



ROLAND PARK news

Quarterly from the Roland Park Community Foundation • Volume Ninety-Three • Summer 2024

**Q&A
with Dr. Delia
Chiaramonte**

*Roland Park's
Free Tree
Program*

**Word of
Mouth**

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Editor's Note

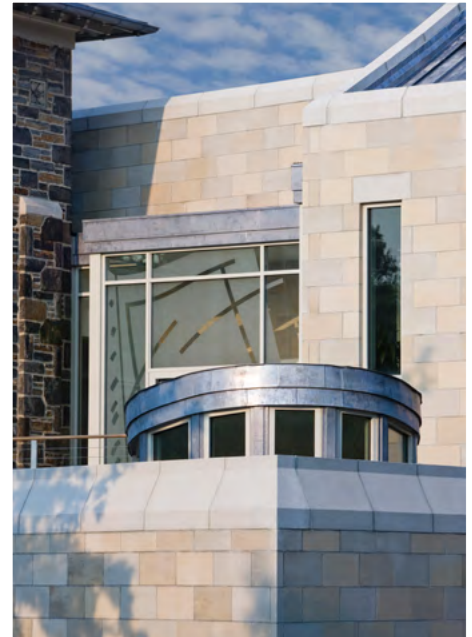
By Martha Marani

Along with the delights we've come to expect from summer in Roland Park—enjoying an easier morning commute along Roland Avenue, playing “Sharks and Minnows” at the Roland Park Pool, decorating strollers and bikes for the July 4th celebration, taking quiet walks along the many shaded paths that wind through the neighborhood—we have a very special event to look forward to this season. On July 10, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Roland Park branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library (see page 4 for details)!

In a March 2017 report, the Brookings Institute, a DC-based nonprofit research organization, reported that public libraries build healthy communities. Authors Marcela Cabello and Stuart M. Butler noted that these institutions are among the “third places” that “are the informal spaces that are often mainstays in a neighborhood” (“first places” being our homes and “second places” being our workplaces).

In order to qualify for this distinction, the authors argue, a place has to be accessible and offer “trust and a sense of neutrality.” Our library checks both boxes, located as it is on Roland Avenue and within walking distance to several K-12 schools, shops, restaurants and our homes, and staffed by an outstanding team of dedicated public servants. I don't know our local statistics, but feel sure that the national numbers revealed by a 2015 Pew Research Center survey apply here. Pew found that more than 90 percent of adults consider public libraries “welcoming and friendly places” and approximately 50 percent made use of a public library in the last year.

Critical to the role a public library plays within a community is its staff, who are often called upon to be more than librarians, helping patrons to “navigate social services, aging, mental health, welfare and public



Our library will celebrate a century of service in July.
 Photo: David Whitcomb

assistance, health care, and education and employment resources,” Cabello and Butler note. At the Roland Park branch, we are fortunate to have Greg Fromme, branch manager; Jackie Burdell, young adult librarian; Abby Lyon, children's librarian; Felicia Bouldin, India Biggus and Veronica Young, office support specialists; Thomas Carroll, branch custodian; and Angela Downes, security officer.

Particularly now, when public libraries and librarians across the country are facing a variety of challenges—from shrinking budgets to organized attempts to ban diverse books, which are all-too-often accompanied by verbal and physical threats to library staff—we should, in my view, be ever more mindful of the role these essential public institutions play in our community and show our gratitude. Sidney Sheldon put it this way, “Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.” Indeed.

Please join your neighbors on July 10 to celebrate the Roland Park branch and its staff.

Happy summer, all! ❖

Hope is Growing: Roland Park's Free Tree Program

By Kate Culotta, Landscape Committee Member

The Roland Park Tree Program Plans Autumn Expansion

The Landscape Committee is excited to announce another expansion of its Free Tree Program, which was established more than two decades ago. Up until now, we have relied on lists of available trees provided by TreeBaltimore (**TreeBaltimore.org**) and often find our favorites are not available. After listening to residents, many of whom have expressed a desire to plant trees larger than saplings on their private properties, we have partnered with Schott Nurseries, a local nursery and grower in Carroll County, from which we can purchase trees in the 7- to 10-gallon pot range. Most are native large, deciduous shade trees and flowering ornamentals.

The Landscape Committee will still rely on TreeBaltimore to suggest trees that offer diversity and environmental advantages, but I will also review individual requests for neighborhood favorites. There will be a cost to purchase these trees, as we are not getting them free from the city. We are working to keep the cost reasonable and to include the delivery and planting by K&C Grounds Maintenance, our neighborhood landscape contractor.

The cost will range between \$200 and \$250 per tree, with \$100 covering delivery and planting. Some species will be more expensive.

Residents interested in more information or in requesting a specific tree should contact me at krculotta@msn.com by July 1. The trees will be planted in late September or October.

