gets a hug at the carpool line or you see the sparkle of self confidence in a child's eye. From the first time I stepped foot on campus, GFS has always felt like a warm place to be, and I'm so excited to be a part of the magic!"

Garrison Forest School, in Owings Mills, Maryland, 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. Learn more at **gfs.org**. The GFS community is not only something I am looking forward to joining as an educator but also joining as a parent."

## GILMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

The fair brought a wide variety of vendors promoting different aspects of wellness to campus. "Having vendors talk about different kinds of wellness expanded people's understanding of what types of resources are out there. All students, faculty, and staff, were invited to participate in health and wellness activities and to learn strategies for healthier lifestyle choices," Kim says.

Dozens of representatives from local businesses sat at vendor tables educating the Gilman community about mental health, physical fitness, financial wellness, healthy sleep, dental hygiene and more. A food truck offered healthy smoothies. In addition to vendors, upper school student leaders from Peer Ed, the Mindfulness Club and One Love, and Gilman faculty represented booths on wellness.

Now, Kim is looking ahead with excitement to what the future may hold for the wellness fair. She hopes the message people took away from the inaugural event is that wellness is fun and important, and there are people available to help. "We're in it together."

Gilman School (**gilman.edu**) is a pre-kindergarten through 12th grade independent school in Baltimore, 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.



It's really fun to figure out math problems, especially when they are really hard!

I know this because I go to Park.

-Clay, Grade 2

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



## Local Chef's Recipe for Success

By Jennifer McIllwain, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Miss Shirley's Management Company

iss Shirley's corporate executive chef, Zuri Coles, has had a lifelong passion for cooking that began when she was just a child. Her parents loved to cook and were always happy to let her experiment in the kitchen.

"I learned a lot from my parents, like how to make *roux*," she explains.

Growing up as an avid reader, Coles enjoyed researching recipes and watching countless episodes of cooking shows like "Julia Child", "The Galloping Gourmet", and "Yan Can Cook" on PBS.



Coles helped prepare nearly 19,000 meals for vulnerable Baltimore City residents during the pandemic. Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's

Coles has been cooking professionally for more than 21 years, and has been a chef at Miss Shirley's for more than 14 years. Her creativity and experience are invaluable, as she continues to play a key role in the creation of our seasonal menu and monthly specials, and ensures that our culinary team is always producing the highest quality dishes. Her love of baking has also inspired delicious dessert items on our menu, as well as sweet treats that she whips up for our team regularly.

Coles is hard working, dedicated, personable and passionate about the taste and presentation of our food. In fact, her favorite thing about working at Miss Shirley's is the satisfaction of knowing how much our guests truly love our menu and appreciate the experience that they have at the restaurant.

"The goal is always to make our guests happy, and I love making dishes that people want to eat again and again, and even recreate for themselves!"

"I would request cookbooks as holiday gifts!"

After graduating from Loyola University Maryland, she decided to try out culinary school, to turn her lifelong hobby into a career. Coles finished her education at Johnson & Wales University in 2000, and immediately began working her way up the ranks in the restaurant industry.

She gained experience in catering and fine dining, working in various establishments throughout the Maryland and Washington, DC, areas. In 2008, Coles found a home in Maryland and as a chef at Miss Shirley's Café. She was later promoted to the role of executive chef at our Roland Park location in 2014 and became corporate executive chef in 2021. Coles now manages the culinary team at all of our restaurant locations.

In fact, you have likely seen Coles on FOX45, WBAL, WMAR, WJZ or DC's FOX 5, talking about promotions and new dishes, or on Miss Shirley's social media and Youtube channel, sharing recipes for our southern classics.

Throughout the pandemic and restaurant dine-in closures, Coles rolled up her sleeves and went to work, helping to prepare more than 18,800 meals in partnership with World Central Kitchen. These meals were provided to seniors and families in vulnerable communities throughout the city.

When Miss Shirley's began our initiative, Feed First Responders, Coles crafted a delicious menu for individually boxed meals, and led our culinary team in preparing, packaging and providing an additional 1,270 meals to area healthcare workers, community organizations, and police and fire personnel. This initiative was supported by our wonderful guests.



## Maple Balsamic Salmon Sheet Pan Supper

Eddie's of Roland Park

on a bed of roasted butternut squash and Brussels sprouts.

Prep time: 15 minutes; cook time: 30 minutes. Serves 4

### Ingredients

- 1 20-oz. pkg. fresh butternut squash, cubed
- 1.5 lbs. Brussels sprouts, cleaned and cut in half
- 1 sweet onion, cut in half and sliced vertically
- 2 T. olive oil
- 2 T. balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 tsp. allspice
- 1/8 tsp. fresh grated nutmeg

- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> tsp. coarse kosher salt freshly ground black pepper
- 4 6-oz. portions salmon fillet
- 2 T. Dijon mustard
- 1 T. balsamic vinegar
- 1 T. plus 1 tsp. maple syrup
- 1 tsp. brown sugar
- 3/4 tsp. coarse kosher salt

Heat oven to 425 degrees. Cover the bottom of an 18x13-inch sheet pan with parchment paper or spray it with non-stick cooking spray. Spread butternut squash, Brussels sprouts and onion on the pan, and toss with olive oil, balsamic vinegar, allspice, nutmeg, salt and pepper. Roast on a rack in the top third of the oven for 15 minutes. Meanwhile, whisk together mustard, 1 T. maple syrup, balsamic vinegar and brown sugar. Season salmon with coarse kosher salt. Spread mustard mixture generously over salmon. When vegetables finish roasting, shift them

to the sides of the



Photo courtesy of Eddie's of Roland Park

sheet pan, making room for the salmon filets in the center. Roast vegetables and salmon together for 10 minutes, then place the pan under the broiler for an additional 3 minutes to caramelize the salmon and ensure even browning. If desired, drizzle 1 tsp. maple syrup over the vegetables before serving.

