

ROLAND PARK

Quarterly from the Roland Park Community Foundation • Volume Ninety-Two • Spring 2024

Spring Cleanup

*Warehouse
Cinemas:
A Place to Go*

**Community Building:
Andrew Marani**



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Roland Park News is published quarterly by the



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

Chair: Mary Page Michel
 Treasurer: John Kevin

Design & Production: DesignConcept
 Printer: Advance Printing, Inc.

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

Editor's Note

By Martha Marani

When my children were young, the Stony Run was a weekly destination for us. We went in the spring, when clearing leaf dams from the still-chilly water turned our hands bright red. We went in the summer, shouting with delight when we found crayfish hiding under rocks in the stream. In the fall, we'd collect leaves of different colors, marveling at nature's rainbow. Another favorite time was during a snowstorm, when the sounds were muffled and snowball fights were inevitable (though friendly). I have more than two decades worth of pictures—some printed, some digital and some only mental—of my kids and their friends enjoying our neighborhood park. Amy Johanson's photo essay in this issue inspired me to revisit those pictures and to take a walk along the Stony Run trail to take a few new ones. I encourage you to do the same this spring. You can easily access parts of the Stony Run trail at the end of Deepdene or Oakdale roads or Park Lane, across from Wyndhurst Station, or behind the commercial building at 200 W. Cold Spring Lane. The three-mile trail follows an old Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad line through 15 residential neighborhoods and includes wooded stream valleys and small parks.

By doing so, perhaps you will be inspired to get involved as a citizen scientist or to volunteer for Friends of Stony Run. Or maybe, like the neighbors being profiled by Kathy Hudson in her continuing "Community Building" series, you will be inspired to use your passion to serve the community—Roland Park, the city or beyond. It is what led to my husband Andrew—a fixer of things—to volunteer for several Roland Park organizations over the past 20 years or so. It is what took Michael McQuestion to the Philippines as a Peace Corps volunteer. Read about his memoir of the time, *Let Yourself be Led*, on page 20.

Looking for other volunteering ideas? There are plenty of opportunities available to get



Photo: Martha Marani

involved with Hillside Park, including in the areas of fundraising, landscaping, animals and wildlife, diversity and inclusion, events and administration. Train as a Disaster Action Team Volunteer for the American Red Cross, which responds to more than 400 home fires in the Baltimore area each year. Imagine the impact you can make by helping people who just lost everything. Find out more at redcross.org/DAT. Or is baseball your passion? Find out how to volunteer for Roland Park Baseball Leagues on page 30.

Here are some other local charities that would love to have your help:

- **Art With a Heart**, artwithaheart.net
- **B & Dee's Baltimore Love**, Bdeebaltimorelove.org
- **Baltimore Station**, baltimorestation.org
- **The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle**, thebwgc.org
- **Black Women Build**, blackwomenbuild.org
- **Living Classrooms Foundation**, livingclassrooms.org
- **Loyola Early Learning Center**, loyolaearly.org
- **Maryland SPCA**, mdspca.org
- **St. Ignatius Loyola Academy**, saintignatius.org
- **Weekend Backpacks for Homeless Kids**, weekendbackpacks.org

Arthur Ashe put it best: "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

Happy spring! ♦

Cover: As chair of Roads & Maintenance, Andrew Marani's efforts have included replacing a broken railing with this solid iron railing on the steps on Hilltop Path. Like all his repairs, it is designed to last 50 to 100 years. Photo: Sally Foster

Community Building: Andrew Marani

By Kathy Hudson

Andrew Marani, a 30-year Roland Park volunteer and longtime chair of the Civic League's Roads & Maintenance (R&M) Committee, is the go-to person for community hardscape and greenspace maintenance. When footpaths need repairing, when new benches need bolting down along Roland Avenue, when trees need installing in Centennial Park and bump-out plants need pruning, Marani answers the call. He checks the Civic League maintenance budget, requests bids and oversees all jobs to completion. "I'm basically the Maintenance Committee," says the laconic, can-do Woodlawn Road resident, native plantsman and beekeeper.

Marani is well qualified for the job. He and his brother own and run A.R. Marani Inc., a commercial construction business known to Roland Parkers through their renovation of Roland Park Presbyterian Church, where monthly Civic League meetings are held.

We asked him some questions to help residents better know him.

KH: *What drew you to Roland Park?*

AM: Old houses, trees. In 1994, [my wife] Martha and I were looking for a house. I was driving up Roland Avenue for some reason, and I liked the way the area looked. I turned off to drive the neighborhood, stopped on Woodlawn, called Martha and said we need to look here! We were too late to bid on the first open house we went to. Martha got real quiet as we did our walkthrough on the next house. We walked out, stood on the sidewalk outside, and Martha turned so she wasn't facing the owners up on the porch and said, "This house, this one!" The owners must have liked us, because they accepted our offer without waiting for the several others they expected.

KH: *Tell us about your wife and three children.*

AM: Martha—Superwoman. Katherine—an artist who works for Preservation Maryland as an illustrator and graphic designer. William—a news production assistant for KYW Newsradio in Philadelphia. Alaric—a construction superintendent at A.R. Marani.

KH: *When did you start volunteering in Roland Park?*

AM: Not exactly sure, a couple of years after moving in. After a frustrating experience trying to get solar panels approved on my house, several people said I should join the Architectural Review Board. I figured the board could use some contractor common sense, so I said OK. Never ask to join a volunteer organization unless you're serious. I think they said "yes," before I finished asking. After my first meeting, I figured out that most of the people on the Architectural Review Board did know what they were doing and really cared about helping residents out with their projects. I really enjoyed my four or five years there.

KH: *What has been your involvement over the years?*

AM: Architectural Review Board, Civic League Board Plat 1 representative and vice president, Bylaws Committee, Land Use & Zoning Committee, Greater Roland Park Master Plan



Marani spends most of his volunteer time solving problems in Roland Park's common areas, including the paths and Centennial Park. Photo: Sally Foster

Committee, Cycle Track Committee chair, Landscape Committee (my favorite!), R&M chair.

Most of my time now involves R&M, especially for the last 10-plus years. My involvement in the Roland Water Tower started in 2005 with me putting costs on the renovations, but that was "unofficial" because I wanted to do the actual renovations—a job I lost to a competitor in 2019. That loss was a bit painful, but they had more "tower" experience, so it was also understandable and they did a good job. I've also put time in on Stony Run [Park] in various ways.

KH: *In your dozen-plus years as head of R&M has your work changed?*

AM: Not until recently, when the Civic League gave me some serious money to fix a couple of large, long-term issues.

KH: *Who funds the maintenance?*

AM: Everyone who pays their R&M fees, hopefully their full fees. Those that pay nothing are freeloading on the backs of the rest of us and, obviously, that annoys me a lot.

KH: *What are the biggest maintenance issues in Roland Park?*

AM: The landscape maintenance of the paths is a main expense, but the paths also create small hardscape issues (like railings and steps) to fix on an ongoing basis. We also handle some City-owned greenspace around Roland Park since the City is challenged in that area. Big expensive items are the yellow brick paths in Centennial Park [on University Parkway] and new footpath signs. Both have been on the list forever and finally received repair funding starting this fiscal year!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ANDREW MARANI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

KH: *Is budget an issue?*

AM: Always! Pay the full fees *#/*; we really need that money. In a community as historic, beautiful and well-maintained as ours, the full fees are ridiculously low for most houses, yet somehow a pretty big chunk of the residents finds some excuse not to pay. I've heard some really lame excuses when I've asked people why they don't pay, often something like "X was mean to me 10 years ago and I've never paid since." Get over it already. If you are one of the very few houses where the fees are actually pretty high, talk to the Civic League; they will make an accommodation if you can't afford the full amount.

KH: *What are your plans for spring maintenance?*

AM: General fixes on the paths. We just installed a new railing on Tulip Path, and I've got eight metal signs to hang on brick piers on various paths. Five new path signs are in production.

A new yellow brick paver path in Centennial Park, with a stone "bridge" where rainwater tends to flow over the path.

KH: *Future plans for maintenance?*

AM: Two more yellow brick paver paths. Fifteen more path signs. Not exactly a Roland Park-only issue, but one day I'd like to see the walking path plans for Stony Run come to fruition. The landscape committee and the Friends of Stony Run have put a lot of time into creating a solid design.

KH: *Any highlights of volunteering in Roland Park?*

AM: Leading the cycle track committee was fun, painful, fascinating, frustrating and a lot of work. Organizing and keeping up with the snow plowing of the lanes during "Snowmageddon" in 2016.

KH: *What do you see as the strengths of Roland Park?*

AM: Involved people that care about Roland Park and Baltimore in general. Neighbors. When we moved in on Woodlawn Road, Frances Lentz, our neighbor across the street, organized a porch party to welcome us to the block. Seriously, where else do they throw a party to welcome you?

KH: *Community challenges?*

AM: People who live here but don't get involved. Perceptions of Roland Park held by outside communities and organizations. Creating more diversity in our community.

KH: *Are there other organizations for which you volunteer?*

AM: U.S. Green Building Council, Maryland Board, retired; Associated Builders and Contractors Board; Associated Italian American Charities Board.

KH: *Anything else you'd like to say?*

AM: Donate to Hillside Park! This is the biggest park (20 acres!) added to Baltimore City in roughly 100 years.

Get involved with the Civic League. There are about 1,000 homes in Roland Park, so that's close to 2,000 adults. I would bet money that most of the work of the Civic League, the Community Foundation and R&M is done by fewer than 40 volunteers. So 95 percent of the work is done by 2 percent of the residents.

If you see an issue on a path, send me an email at andrewmarani@armarani.com? I will reply. ❖

If you'd like to nominate someone for the "Community Building" series, please email magazine@rolandpark.org.

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Greater Roland Park Home Sales

(NOVEMBER 2023–JANUARY 2024)

	LIST PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
6 Upland Rd. #Q-3	\$ 199,000	\$ 113,000
6 Upland Rd. #K-3	\$ 245,000	\$ 245,000
214 Longwood Rd.	\$ 525,000	\$ 480,000
14 Midvale Rd.	\$ 998,500	\$ 875,000
325 Hawthorne Rd.	\$ 975,000	\$ 905,000
818 W University Pkwy.	\$ 995,000	\$ 972,500
4510 Roland Ave.	\$1,125,000	\$1,100,000
300 Somerset Rd.	\$1,100,000	\$1,110,000
4710 Roland Ave.	\$1,585,000	\$1,412,500

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Message From the Civic League

As I bid farewell after three years of serving as president of the Civic League, I reflect on the journey that brought me here. It's astonishing how swiftly time has passed since I assumed this role, driven by a simple desire: to connect with my neighbors. I am deeply grateful for the chance to meet many of you for the first time and to rekindle friendships with those I've known for years.



When I began my tenure, the pandemic loomed large, relegating our meetings to Zoom and restricting our community engagements to outdoor activities. Despite the challenges, we persevered. Armed with the flexibility of remote work, we joined forces to clean up our streets and nearby intersections along Cold Spring Lane and Northern Parkway, maintaining a safe distance of 6 feet apart. We returned to socializing as a community—without trash bags in hand—through plat gatherings in the spring and the return of the July 4th parade with all its fanfare. We eventually moved inside to the Woman's Club of Roland Park to host the Roland Park Fall Fling, a successor to the Community Foundation's annual Spring Celebration.

Our efforts extended beyond social events. We convened discussions about diversity, equity and inclusion in the wake of George Floyd's murder, and we opened our doors to guests making a difference in Baltimore, who sought our input. We hosted our elected officials and held informative candidate forums. We tackled pressing issues affecting our neighborhood. One such example was the deliberation over Verizon's proposal to install 5G antennas on our interior streets in 2022. We advocated for adherence to federal and state laws and protocols, safeguarding the historic integrity and visual aesthetic of Roland Park.

The Civic League remains steadfast in its commitment to serving you. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated members of the 17-person board who volunteer their time at our monthly meetings and in other activities. Time and time again, board members have thoughtfully addressed issues affecting our neighborhood with grace and good humor. I'm also grateful for the executive board's leadership, Ed Goodlander, Tom Hoen, Dan Reck and David Fitzpatrick, who have provided expertise and tremendous support in meeting the goal to get our financial affairs in order and moving the Civic League's business to an electronic platform for more efficient management of our neighborhood's communications and finances. Our new office manager, Pat Sarratt, is a treasure in helping us promote Roland Park. We are lucky to have her on the team.

To those who may be considering taking on leadership roles within our neighborhood association, I urge you to embrace the opportunity. The rewards far outweigh the challenges. As I figure out what will be next on my list of "to do's" to better the community I live in, I take with me the lessons learned, the

MANY THANKS to Steven Ralston, Kate Culotta and Martha Marani for organizing holiday meals for the officers at the Northern District police station and firefighters at the Roland Park and Hampden



Holiday meals were delivered to the Northern District police station and Roland Park and Hampden fire stations.
Photo: Kate Culotta

fire stations this year. And thanks to our board members and neighbors who provided meals during two weeks in December: Jake Klein, Ann-Barron Carneal, Steven Ralston, Joan Jackson, David Fitzpatrick, Chrissy Walsh, Kate Cutlotta, Sharna Goldseker, Mary Page Michel, Kathy Manson, Brett Rogers, Michelle Pasternak, Chloe DeMichiel, Cara Bruce, Tom Carlson and Chris Cortright.

friendships forged and a profound sense of pride for the work that the Civic League has accomplished.