An Historic Perspective

For those of you unfamiliar with the Free Tree Program, the Landscape Committee arranges with TreeBaltimore for the delivery of free trees to Roland Park. Trees are available in several sizes, depending on where they will be planted. One of the easiest ways for any city resident to get a free sapling is to go on the TreeBaltimore website (**TreeBaltimore.org**) between April and May and again in the fall and look for the links for free tree giveaways in the area. Roland Park hosted one such event for trees to be planted on resident's private properties (as opposed to in the verge, the grassy area between the curb and sidewalk) on April 22, the Saturday before Earth Day, in front of Eddie's of Roland Park. Between 9 am and 2 pm, we gave away 107 small, easy-to-plant saplings. Most had been reserved online by residents, but walk-ups were also encouraged.

The largest trees I can order are meant for planting in the verge. While this area is city property, residents whose homes front the verge can choose to have a tree planted there, as long as they agree to water and care for the tree. The trees chosen for the verge are selected by their mature height, width, canopy



Photo: Anne Stuzin

“He who plants a tree plants hope.”

Lucy Larcom

shape, root structure and viability in our soil and climate. Verge trees that were available this spring included red maple (*Acer rubrum*), ginkgo biloba, yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*), black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) and American

hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*).

Roland Park's Free Tree program was started in the early 2010s by Roland Park resident Al Copp. After his retirement in 1990 from the non-profit Charles Center Inner Harbor Management Company—the firm that guided Baltimore City through 20 years of Inner Harbor development—Copp turned his attention to his beloved neighborhood. Volunteering and serving on numerous boards and committees, he devoted time and energy to the Roland Park Master Plan, bringing vintage-style streetlights, benches and crosswalks to Roland Avenue, and to the restoration of both Stony Run Park and the Roland Water Tower.

In the early 2010s, Copp noticed that the tree canopy along Roland Avenue was declining and the city wasn't replacing the trees with any sense of urgency. After reaching out to city officials, he started a program in which the Baltimore City Department of Forestry provided free trees to plant in the verge along Roland Avenue and the Civic League paid Parks & People to plant the trees. This greatly sped up what had been a time-consuming process because Copp and a group of plat representatives identified trees that needed to be replaced and then, by paying Parks & People to plant them, Roland Park was able to fast-track the process of replacing the trees.

FREE TREE PROGRAM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Copp expanded the tree planting to Roland Park's side streets, and I was one of the Plat 1 volunteers. I walked the streets looking for gaps among the verge trees, knocking on doors and asking neighbors if they wanted a replacement tree planted. During those early years of the program, we planted about a dozen trees each year—not because there was a lack of interest but because the Parks & People planting fee was more than \$300 per tree, a cost the Civic League bore.

When Copp received a diagnosis of terminal cancer, he asked me to carry on the tree program. Since his death in 2017, the program has grown by leaps and bounds. One major factor in the growth has been the involvement of K&C Grounds Maintenance, which now plants trees for far less than Parks & People did. The Landscape Committee also decided to have homeowners contribute to the planting fee, relieving the Civic League of much of the bill. The Civic League still pays for plantings in the common areas, like Centennial Park, the islands



Photo: Anne Stuzin

and other pockets of green space in the neighborhood. This sharing of the cost and responsibility between residents and the Civic League has allowed the Free Tree Program to go from planting a dozen or so trees per year to more than 50.

Another contributing factor in the program's growth was that, under the mayoral administration of Jack Young, the city launched an ambitious program to study Baltimore's tree canopy and plant more trees across the city, particularly in underserved and blighted areas of Baltimore. The city hired the Davey Tree Expert Company, which spearheaded a massive project to identify, map and log the health status of every street and public right-of-way tree in Baltimore. The study took two growing seasons, between April 2017 and August 2018, to complete.

Helping with this City Tree Master Plan were city agency partners, including the Recreation & Parks Department, Forestry & Tree Office and the Office of Sustainability. Local volunteer groups also got involved, including Blue Water Baltimore, the Baltimore Tree Trust, Flowering Tree Trail and the many neighborhood "Friends of" organizations like the Friends of Stony Run. The study was funded by the Bureau of Budget & Management Resources and the South Baltimore Gateway Initiative.

Here are some of the study's results:

- 120,283 trees were identified
- 5,108 tree stumps were located
- 65,550 vacant tree sites were identified to equal 190,941 current and future tree sites
- Of the 190,941 tree sites, 3,804 were deemed to be unsuitable for trees
- 163,546 trees are along streets or public rights-of-way and 27,395 are in city parks
- The more than 65,000 vacant tree spots represent the greatest potential for tree planting
- Red maples (*Acer rubrum*) were the most heavily planted; other tree species should be considered

Through the study, researchers were able to quantify the health, environmental and scientific advantages of planting trees in communities, and assign dollar amounts equally in the millions of dollars.