For a fun, "family-style" presentation, place the entire sheet pan right from the oven onto the table (be sure to use a trivet!). Pair with RouteStock Cellars pinot noir.

**Eddie's Recipe Tip:** Add sweet potatoes and acorn squash for a real autumn mélange of vegetables. Feel free to use another sheet pan just for vegetables.

## **Exciting Things Are Happening**

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## Everything But the Bagel Cream Cheese Biscuits, with Strawberry Lime Jalapeño Jam

Miss Shirley's Café

#### Yields 12 biscuits

#### Ingredients

- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 T. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. table salt
- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 12 oz. buttermilk

Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Café

1 T. honey

6 oz. butter, unsalted

- Everything But the Bagel spice mix (see below)
- about 2 oz. unsalted butter, melted, for brushing sheet tray and top of biscuits

icrowave 6 oz. of butter in a microwave-safe container covered with plastic wrap for approximately 20 seconds and then in increments of 5 seconds, depending on your microwave, until slightly melted. Butter should not be hot, just slightly melted and still a little chunky. Pour cold buttermilk and honey into the butter and stir to form lumps. The mixture will look very chunky and curdled. Place all dry ingredients into a large bowl and mix. Drop chunks of cream cheese in dime-sized portions into dry ingredients and toss gently to coat the cream cheese chunks. Pour wet ingredients into dry ingredients and, using your hands, mix the dough gently, using folding motions to incorporate the wet ingredients until the dough comes together. Do not overmix and make the cream cheese chunks disappear.

Brush parchment paper on a sheet tray with melted butter and drop scoops of biscuit dough onto the tray. You can use an ice cream scoop or a large spoon. Brush the tops of the biscuits with melted butter and generously sprinkle them with Everything But the Bagel spice mix. Bake in a 325-degree oven for 15 to 17 minutes until golden brown and cooked through, rotating the tray about halfway through cooking.

### **Everything But the Bagel Spice Mix**

#### Yields 2 cups

#### Ingredients

- 1/4 cup pretzel salt
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup minced dried garlic flakes
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup minced dried onion flakes
- 1/4 cup poppy seeds1/4 cup white sesame seeds
- es <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup black sesame seeds

#### Mix all ingredients well in a bowl

and store in a sealed container until ready to use. Can be used on biscuits, toast, eggs, avocado, tomatoes and so much more!

### Strawberry Lime Jalapeño Jam

Yields 1 pint

#### Ingredients

- 3 cups strawberries, fresh or thawed
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tsp. lime juice
- 1 fresh lime, zested
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> jalapeño pepper, destemmed, deseeded and diced
- 2 tsp. liquid pectin

Place strawberries in a large pot over medium heat. Add lime juice. Destem and deseed the jalapeño, and then add to the strawberries. Once the strawberries begin to cook and soften, add sugar and stir well for about 10 to 15 minutes. Continue cooking at a simmer for about 5 minutes, stirring frequently, so as not to burn the bottom. Add the pectin and cook for 5 more minutes. Remove from heat and strain to remove most of the liquid. Let cool to room temperature. Using a hand mixer, pulse the jam to break up large chunks, but don't make it completely smooth. Add lime zest.

Store in a sealed container and keep refrigerated for up to 1 week. Enjoy with toast or biscuits!  $\clubsuit$ 



## Camp College at Bryn Mawr

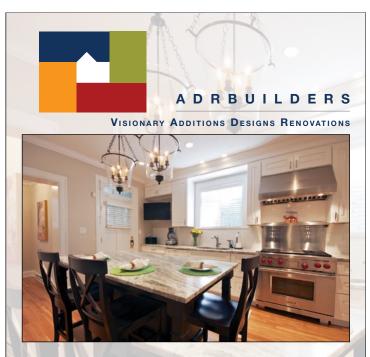
iguring out the next step on an academic journey can be an exciting process. Rising Bryn Mawr seniors are getting early tips and support through a signature school program known as Camp College.

In early June, most of the class of 2023 attended the free, four-day program that walks students through creating their Common Application account, and offers writing workshops to help students with their personal statement and supplemental essays. A follow-up Camp College 2.0 happened in August, when students learned tips for meeting with college representatives, reviewed important college application deadlines, shared summer updates with their college counselors, and began to develop



Strauss launched Bryn Mawr's Camp College to give rising seniors an early jump start. Photo courtesy of Bryn Mawr

their application timelines and strategies. The program also featured frequent dance breaks, random drawings for prizes from local businesses and a laid-back atmosphere.



## Baltimore's Specialists in Creative Residential Renovations

For a free consultation call Bret Stokes at 410.561.0221 See more of our work at www.adrbuilders.com Bryn Mawr's Director of College Counseling Ann Marie Strauss, who serves as president of the Potomac & Chesapeake Association for College Admissions Counseling, launched Camp College to encourage students to take control of their application process early, and to empower them to embrace an incremental and intentional approach to applications as they weigh criteria and priorities.

"There is too much information for students to learn and process in one sitting," Strauss says. "Camp College was conceived as a way to manage the workflow, reduce the anxiety of unknown college applications, make students feel in control of the process, all in a way that is developmentally appropriate for our students."

Camp College participant and rising Bryn Mawr senior Elise Purcell appreciates the early jump start. "I think there are so many benefits to starting this process early. The Common Application requires a lot of tedious background information that can take a very long time to input. Camp College has allowed all of us to put that part of the process behind us, and work on shaping ourselves and our applications," she says.

While taking time out of summer might not appeal to all teens, Purcell wants students to know it is worth it. "I am super happy I have gotten all of the tedious details out of the way, and can focus on improving my essays and discovering which colleges will work best for me."

The idea of empowering students is at the heart of this program and the entire college search counseling journey, according to Strauss. "We are here to support students in being successful in the college process, and in life, by approaching the journey with an open mind, strong communication and organizational skills, and a willingness to stretch the boundaries."