With warmest regards,
Claudia Diamond, Civic League President ❖



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March 31, 10:30 a.m.
in person and online

Hillside Park: An Update and Educational Connection

By Mary Page Michel, Roland Park Community Foundation Chair

As we wait for the Baltimore Country Club to complete its required environmental and legal milestones ahead of settlement, the Community Foundation has partnered with graduate students at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), on a public history report on the future Hillside Park land. One of our goals for the property is for it to serve as an educational campus so, even though we don't yet own the land, we are already getting students involved.

Dr. Sally Scott, a UMBC professor and Roland Park resident, connected the Community Foundation to Dr. Denise Meringolo and her UMBC graduate class, "Introduction to Public History". We pitched them the project, which was selected by the class.

The five-member group includes students from in and out of Maryland, including a current Baltimore City public school teacher and an international student. They brought a variety of backgrounds and experiences to the project. We gave the group a tour of the property and offered a recommended bibliography, and then the students dove into the materials and did their own sleuthing to learn more about the land that will become Hillside Park. Their passion for history, research and stories combined to create a wonderful project, which they presented to us in December. For the international student, it was her first public presentation in the U.S.

The group divided the project into five sections, with each student tackling one section. They looked at the architecture and landscape of historic Roland Park; the development of Roland Park, Guilford and Homeland by the Roland Park Company; the history of sports and recreation on the property; personal stories about the land; and the historic neighborhood of Cross Keys.

The bibliography for a project like this, as one might imagine, was extensive. Reference materials included: *The Baltimore Sun* articles from 1884 to 2023; articles from *The AFRO*; census data; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; land records; Roberta Moudry's unpublished master of arts thesis for Cornell University, "Gardens, Houses and People: The Planning of Roland Park, Baltimore"; Roland Park Company Archives at Johns Hopkins University; information from the Baltimore Neighborhoods Indicator Alliance; the Olmsted Archives Collection; and local history books, including those by Douglas P. Munro, PhD (*Images of America: Greater Roland Park*), James Holechek (*Baltimore's Two Cross Keys Villages: One Black. One White*), James F. Waesche (*Crowning the Gravelly Hill: A History of the Roland Park Guilford Homeland District, Baltimore*), Paige Glotzer (*How the Suburbs Were Segregated: Developers and the Business of Exclusionary Housing, 1890–1960*), Antero Pietila (*Not in My Neighborhood: How Bigotry Shaped a Great American City*), and George B. Simmons (*A Book of Pictures in Roland Park, Baltimore, Maryland, March and June 1911*).

The students discussed at great length the efforts by the Roland Park Company to keep the neighborhood attractive to certain

buyers, discriminating by race, religion and ethnicity. They found that, contrary to local lore, there were no covenants

to restrict on these bases. Redlining was used to attract the "right" buyers. Covenant restrictions were later used in other Roland Park Company developments. In 1948, the Supreme Court ruled that the enforcement of racial covenants in property deeds were a violation of the 14th Amendment.

The students were fascinated by the historic neighborhood of Cross Keys, which was located at the corner of Falls Road and Cold Spring Lane. Initially it was divided evenly between Black and White residents, and later became a majority Black neighborhood. The residents were employed as tradesmen and laborers. From a public history perspective, this was a more difficult area to research as there is limited documentation. In the late 1950s, the majority of the Cross Keys neighborhood was taken by eminent domain to accommodate the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and Western High School parking lots.

The students found an extensive public history of sports on the property, which was home to the first 18-hole golf course in Maryland, with three holes on the east side of Falls Road and the others on the west side. It was the site of the 5th U.S. Open in 1899, which was won by Willie Smith, who finished a record 11 strokes ahead of his three runners-up. The record held until 2000, when Tiger Woods broke it by winning the U.S. Open by 15 strokes.

The group provided recommendations for the landscape architect on ways to recognize some of the history of the land and the area. They offered suggestions for how to make the space

welcoming and inclusive. When we started this partnership, we told the students we didn't know exactly what we would do with the information they provided but that it was important to us to know as much about the history of the land as possible as we move forward. We are confident that the landscape architect, soon to be hired, can help us find ways to share the history, some of it difficult, in a transparent way. We are very grateful to Dr. Meringolo and her students for their hard work researching public history and we will share more of their findings on the Hillside Park website that will be launched in a few months.

Our team has met and continues to meet with many area K-12 schools, colleges and graduate programs to find ways to get students into Hillside Park for science projects, tree and stream monitoring, art projects, wildlife observations and more. ❖

To make a donation to Hillside Park, please visit rolandpark.org/hillsidepark.



UMBC students completed a public history report on the 20-acre property that will soon be home to Hillside Park. Photo: Mary Page Michel



Looking south from a point somewhere toward the southern end of the golf course, circa 1962. Photo: Baltimore Country Club (BCC). 1998. Baltimore Country Club: One Hundred Years. Baltimore, Md.: BCCI

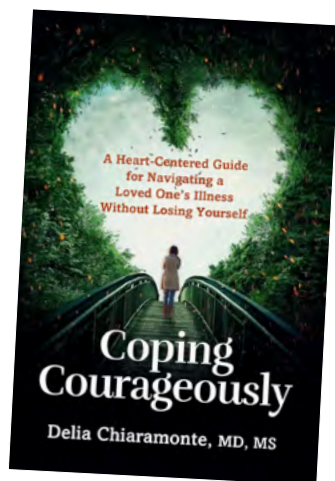
Embracing the Golden Years: The Inaugural Aging Well Expo

Unlocking the Secrets to Purposeful Living, Wisdom, and Wellness

On May 9, The Woman's Club of Roland Park (TWCRP) will host the first Aging Well Expo, a groundbreaking event aimed at guiding individuals through the maze of considerations that come with aging gracefully. It promises to be an insightful day filled with empowering discussions, expert advice, and an exploration of the myriad aspects of growing older with wisdom and vitality.

Featuring Dr. Delia Chiaramonte, Author of *Coping Courageously*

One of the highlights of the Aging Well Expo will be the keynote address and book signing by the esteemed Dr. Delia Chiaramonte, author of *Coping Courageously: A Heart-Centered Guide for Navigating a Loved One's Illness Without Losing Yourself*. Chiaramonte's compassionate and insightful approach to caregiving has earned her a reputation as a beacon of support for those navigating the challenges of caring for loved ones. Her book, a roadmap for maintaining one's own wellbeing while caring for others, promises to be a valuable resource for attendees.



TWCRP will host a daylong event geared for seniors in May. Photo courtesy of TWCRP



aging-in-place solutions. It will be an invaluable opportunity to explore a variety of housing options and support services tailored to meet the unique needs of individuals as they age. Additionally, a plethora of community resources will be on hand to provide guidance and support in areas such as healthcare, wellness and social engagement.

A Community Coming Together

The Aging Well Expo is not just an event; it's a community initiative fostering dialogue and collaboration among individuals, families and organizations committed to creating a supportive environment for seniors. TWCRP will provide an elegant backdrop for this day of learning and connection, creating an atmosphere that encourages open conversations about aging and the possibilities that come with it.

Save the Date and Age Well

Whether you're a senior actively planning for the future or a caregiver seeking valuable insights, the Aging Well Expo at TWCRP is a must-attend event. Come for the expert advice, stay for the community connections, and leave with the tools to embrace the golden years with courage, grace and vitality. Mark your calendar for May 9—a day dedicated to unlocking the secrets to aging well. For more details, visit twcrp.org. ❖

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Expo

May 9 • 10 am-3 pm

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Diverse Topics, Expert Speakers

The Aging Well Expo is not just about caregiving. It covers a broad spectrum of topics essential to navigating the aging process successfully. Attendees will have the opportunity to delve into discussions on purposeful living, planning ahead, downsizing and the dilemma of what to do with a lifetime of accumulated possessions. Solo aging, a growing trend among seniors, will also be explored, along with insights into managing financial and legal matters in the later stages of life and much more.

Connecting with Resources: Senior Living and Aging-in-Place Solutions

Throughout the venue, attendees will find a vibrant marketplace featuring representatives from senior living communities and



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Warehouse Cinemas: A Place to Go

By Tom Dolina

A couple years ago, my wife and I moved from north of Cold Spring Lane to south of Cold Spring Lane and discovered that, while there will always be Eddie's and Petit Louis, there is for us, too, The Rotunda.

A short, half-mile walk from our home gets us to Mom's Organic Market, Starbucks, a sushi restaurant and a host of other places. There is no question the tenant mix is heavy on fitness, with pilates, yoga and barre studios, but since you're there and you've just had your cinnamon roll from Cinnaholic, a workout is probably a good idea. But fitness is only part of it. There is a movie theatre, Warehouse Cinemas, which took over the space formerly leased by Cinemark.

The owners of Warehouse are two fellows, Rich Daughtridge and Greg Mills, from western Maryland. Having had experience opening up cinemas in Leitersburg and Frederick, they literally took over a cinema spot at the Frederick Towne Mall that had been abandoned and was converted for their use.

Introduce yourself to Warehouse. It's an unusual name, but the theatre is making a mark. It's different from the Charles Theatre and the Senator Theatre—entirely its own brand of theatre that



Warehouse is locally owned and operated. Photos courtesy of Warehouse

is locally owned and operated. The team behind Warehouse restored a space that was abandoned during the pandemic.



I spoke to Melanie Carter, the marketing director for Warehouse. She is funny and energetic, and a terrific ambassador for Warehouse. Carter is also very busy. She admits that Warehouse had a slow debut in 2023, but the team is feeling its way, and the energy is still the same. They are

trying to provide affordable family entertainment and a place where adults can go without kids. They were attracted to The Rotunda because of the diversity of commercial establishments and the neighborhood's demographics. They liked the fact that the previous theatre restricted kids under the age of 18 without parents after 6 pm, believing that was a good call. More importantly, the team is committed to ensuring Warehouse has something for everyone to enjoy.

Now, I am partisan. I have been there many times. My wife and I enjoyed the previous theatre as a place to sit in comfortable chairs, have a bite to eat and watch a movie. We now enjoy Warehouse for the same reasons. We were first acquainted with the concept of eating and watching a movie in comfortable seating and with a wide screen many years ago. While we were waiting for a plane to leave Chicago on a very cold winter day, we marveled at the fact that we could get food, sit in a comfortable chair that reclines and get out of the cold weather.

Warehouse offers the same thing. The seats are extraordinarily comfortable, move backwards and forwards, and are heated. The screen is wide and the acoustics are excellent. The movie choices are top-notch and the variety of choices appeal to adults both with and without children. They include new releases, the



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Educational Programming at Cylburn

By Brooke Fritz, Executive Director, Cylburn Arboretum Friends

This past year was a milestone year for Cylburn Arboretum Friends (CAF), with the completion of the Nature Education Center (NEC), which is now open and free to the public six days a week. Our commitment to the Baltimore community is to support Cylburn through stewardship and educational programming.

Our programs are all specific to the arboretum—an urban green space, public garden and museum of trees. We offer an outdoor laboratory for teaching about plants and ecosystems, and our staff members work to deliver programming that inspires a love of the natural world. We are hosting a lot of new programs in 2024; you can learn the details and register at cylburn.org/programs-events. Most of our programs are free to CAF members. Learn more about becoming a member at cylburn.org/give/membership.

Adult Classes

Mar. 7, Apr. 4 and May 2, 2-3 pm. **First Thursdays Gardeners' Workshop.** These workshops for adults, taught by our horticulture team, are an opportunity to learn more about gardening concepts and skills. Classes meet in the NEC classroom and typically include both a classroom and Cylburn grounds component.

Mar. 8, Apr. 12 and May 17, 2-4 pm. **Second Fridays Horticulture Culture.** These in-depth classes, taught by our horticulture team, are designed to include the “why” behind what is seen in the Cylburn landscape. Classes typically include both indoor instruction and an outdoor component, and meet in the NEC classroom.



Pacheco with a turtle friend. Photo courtesy of CAF

Mar. 20, Apr. 17 and May 15, 12-1 pm. **Third Wednesdays Walks.** We will continue our Wednesday Walk series on the third Wednesday of every month. Topics range broadly and each walk is led by a different expert.

Youth and Families

Saturdays, 11 am. **Drop-in at the NEC.** Join CAF for free nature-themed drop-in activities every Saturday morning! Programs are designed



The NEC is open six days a week. Photo: Tom Holdsworth Photography

for families with children ages 5 and up. No registration is required. Find out more about specific weekly themes at cylburn.org.

Mar. 13, Apr. 10 and May 8, 10-11 am. **Second Wednesdays Tree Time.** These parent/child classes are designed for our youngest friends, ages 2 to 5. We will learn about nature through stories, crafts and exploration. Classes meet on the NEC porch.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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CYLBURN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Meet Some of Our Educators

Rose Pacheco is our newest hire, joining us as a garden educator. She recently moved to Baltimore from Tampa, FL. Pacheco originally hails from Omaha, NE, where she grew up with a large family. In Omaha, she worked with an organization that had “seed to table” programs, interacting with different kids clubs like Girls Inc. and the Boys and Girls Club to start gardens.