Copp started the Roland Park tree replacement program seven years before this study was initiated, but he was not the only Baltimorean taking an interest in the city's trees. In 2008, the Baltimore Tree Trust was founded by a group of women, all native Marylanders who were environmental enthusiasts. Sitting around a kitchen table, they decided on an ambitious plan to plant more trees in Baltimore neighborhoods, starting with a focus on the Harris Creek Watershed on Baltimore's east side. The watershed starts in Clifton Park to the north, and runs through neighborhoods along Broadway and Biddle, from McElderry Park by Johns Hopkin Hospital to Patterson Park and St. Casimir Park. Through the years, the Baltimore Tree Trust has grown to include numerous volunteers, neighborhood residents and local businesses, becoming the city's largest neighborhood tree

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planting organization, responsible for planting more than 1,000 trees a year.

Just a few years later, in 2010, five local neighborhood volunteer groups joined together to form Blue Water Baltimore. This group, covering the Jones Falls, Gwynns Falls, Herring Run and Baltimore Harbor watersheds and including the Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper, not only advocates for our waterways but also sponsors tree plantings across the city during the month of May. Blue Water Baltimore also runs Herring Run Nursery (herringrunnursery.bluewaterbaltimore.org), a non-profit native plant nursery that offers more than 250 local species of trees, shrubs, vines and wildflowers.

TreeBaltimore is the lead agency for all city departments, organizations and neighborhood volunteer groups involved in increasing and caring for the city's tree canopy. A few of its many partners are the U.S. Forestry Service, Recreation & Parks Department, Blue Water Baltimore, Baltimore Tree Trust, Flowering Tree Trails of Baltimore and the many "Friends of" groups. The Friends of Stony Run has taken the lead in restoring and maintaining Stony Run Park, which cuts through Roland Park on the east side, where the stream flows south through Tuscany-Canterbury and onto Wyman Park. The TreeBaltimore website has a variety of resources and interactive maps of Baltimore's tree canopy and flowering tree trail (TreeBaltimore.org/maps). ❖

Suggested Trees

These trees, 6 to 12 feet tall when planted and in 7- to 10-gallon pots, will add biodiversity to our urban landscape.

Contact Kate Culotta for more information: krkulotta@msn.com.

LARGE TREES (more than 50 feet at maturity)

- Sweet birch (*Betula lena*)
- Scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*)
- Willow oak (*Quercus phellos*)
- Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
- American elm (*Ulmus americana*), Dutch elm disease-resistant

MEDIUM TREES (30 to 50 feet at maturity)

- American or Kentucky yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*)
- American hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)

FLOWERING ORNAMENTALS

- Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- White fringe-tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)
- Carolina silverbell (*Halesia tetraptera*)
- Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), native
- Okame cherry (*Prunus 'Okame'*), non-native



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Message from the Civic League

As I write this, the azaleas throughout Roland Park are at their peak, as is the birdsong that starts earlier each morning. Spring in our neighborhood is a celebration of nature, and a great time to get out and walk our streets and paths

Having a dog, this is a daily occurrence for me. From our house, we can explore the highlands of Tintern Path and Merrymount Road, then the grounds of St. Mary's Seminary. Or head south down St. Margaret's Path, across the stream (which has more water than it should since it starts on the Roland Park Country School property a few hundred yards up the hill), then climb the steps of Squirrel Path, heading to Roland Avenue.

It is not uncommon for us to make our way to Stony Run Park, then over the crest of Roland Avenue, past the fire station, coming down beside what will soon be Hillside Park.

All of this to say that we live in a community built in a park, one of which we are all stewards, the latest in a 120-plus year legacy. I have recently wondered if the Olmsteds could walk through Roland Park today, would they marvel at the stability of their creation?

Yet, maintaining this precious park takes funds. Funds that come from you, the residents of Roland Park.

By now, you are likely aware of the PayHOA system in which we house the Civic League's financial operations. It has been a challenge to implement, due to years of patching together disjointed systems. Today, we celebrate that the information in the system is up-to-date, complete and accurate. We are already seeing improved financial results: more households are participating in the maintenance of our community by paying the requested fees and the Civic League dues.

I know that for some of you who are not yet participating, it may be because you feel your area of the neighborhood is neglected by the Civic League. So, let's have a conversation. I urge you to reach out to the office (office@rolandpark.org) and me directly (civicleague@rolandpark.org) on issues that concern you the most.

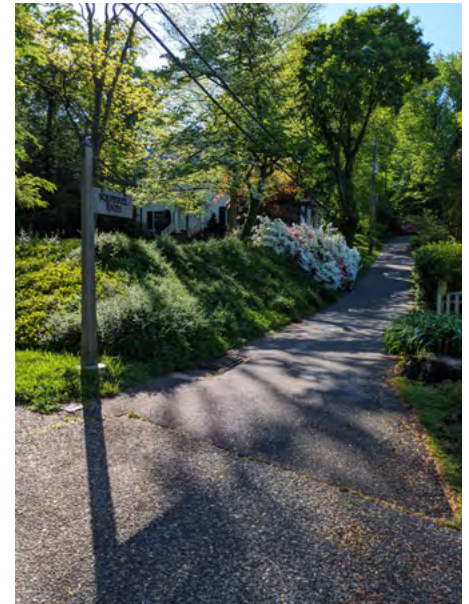


Photo: Tom Hoen

Another reason to participate is so that we can communicate with you. Through PayHOA, we share goings-on around the neighborhood, some important and weighty, some just plain fun. By being informed, you can help shape our community's future.