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.

MHIC#8097

## Forest Kindergarten at Waldorf

t's the first day of school at the Waldorf School of Baltimore (Waldorf) and a brand new class of kindergarteners are seeing their classroom for the first time. Fourteen sets of wide, wonderfilled eyes take in the space as their teachers warmly greet them. In this classroom, students find a beautiful play kitchen, natural

open-ended play materials, and child-sized wooden tables ready for kneading bread rolls, chopping vegetables and watercolor painting. No one would deny that this is a beautiful space to learn. There is, however, one thing noticeably missing: this classroom has no walls.

In an era where early academic pressures are being put onto younger and younger learners, Waldorf is seeing the pendulum swing back towards a more joyful entry into education. In fact, the kindergarten and preschool programs have become so popular

that this past year, as the school celebrated its 50th birthday, they needed to open a second kindergarten and the opportunity to realize a longheld dream was born: to create an outdoor classroom in the Chestnut Woods to house an exclusively outdoors Forest Kindergarten.

"The trend in mainstream education is to have kindergarten look more like an elementary grade with direct academic instruction and lots of desk time. We are giving children the gift of one more year to learn through self-initiated play, movement and ample time in nature," says lead teacher Lida Lawrence, a recent guest on the wildly popular "1000 Hours Outside" podcast, who is currently adding to list of accreditations by certifying as a Level Three Nature Teacher through the Eastern Regional Association of Forest and Nature schools.

The Forest Kindergarten classroom is in the beautiful urban woodland found along the northernmost edge of Baltimore City, on a hill adjacent to Cylburn Arboretum. The construction took several months, with remarkable results. Stone steps were built leading down from the main campus, which is itself a certified wildlife habitat and Maryland Green School (maeoe.org/greenschools-and-green-centers/green-schools-program). Waldorf planted native wildflowers, placed boulders and logs to provide terracing among the trails, and built a cabin. Here, the timetested Waldorf Kindergarten curriculum of circle time and stories, painting and craft work, practical skills and social exploration play out in complete nature immersion (a classroom on the main campus can be used for exceptionally inclement weather).

The Waldorf Kindergarten curriculum–famously rich in art, play, storytelling, cooking, music and nature exploration–translates easily exclusively outdoors and is supplemented by the unique





The Forest Kindergarten curriculum of circle time and stories, painting and craft work, practical skills, and social exploration play out in complete nature immersion. Photos courtesy of Waldorf

gifts this exceptional space offers. Bark, mulch, stone, wood, water and the seasonal breezes all provide important sensory input. Swings, slides, terraces, paths and slopes engage the children in new

ways, and aid emotional intelligence and self-regulation. A water station with a cistern and a hand pump develops rhythm, hand dominance and core muscles while allowing for all types of sensory-rich water play. Uniquely, Forest Kindergarten students also enjoy their daily quiet or rest time swinging in a hammock, further engaging their vestibular systems and fostering positive emotional regulation, balance and focus.

And for all that, let's not forget what the children say is the most important part: Forest Kindergarten is just plain fun.

The Waldorf School of Baltimore (waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org) educates and inspires children to think, feel, and act with depth, imagination, and purpose.



Educating and inspiring students Pre-K through Grade 8 to think, feel, and act, with depth, imagination and purpose. Learn more at www.waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org or email Admissions Director liene Wise at admissions@twsb.org today



## New RPCS Director of Track & Field to Provide Running Opportunities for Community Children

oland Park Country School (RPCS) recently announced the appointment of Director of Track and Field Patrick Donohue, a newly established role at the school. Donohue will provide comprehensive leadership across divisions for all three of the school's running programs: cross country, indoor track and track and field. In addition to his new role. Donohue will be teaching next year in the upper school History Department and The Gore Leadership Institute. He has also worked diligently to create the REDS Track Club, a program launching this fall on campus that will provide year-round club running opportunities for boys and girls in the Baltimore community.



Donohue created the REDS Track Club for Baltimore area children ages 7 to 14. Photo courtesy of RPCS

and middle school running program. Additionally, this fall we are starting the REDS Track Club, a club training and racing group for kids ages 7 to 14. All of these pieces will help to strengthen our upper school teams and make RPCS the destination school for running in the Baltimore area."

Donohue joined RPCS Athletics in 2019 as assistant track and field coach before being named head coach for the varsity Cross Country program in June of 2021. He has more than 20 years of coaching experience in cross country and track and field, and is both a USA Track & Field-certified Level 1 coach and Road Runners Club of America-certified distance running coach.

"As director of track and field, I hope

to bring a 'program approach' to our teams," says Donohue. "Success comes not just from good teams but a healthy and holistic running program that starts early. This approach incorporates our annual Red Hot Summer Running Camps











Open Houses begin in October. Register at rpcs.org/visit

## Empower a girl. Change the world.

Our students explore passions, cultivate their curiosity and sharpen their analytical abilities. Prior to RPCS, Donohue was the head cross country and track and field coach for Notre Dame of Maryland University. In this role, he built the cross country program by managing the recruiting, training and competition of the team while also building both the cross country and track and field programs. From 2005 to 2015, Donohue was the head coach at Parkville High School for the varsity men's cross country, and indoor and outdoor track and field programs, where he had the privilege of coaching several state champions and multiple teams that were ranked in the top 10 of the state.

You can learn more about Donohue and the school's athletic offerings at **rpcs.org/athletics**.

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.

## EMBERSON AT POLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

do the same in theirs. Art is a mode of communication and we all have a lot to say that needs to be shared with one another. It helps our community stay connected and it helps us learn about each other and our shared experiences. My art tends to be large-scale murals or drawings and paintings that immerse the viewer into experiencing something unexpected. If we can inspire each other to see new ways of being, then we have done what we need to do.  $\diamondsuit$ 

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute (**bpi.edu**) prepares highly motivated students for success in college and in life by providing a rigorous STEM curriculum and instruction from faculty who are experts in their fields.