“I loved to learn through those gardens,” Pacheco shares. “I was testing my own knowledge while I was teaching.

And it was fun to see what the young people were interested in doing, and what they dreaded. This was in Nebraska in the heat of the summer. It is one of the hottest and most humid states. Our students did not like weeding at all, but they loved watering. I would water everything—including the kids! I am looking forward to working with young people again at Cylburn Arboretum.”

Pacheco will lead our Second Fridays Horticulture Culture and our Second Wednesdays Tree Time series.

Ron Roberto rejoined our team after spending a year as our horticulture intern. This time, he is with us as a Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps member. Roberto’s position is funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust in its effort to increase access and opportunities to green careers across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



Roberto, who will teach Cylburn’s First Thursdays Gardening Workshop, led Wednesday Walks last summer. Photo courtesy of CAF

“I enjoy interacting with the different people who are drawn to Cylburn,” Roberto says. “For example, it is a gratifying experience to see people enjoy the gardens we tend. This year, half of my time [will be] spent with our education team. I have enjoyed assisting our education director with school field trips and I am looking forward to hosting my own classes at Cylburn.”

Roberto will be leading our First Thursdays Gardeners’ Workshop series. ❖

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.

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Spring Yard and Habitat Cleanup

By Devra He'ui Kitterman

Spring cleanup time is here, so please indulge me as I attempt to convince more of my lovely neighbors to think of their yards in an environmentally conscious and protective manner.

Hopefully, folks embraced the “Leave the Leaves” philosophy last fall, distributing them into their planting beds to provide winter cover and insulation for ground-nesting insects, native bees, birds and other wildlife, including their eggs. Remember that 76 percent of all our flying insects are gone, globally. This loss includes the insects that pollinate our fruits, nuts and vegetables, and deeply affects food sources for birds, bats and other animals.

We in the mid-Atlantic enjoyed copious amounts of rain—and even a bit of snow—which helps to slowly break down leaf matter, ultimately leading to the creation of soil, of which there is a shortage in our eroded urbanscape and globally. Most of us in Roland Park suffer with soil that is primarily heavy clay. Allowing leaf matter to break down naturally provides us with important and enriching organic matter in our gardens.

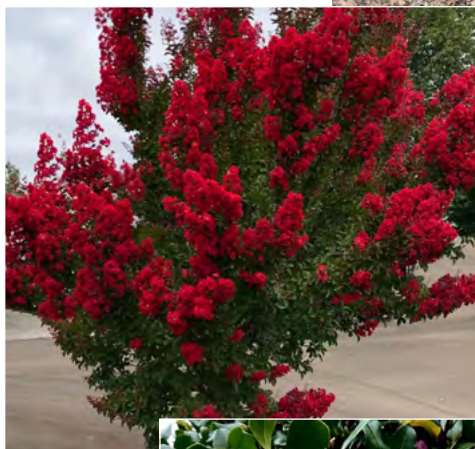
Once the weather warms up a bit in the spring and early summer, leaf matter breaks down very quickly as many types of creatures, including snails, worms, pill bugs and an amazing assortment of tiny insects, start eating leaves. Each year, I am astonished at how quickly these tiny creatures reduce a foot or more of leaves into mere inches of critically important organic matter.

I wish to thank several of my wonderful neighbors who gave me leaves from their yards, some of whom generously placed piles in my yard, from which I redistributed as necessary. The first heavy rain secured the leaves in place and the snow further compacted them. Many birds hunkered down in my yard as the worst of cold and wind came and went. Hollow logs, semi-buried in leaves, provided cover for birds, rabbits, insects and amphibians.

Now it is time to clean things up! For the most part, I will be “Leaving the Leaves”. In fact, this will be the second year that I don’t have to buy mulch! In the past, I’ve spent several hundred dollars a year on mulch for my yard. I feel pretty dumb for not doing this sooner, but none of us were trained to think this way until only very recently. Natural yards—an evolutionary new paradigm! (Any evolving is better than no evolving, right?).

For the best results for your spring cleanup:

- Clean, disinfect, sharpen and oil your tools (pruners, hedge shears, loppers, spades, etc.).
- Cut back perennials that you left in place for the birds.



Leaf matter provides important habitat for insects, birds and other wildlife.

Photo: Devra Kitterman

Crape myrtles and sasanqua camellias are more tolerant of our climate zone. Photos: Adobe Stock

Remove damaged or old leaves from Lenten rose (*hellebores*), barrenwort (*epimedium*) and other plants that stayed mostly green throughout the winter. Shape shrubs and small trees as needed and suggested specifically by professionals.

- Weed early. Be on the lookout for ivy sprouts and other emerging undesirable plants.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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SPRING CLEANUP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

- Move plants that might perform in a better spot or plants that just don't make you happy.
- Set up or clean out bird baths.
- Clean out bird houses early so nesting isn't interrupted. I usually do this in the winter, providing the birds with clumps of alpaca wool tied to a dry spot under an overhang.

One of the most important things I have learned in the more than 34 years in the business of horticulture and landscaping is that cheap and poorly made tools make your life harder, are a waste of your hard-earned money and can make you look unprofessional. It never pays to be a cheapskate about tools. Also, most people tend to take better care of well-designed, durable tools, which should last you for decades. I recommend the following must-haves:

- *Stihl loppers (PL30 or PL40)*. Mine have been serving me faithfully for 25 years.
- *Felco 11 hand pruners*. Be sure to keep the adjustment tool that comes with these pruners firmly attached to your keys.
- *Felco 912 narrow holster with belt clip*. Some other holsters are huge and heavy.
- *A.M. Leonard spear-headed spade*. I have spades in all shapes and sizes, used for edging, digging and planting, but this particular spade is fantastic for digging holes or digging up plants quickly and easily. A friend treated me to this tool, and initially I was nonplussed at the thought of yet another spade. It quickly became my favorite go-to tool. I bought one for another landscaper/nurseryman, who was also "meh" about it, because all pros have their favorites, but this fellow was quickly sold on its benefits and quickly purchased another. A bonus is that they come in various colors. Bright colors are recommended for all tools, as they easily disappear in groundcover or on trash piles, accidentally getting lost or thrown away.
- *A.M. Leonard deluxe stainless steel soil knife*. For weed removal! I keep two on hand, because they are easily lost.
- *Stihl precision hedge shears*. My most used tool, after my pruners. A must-have for shaping shrubs and cutting back perennials and, during the season, managing and encouraging fuller flowering performance like bonesets (*eupatorium*), goldenrods (*solidago*), asters, grasses, spirea, bluebeard (*caryopteris*) and many others.
- *Seymour S400 proflex 18-inch wide rake with a 48-inch handle*. Fantastic for moving and cleaning up lots of material quickly.

Note: Always keep a sharpening stone and some WD40 on hand for remedial quick sharpening on the job. And train yourself to keep your tools sharpened, oiled, cleaned and disinfected to avoid spreading foliar diseases and pathogens.

A few other important tools to make your work easier and more efficient:

- An aluminum or plastic scoop shovel to help with unloading soil and mulch. These also work best for snow removal.



Spring is a great time to do some tool maintenance. Photo: Devra Kitterman

- A manure/silage pitchfork, with 10 to 12 tines, makes quick work of loading and moving organic materials. You always want as many tines as possible for efficient moving of materials. A pitchfork with four or five tines is effectively useless.
- A good pruning saw, whether one solid piece or folding.
- A sturdy metal wheelbarrow, preferably with an optional solid tire (flat tires are a drag).
- I found old fashioned fly swatters with metal screens, which I used to kill hundreds of spotted lanternflies that were about to lay eggs on my 30-year old Japanese snowbell (*Styrax japonicas*). I checked the tree constantly in November and kept the swatter handy. These insects lay their eggs late in the season, when they move a little more slowly.

Please think about planting trees. We are rapidly losing our mature tree canopy. The extreme heat we now experience during our mid-Atlantic summers may force us to think about using some trees and shrubs from the next warmer climate zone, although until our climate mellows into whatever form of constancy that we may be headed for, extreme winter cold snaps may damage some of those trees. Just a few good ones to think about: several types of oaks (especially white oaks) are still important and reliable choices for our area, crape myrtles have been becoming more tolerant of our climate for more than 50 years now, and sasanqua camellias (for planting in part shade) are great evergreens with winter flowers (important for pollinators), but unfortunately, not good for areas with deer issues.

Think habitat everyone! The benefits are profoundly beneficial to all of us. ❖

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.

Greatest Hits of Executive Functioning

By Jessica Bello, Founder of Confident Scholars Tutoring

When parents contact me about their child's struggles in school, I often hear frustration in their voices. "She does her schoolwork but forgets to submit it," they say, or "He always waits until the 11th hour to get started!"

As a high school English teacher turned private tutor and executive functioning coach, I have found that many problems in school boil down to deficits in motivation, organization, time management and focus—essentially, to underdeveloped executive functioning skills. Issues in these areas manifest in different ways. Some students avoid large projects and forget due dates, while others lose school supplies and fail to manage their time effectively. Most students have trouble starting homework and sustaining focus on tasks. So, what can you do if this sounds like your child?

First, prompt them to conduct a self-inventory to explore the areas of school where they feel most confident and most frustrated. Ask your child to reflect on the tools they use to stay organized. Once you have a sense of the problems they encounter, identify some strategies—like those from the list below—that can help.

- **Calendars and Agenda Books:** One of the best methods to ensure your child's success is to have them use a calendar and agenda book. Fortunately, most schools provide digital calendars where students can access their assignments and check their submission status. In addition to school calendars, providing your child with a physical agenda book will allow them to manage their daily work.
- **The Pomodoro Method and SMART Goals:** Many approaches exist today to help students work for long stretches. In The Pomodoro Method, students work for 25 minutes, take a 5-minute break, and repeat the cycle four times. After the fourth cycle, they take an extended break. Creating SMART—specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-based—goals also supports students in crafting a clear plan to complete tasks.
- **A Relaxing Study Space:** Students are much more likely to work if they enjoy being in their study area. To create a happy environment, stock the area with colorful school supplies and encourage your child to decorate with pictures of friends, favorite musicians, athletes, etc. Limit distractions (for example, phones) near the study space to aid in focus, and provide seating that will allow your child to move (such as swivel chairs and exercise balls).
- **Binders, Notebooks and Folders:** Large, multi-subject binders and notebooks are beneficial for most students who have difficulty keeping track of work from their classes. However, if your child prefers a separate folder and notebook for each class, designate a color for each course and use matching materials.

- **Movement, Audio Books and Educational Videos:** Almost all students benefit from strategies that appeal to multiple learning styles. Audiobooks, used in tandem with reading, can help keep students' attention. Frequent movement breaks (stretching, yoga, push-ups, etc.) allow students to stay alert and motivated during homework time. Additionally, educational YouTube channels help supplement learning materials from class. My favorites are CrashCourse (for history and literature) and Khan Academy.

Keep in mind that some of these strategies will fit better than others. By implementing changes tailored to your child's needs, you will help them have an easier time managing their schoolwork. Most importantly, they will feel more confident when facing challenging tasks. ♦

Jessica Bello has 13 years of experience as an educator and tutor in AP and Honors English, backed by two Master's degrees. Her journey over the past seven years has been dedicated to personalized private tutoring, with a focus on guiding students to develop confidence in various academic subjects, including writing, reading, standardized test preparation and executive functioning skills. Her passion lies in providing individualized support to foster student confidence and empower each child to overcome academic challenges. confident scholars.org



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RPCS Graduates Share Their Best Career Advice

“If you don’t seek, you don’t find. So, keep looking!” This was one of many pieces of valuable advice Roland Park Country School (RPCS) graduates shared with upper school students at the school’s annual Professional Connections program in January. Organized by the Alumnae Office, five RPCS alumni participated in a panel discussion to talk about their career paths, offer perspectives in exploring professional pursuits and reflect on how RPCS prepared them for life after graduation.

Moderated by Cary Zink Kassouf (1995), alumnae board president and executive director of the Baltimore Research and Education Foundation, the panelists covered multiple topics, from ways to achieve work-life balance, how an all-girls environment impacted their college experiences, the value in asking for help, and how non-linear career paths can bring professional and personal fulfillment.

Lauren Dodrill Benjamin, J.D. (2001 and parent of a member of the class of 2035), director of leadership and planned giving at RPCS, shared how the school built her sense of confidence. “I never doubted that I should have a seat at the table working in



RPCS alumnae (left to right): Cary Zink Kassouf (1995), Lauren Dodrill Benjamin, J.D. (2001), Lulu Zeitouneh (2001), Mackenzie Birely (2015), Maya Jackson (2011) and Regan Gore (2015). Photo courtesy of RPCS

a male-dominated industry,” she explained. Benjamin also credits RPCS for teaching her mental toughness and perseverance, how to think critically and deeply, and how to write well—all important skills for any career.

Maya Jackson (2011), psychotherapist, intake and services coordinator, and case management supervisor for Optimum Health Systems, encouraged students to invest in their mental health. “We only get one life,” Jackson said. “Just enjoy what you’re doing!” Currently studying to become a licensed certified social worker-clinical, Jackson credits RPCS for teaching her how to apply herself and take her education seriously. “Choosing what you want to learn is very impactful.”