As the new Civic League president, my hope is that I can continue the strong leadership of my predecessor, Claudia Diamond, who was an incredibly strong advocate for our community, relentless in her desire to keep Roland Park the beautiful, historic and safe neighborhood we have all grown to love. I give so many thanks for her years of leadership and friendship.

I look forward to serving you, our park and the community. See you soon walking the paths as our festive spring turns to summer days.

Tom Hoen, Civic League President ❖



Photo (top) courtesy of the Enoch Pratt Free Library/State Library Resource Center, Special Collections Department. Photo (bottom): © Patrick Ross Photography

A Centennial Celebration for Our Library

“Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one.”

Neil Gaiman

Librarians at the Roland Park branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library have been providing answers since the doors opened on June 10, 1924. On July 10, people from all over the city will gather to celebrate this “storied” institution and its dedicated staff, past and present. All are invited to attend the festivities, which will include The Greg Thompkins Quartet, a celebratory “birthday” cake and fun activities for the kids. A special coloring page was created to mark the event (visit rolandpark.org/about-roland-park/library to download a PDF).

During the last 100 years, the library has faced challenges, while remaining a fixture in our neighborhood. In 1965, the community rallied against a proposed demolition of the building and it was instead fully renovated. In 1997, when the library was again threatened with closure, we banded together again to raise money to expand it and keep it as part of the vibrant center of the neighborhood. The remodeled and expanded

library, completed in 2008, is the wonderful result of that effort.

The Roland Park branch enjoys strong support from the community to this day. Its success is reflected in these statistics from fiscal year 2023:

- 128,832 physical materials circulated (for comparison the next highest was the Govans branch with 82,835 and the Waverly branch with 78,606)
- 8,779 in-library circulation materials used in the library
- 50,084 reference questions answered
- 65,294 visits

We hope to see everyone at the big celebration in July! ❖

Hillside Park: An Update

By Mary Page Michel, Roland Park Community Foundation Chair

Do you remember when you were in school and it felt like summer would never come? You knew there was nothing you could do to make it come any faster, but you wished you could.

That is exactly how we feel about the opening of Hillside Park.

When you buy a house, the buyer needs to show up with a check and the seller needs to fix any problems found during the home inspection. For the purchase of Hillside Park, we need to show up with a check and the Baltimore Country Club (BCC) needs to fix a problem that was discovered during our due diligence process. The land they are selling includes parts of an old golf course—the 1st and 17th holes and the 18th tee— as well as old tennis courts. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the methods used to keep these areas clear of weeds involved chemicals that are now considered environmental contaminants. The BCC’s plan to remediate these contaminants was approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment in March. Following the plan, BCC will dig pits on the land they are retaining, moving the clean soil from these pits onto the land we are buying. They will then move the contaminated soil from what will be our land into the pits, capping them to ensure the contaminants are safely contained. BCC has applied for the city permits to do this work, telling us that they expect it to start in July and take five weeks.



Just like when you buy a house, we can’t make the seller go any faster. All we can do is wait. I know it is frustrating, just like waiting for summer vacation when you were a kid still in school.

Giving Thanks

You might wonder how a small non-profit can negotiate a very complicated real estate transaction like the purchase of Hillside Park, particularly considering these environmental issues? This community is blessed to have wonderful, smart experts who have been willing to give of their time to help us with this project.

There are many people volunteering to help in all aspects of the Hillside Park project, but one group that has been extremely important is the team negotiating for the purchase of the park. It is very difficult to summarize their decades of experience, but here is a quick overview of members of the Executive Team (please note that other members of the Hillside Park team will be showcased in future issues):

John Kevin has more than 30 years of financial experience and is currently the chief financial officer of Baltimore Tree Trust, one of Baltimore’s best non-profits.

Andrew Marani has more than 30 years of experience in construction and project management, primarily in Maryland. He is a founder and co-principal of A.R. Marani, a general contractor and construction management firm.

Ian MacFarlane has more than 40 years of experience with environmental and construction projects across the U.S. He

is the president, CEO and chair of EA Engineering, Science & Technology, an environmental engineering firm with 600 employees.

Chris McSherry is a real estate lawyer with more than 15 years of experience in corporate, real estate, land use and zoning law. She worked for more than four years on the Maryland Department of Natural Resources’ legal team and is corporate counsel for a Baltimore-based real estate firm.

Ken Rice has worked in real estate development for some of the leading developers in Baltimore for the past 28 years. He is the managing member of BlueStone Development.