## The Book Nook

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

elcome to the Book Nook! In-person programming for all ages has returned to the library and we hope to see you there!

#### **Programming at the Pratt**

(details at calendar.prattlibrary.org)

#### **For Kids**

- Sep. 10th and Oct. 8th, 11am. Family Storytime. Stories, movement, songs and our most fun activities. Come ready to move, laugh, and learn together. For families with children ages 2-5. All abilities welcome.
- Sep. 19th, 3pm. Talk Like a Pirate Day! After learning a bit about the life of a pirate like Anne Bonny, speak with "Arrrrr"s and "Matey's", compete in balloon races and create pirate hats with feathers. For ages 5-11. Allergy Alert! Latex balloons are used.
- Oct. 17th, 3pm. Bats! Learn the ways in which bats help the environment and create a bat just in time for the spooky season! For ages 5-11.

#### For Teens (ages 12 and up)

- Sep. 20th, 3pm. *Hojalata* (Tin) Art. Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month by making Hojalata, colorful Mexican folk art.
- Sep. 22nd, 3pm. Pirate STEAM: Spyglasses. Ahoy! Join the crew at the Roland Park Branch to learn pirate history, including the equipment they used on the ship. Tweens and teens can also make their own spy glasses and search for treasure in the library.
- Oct. 5th, 12:15pm. Movies at Pratt: "Stand and Deliver". In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, the Roland Park branch will show this 1988 film, which was directed by Ramón Menéndez, and written by Menéndez and Tom Musca.

#### For Adults

- Oct. 13th, 6:30pm. Author Talk: B. Morrison, Innocent: Confessions of a Welfare Mother. In her award-winning memoir, Morrison describes her experience when a failed marriage sends her plummeting from a prosperous middleclass life to welfare. Part coming-of-age story and part immersion in an unfamiliar culture, Innocent puts a human face on poverty.
- Nov. 9th, 11:30am. One Maryland/One Book Discussion: Naima Coster, What's Mine and Yours. This multigenerational saga features two North Carolina families that collide in ways neither is prepared for when Black students from the east side of the county are integrated into the predominantly White schools on the west side. For more information, visit mdhumanities.org.

**Library Tech**, presented in partnership with the Keswick Wise & Well Center for Healthy Living. On the Keswick campus (700 W. 40th St.) for a socially distanced class (masks required) or from the comfort of your home. Learn to use a different electronic library service each month. Bring your computer, tablet or smartphone, and be guided through accessing information and material from these library services. Please call Keswick at 410-662-4363 to register.

#### Oct. 12th, 11:30am. Libby by Overdrive

All Pratt libraries will be closed Sep. 5th for Labor Day, Oct. 10th for Indigenous Peoples' Day, Nov. 8th for Election Day, Nov. 11th for Veterans Day and Nov. 24th for Thanksgiving Day.

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

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

As always, the following reviews are excerpted from the library's online catalog (**prattlibrary.org/books-and-more**). 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 downloadable eBooks and eAudiobooks.

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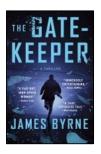


## **BOOK NOOK**

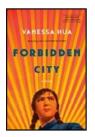
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### Fiction

**GateKeeper** by James Byrne. This story of a retired mercenary who foils assassination attempts, rescues women and busts open conspiracies is everything fans of over-the-top adventure want it to be. Desmond Aloysius



"Dez" Limerick has seen action, but right now, he just wants a little downtime in a nice California hotel. Unfortunately, he can't sit idly by while a team of armed men swarms through the hotel and, of course, he can't let them murder an innocent woman. It's hard to believe this is Byrne's first novel: it's so sure-handed, so cleverly written, so very difficult to put down. Dez has a bit of John McClane ("Die Hard") and a bit of Lee Child's Jack Reacher in him, but he is much more than an amalgam of other characters. In a genre packed with burly, think-on-your-feet heroes, Dez is something new and fresh.



**Forbidden City** by Vanessa Hua (also available in Overdrive/Libby). In her first historical novel, Hua (*A River of Stars*) draws on 20-plus years of experience as a journalist covering Asia and the diaspora to reclaim a few of the "millions of impoverished women who have shaped China in their own ways yet remain absent from the country's official narrative." In

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> O HE LIFELONG LEA NING IN TITUTE



1965, Mei Xiang, 15, is chosen for a prominent dance troupe. As the youngest daughter in a village family, she's learned to silently observe others, a skill that, ironically, gets her noticed. When Mei travels to Beijing to "serve the Party," she lands in the deified chairman's bed the very first night. "Peasant" she may be, but Mei holds the pedophilic septuagenarian's attention longer than most. She's coached to challenge the subversive president, who is clearly attempting to usurp the chairman's power with capitalist threats; her success could influence the country's future. Addressing an unknown "you" as San Francisco's Chinatown cheers the chairman's 1976 death, Mei reveals "a reckoning that's long overdue." Hua's 15-year journey of research and writing deftly proves that "fiction flourishes



where the official record ends."

We Measure the Earth with Our Bodies by Tsering Yangzom Lama. Lama debuts with the heartfelt and magical saga of a Tibetan family's love, sacrifice and heritage. Starting in 1960, she interweaves the lives of four characters: Lhamo and her younger sister Tenkyi, whose parents are killed during their flight from Tibet to Nepal; Lhamo's daughter

Dolma; and Samphel, Lhamo's childhood love. Lama also explores the influence of a ku—an ancient statue that Samphel's uncle brings into Lhamo's village—on each of their lives. She imbues this mesmerizing tale—informed by her own family fleeing Tibet for Nepal in the early 1960s— with a rich sense of history, mysticism and ritual. This brings great revelations and significance to a family's courage and acts of cultural preservation.