Lulu Zeitouneh (2001), a creative director who has worked in media for almost two decades, is also grateful for the values of confidence and courage that RPCS taught her. “You’re laying the groundwork for your lives here,” she told the students. Zeitouneh urged them to not be afraid to put themselves out there, stay flexible in this ever-changing world and pivot career paths, as needed.

Similarly, Mackenzie Birely (2015), a nurse who plans to pursue a career as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, talked about how change is great for growth. She encouraged students to take advantage of opportunities in college to follow their passions. “Don’t be afraid to take your shot,” she told the audience.

Regan Gore (2015), head of operations for Wisdom Ventures, told the students to: “Listen to your parents! They are always in your corner, and they know you best.”

Several students asked the speakers thoughtful questions about ways to network and how to know an interest may be worth pursuing as a career. Afterwards, the students and graduates mingled to continue the conversation. Learn more at rpcs.org. ❖

Roland Park Country School (rpcs.org) believes that young women who build each other up will thrive. As an independent school in Baltimore for girls in grades K-12, the all-girls culture is rooted in the notion that female empowerment begins with young women empowering one another. This enables RPCS students to build courage and confidence in an environment where female leadership across all areas of study



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Bryn Mawr's Abigail Giroux: An Award-Winning Filmmaker

Bryn Mawr junior Abigail Giroux took home top honors at the highest level of the National History Day competition for her documentary film, "Wade in the Water: How African Americans Got Back into the Pool." National History Day is a non-profit organization in College Park that operates an annual project-based contest for students in grades 6 through 12 across the country. Bryn Mawr middle school students participate each year.



Abigail Giroux has been participating in the National History Day competition since 6th grade. Photo courtesy of Bryn Mawr

Giroux has been creating documentaries for Maryland History Day, the statewide qualifying event, and National History Day since she was in 6th grade. Her topics have included female telephone operators during war times, the story about the use of atomic bombs in World War II and the postal strike of 1970. She was inspired to start making films, "because no one believed that I could," she says.

Her films have qualified for nationals every year she's participated in the National History Day program. All Bryn Mawr 7th and 8th grade students participate in National History Day every year, culminating in a presentation on campus that includes poster boards and the opportunity for family and friends to see all their hard work. Middle school history teacher Dr. Matthew Hetrick leads the program and encouraged Giroux to participate in her 6th grade year—a year earlier than is required at Bryn Mawr.

As Hetrick says, National History Day is an opportunity for 7th and 8th graders to pursue a topic they are interested in or to which they have a personal connection. "In this day, it is more important than ever for students to learn how to research, find reliable information and be able to support their ideas, all of which they learn through National History Day," he says.

Giroux's win this year in the Senior Division Individual Documentary Film category means she was also named a National Endowment for the Humanities Scholar and received the Next Generation Angels Award, the Library of Congress Ken Burns Prize for Film and the Anne Harrington Award.

As a part of her Next Generation Angels Award, Giroux had a Zoom mentorship session with acclaimed documentary director Ken Burns. During her session, Burns discussed his career as a documentarian as well as his method of planning his work. "One thing that was interesting to me was that Mr. Burns has years of filmmaking work already mapped out ahead of him. He has endless stories but only so much time so he commits to those projects that are the most meaningful to him," Giroux says.

Her award-winning film has earned a place in the Library of Congress. And Giroux was one of only three students to be awarded a full scholarship to the National History Academy summer program.

"I am proud of how far I have come since 6th grade," Giroux explains, "I have learned how to tell a story about something that is important to me."

When deciding on her research focus for National History Day each year, Giroux carefully selects her topics knowing that she will need extensive archival materials in addition to interviews, high-resolution images, audio recordings and historical film recordings. For this year's film, she sought help finding the necessary material, reaching out to local libraries and AFRO News, which includes the newspaper, *The AFRO*. Giroux also interviewed Eva Scott, the first Black woman to work as a lifeguard in Baltimore City's Druid Hill Park Pool.

Following extensive research, Giroux writes an outline and script. "My first script usually has more than 6,000 words," she explains, "I cut it down to about 1,200 words for a 10-minute film."

Her favorite part of the process is editing the footage together with audio, her interview and the archival materials.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



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School News from RPEMS

By April Newton

It's just over halfway through the school year at Roland Park Elementary Middle School (RPEMS) and students are going full steam ahead with learning, community service and activities.

Students in Pre-K through 5th grade collected canned goods and donated them to a local food bank, while middle school students gathered hygiene products and warm clothing. The donations were shared with a Love and Cornbread, a grassroots Baltimore organization serving people in need. Showing love for each other, the community made donations to support one of the school's families who lost their home and possessions in a fire in January.

The boys and girls basketball teams each had an incredible season, winning all of their games. Athletes in a variety of sports are learning to play games, perfecting their skills and getting awesome teamwork experience.

In February, students engaged with a variety of learning and culture opportunities for Black History Month, including their own hugely popular celebration with dancing, singing, poetry and other performances.



Plans are underway for RPEMS' participation in the Baltimore Running Festival, RPAF's biggest fundraiser. Photo courtesy of RPAF

The arts are alive at RPEMS, with multiple music performances in December. In January, the elementary school play, *Bedtime Stories (As Told by Our Dad) (Who Messed Them Up)*, was a hit. Students in 7th and 8th grade participated in the citywide

Shakespeare Festival on March 6, performing scenes from *The Tempest*. Middle school actors are also rehearsing *Moana* for performances in May.

The RPEMS PTA and school staff are hosting a first-ever Wellness Fair on April 11 at the school, from 3 to 6 pm. The fair will focus on physical health, mental health, spiritual well-being, and nutrition and healthy eating. If any local vendors or professionals are interested in participating, please email RPEMSPTAWellness@gmail.com by March 8.

The Roland Park Annual Fund (RPAF) supports projects, field trips, and supply purchases for students and teachers throughout the year. Most of the money RPAF distributes is raised as part of the annual Baltimore Running Festival fundraiser. The 2024 fundraiser planning is underway and organizers are on the hunt for businesses and individuals interested in sponsoring the team with donations of \$500 or more. Sponsors will get their business name and logo on the team shirts, which are worn all over town for years. Email board@rolandparkannualfund.org for more information about sponsorships or making a donation to RPAF to support the school community.

RPAF is looking for some new parent board members. All members of the school community are welcome and those with professional experience in event planning, accounting, donor relations and fundraising will fill some important gaps in the current board's experience. ❖

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

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Lights, Camera, Action: Inside Boys' Latin's Thriving Video Production Program

By Joyce Barnett

After almost two centuries of all-boys education, Boys' Latin School of Maryland knows the value of hands-on learning. Only in its second year, the video production program provides exactly that. As digital media director and videographer Steven Penczek explains, "Students will learn theory, but will be hands-on with the equipment almost immediately." Today's ever-increasing video presence is constantly evolving, creating a myriad of job opportunities, and Penczek is prepared to give his students a glimpse of the fields available to them.

Penczek, who holds a BA in Communications from Salisbury University, came to Boys' Latin with more than 20 years of experience in the industry, 14 of them with the Mid-Atlantic Sports Network. He offers basic and advanced video production classes designed to teach students the basics of how to use a camera and various editing programs, as well as advanced techniques. In the process, they become content creators and contributors for Boys' Latin TV (BLTV) and Boys' Latin Sports Network. From conducting an interview to filming the kindergarten class making gingerbread houses to live-streaming a basketball game, the 39 boys currently enrolled are active participants in every class.

Dedicated space in the school's new Gore Hall is a video production studio where students can build sets, conduct interviews and stream live online. But the entire campus becomes a set and everyone on it is a player for each episode of "On the Lake," a monthly production that features interviews with faculty and students, a sports wrap-up and a wide-ranging general view of daily life at Boys' Latin. It requires producers, editors, directors and on-air talent. Marcus Acevedo, a senior, has filled many of those roles. "This year, I am lucky to be a part of [Penczek's] advanced video production class. My classmates and I do more of the heavy lifting for the show because we are more experienced, but Mr. P reviews all the decisions and makes the final edits. Overall, I am very grateful to be a part of the video production program, and I am glad to have Mr. P as my teacher," he says. Acevedo adds that Penczek has done a great job of building the video production program.

Senior Will Herling talks about his experience. "Mr. Penczek's video production class is one of my favorite classes that I have taken during my high school career. It has not only taught me basic editing and production skills, but has allowed me to tap into creativity that I didn't even know I had. It has also given me the opportunity to experience what a career in the production industry would look like through the making of our own show, BLTV."



Boys' Latin offers basic and advanced video production classes to upper school students. Photo courtesy of Boys' Latin

The program, while still in its infancy, is a firmly established part of the curriculum with development and growth planned for each year. As it grows, so will its productions and opportunities for learning. ❖

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

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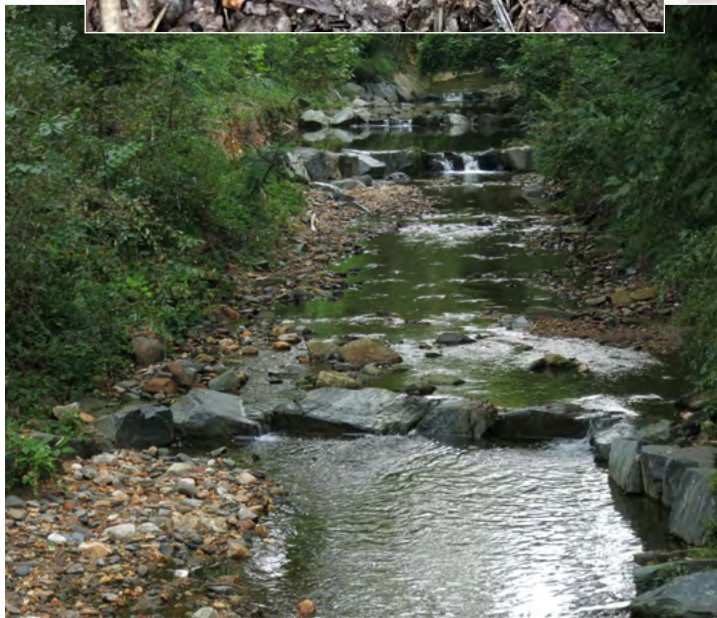


Photo Essay: Finding Natural Treasures Along the Stony Run

By Amy Johanson

A surprising array of species crawl, swim and fly through the various habitats along the Stony Run. Nature lovers have spotted tiny macroinvertebrates morphing into caddisflies and damselflies; scores of creek chub and blacknose dace; and more than 150 species of migrating, breeding and resident birds—inquisitive barred owls, sweet wrens, colorful yellowthroats, warblers and orioles.

Many scientists—trained and volunteer—use apps like eBird (ebird.org) and iNaturalist (inaturalist.org) to record and share their observations. A fun way to dip your toe into citizen science is the City Nature Challenge—a collaborative effort by people from cities all over the world to use iNaturalist to identify as many wildlife species as possible over a four-day period. The regional coordinator for the Baltimore City Nature Challenge, happening April 26 to 29, is the National Aquarium. No experience or special knowledge is necessary! Participants will use iNaturalist

to record species, and all observations made anywhere throughout the region will automatically be counted toward Baltimore's totals. For more information, visit aqua.org.

Keep an eye out for more citizen science activities and news from Friends of Stony Run at stonyrun.org or by following us on Facebook.



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Park Camps Offer Dynamic Summer Experiences

Think summer! The Park School of Baltimore is excited to offer an expansive set of camp experiences for students ages 3.5 to 15. Park Camps runs from June 11 to July 26 in a wide range of disciplines, using our beautiful 100-acre campus as the playground and inspiration for hands-on learning.

What distinguishes Park Camps? The people. Nearly all of our lead instructors, counselors and lifeguards are Park faculty members or employees, current Park students, young alumni, or recent college graduates who are aspiring educators. At Park Camps, the instructors and counselors have as much fun as the campers, leading to an environment where all campers are inspired to develop their passions and try new things.

The center of the program is our day camp for Cubs (ages 3.5 to 5), Bears (ages 6 to 7) and Bruins (ages 8 to 10). The day camp includes specialty workshops in the visual arts, music, athletics and outdoors, along with a daily trip to the pool. This year, campers will also get to participate in team-building activities on our challenge course. One of the core values of Park Camps is choice, as campers have ample time within their dens to choose between indoor and outdoor activities that align with their interests.



Park Camps instructors and counselors have as much fun as the campers. Photo courtesy of Park

This summer, Park Camps is excited to launch two new programs, the first of which provides families with something they often need: camp that starts the first day after school ends! From June 11 to 14 and June 17 to 21, we have you covered with School's Out Sports Camp, which showcases Park's robust athletics and physical education programs. The camp is for both recreational and competitive athletes, as they will be grouped by both age and interest to ensure that the coaches can tailor the experience to each specific group. Each day, campers will rotate through indoor sports (basketball and volleyball), outdoor sports (soccer and lacrosse), swimming (instruction and free swim), the challenge course, and indoor games. This camp is a great way to get active in the first weeks of summer and see how Park's sports programs meet the needs of a wide range of athletes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

GET TO KNOW THE PARK SCHOOL

PRE-K — GRADE 12 PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION

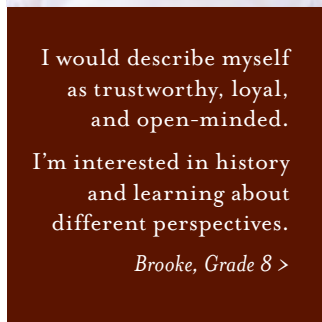


The Park School of Baltimore is a Pre-K through Grade 12 community with the mission of supporting young people in becoming confident questioners and responsible citizens of the world. www.parkschool.net



I love work time and choosing what to work on — like drawing in my journal and writing.