David Tufaro has more than 40 years of real estate development experience in the Baltimore area, primarily in the restoration of older buildings, many of which have had environmental challenges. He is the principal of Terra Nova Ventures.

As you can see, this is a team of seasoned executives with experience and expertise in all aspects of a real estate transaction. We are deeply indebted to them for their dedication, sacrifice and determination. If you see any of them over the summer, be sure to stop and give them your thanks from a very grateful community. ❖

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Conserving the Peregrine Falcons

By Craig Koppie, Retired Raptor Biologist/Bald Eagle Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Bay Field Office

The Roland Park community now enjoys the viewshed of a recently renovated historic Roland Water Tower, along with nesting peregrine falcons that adorn its many ledges each spring. As part of the tower's restoration, it was important that these falcons were represented too, and that they had the opportunity to continue nesting there. As a raptor biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I collaborated with several organizations, including the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Baltimore City engineer and planning officials, and private entities, to ensure renovation and construction measures were followed to protect the species.

I developed plans and constructed a nest box that is specifically designed for nesting peregrine falcons. The successful return of the falcon pair to the nest box resulted in a steady following of interested falcon watchers. Often, people at the park have wanted to know more about the person who monitors the nest box each year to officially document nest productivity, including banding the young with a colored alpha-numeric aluminum band.

The Roland Water Tower is home to a nesting pair of peregrine falcons. Photos: Craig Koppie




I worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for nearly 40 years, working with federal, state and private sector partners to restore and protect wildlife and habitat. I retired recently but continue as an affiliate for the


Service and provide technical assistance. I had the best job ever, being part of the recovery of the bald eagle and peregrine falcon in the Eastern U.S. I was an integral part in the recovery of these endangered species beginning in the late 1970s. My knowledge of raptor behavior and acquired skills in tree climbing and working in other high places such as bridges, towers and buildings greatly assisted with national recovery objectives. I served as the Service's mid-Atlantic peregrine falcon coordinator during the early reintroduction period. Captive-born young from falcon pairs at Cornell University (The Peregrine Fund) were flown to Eastern states, then transported to reintroduction areas in the Coastal Plain and Mountain Recovery Zones. I managed operations for several of the mountain hack-sites. It was not until the early 1980s that pairs began to reestablish sites in Maryland. Approximately 85 percent of peregrine falcon nests are on manmade structures with few in the mountain regions. However, pairs are beginning to utilize rock quarries and reoccupy the historic cliff nesting areas, which is promising.

In areas where falcons nest on bridge infrastructure, I have continued partnerships and fostered new ones with the Maryland Department of Transportation and Maryland State Highway Administration. The focus was to encourage the use of nest box retrofits to predict where falcons are likely to occur. Predicting falcon use areas will allow bridge painting and maintenance projects to move forward and lessen disturbance by construction activities during the nesting season. ❖


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Greater Roland Park Home Sales

(JANUARY – APRIL 2024)

	LIST PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
303 Overhill Rd.	\$ 779,000	\$ 825,000
211 Ridgewood Rd.	\$1,100,000	\$1,050,000
206 Goodwood Gardens	\$2,100,000	\$1,950,000

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A Gift for Future Generations

By Erika Castillo, Education Director, Cylburn Arboretum Friends

I recently had the pleasure of re-reading Wendell Berry's beautiful novel, *Jayber Crow*. Set in a fictional farm town in mid-20th century Kentucky, the novel explores themes of place, community, identity and belonging. One particularly important locale in the story is a patch of old-growth forest fondly referred to as the "Nest Egg". The Nest Egg is the 50 or so acres of timber that Athey Keith—the neighbor and friend of the titular character, Jayber Crow—keeps and protects from harvest. Here, I should note, the term "nest egg" is used facetiously, as they do not intend to profit financially by harvesting this precious patch of woods. For Athey, Jayber and their friends, the Nest Egg is priceless—a gift that Athey intends to retain for generations to come.

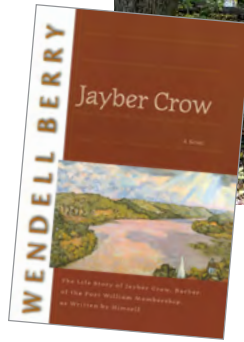
During my re-read, I was struck by Jayber's account of entering into the Nest Egg; it led me to reflect on the forest at Cylburn Arboretum. Jayber writes:

"From this place of entrance...the dark trunks went up so tall, and among them you would see here and there the silver of beeches, or along the hollows, the sudden whiteness of sycamores. This was a many-storied place, starting under the ground with the dark forest of roots...And then there were the dead leaves and the brilliant mosses and the mushrooms in their season. And next were the wildflowers and the ferns in their appointed places and times, and then the spice bushes and buckthorns and devil's clubs...And next were the low trees: ironwood, hornbeam, dogwood, and (in the openings made by fallen big trees) redbud. Above these, the big trees and vines went up to the crown of foliage at the top. And at all these aboveground stories there was a moving and singing foliage of birds. Everywhere there were dens and holes and hollows and secret nests. When you were there, you could be sure that you were being seen, and that you more than likely would not see what was seeing you. Everything there seemed to belong where it was. That was why I went there. And I went to feel the change that that place always made in me. Always, as soon as I came in under the big trees, I began to go slowly and quietly...because in a place where everything belongs where it is, you do not want to disturb anything."