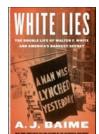
Jameela Green Ruins Everything by Zarqa Nawaz (also available in Overdrive/Libby). Jameela Green is excited for her publicity tour, until her high school nemesis shows up and steals her thunder. It seems like these sorts of things are always happening in her life, so for the first time in more than 20 years, Jameela ventures to her local mosque in Liverspot, North Dakota. There, she meets Ibrahim, an



earnest imam who recommends that she try to help someone else before she expects God's help in return—specifically, he says that she should reach out to a homeless person. Thus, Ibrahim and Jameela encounter Barkley—who, it turns out, has been radicalized by the Dominion of the Islamic Caliphate and Kingdom (DICK). Soon, Ibrahim is detained by the CIA, suspected of associations with the DICK, and when Jameela tries to help him, she ends up in Pakistan, tasked with infiltrating the DICK, which has been looking for a Western-raised Muslim woman to commit a terrorist act. There is little subtlety in this farcical novel, but the over-the-top satire still wields a sharp edge, particularly when it comes to commentary on American involvement in the Middle East.

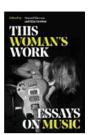
### Nonfiction

White Lies: The Double Life of Walter F. White and America's Darkest Secret by A. J. Baime. This is a sturdy biography of a Black journalist, writer and reformer who moved easily, if sometimes stealthily, between two worlds. Walter Francis White (1893-1955) was born in Atlanta to light-skinned Black parents whose



multiracial heritage spoke to the complex genealogies of the Old South. "My skin is white, my eyes are blue, my hair is blond," White wrote. "The traits of my race are nowhere visible upon me." The absence of those traits allowed White and his family to survive the waves of lynchings that plagued the South. He was at some of the signal events of his time, taking his place at the lead of the Harlem Renaissance, doing gumshoe work in the immediate aftermath of the Tulsa Massacre, weathering the Red Scare, and accumulating scores of friends. Langston Hughes and Paul Robeson were frequent guests at salons White held in Harlem, while "George Gershwin debuted 'Rhapsody in Blue' on Walter's piano." Active in civil rights as a leader in the NAACP, White pressed President Franklin D. Roosevelt to support activist legislation to advance Black causes, which Roosevelt did not do willingly, fearful that "he would offend a power base of his own party, the Democrats' Solid South." Fortunately, Eleanor Roosevelt offered her support, trying to persuade her husband to do the right thing-and adding another friend to White's long list. He died too young, and was almost immediately pushed into the back ranks of the civil rights movement, although he was the primary architect of an anti-lynching bill that has yet to clear the Senate, thanks to the opposition of Senator Rand Paul (R-KY). A well-constructed life of a man who, largely forgotten, deserves pride of place in civil rights history.

*This Woman's Work: Essays on Music* edited by Sinéad Gleeson and Kim Gordon. The 16 writers in this excellent female-focused essay collection evoke the mystery of music with indelible precision. Fatima Bhutto considers how for her Pakistani father, exiled in Syria, Otis Redding's "(Sittin' on) the Dock of the Bay" is about not only a man far from his home but also a lost homeland. Bhutto wonders, "What is



it about song that threatens dictators so much?" The passage of time changes the resonance of music. As Leslie Jamison confesses, listening in her bedroom to the Indigo Girls' "Galileo" as a 10-year-old is quite different from hearing it 30 years later as a divorced mother. Some of the most moving pieces are also the most personal, such as Ottessa Moshfegh's gentle homage, "Valentina," to the lifelong impact of her piano teacher. Here, too, are Anne Enright on Laurie Anderson, Jenn Pelly on Lucinda Williams, Margo Jefferson on Ella Fitzgerald, Liz Pelly on Sis Cunningham, Rachel Kushner on Wanda Jackson, and Simone White on trap and drill music. A fresh and affecting look at women and music.



How Civil Wars Start: And How to Stop

**Them** by Barbara F. Walter. The idea that a second American civil war is brewing is not alarmist hyperbole. "We are no longer the world's oldest continuous democracy," writes Walter, a professor of international relations who has written multiple books about the mechanics of civil war. Instead, the U.S. is now an "anocracy"—a democracy on the road

to becoming an autocracy. Chalk much of that decline up to Trump, of course, and those who abetted his efforts to establish an autocracy and preserve it by means of a coup. The image that should be brought to mind is not of columns of blue- and gray-clad soldiers meeting on battlefields; instead, it lies in the scattered rubble of the federal building in Oklahoma City and the insurrection at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Walter locates similar circumstances in Ukraine and Myanmar, among other places where "elected leaders-many of whom are guite popular-start to ignore the guardrails that protect their democracies." Even though the number of democratic nations has grown markedly in the last century, the path to getting there is perilous, since entrenched power interests will always resist sharing their power. Another element of danger to popular rule is technological. "It's not likely to be a coincidence," writes the author, "that the global shift away from democracy has tracked so closely with the advent of the internet, the introduction of the iPhone, and the widespread use of social media." Amplifying radicalism and rewarding attack, such media undermine public trust and reinforce long-standing resentments, a critical component in an antinomian environment in which right-wingers "choose the strategy of the weak: guerrilla warfare and terrorism." Walter offers a few solutions: eliminating the Electoral College, reforming the Senate, and banning radical expression and disinformation campaigns on social media, for "curbing the dissemination of hate and disinformation would greatly reduce the risk of civil war." Arresting reading that identifies obstacles and dangers to democracy, many at the highest levels of government history makes an appearance, the authors keep current by including a surprising number of great women, and emphasizing their disapproval of racism, sexism and slavery. The result is an appealing account of a millennium packed with culture, beauty, science, learning, and the rise and fall of empires. A fine singlevolume overview of an age that was definitely not dark.