< Harrison, Kindergarten



I would describe myself as trustworthy, loyal, and open-minded.

I'm interested in history and learning about different perspectives.

Brooke, Grade 8 >



I am an engineer. The process of designing and building is so exciting. Along with it comes real understanding and real solutions.

< Pablo, Grade 11

KidStock Spring Concert Series : A Celebration of Music, Community and Spring!

The Waldorf School of Baltimore is excited to present the KidStock Spring Concert Series, a musical treat for families that will feature Grammy Award-winning family artists and opening acts by local talents such as the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO), Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestras (BSYO) and Peabody Youth Guitar Ensemble.

Dates: April 13, 21 and 28, 12-3 pm

Venue: Waldorf School of Baltimore, 4801 Tamarind Rd.

Advanced Sale Tickets: \$5 per guest or \$12 per guest for access to all three concerts, available at waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org

Day-Of Tickets: \$7 per guest, available at the venue

Grammy Award-Winning Lineup

- April 13: **Sonia De Los Santos** brings a fusion of Latin American rhythms and North American folk traditions. De Los Santos was nominated for a Latin Grammy® and is recognized by *Billboard*. BSYO opening.
- April 21: **Fyüth** is a Grammy-nominated musician and social justice artist known for using hip-hop, spoken word and



Photos courtesy of Waldorf

visual storytelling. BSO Musicians opening (sponsored by the Baltimore Symphony Musicians Foundation).

- April 28: **Dan and Claudia Zanes**, Grammy award winners, offer modern, all-ages folk music. Peabody Youth Ensemble opening.



Opening Acts: A Local Showcase

Each concert will open with acts from the renowned BSO, the talented musicians of the BSYO and the Peabody Youth Ensemble, showcasing the depth of musical talent in the Baltimore community.

Crafts, Activities and Food

Families can participate in hands-on seasonal crafts and activities, kickstart their gardens with a native plant sale from Blue Water Baltimore, embark on a scavenger hunt through the school's woodland trails, engage in outdoor classrooms and savor delicious food from thoughtfully selected vendors. ❖

Committed to fostering a love for music and community engagement, the Waldorf School of Baltimore, located at 4801 Tamarind Road, welcomes everyone to join this musical celebration. For more information, visit waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org or email communications@twsb.org.

PARK SCHOOL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Finally, we are introducing specialty camps for students ages 10 to 13, aging up the day camp model to meet the needs of older campers. The "hands on, minds on" camps provide project-based experiences in a wide range of disciplines, ensuring that campers can fully immerse themselves in topics that interest them. Park Camps offer three different morning and afternoon options each week, and campers can choose their sessions based on their passions and interests. For example, a camper might select Engineer Design Challenge in the morning and Mission in the Kitchen (Breakfast Favorites) in the afternoon, pairing two different experiences that add up to a great day. This new program is fully staffed by Park faculty, and also includes a daily trip to the pool and challenge course.

Come join us at Park Camps this summer! Registration is open and includes discounts for siblings and new campers. ❖

Founded in 1912, The Park School of Baltimore (parkschool.net) is an independent, gender-inclusive, non-sectarian, progressive Pre-K through 12 school located on a 100-acre campus minutes from the city. For more information on Park Camps, email parkcamps@parkschool.net or visit parkcamps.com.

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learn more

WALDORF SCHOOL OF BALTIMORE

Beyond the Pages: Q&A with Author Michael McQuestion

Let Yourself be Led: A Peace Corps Odyssey, was published by Peace Corps Writers in November. In it, Mike McQuestion details his two-year experience as a Peace Corps volunteer (PCV) in the Philippines in the mid-1970s, including the role he played in the then-developing community-based primary health care movement.

After earning his B.S. from the University of Notre Dame, McQuestion served in the Philippines for three years, returning to the U.S. to earn a Masters in Public Health from Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He helped launch the PolioPlus program for the Rotary Foundation, where he served as the program's global supervisor from 1986 to 1991. He then taught at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and directed the Sustainable Immunization Financing Program at the Sabin Vaccine Institute. He currently works as a scientific review officer for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). McQuestion and his wife, Liliana Manfredi, are longtime Roland Parkers, having moved to the neighborhood in 2001 for the Hopkins teaching position.

RPN: Why did you use the name Leo McLatchy rather than your own in the memoir?

MM: The main editor, Kate Weigele, advised me to use



McQuestion was part of PCV Group No. 81. Photo courtesy of McQuestion

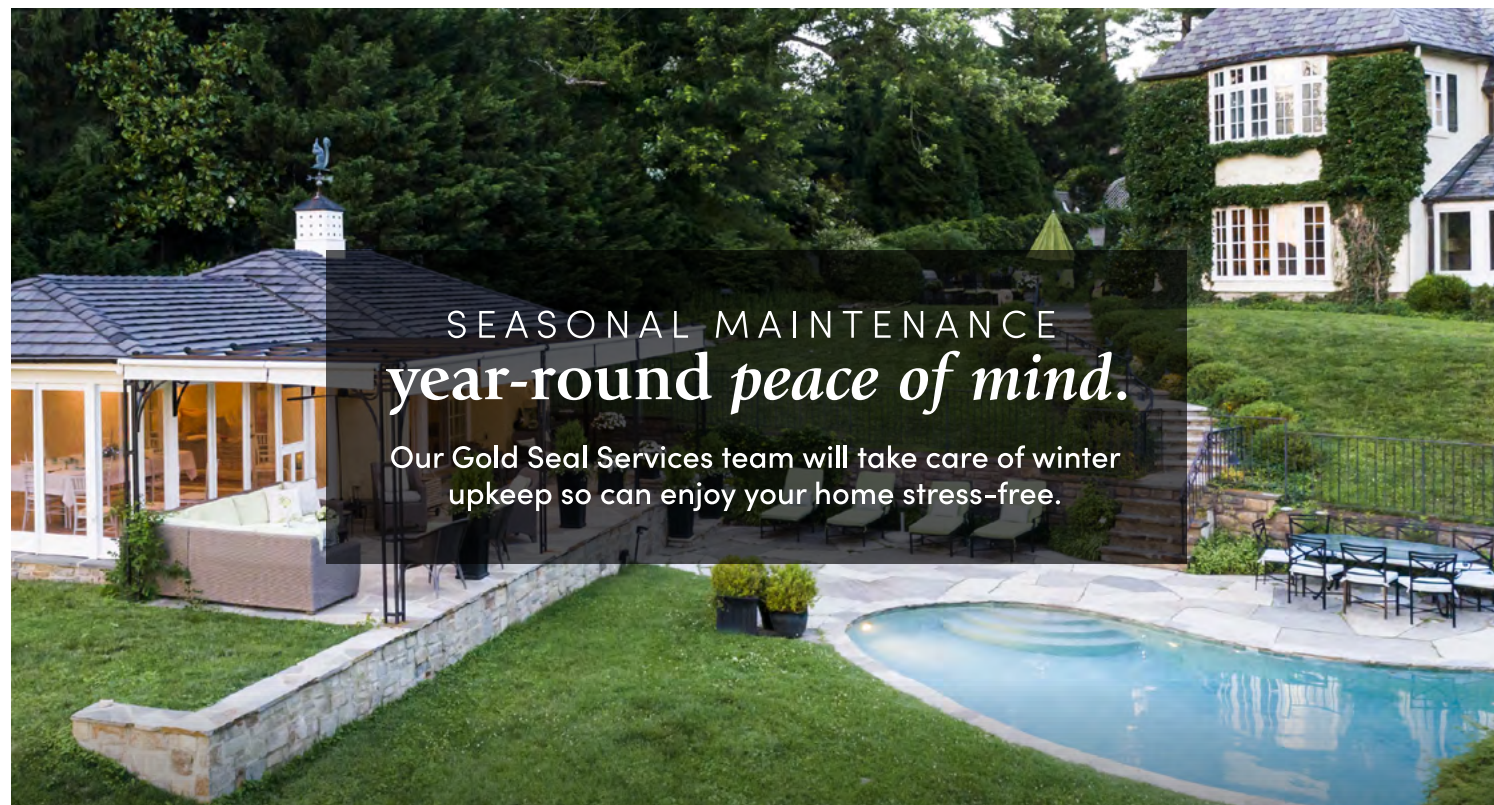
pseudonyms. Some of the characters are still living. I didn't want to track them all down to seek their permission to use their real names. As for me, well, no one should toot their own horn, right?

RPN: Why write the memoir now, after all these years?

MM: A couple of years ago, a West Coast American financier heard that I had photos of the T'boli tribe [natives of South Cotabato in southern Mindanao in the Philippines], where I spent my third year. I promised to digitize them. In the process, I reconnected with the Jamindan-era photos as well. So that made me think, I've also got those journals piled up on my bookshelf—the stories that go with the photos. That's when I started to write *Let Yourself Be Led*.

RPN: Did you imagine at the time that your journal might be the foundation for a book?

MM: The journal consists of about 500 to 700 handwritten



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pages. Until recently, I had not thought of making it into a book. When you read it, you see it consists mainly of juvenile banalities, typical of a self-preoccupied 23-year-old (only we Americans have such prolonged adolescences). Going back through it, producing the book, has given me a sense of closure. It was, in fact, therapeutic to get all of that out into the daylight.

RPN: Your descriptions are lovely—almost poetic. Can you explain your affection for the Philippine people and countryside?

MM: There is some florid prose in the book. But I consciously tried to limit it. I wanted to use plain language, thinking of the Filipinos whom I want to read it. English is their second language. What is not so much in the book are the darkest scenes, many of which are in the journal. Mood swings. Depression. Bouts of self-destruction. Some of this is in the book but not the full dosage. I believe every PCV has a similarly manic-depressive experience, whatever the host country. Prospective PCVs were my second intended audience, after the Filipinos.



One adventure included a trip to Boracay Island in the Western Visayas region. His book makes clear McQuestion's affection and respect for the Filipino people. Photos courtesy of McQuestion



later the Rotary Foundation, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School and Sabin Vaccine Institute. I worked alongside USAID folks in all those jobs. On some projects, I was under their direction, so to speak, but those were rare. Only now, as an NIH scientific review officer, am I actually working for

Uncle Sam in the health space. (But nothing international, only domestic research.)

RPN: Have you stayed in touch with any of the people you came to know during your time in Jamindan? How has the work in which you played a role continued?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

“The boat followed the Panay coastline with its coconut-draped slopes rising to cloud-shrouded peaks, its bow slicing cleanly through the glassine water. They passed fishing villages, each with tidy rows of bancas [small boats] lined up on the beach. . . As they neared, they saw the dazzling white beaches of Boracay, stretching like twisted white ribbons along the island’s perimeter.”

RPN: The lesson in your memoir is in the title, *Let Yourself Be Led*. Can you explain how you’ve applied that thinking over the years since your experience as a PCV?

MM: The line refers to a particular stream of Catholic theology that kind of carried me through Notre Dame and beyond. Fr. John Dunne is the key writer and my biggest influence. He used to say, “search not for certainty but understanding. Cross through life’s boundary situations by letting yourself be led (by God).” It worked for me [then] and still does.

RPN: Did you, in fact, “go back [to the States], find the kitchen where they do the cooking, and try to influence what my country dishes out to other countries”?

MM: A qualified “yes.” I was recruited twice by [the U.S.] State Department and U.S. [Agency for International Development (USAID)], but turned down the offers both times. After the Peace Corps, I joined the World Health Organization (WHO),



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Lessons Beyond the Classroom from a Teacher-Coach-Advisor

The life of a teacher often brings about “full circle” moments. Shortly before high school graduation, Ned Emala (2013) worked with a general contractor for his senior encounter experience. A decade later, as a Gilman upper school teacher, coach and advisor, Emala demonstrated patching drywall for students in his advisory.

When the advisory schedule changed this school year—allowing advisory groups to meet weekly instead of more sporadically—Emala thought about how he might use the additional time with his students. “It’s a good opportunity to check in with the boys on how they are doing academically and socially,” he says. “But then I started thinking about how to make the time more meaningful.”

When Emala was a Gilman student, he loved spending time in Design & Woodworking classes. His first job, before returning to the school in 2019, was in construction and engineering. “I’ve always been a fan of tinkering around. So I tried to manifest that into something fun for the boys.”

But Emala’s lessons haven’t been limited to “tinkering around” house-repair projects. In the fall of 2023, in addition to the drywall demo, Emala covered how a car engine works, how to



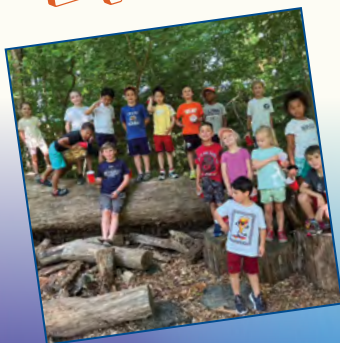
Emala demonstrates his construction skills in an unexpected lesson for his advisory students.
Photo: Steve Ruark

change a tire, and how to understand and create architectural blueprints.