Do you know this feeling, the forest making a change in you? I do. This has always been true for me, especially when I was a child. When life felt chaotic, the forest did not. I spent most of my childhood free time in the woods, and it provided me with solace. This was the one place where everything seemed to belong where it was.

Jayber and I are not alone. Numerous studies affirm that spending time among trees has physical and mental health benefits: reducing stress, improving mood and focus, lowering blood pressure, and boosting the immune system. Besides the listed benefits to humans, a healthy forest provides some pretty major ecosystem services as well: preventing soil erosion, providing habitat for wildlife and capturing carbon—helping to mitigate the effects of climate change—to name just three.

One of the greatest joys of my job, and in fact of my life, is sharing Cylburn's forest with school children when they come for



For Baltimore City residents, Cylburn's forest offers the same peaceful respite as the old-growth forest Berry calls the "Nest Egg" in *Jayber Crow*. Photos courtesy of Cylburn. *Jayber Crow* image courtesy of Penguin Random House



a field trip. Before entering the forest, we stop at the woodland edge and I talk with students, helping them to process their feelings and sometimes their fears. How are they feeling about walking into the woods? (Excited! Nervous! Afraid!)

I ask them: How many of you have been in the woods? (Usually two or so per class, among my city school groups). We talk about the dangers of walking in the woods (tripping over roots and rocks). I assure students that I will not leave them and that we will stay together. After exiting the forest, we stop again and debrief. Using a thumbs-up/thumbs-down scale, how was their time in the forest? Did anything surprise them? Notably, the students who felt most afraid to enter the forest are often the most visibly transformed by the experience of walking among massive trees.

At the end of each field trip, one of the most important messages I try to leave with children who visit Cylburn is this: this place is yours, please come back and get to know it better. Also, I tell them, it's free! Your families pay taxes for our parks, so use them, love them and enjoy them! What a "nest egg" to leave the children of our city: a forest that is all their own right here in the city.

Do you know a child who would like to enjoy the woods at Cylburn? Join us for Cylburn Nature Camp this summer! Find out more at cylburn.org/programs-events/nature-camp. ❖

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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Gilman's Sculpture Program Takes Shape

Sculpture, an artistic medium in which materials work together to create a three-dimensional object, can take many forms. When Sarah Sachs joined Gilman's Art Department, she began to cast her own mold of the sculpture program and offered—to borrow a relevant sculpture term—an *additive* quality to the subject.

Carving Out a Curriculum

Since 2021, Sachs has expanded the program to include juniors and seniors, and she developed higher-level courses for students who wish to more deeply pursue the art form. "There is so much room for evolution of a student's voice and capability over four years," she says. She likens the experience to one a student would usually find only at the collegiate level. "As their technical skills advance alongside their growing ability to express themselves through this visual language, the growth over this timespan is incredible."

Those who stick with sculpture for four years graduate with a cohesive body of work that aligns with a personal theme of their own choosing. As part of his independent study, senior Thomas Lee created a sculpture in the shape of a wave that stands more than seven feet tall, constructed entirely of plastic water bottles and cans used at Gilman. Titled "Ocean's Cry," the work's artist