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## KidLit Picks

By Rona Sue London

### Picture Books (Age 3-6)

**Endlessly Ever After** by Laurel Snyder. How can we help but love a new book by Laurel, the sister of lvy owner, Emma Snyder? Sisterly devotion aside, this book is a riot and a ton of fun! In this fairy tale mashup, readers get to choose how the story develops. With a variety of well known fairy tales and lots of



interaction, depending on if you are brave or timid, adventurous or careful, the decisions determine your path. You will discover new choices and surprises on every page.



**To Make** by Danielle Davis. This wonderful picture book is an homage to imagination. Repeating the words, "gather", "make" and "wait", it shows that, whether we are baking a cake, planting a garden, knitting a sweater or painting a picture, the process is the same: prepare, plan and execute. Extolling patience, Davis' book celebrates the

diversity and unique ingenuity we bring to each endeavor.

**Hike** by Pete Oswald. Embark on a beautiful hike with father and child in this wordless picture book as the two wake up in the early light of day, and drive to the mountains where they experience the wonder of nature. Turn the pages to see the duo soak up the wonder, overcome challenges and even help, in a small but tangible way, to ensure the survival



of the forest. As the bond



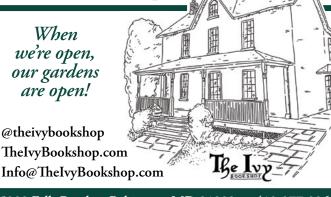
#### grows between them you

will marvel at this quiet and beautiful book.

#### Early Readers (Ages 6-9)

*Just Harriet* by Elana K. Arnold. Harriet's summer is not what she expected and that's making the 3rd grader grumpy, allowing bad habits to get the best of her. Harriet's

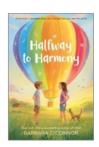
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mom is pregnant and on bed rest, so Harriet must stay with her grandma, Nanu, at her B&B on Marble Island. When she discovers a skeleton key, life gets interesting and Harriet realizes that grumpiness can be channeled into solving mysteries and mastering her emotions in this sweet early reader.

Halfway to Harmony by Barbara O'Connor. Walter, 10, has had a rough time since his brother and hero died in the war. As summer approaches, he finds he has been left much to his own devices, but his life changes the instant Posey moves in next door. The two couldn't be more different. Walter is shy and doesn't really have friends, while Posey is outspoken and terribly brave. When they find a man injured in the woods, their lives take an unexpected turn



that is full of adventures, with hot air balloons, joy rides in a cherry-colored pickup truck and a competition that, if won, will save the day. This is a delightful friendship story that will leave you happy and uplifted.



**A Secret Shared** by Patricia MacLachlan. What a lovely, smart read for a child transitioning into chapter books. Nora, her twin, Ben, and their little sister, Birdy, are growing up in a wonderful family. When Birdy secretly slips her DNA into an ancestry kit their mother is using for work and Nora and Ben find the results, a secret is revealed. They discover Birdy is not related to them. The twins believe that honesty

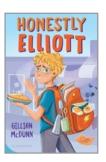
trumps all, and through the kind guidance of the adults around them, they discover that Birdy is adopted and that love is love in this graceful, gentle read.

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

**Sisters of the Neversea** by Cynthia Leitich Smith. A delightful riff on Peter Pan, this book delves deeper into the beloved fairy tale with two sisters, Wendy, who is White, and Lilly, who is Muscogee Creek Indian, dealing with their parent's possible divorce, when Tink and Peter



appear at their window and the adventure begins. Amidst lost boys, pirates and crocodiles, all the children must come to terms with decisions and loyalties, and the consequences of both, in this richly modern retelling of a classic.



**Honestly Elliott** by Gillian McDunn. With ADHD, Elliot feels adrift at school, but the noise in his head dissipates when he's cooking. After his parents' divorce, Elliot is dealing with lots of changes and when he is paired with super-smart Maribel for a school project, the 6th grader finds a friend and someone who is also looking for their authentic self. When the two come up with a pie business that plays to their strengths, they learn there is a whole community

of friends and family who are growing, learning and eager to support them. **Room to Dream** by Kelly Yang. Mia mans the front desk in her parents' motel near Disneyland—a place too expensive to visit works on being a writer and struggles with neighborhood gentrification. As her friends move in unexpected directions and a trip to China brings up the cost of the American dream,



Mia's dream job as a columnist for a Chinese paper takes off with unintended consequences. The third book in the series is wonderfully rich as Mia grows up in important ways.



**My Own Lightning** by Lauren Wolk. Welcome back to the world featured in the Newberry Honor Award-winning Wolf Hollow. It's one year later and Annabelle, surrounded by love on her family farm, is still coming to terms with the fallout of bullying, her decisions and the resulting consequences. When she's hit by lightning, her senses heighten and she learns new things about herself and those around her,

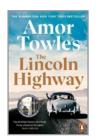
and that nothing is quite what it seems. With glorious nuance, an ode to animals and a thoughtful mystery, this is a beautiful and touching book.

### Young Adult (Ages 14-18)

**The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue** by Mackenzie Lee. Henry has his life set out before him. He's the son of a lord, slated to inherit position and power. If only he weren't plagued by anxiety and doubt. When a mystery about his mother's death surfaces, Henry discovers he has an older brother and sister, and a voyage



ahead of him, during which he must conquer his fears. In equal measure endearing, funny and thoughtful, while being rooted in



issues of today, this is an absolutely delicious delight.

**The Lincoln Highway** by Amor Towles. This book has everything—an epic road trip, a hero's quest and the journey of a lifetime. It's the 1950s and Emmett, 18, whose father just died, has been released from a juvenile work farm. He's headed home with one goal in mind—to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and drive to Texas to start a carpentry business.

Never mind that Billy has other ideas. Billy is convinced that they should find their wayward mother on July 4th in California by way of the Lincoln Highway. Over the next 10 days, Emmett, Billy and two ne'er-do-well friends, who escaped the farm in the sheriff's trunk, encounter magicians, stolen cars and famous authors. They stay in a homeless encampment, on freight trains and in summer mansions on their way to learning poignant life lessons in this amazing coming-of-age tale.