Emala keeps a running list of ideas to explore with his advisory and students also submit requests. They have asked about insurance, centralized banking systems, mortgages and more. He also has plans to bring in old electronics that the younger generation may not have ever seen or even heard of, like a VCR and a rotary phone. “I want them to learn without realizing they are learning,” he says. Some boys may also end up teaching without realizing they are teaching, having expressed interest in taking turns to lead the instruction.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT GILMAN SUMMER!



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For more info and to register, visit
gilman.edu/gilmansummer.



Avocado and Hummus Toast

Miss Shirley's Café

Hummus Spread

Yields about 1.5 pints, about 6 to 8 servings

Ingredients

32 oz. can garbanzo beans, drained	1/4 tsp. cumin
1 T. fresh garlic, peeled and chopped	1/4 tsp. paprika
2 oz. fresh lemon juice	Pinch of cayenne pepper
4 oz. olive oil	1 oz. water
	1 tsp. salt

Drain beans well. In a food processor or blender, rough chop beans and garlic for about a minute. Add cumin, cayenne, salt, paprika and lemon juice, and blend for 1 more minute, scraping down the sides. Add olive oil and water, and blend until smooth. You may need to add more water if it is too thick, but be careful not to make it too runny! Check the salt levels, adding more if necessary. Label, date and refrigerate.

GILMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Traditionally, the advisor role at Gilman has been strongly tied to helping students navigate academic and personal struggles; boys often meet with their advisors to discuss challenges they may be having in class, at home or with friends. "It is a crucial role but it can be difficult," Emala says. "You know these boys, and you see them going through tough stuff."

He notes that, while sometimes serious conversations about assignments, time management and friendship troubles are necessary, "It's nice to have a conversation outside that realm." Emala goes on to say, "That kind of moment—those incidental touch points—it's really impactful."

Seeing a teacher engage in activities other than administering tests and grading papers also allows students to "see a little bit of who I am and that I'm a real person," Emala says. "It's nice to show who you are outside of academics and sports."

And it's nice for the boys too. "Although I always appreciated Mr. Emala as an advisor, I've now garnered immense respect for him as a teacher," says Noah Peters (2024). "Mr. Emala's breadth of knowledge, which stems from a willingness to always learn, is truly impressive."

You can read the full version of this article at gilman.edu/lessons. ❖

Gilman School (gilman.edu) is a Pre-K 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.



Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Café

Avocado and Hummus Toast

Ingredients

6-8 slices thick multigrain bread	1 pint tri-colored cherry tomatoes
4-6 whole ripe avocados	Olive oil
Hummus spread	Bunch of chives, chopped

Toast one slice of multigrain bread. Spread hummus on one half of toast on a diagonal. Spread mashed avocado on the other half on diagonal. Top with tri-colored cherry tomato halves. Drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with chopped chives. Serve immediately. ❖

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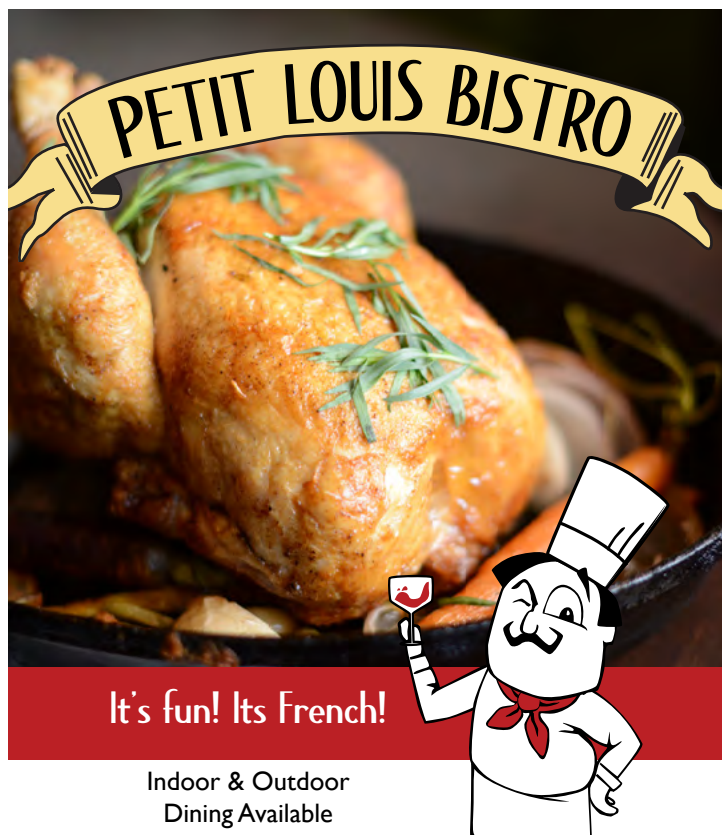
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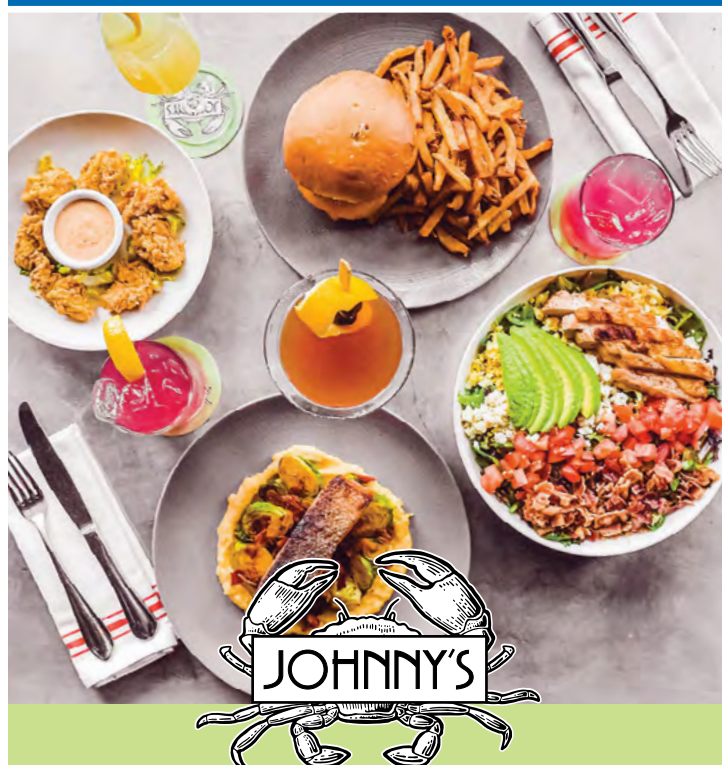


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MCQUESTION Q&A

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21



Photo courtesy of McQuestion

MM: I am still in touch with several of the Jamindan characters in the book...I'm sending my best bud Nonoy's granddaughter to university in Manila. I've been back to visit Jamindan twice. The book is now circulating there and in Capiz, in Roxas City. I plan to go again this year.

There were several pilot projects like mine happening around the country in the mid-'70s up into the '80s. My mentor, Gil V., the doctor we PCVs used in Capiz, got me interested in trying one such project in Jamindan. I avidly accepted the challenge. When I left Jamindan, I was convinced I had essentially failed. I doubted any *barangay* [village] health workers (BHWs) would keep active after I'd left. The health system had rejected them. They were volunteers, mostly young people looking for career paths. The USAID-funded PUSH Project, however, brought new American foreign aid funding to expand my little Jamindan project islandwide. It was successfully scaled up. There were at least 100 BHWs in the four provinces of Panay Island. But instead of volunteers, the second-generation BHWs were paid salaries, which led to lots of petty nepotism, etc. The USAID evaluation was pretty negative. But then the Philippine government changed. Corazon Aquino took over. Hers was a progressive administration. They scaled up BHWs nationwide. They are now working all over the country, particularly in poor, rural areas like Jamindan. The WHO and the Philippine government consider this nationwide program a big success. The planners who drew up that program took pains to document the various pilot projects that had come before, including the Jamindan project.

RPN: *Many in the neighborhood will remember that you was the driving force behind the community's four ciclovías—celebratory events during which Roland Avenue and University Parkway were temporarily closed to cars for cyclists and pedestrians—the first of which was held in 2009. I hope to see ciclovías back on the calendar in Roland Park and beyond...perhaps as part of the celebration for the opening of Hillside Park?*

MM: A good idea never dies, someone once said. ❖

To purchase *Let Yourself Be Led* and support Peace Corps Worldwide, visit peacecorpsworldwide.org/new-books-by-peace-corps-writers-november-december-2023 and click on the book's bolded title. The link will take you to Amazon and a small remittance from your purchase will help support the organization and the annual Peace Corps Writers awards.

Grilled Boneless Leg of Lamb with Lemon Herb Sauce

Eddie's of Roland Park

The perfect entrée for spring holidays and easy entertaining
Preparation time: 8.5 hours. Cook time: 25 minutes. Serves 8.

Ingredients

1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil	Lemon Herb Sauce
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice	2 cups fresh parsley
4 cloves garlic, minced	1/4 cup fresh oregano
2 T. Dijon mustard	2 cloves garlic, minced
1 T. dried oregano	juice of 1 lemon
1 tsp. dried rosemary	1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
2 tsp. coarse kosher salt	1/2 tsp. coarse kosher salt
1 tsp. fresh ground black pepper	
4-5 lb. butterflied boneless leg of lamb, netting removed	

Combine the first eight ingredients in a resealable plastic bag. Spread the lamb out so that it is not rolled up. Add the lamb to the bag and seal, turning the bag to coat the meat. Put the bag in a shallow baking pan and refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight.

Prepare lemon herb sauce by blending all ingredients in a food processor until they are the consistency of a thin pesto. Add more oil if necessary. Refrigerate until ready to use. Serve the sauce at room temperature.

Bring the lamb to room temperature before grilling. Prepare the grill for cooking over direct coals, with medium-hot charcoal.

BRYN MAWR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

"My adventures with National History Day always started by finding a thread and pulling on it to see where it would take me," Giroux says. To students considering participating in Maryland History Day, she suggests picking topics of genuine interest. "I would tell other students to pick their topic fearlessly. Don't back away from an unusual topic. Remember, someone has to be the first, so why not you?"

This year, Giroux will be mentoring Bryn Mawr students as well as volunteering to give feedback to Maryland History Day winners as they advance to National History Day. "In the past, I have been the one receiving those notes and trying to improve my project and now I am on the other side." ❖

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



Photo courtesy of Eddie's of Roland Park

Remove the lamb from the marinade and pat dry to avoid flare-ups on the grill. Place the lamb on a well-oiled grill rack. Grill for 7 minutes on each side, until the lamb reaches an internal temperature of 130 degrees for medium rare. Allow to rest for 10 minutes before carving. Serve with the lemon herb sauce on the side.

Pair with Domaine de Beurenard Côtes du Rhone. ❖

Eddie's Tip: Make delicious pita sandwiches using the leftover lamb, topped with feta, tomatoes, onion and Tzatziki sauce.

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The Book Nook

By Greg Fromme, Branch Manager, Roland Park Branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library

Welcome to The Book Nook! Please read on for a list of programs coming up at the Roland Park branch, as well as reading recommendations from the library staff.

Programming at the Pratt

(details at calendar.prattlibrary.org)

For Kids

- Wednesdays at 10:30 am. **Baby & Toddler Storytime.** Stories, movement, play and songs for babies in arms and toddlers with a favorite adult. Playtime follows. All abilities welcome. Groups of five or more must call 410-396-6099 to register.
- Thursdays at 10:30 am. **Family Storytime.** Stories, movement, songs and our most fun activities. Come ready to move, laugh, and learn together. For families with children ages 2 to 5. All abilities welcome.
- Mar. 6, 3 pm. **Cupcake Liner Crabs.** Visit the Roland Park branch and make a fun crab craft in honor of the Read to Reef Book Club.
- Mar. 20, 1 pm. **Sunflower Papercraft.** Bring in spring by making a sunflower paper craft. All supplies provided.

- Apr. 8, 3 pm. **Toilet Paper Roll Bumblebees.** What's the buzz? Visit the Roland Park Branch and make your own toilet paper bumblebee.
- Apr. 18, 11 am. **Mary Had a Little Plan Craft.** Mary had a little lamb, and now you can create your own little lamb out of cotton balls as part of a storytime craft. This program is part of the Imagination Celebration (prattlibrary.org/imagination-celebration), celebrating children's creativity with special events, arts and crafts and more throughout the month.

For Teens

- Mar. 5, 3 pm. **Button Making.** Need an afterschool brain break? Visit the Roland Park branch and design your own buttons.
- Mar. 6, 3 pm. **Cactus Suncatchers.** Get ready for spring with a customizable suncatcher.
- Mar. 13, 3 pm. **Cinema Craft.** Tired from a long day of school? Stop by for a movie and themed craft.
- Mar. 19, 3 pm. **Springtime Slime.** Spring is in the air. Visit the Roland Park branch to create a special spring-themed slime.
- Apr. 3, 3 pm. **Anime Club.** Spring break might be over, but that doesn't mean the fun has to stop. Join fellow tweens and teens for a movie, craft and snack.