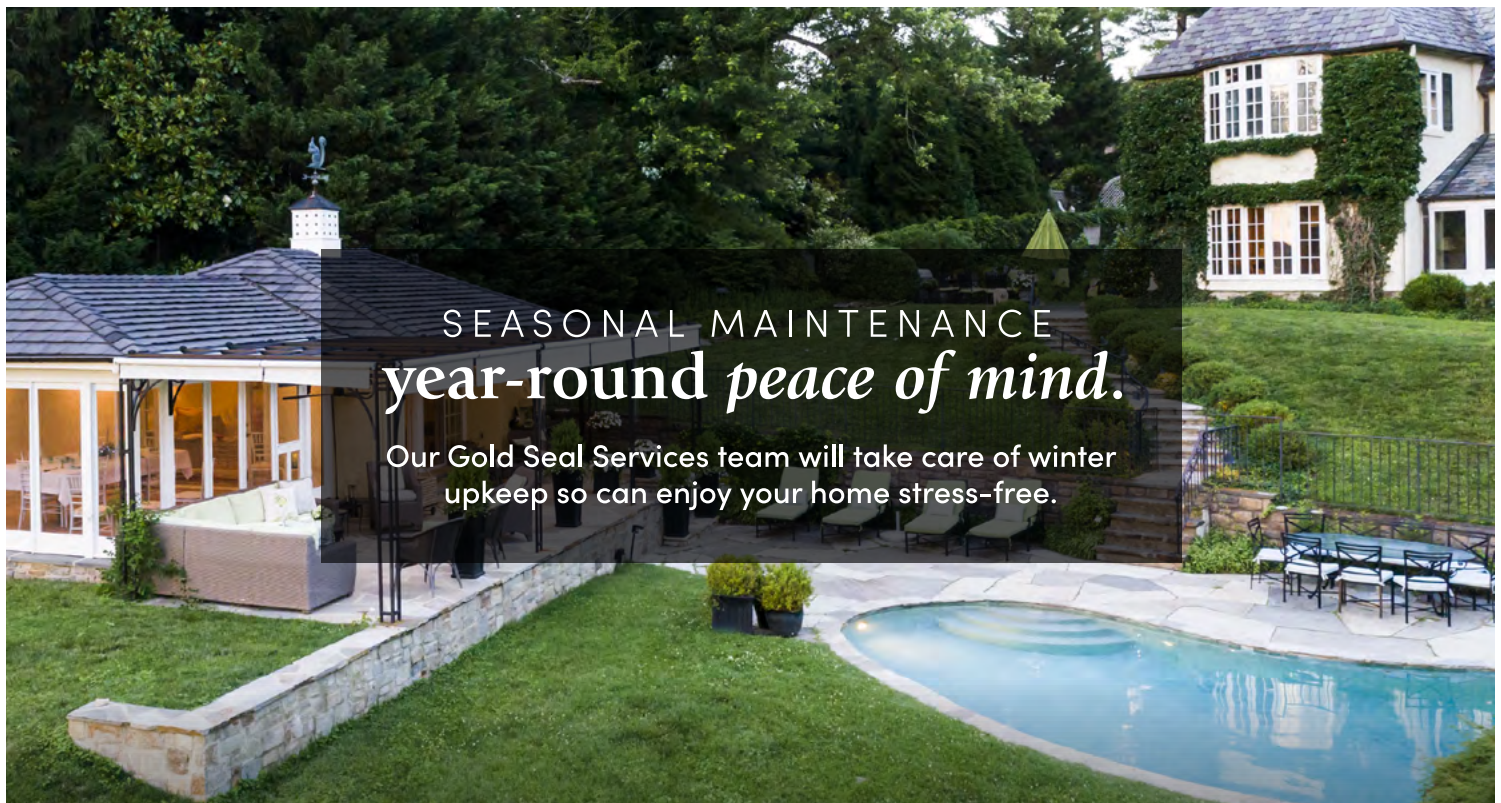
Freshman Luca Mulligan works on carving stone with Sachs on the porch outside Gilman's sculpture classroom. Photo: Steve Ruark

statement says, "This piece aims to highlight...the dire need to conserve our oceans and the greater natural environment.... The height is meant for you to feel the weight and your personal contribution to the problem as well as your responsibility to improve it."

Sculpting with Head, Hands and Heart

At the start of each project, Sachs heavily emphasizes the design process, which may include sketching, writing a proposal and testing materials for feasibility. As students move through the program—and build skills related to thinking about project plans

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



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Q&A: Roland Park's Emily Fetting, Upper School Director at Bryn Mawr

Roland Park native Emily Fetting will take the helm of Bryn Mawr's upper school this year. A member of the school's class of 2002, Fetting returned to her alma mater six years ago as the dean of students and will begin her role as upper school director this July. Hear more about what drew her back to Bryn Mawr:



Fetting is the new upper school director at Bryn Mawr. Photo courtesy of Bryn Mawr

How long did you attend Bryn Mawr as a student and what were you involved in?

EF: I came in 9th grade from School of the Cathedral [of Mary Our Queen]. I was in the Student Government Association, I was the 10th grade president, which was a big deal because I was new in 9th grade and Bryn Mawr was so welcoming that I was bowled over that they would elect me after being new. I was also the Student Government Association president my senior year, which was a humongous deal for me. I was involved in theater and I managed soccer too.

What brought you back to Bryn Mawr?

EF: My dream job was to be the upper school dean of students at Bryn Mawr. I would periodically check the website and, in the spring of 2018, the posting was up and I was really excited to apply. This is my sixth year and it's not been a job at all. I get to go to school every day and hang out with these wonderful students and hear their stories and help them when they need a listening ear.

What made you want to become the Upper School Director?

EF: I'm really looking at it as a two-pronged role. I'm excited to work with faculty to help teachers develop their teaching skills in a collaborative way and work with each other to solve problems and address challenges. We spend a lot of time talking about big ideas and I'm looking forward to helping teachers take those ideas and put them into practice. I'm interested in data and processes and procedures to see what we can do with all the professional development we've had. With students, I'm interested in looking at the idea of attention and how students divide up their attention, and their capacity for paying attention.

What has changed since you graduated? What's the same?