**This Golden State** by Marit Weisenberg. Riveting from the first page to the last! Poppy, 17, knows little about herself or her family of four. They have been on the run, but from what or whom, she doesn't know. Everything is cloaked in secrecy and they have to stay on the move, ready to run at a moment's notice. Their latest stop is sunny



#### **IvyKids Events**

- Sep. 10th, 2pm. A Celebration of Stars with Joyce Hesselberth and When Molly Ate the Stars, The Ivy Bookshop, 5928 Falls Rd. This free in-person event will be held on the patio. Register by following the event link on The Ivy website. theivybookshop.com
- Sep. 10th, 5pm. Book Party with R. Eric Thomas, *Kings of B'More*, The Ivy Bookshop. This free in-person event celebrating Thomas' first YA novel will be held on the patio. Register by following the event link on The Ivy website.
- Nov. 19th, 2pm. A Celebration of Humor with Jon Agee and *Life on Mars*, The Ivy Bookshop. This free in-person event will be held on the patio. Register by following the event link on The Ivy website.

California and it is in a math class for talented kids, where she meets privileged Harry, who has his own reasons to hide, that the secrets begin to unfold and the risks mount. An absolutely gripping read with a tender heart.  $\clubsuit$ 

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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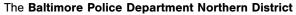
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## Calendar Highlights

Houses of Worship Please call or visit the websites of these Roland Park area houses of worship for information about their service dates and times.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP	PHONE	WEBSITE
	PHONE	WEDSITE
Bolton Street Synagogue, 212 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-235-5354	boltonstreet.org
Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St.	410-464-4000	cathedralofmary.org
Cathedral of the Incarnation, 4 E. University Pkwy.	410-467-3750	incarnationbmore.org
Church of the Redeemer, 5603 N. Charles St.	410-435-7333	redeemerbaltimore.org
Congregation Beit Tikvah, 5802 Roland Ave	410-464-9402	beittikvah.org
First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-1506	rolandparkcc.org
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Baltimore, 102 W. University Pkwy.	410-467-7974	christiansciencebaltimore.org
The Gathering of Baltimore, 5802 Roland Ave.	410-252-7816	thegatheringbaltimore.org
Grace United Methodist Church, 5407 N. Charles St.	410-433-6650	graceunitedmethodist.org
Mt. Olivet Christian Church, 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-1506	rolandparkcc.org
North Baltimore Mennonite Church, 4615 Roland Ave.	410-467-8947	enbmc.org
Roland Park Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Ave.	410-889-2001	rolandparkchurch.org
St. Andrew's Christian Community, 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-9470	rolandparkcc.org
St. David's Church, 4700 Roland Ave.	410-467-0476	stdavidsrolandpark.com
Stony Run Friends, 5116 N. Charles St.	443-703-2590	stonyrunfriends.org

The Civic League meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in person at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church at the corner of Roland Avenue and Upland Road (4801 Roland Ave.).



**Commander's Monthly Crime and Community Meeting** is held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Northern District Headquarters, 2201 W. Cold Spring Ln. All are welcome.

Fall courses at the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute** run from September through December. For details, please visit **advanced.jhu. edu/academics/lifelong-learning/osher-lifelong-learning-institute**.

#### September

- Sep. 1st, 10am-4pm. Regular Hours, Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301 York Rd. Sat., 10am-4pm. firemuseummd.org
- Fridays in September, 9am. Friday Walks, Lake Roland Nature Center, 1000 Lakeside Dr. Free, with registration by email to lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov. lakeroland.org
- Sep. 6th, 9am. In the Garden: Create a Simple Container Topiary, Ladew Topiary Gardens, 3535 Jarrettsville Pike, Monkton. \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members for each date (price includes garden admission). Advance registration required. Iadewgardens.com
- Sep. 6th 6pm. Julia Ridley Smith, The Sum of Trifles, The Ivy Bookshop, 5928 Falls Rd. This free in-person event will be held on the patio. Register by following the event link on The Ivy website. theivybookshop.com
- Sep. 10th, 9:30-11:30am. Wild Walks, Talks, Yoga and More: Fall Bird Count, Ladew Topiary Gardens. Ages 13 and up. \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members (price includes garden admission). Advance registration required.

- Sep. 10th, 10am-1pm. Rabbi-Led Service, Oneg Shabbat and Discussion, Congregation Beit Tikvah, 5802 Roland Ave. Join Congregation Beit Tikvah for warm, participatory, egalitarian year-round Shabbat Services and for High Holiday services with Yizkor Memorial. Beit Tikvah is a Kehillah Mekabelet—a Welcoming Congregation. We welcome families, couples, and individuals of all races, heritages, ethnicities, gender identities/expressions, and sexual orientations. Our building, bima (ark podium) and facilities are wheelchair accessible. The building (Roland Park Community Center) is home to five congregations, leading to interfaith activities. beittikvah.org
- Sep. 10th, 10am-3pm. Honoring Our Heroes Motor Muster, Fire Museum of Maryland. Annual salute to fire, police, EMS and military personnel, with antique fire engine demonstrations and rides.
- Sep. 11th, 7:30pm. Community Concerts at Second: Chamber Music by Candlelight, Second Presbyterian Church, 4200 St. Paul St. cc2nd.org
- Sep. 15th-Nov. 6. The Sunday Painters Art Exhibition, Roland Park Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Ave. Featuring works by Chris Cooper, Patricia Cornejo, Elicia Frazier, Mary Jane Kusiak and Jennifer Kohn Murtha. A percentage of art sales will benefit the church's mission partner, Gedco Cares food pantry. rolandparkchurch.org
- Sep. 17th, 9:30am. WTMD PopGrass Festival at Ladew, Ladew Topiary Gardens. \$15 for adults, \$10 for children over 2 years old (plus fees). events.wtmd.org/event/popgrass\_ festival\_feat\_caleb\_stine\_letitia\_vansant\_at\_ladew\_ gardens?utm\_campaign=widget&utm\_medium=widget&utm\_ source=WTMD#.YuLH7MHMKK1
- Sep. 22nd, 6pm. A Celebration of Writing with Kiram Larew, Patti Ross and Judith Krummeck, The Ivy Bookshop. This free in-person event will be held on the patio. Register by following the event link on The Ivy website.
- Sep. 24th, 6-9pm. Celebrating 50 Years, Fire Museum of Maryland. Heavy *hors d'oeuvres*, full bar, desserts. \$75 (advanced sales only).