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- Apr. 10, 3 pm. **Make Your Own Stress Ball:** Spring break might be over, but the school year is almost over too and life is getting stressful. Beat the end-of-school-year blues by making a stress ball at the Roland Park branch.
- Apr. 17, 3 pm. **Choose Your Own Adventure Financial Literacy Game.** Have you ever wanted to produce a movie? Play our financial literacy game, where you will learn how to handle celebrity meltdowns, location nightmares and media mishaps, all while keeping your finances in check. If you have your own device (tablet, laptop, etc.) feel free to bring it along.
- Apr. 24, 3 pm. **Earth Day: Succulent Teapot Planters.** Earth Day is an annual celebration that honors the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations. In celebration, join fellow teens in making a teapot planter and take home your own succulent.

For Adults

- Mar. 13, 11:30 am. **Library Tech: Research Databases.** Learn how to search articles and documents in some of Pratt's many research databases. Some databases require a library card, which is available to anybody who lives in Maryland. Most are also available online from home, though some are only available in a Pratt library. Presented in partnership with the Keswick Wise & Well Center for Healthy Living

(choosekeswick.org/outreach/wise-and-well). Call 410-662-4243 to register.

- Apr. 22, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: *The Maniac*** by Benjamin Labatut. Read and discuss the novel, which tells a story centered around one of the great geniuses of the modern age, the Hungarian polymath John von Neumann, tracing the uncanny circuit of his mind deep into our own time's most haunting dilemmas.

All Pratt libraries will be closed Mar. 29 for Good Friday and May 27 for Memorial Day.

The following reading recommendations have been submitted by members of the Roland Park branch staff.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith (recommended by Abby Lyon, children's librarian). As a librarian, I have always been drawn to books about the power and impact of literature and libraries on fictional characters. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, first published in 1943, depicts the Nolan family in early 1900s tenement Brooklyn through the eyes of young Francie. She's an avid reader whose weekly trips to the neighborhood library fuel her imagination and her dreams for the future. This classic coming-of-age story is profoundly moving, deeply insightful and heartbreakingly honest as it portrays the



CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

WAREHOUSE CINEMAS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

occasional "oldie", movies that attract college students, and those you can enjoy with popcorn and a beer.

Speaking of beer, there are a lot to choose from, along with a full cocktail bar and food selections.

Warehouse, importantly, is locally owned and staffed, and the team reflects the energy of the owners—they are friendly, affable and willing to serve. This year, Warehouse will be doing a host of things to help folks in Baltimore, including giving back with programming for children, nonprofits and other community groups.

We all live in Roland Park because we enjoy the community. We walk, we shop, we create and we know our neighbors. Where there is a neighborhood business to patronize, we rally. I love the effort the folks are making at Warehouse and hope you support them in the future.

Here are just a couple of special programs Warehouse offers: College Night (with ID); VIP Tuesdays, when movies are only \$7 all day; Tappy Wednesdays, when tap beer is 50 percent off; and the Kickback Rewards Club, with which you can earn points you can use to buy tickets, food, beverages and Warehouse merchandise.

If you have any questions about Warehouse, the marketing director is more than happy to answer them, particularly if you are looking to plan a group event. ❖

For more information on Warehouse Cinemas, including the current movie lineup and showtimes, food and drink menus, and upcoming events, visit rotunda.warehousecinemas.com

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BOOK NOOK

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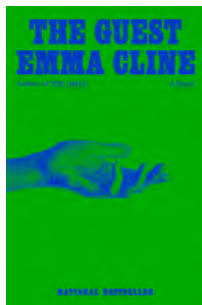
strengths and failings of the Nolans. For more than 80 years, this novel has retained its relevance and universality; it will become appreciated and beloved whether as a first-time read, a book club selection or a cherished rereading experience.

In the Distance by Hernan Diaz (recommended by Gregory Fromme, branch manager). *In the Distance* is a “western” of sorts that describes the epic and tortuous journey of Hakan Soderstrom, a young Swedish immigrant who is separated from his brother after embarking on a journey across the Atlantic to his destination of New York City. Hakan ends up in the port of Rio de Janeiro and, after sailing around the treacherous waters of Cape Horn, finally arrives in San Francisco during the time of the gold rush and westward expansion in the U.S. of the mid 19th century. With no experience outside his

small farming community in Sweden and with no understanding of English, Hakan’s only thoughts are with making the overland trip to New York to reunite with his brother. The encounters he has on his journey help illustrate the story of “manifest destiny” in the U.S. during the 1800s, touching on every aspect of the human experience—greed, cruelty, depravity, compassion, love etc.—in a story that is epic in scope and both meditative



and contemplative. This is also a compelling tale of one man’s journey of self discovery. Diaz writes with clarity and precision in this highly recommended novel.



The Guest by Emma Cline (recommended by Gregory Fromme, branch manager).

The Guest is the compelling and propulsive story of Alex, a young woman who bounces as a “guest” from one vacation home to another one summer in an affluent beach community on Long Island. The novel opens with Alex taking up residence in Simon’s (her much older boyfriend) luxurious oceanfront home. When Simon

asks Alex to pack up and leave after an incident at a party, she hatches a plan to remain on Long Island for a week and make a triumphant return to her erstwhile boyfriend on Labor Day, believing that he will take her back at a party he will be hosting. In the meantime, Alex manipulates and insinuates her way into the lives of various strangers in order to keep a roof over her head while marking time ahead of Simon’s party. Alex is the ultimate anti-hero and she gives little reason for readers to root for her. But along her journey she exposes the underside of the affluent society that she infiltrates. The narrative itself is compelling, leading the reader breathlessly along to its climax. ❖



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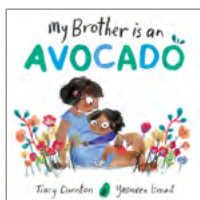
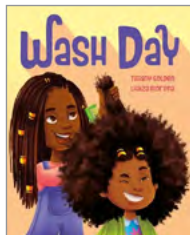


KidLit Picks

The Ivy Bookshop

Picture Books (Age 3-6)

Wash Day by Tiffany Golden and Lhaiza Morena. Black culture revolves around hair, which represents identity, independence, resistance and artistic expression. Because it is deeply ingrained in Black culture, it has a strong American historical foundation. This picture book not only provides gentle direction but also frames the all-day event as an act of self-care. It also demystifies and educates others about natural hair care procedures, which are stigmatized and frequently misunderstood.



My Brother is an Avocado by Tracy Darnton and Yasmeen Ismail. This is the perfect picture book for any child in an expecting family. Darnton explores the idea of comparing pregnancy growth to the sizes of food, using grapes, lemons and watermelons, with imaginative illustrations to explore the

process of becoming an older sibling. Excitement, adaptability to change and wariness are interwoven through its pages to express the varied emotions of sharing space with a new baby. This picture book uses helpful language and images, and is packed full of fun!

Escargot and the Search for Spring by Dashka Slater and Sydney Hanson. *Bonjour!* After a long winter spent indoors, Escargot can't wait to look outside for the first signs of spring. Will he find a new friend in the fluffy white bunny he meets along the way? From *New York Times* bestselling author Slater and former Pixar animator Hanson, *Escargot and the Search for Spring* is an irresistibly sweet and charming story about unlikely friendship, changing seasons-and springtime fun.



Early Readers (Ages 6-9)

To Catch a Thief by Martha Brockenbrough. Urchin Beach isn't the sort of place where bad things happen. The little seaside town is too lucky for that. But then one day, a thief steals the town's dragonfly staff, which is the

source of all its good fortune and the most important part of the upcoming Dragonfly Day Festival. Amelia MacGuffin, 11, is quiet and, unlike her four younger siblings, has no special talents. But she loves her town, where her family has lived forever. If Amelia doesn't find the staff, the Dragonfly Day Festival will be canceled and her family will lose everything—including the adorable stray dog with which they've fallen in love. Amelia wants to save the town. She wants to save the dog. She wants both, so much. But first, she has to catch a thief.

Starla Jean Cracks the Case by Elana K. Arnold. Have you ever walked a chicken on a leash? Well, chicken expert Starla Jean will let you know firsthand, it's not easy. But that doesn't stop her from taking her pet chicken, Opal Egg, and her baby sister, Willa, out on a stroll through the neighborhood. On their walk, they stumble

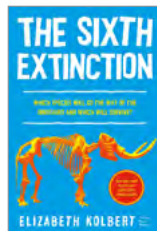


upon a mysterious bead. And then another! Before they know it, there's a conundrum on their hands, and it's up to Starla and her friends to figure out just who exactly is losing these beads!



Ways to Build Dreams by Renée Watson.

Middle school is just around the corner for Ryan Hart, which means it's time to start thinking about the future—and not just how to prank her brother, Ray! During Black History Month, Ryan learns more about her ancestors and local Black pioneers, and their hopes for the future. She wonders who she wants to be and what kind of person her family hopes she becomes. Drawing on the ambitions of those who came before her and her own goals, Ryan is determined to turn her dreams into reality.



Middle Readers (Ages 10-13)

The Sixth Extinction (young readers adaptation) by Elizabeth Kolbert. Kolbert explores how humans are altering life on Earth like no other species has before. An excellent way to promote more big-picture conversations with science-minded readers ages 8 to 12.

The Book of Why by Gianni Rodari and Joohee Yoon, translated by Antony Shugaar. Between 1955 and 1958, children across Italy sent in their questions to Rodari's newspaper column, which he answered with facts in the form of rhymes, short stories and poems. This new book collects and translates his answers for an English-speaking audience.

Barracoon (young readers adaptation) by Zora Neale Hurston and Ibram X. Kendi. Since Hurston was a mainstay of the Harlem Renaissance literary scene, I can assure you that you have heard of her in a high school literature class, most likely as part of the Black History Month subject. Her 1927 interviews with Oluale Kossola, sometimes known as Cudjoe Lewis, are the basis for her book. Lewis was the last person believed to have survived the Middle Passage. Even after two additional female survivors were found, he was still the only person known to have clear memories of life in Africa before being sold into slavery. ❖



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Calendar Highlights

The Baltimore Police Department Northern District 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.

March

- Mondays through April, 6:30-8 pm. **Nature Book Club**, Lake Roland Nature Center, 1000 Lakeside Dr. Adults only. Free, with registration by email to lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov. lakeroland.org
- Fridays through April, 9-10 am. **Friday Walks**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Adults only. Free, with registration by email to lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov.
- Mar. 2, 10 am-4 pm. **Family Safety Day**, Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301 York Rd. Families can learn about fire safety from a variety of vendors. Children can learn about first responder careers. Free museum admission. firemuseummd.org
- Mar. 2 and 3, 10 am-2 pm. **Maple Sugaring**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Learn the art of turning sap into syrup. All ages. \$4 for members, \$6 for non-members. Register by email: lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov.
- Mar. 2, 5 pm, **Lindsay Hameroff: Till There Was You (with Jean Meltzer)**, Bird in Hand Coffee & Books, 11 E. 33rd St. Hameroff's charming debut is a sweet (literally!) rom-com

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As we approach the spring season, Roland Park Baseball Leagues (RPBL) is thankful for our coaches, volunteers, sponsors, vendors and umpires. Above all, we are grateful for the families who make our league so successful in helping us achieve our goals of ensuring a positive, fun and safe way for kids of all ages and skill levels to enjoy baseball.

Visit rolandparkbaseball.com/program/70074/spring-registration to register for the spring rec program.

There is a sibling discount of \$25 per additional player for families with more than one player. Scholarships are available for those needing financial assistance.

Calling all coaches! RPBL runs on volunteers. Thank you to all RPBL coaches who have generously given their time. We'd love to have you. Visit rolandparkbaseball.com/program/70074/spring-registration to sign up as a coach/volunteer.

Spectacular sponsorships! RPBL offers some of the most affordable and effective sponsorships in the Baltimore area. Team sponsorships start at \$600 a season. Visit rolandparkbaseball.com/sponsors to make a meaningful marketing decision to drive your message home.

Batter up! Our spring recreational season runs from early March to mid-June. RPBL Picture Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, at Gilman School (5407 Roland Ave.). RPBL Opening Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, at Gilman School.

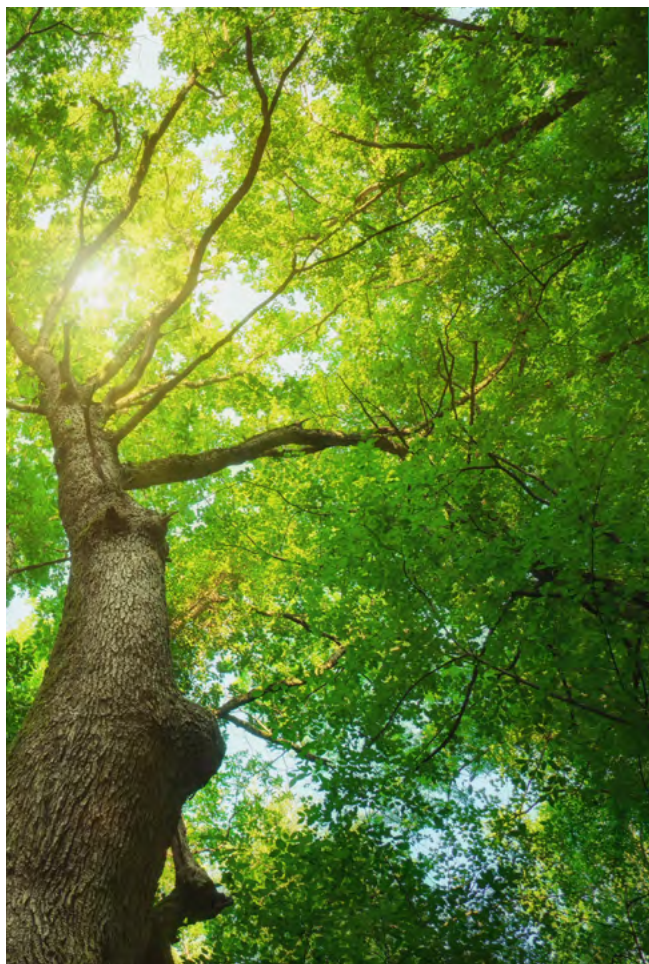
Questions? Feel free to reach out to rolandparkbaseball@gmail.com.

about an aspirational chef and a dive bar musician who is almost certainly songwriting about the chef's blueberry pancakes. Meltzer, author of *Kissing Kosher* and other novels, will join Hameroff in conversation. RSVP at theivybookshop.com

- Mar. 4, 10:30 am. **Spring Lecture: Three Centuries of Birds: 1500s-1800s**, Ladew Topiary Gardens, 3535 Jarrettsville Pike, Monkton. Take a glimpse into history as we learn how today's bird books evolved from their forerunners in the early days of printing and ornithology. Janet Millenson is an enthusiastic birdwatcher and previously served as president of the Maryland Ornithological Society. In-person: \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members (includes pastries, coffee and tea from the Ladew Café). Virtual: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Sign up for all five lectures and enjoy one free. ladewgardens.com
- Mar. 7, 11 am. **Mary Ann Jung: Margaret Brent and the Indians**, Woman's Club of Roland Park (TWCRP), 4500

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

HOUSES OF WORSHIP	PHONE	WEBSITE
Bolton Street Synagogue , 212 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-235-5354	boltonstreet.org
Cathedral of Mary Our Queen , 5200 N. Charles St.	410-464-4000	cathedralofmary.org
Cathedral of the Incarnation , 4 E. University Pkwy.	410-467-3750	incarnationbmore.org
Church of the Redeemer , 5603 N. Charles St.	410-435-7333	redeemberbaltimore.org
Congregation Beit Tikvah , 5802 Roland Ave	410-464-9402	beittikvah.org
First Christian Church , 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-1506	rolandparkcc.org
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Baltimore , 102 W. University 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	bmoremenno.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	stdavidsbaltimore.org
Second Presbyterian Church , 4200 St. Paul St.	410-467-4210	secondpresby.org
Stony Run Friends , 5116 N. Charles St.	443-703-2590	stonyrunfriends.org



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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

Roland Ave. Always entertaining, Jung returns to TWCRP to portray the formidable feminist and “Founding Mother” of Maryland, Margaret Brent, the first woman to demand the vote in America. Brent was educated and outspoken—unusual traits for women in the 1600s. She was also guardian to a Piscataway princess, so will talk about local Native American culture and the settlers’ interactions with indigenous people. RSVP to twcrp@comcast.net. twcrp.org

- Mar. 7, 1:15 pm. **Judge Stephen Sfekas: What If...?? Reimagining the World with Science Fiction**, TWCRP. A popular speaker at the club, Judge Sfekas returns with a fun and imaginative presentation suggesting possibilities of an astonishingly different world in which we could be living. RSVP to twcrp@comcast.net.
- Mar. 13, 6 pm, **Julia Ridley Smith: Sex Romp Gone Wrong: Stories** (with Katie Moulton), Bird in Hand Coffee & Books. In her witty, poignant new collection of short stories, Smith navigates the currents and eddies of desire, sex, love and relationships. Her stories beguile and delight readers while exploring the deep and often difficult ties of family, marriage and romantic love in modern life. Moulton, author of *Dead Dad Club: On Grief & Tom Petty*, will join Smith in conversation. RSVP at theivybookshop.com
- Mar. 14, 11 am. **Amy Cavanaugh: The Importance of the Maryland Art Place (MAP)**, TWCRP. MAP inspires and supports contemporary artists through its innovative programs, exhibits and educational opportunities. Executive Director Cavanaugh will share news about current working artists, MAP’s IMPACT public art projects and upcoming events. RSVP to twcrp@comcast.net.
- Mar. 14, 1:15 pm. **Dr. David Park Curry: Whistler, Some Old Curiosity Shops, Commerce, and the Art of Urban Change**, TWCRP. James Abbott Whistler was an acknowledged master and innovator of the late 19th century international art scene. Dr. Curry will take us on a deep dive into his masterpieces and illuminate the stories portrayed by Whistler of urban life in that period. RSVP to twcrp@comcast.net.
- Mar. 21, 10:30 am. **Spring Lecture: FunGal Eyes: How Foraging for Mushrooms Changed My Visions**, Ladew Topiary Gardens. Sarah Oktavec, Ladew’s former lead horticulturist and owner of Back to Eden Home Gardening, will show attendees the ways fungi can improve your life. In-person: \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members (includes pastries, coffee and tea from the Ladew Café). Virtual: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Sign up for all five lectures and enjoy one free. ladewgardens.com
- Mar. 21, 11 am. **Octavia Boutique Cross Keys: Fashion Show**, TWCRP. This year’s fashion show features beautiful, stylish fashions from Octavia modeled by our own club members. Come early to shop at the pop-up boutique from 9:30 to 11 am, or stay to continue after the show. *Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris* will be shown at 1:15 pm. RSVP to twcrp@comcast.net.
- Mar. 24, 1 pm. **Easter Egg Hunt**, TWCRP. Bring your children

The Civic League meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm in person at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church at the corner of Roland Avenue and Upland Road (4801 Roland Ave.).



or grandchildren, along with their baskets, and join us for a spirited Easter egg hunt in the garden. Please RSVP by Mar. 18 to twcrp@comcast.net.

- Mar. 28, 10:30 am. **Spring Lecture: Planting for Pollinators, Ladew Topiary Gardens**. Join pollinator steward Heather Andrews to learn how to attract the “jewels of the garden” to your yard to increase yield and decrease pests for a sustainable garden. In-person: \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members (includes pastries, coffee and tea from the Ladew Café). Virtual: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Sign up for all five lectures and enjoy one free. ladewgardens.com
- Mar. 30, 10:30 am-12:30 pm. **The Great Egg Hunt**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Hunt treat- and fact-filled eggs and prizes. Ages 2 and up with an adult. \$4 for members, \$6 for non-members. Register by email: lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov.

April

- Apr. 4, 10:30 am. **Spring Lecture: The Secret Lives of Spring Wildflowers**, Ladew Topiary Gardens. Learn more about spring wildflowers, their life histories and plant-insect interactions. Ellen Lake, PhD, is the director of Conservation and Research at Mt. Cuba Center. In-person: \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members (includes pastries, coffee and tea from the Ladew Café). Virtual: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Sign up for all five lectures and enjoy one free. ladewgardens.com
- Apr. 4, 1:15 pm. **Oletha DeVane: Public Sculpture, Transcend**, TWCRP. Baltimore native DeVane is an accomplished multidisciplinary artist and educator who will share her art and answer questions about her career. RSVP to twcrp@comcast.net.
- Tuesdays, Apr. 9 to 30, 8-11:30 am. **Baltimore Bird Club Walks**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Join a walk led by the Baltimore Bird Club (baltimorebirdclub.org). Meet at the boardwalk entrance in the light rail parking lot. Please, no dogs. Register by email: lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov.
- Apr. 10, 9 am-3 pm. **School’s Out Day**, Lake Roland Nature Center, 1000 Lakeside Dr. A day of exploration and fun, with games, crafts and outdoor activities with a naturalist guide for ages 6-12. Bring a snack, lunch and a refillable water bottle. \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Register by email: lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov.
- Apr. 11, 10:30 am. **Spring Lecture: Bunny Mellon Creates her Stairway to Paradise**, Ladew Topiary Gardens. In her illustrated talk, Mac Griswold will introduce attendees

to Mellon's most celebrated work, the White House Rose Garden, designed during the presidency of John F. Kennedy, which demonstrated how formal restraint and the sparing use of color could be deployed to maximal effect. Griswold is a journalist and acclaimed cultural landscape historian. In-person: \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members (includes pastries, coffee and tea from the Ladew Café). Virtual: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Sign up for all five lectures and enjoy one free. ladewgardens.com

- Apr. 11, 11 am. **Connie Imboden and Melissa Warlow: So You Think It's Easy to Give Away Money?**, TWCRP. Look forward to a lively conversation on philanthropy with Imboden, president of the William G. Baker, Jr., Memorial Fund Board of Governors, and Warlow, director of the Baker Fund Grants Program. RSVP to twcrp@comcast.net.
- Apr. 11, 1:15 pm. **Colleen Webster: Dorothy Parker**, TWCRP. Roar back to the 1920s with a marvelous portrayal of author, poet and satirist Dorothy Parker in an examination of her progressive politics and extensive travels throughout the U.S. RSVP to twcrp@comcast.net.
- Apr. 13, 21 and 28. **KidStock Spring Concert Series**, Waldorf School of Baltimore, 4801 Tamarind Rd. See page 19 for details. waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org.
- Apr. 14, 10-11 am. **Wildflower Walk**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Join a naturalist on a guided hike through the park in search of spring blooms. Ages 8 and up with an adult. Free. Register by email: lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov.
- Fridays, Apr. 19-May 24, 4:30-6 pm. **Nature Scouts**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Kids ages 6-12 will transform into wilderness wizards, following the lead of a seasoned nature expert and exploring the great outdoors while mastering survival skills. \$25 for six sessions. Register by email: lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov.
- Apr. 21, 12-2 pm. **Earth Day Cleanup**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Celebrate Mother Earth by helping clean Lake Roland Park. All ages. Free. Register by email: lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov.
- Apr. 25, 11 am. **Devra Kitterman: A Provocateur Speaks Out**, TWCRP. Respected environmentalist, beekeeper and local advocate, Kitterman speaks out about the benefits to nature and humans of creating an environmentally friendly landscape for our wildlife and pollinators. RSVP to twcrp@comcast.net.
- Apr. 25, 1:15 pm. **Anne Pomykala: Gramercy Mansion, The 1902 Icon of the Greenspring Valley**, TWCRP. Pomykala shares her passion for Gramercy Mansion, which she and her husband purchased in 1985 and developed into a successful bed & breakfast and event venue. Attendees are invited to tour the tasteful interiors and beautifully landscaped gardens after this presentation. RSVP to twcrp@comcast.net.

May

- May 2, 11:30 am. **Sally Bedell Smith: George VI and Elizabeth, The Marriage that Saved the Monarchy**, TWCRP. A biographer and historian, Smith offers an intimate portrait of the parents of Queen Elizabeth II, whose little-known love



Tickets for Ladew's annual Garden Festival go on sale in late March. Photo courtesy of Ladew

- story became a remarkable partnership. RSVP to twcrp@comcast.net.
- May 4, 8 am-4 pm. **Garden Festival**, Ladew Topiary Gardens, 3535 Jarrettsville Pike, Monkton. The most anticipated specialty plant, garden ornaments and antiques sale in the region. Shop from a collection of more than 30 vendors from along the Eastern Seaboard offering hard-to-find perennials, specialty annuals, unique small trees, unusual exotics, container specialties, decorative garden furniture, urns and architectural treasures. Advance tickets required (member sale date Mar. 20, non-member sale date: Mar. 27). ladewgardens.com
 - May 4, 10 am-2 pm. **Annual Steam Show**, Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301 York Rd. Enjoy hose wagon rides, demonstrations with hand- and horse-drawn apparatus and kids' activities. Food vendors will be onsite. Free museum admission. firemuseummd.org
 - May 9, 10 am. **Aging Well Expo**, TWCRP. For details, see page 5. RSVP at twcrp.org.
 - May 19, 3:30-5 pm. **Our Favorite Things**, Baltimore Musicales, Woodbrook Baptist Church, 25 Stevenson Lane, Towson. A 10th birthday celebration featuring favorite songs and artists from the last 10 seasons. \$20 for general admission. baltimoremusicales.org ♦

Please send calendar announcements to magazine@rolandpark.org.



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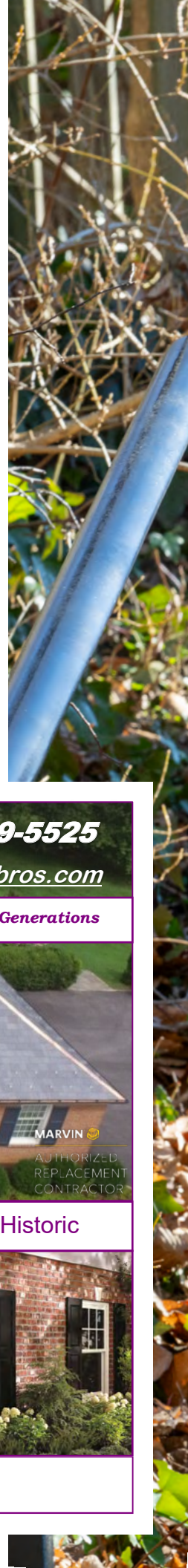


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