- Sep. 25th, 7:30pm, and 26th, 10am. Rosh Hashana Services and Taschlich, Congregation Beit Tikvah
- Sep. 25th, 7:30pm. Community Concerts at Second: Chamber Music by Candlelight, Second Presbyterian Church
- Sep. 27th, 6pm. David Yezzi, More Things in Heaven, The Ivy Bookshop. This free in-person event will be held on the patio. Register by following the event link on The Ivy website.

#### October

- Oct. 1st, 10am-1pm. Plant Swap, Woman's Club of Roland Park, 4500 Roland Ave. Free. twcrp.org
- Oct. 1st, 10am-12pm. Wild Walks, Talks, Yoga and More: Fantastic Fungi, Ladew Topiary Gardens. Ages 13 and up. \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members (price includes garden admission). Advance registration required.
- Oct. 4th, 9am. In the Garden: Designing Your Dream Garden, Ladew Topiary Gardens. \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members (price includes garden admission). Advance registration required.
- Oct. 4th, 6:30pm, and 5th, 10am. Yom Kippur and Break the Fast, Congregation Beit Tikvah
- Oct. 6th, 10am-12pm. Open House and Activities Fair, Woman's Club of Roland Park. Meet members, enjoy light refreshments and learn about the club. Free.
- Oct. 9th, 7:30pm. Community Concerts at Second: Ulysses Quartet, Second Presbyterian Church
- Oct. 11th, 6pm. Bill Keller, What's Prison For?, The Ivy Bookshop. This free in-person event will be held on the patio. Register by following the event link on The Ivy website.
- Oct. 14th, 6pm. Panel Discussion with Q&A with Moderator Makayla Gilliam-Price of Upholding Women of Color: Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Woman's Club of Roland Park. Free.
- Oct. 14th, 7:30pm. Friday Night Community Shabbat Dinner in the Sukkah for Sukkot, Congregation Beit Tikvah
- Oct. 15th, 4pm. Magical Moon Stroll, The Waldorf School of Baltimore, 4801 Tamarind Rd. A non-scary alternative to trickor-treating for young children and their families. Registration required. waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org
- Oct. 22nd, 6-8pm. Lantern Night, Fire Museum of Maryland.
  Family-friendly Halloween event.
- Oct. 25th, 6pm. Evening Lecture: Tom Hall, Host of WYPR's "Midday": Decision Day 2022: Will Maryland Make History?, Woman's Club of Roland Park. Enjoy light refreshments. Free.
- Oct. 28th, 6:30pm. Friday Vegetarian Indian Shabbat Dinner, Congregation Beit Tikvah
- Oct. 30th, 12-2pm. The Sunday Painters Art Exhibition Reception, Roland Park Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Ave. Featuring works by Chris Cooper, Patricia Cornejo, Elicia Frazier, Mary Jane Kusiak and Jennifer Kohn Murtha. A percentage of art sales will benefit the church's mission partner, Gedco Cares food pantry. rolandparkchurch.org

- Oct. 30th, time tba. Trick or Treat, Roland Water Tower, 4210 Roland Ave. Treats provided by The Woman's Club of Roland Park. Free.
- Oct. 30th, 7:30pm. Community Concerts at Second: Chamber Music by Candlelight, Second Presbyterian Church

#### November

- Nov. 5th, 10am-1pm. Saturday Rabbi-Led Service, Oneg Shabbat and Discussion, Congregation Beit Tikvah
- Nov. 5th, 10am. Hands on Holiday: Lantern Walk at The lvy Bookshop, 5928 Falls Rd. Enjoy a morning of seasonal songs, crafts and storytelling with The Waldorf School of Baltimore's early childhood teachers. Registration required. waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org
- Nov. 8th, 6pm. Rachel King, Bratwurst Heaven, The Ivy Bookshop. This free in-person event will be held on the patio. Register by following the event link on The Ivy website.
- Nov. 13th, 3:30pm. Community Concerts at Second: Poulenc Trio, Second Presbyterian Church
- Nov. 18th, 6pm. Evening Program: Greatest Acting Performances in the Movies with Yale University's Marc Lapadula, Woman's Club of Roland Park. Enjoy light refreshments. Free.
- Nov. 18th, 7:30pm. Friday Congregation-Led Service and Kiddush, Congregation Beit Tikvah
- Nov. 19th, 10am-2pm. St. David's Holiday Bazaar, St. David's Church, 4700 Roland Ave. Celebrate the season with this annual holiday highlight. Start your decorating with the annual greens sale, and popular vendors will help you start your holiday shopping. Plus, fun holiday activities for even the youngest children means the entire family can kick off the holiday season in style!. For information, call 410-467-0476. stdavidsrolandpark.com
- Nov. 26th, 11am-2pm. Holiday Train Garden and Visit from Santa, Fire Museum of Maryland
- Nov. 28th, 12-4pm. Museum Store Day, Fire Museum of Maryland. Get starting on your holiday shopping.

Please send calendar announcements to magazine@rolandpark.org.



#### Join us for warm, participatory, egalitarian year-round Shabbat Services and High Holiday services.

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Our building, bima (ark podium) and facilities are wheelchair accessible.

#### **Congregation Beit Tikvah**

Baltimore's Jewish Reconstructionist Synagogue in Roland Park

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