EF: There's a strong focus now on students' ability to chart their own course at Bryn Mawr, to tailor our program to their interests and take advantage of the many opportunities that they have, either academically or extracurricular. I think that's something we're proud of because there are so many ways to be a Bryn Mawr student. The close relationships students build with their teachers has definitely stayed the same—and that this

is a place that is academically and intellectually challenging while at the same time being incredibly fun, silly and creative.

What are you most excited about in your new role?

EF: I'm excited to work more closely with teachers and to understand Bryn Mawr more deeply from the faculty perspective. I'm also looking forward to working more closely with parents and working alongside them to support our students' well-being. I will always be a dean of students at heart and I take that with me to this new role. ❖

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



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Exploring Cultures Around the World with Friends' Language Immersion Program

The Language Department at Friends School of Baltimore strives to instill in its students a passion and curiosity for becoming more deeply interconnected with cultures spanning the globe. Students develop linguistic proficiency and become well-versed in cultural comparisons, and may travel abroad as part of the upper school's language immersion program.

This year, two groups of students traveled to Kyrgyzstan and France to see what daily life is like for teenagers in another country. What do they study at school and how do the teachers deliver their lessons? What do they do with their friends for fun? At the heart of these modern language trips abroad, students gain a wealth of knowledge and expand their understanding of communities around the world, while also strengthening their language skills.

Language Department Chair and Russian teacher Lee Roby, and middle school Russian teacher Nat Leach (2014), accompanied 10 Friends' Russian students to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, for a 15-day trip of a lifetime.



Friends students standing outside of the Musee d'Orsay in Paris during their language immersion trip to France. Photo courtesy of Friends

This immersion program featured cultural programming and homestays with Russian-speaking Kyrgyz families. Students lived with Russian-speaking Kyrgyz peers, attended classes at the London School of Languages and Cultures, participated in peer activities with Kyrgyz teenagers, and engaged in cultural activities and excursions. Students used their Russian in authentic contexts, making remarkable gains in proficiency and, hopefully, lifelong friendships.

In an exciting turn of events, Friends students even made the news while on their trip! During a Nooruz celebration (an important holiday celebrating the equinox in Central Asia, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India) in downtown Bishkek, students began chatting with the police and were invited into the central square—sort of a VIP section. While there, they were asked to give an interview to the press that was aired on national news.

In another part of the world, 24 Friends students traveled with French teacher Kristen Andrews and French teacher and Upper School Academic Dean Christine Koniezhny. Students lived with French families in the region of Lyon for 10 days, going to school with their hosts, spending time with their friends and attending their activities. After their homestays, students shared the similarities and differences they noticed between the U.S. and France, and also the differences among French families and schools.

The students made significant linguistic gains over the two weeks, in no small part due to their willingness to step outside of their comfort zones. Highlights included visits to the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay, a guided historical walking tour around the Jardin du Luxembourg, a cruise on the Seine, an exploration of neighborhoods, and of course, going up the Eiffel Tower at night to see the beautiful City of Light.

Through carefully crafted immersion trips, Friends students are empowered to engage with communities around the globe, furthering their proficiency in different languages and expanding their sense of connection beyond Baltimore. These transformative experiences not only create lifelong friendships but also instill appreciation for cultural differences, preparing students to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. ❖

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



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Boys' Latin Students Go Across the Pond

By Alex Barron, Boys' Latin Upper School English Teacher

In his history courses, Clayton Willetts teaches students about hundreds of years of English monarchs, from William the Conqueror to Queen Victoria. In my English courses, I teach Shakespeare, Dickens and Orwell. English history and literature are central to the humanities curriculum in the upper school at Boys' Latin, so Willetts and I jumped at the opportunity to enrich our students' education with a spring break trip to London.

We had wanted to do a trip like this for a while. For both of us, travel has helped to ignite the spark of intellectual curiosity, and we wanted to share that gift with our students. Plus, we both love the UK and British culture.

In March, we led a group of 12 upperclassmen on a spring break trip to London. The week-long tour included such iconic sights as Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly Circus, the Tower of London, the British Museum and St. Paul's Cathedral. The group also traveled outside the city to see Stonehenge, Bath, Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Windsor Castle.

Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle provided an overview of the British monarchy's history and tangible examples of historical architecture and traditions. Visiting Oxford, a historical hub for literary greats, connected students with authors like J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and Lewis Carroll. Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare, helped students better understand his background and the environment that influenced his works.

Theater was an important component of the trip. The group participated in a workshop at the Globe Theater, conducted by a professional Shakespearian actor, and attended two West End musicals.

We were fortunate to stay in the neighborhood of Ealing, to the west of central London. The hotel was located just across the street from a tube station, which made transportation convenient and easy. By the end of the week, even students without much previous experience riding public transport were hopping on and off and changing lines like veteran tube riders.

For many students, the trip marked a first time overseas. As junior Liam Griesacker put it, "[The trip was] an incredibly fun experience that we will all remember for the rest of our lives."

His classmate Jack Davis (2025) agreed: "It was a great experience." Since the trip, he said, "I've been looking at more schools in the UK."

Willetts and I are already discussing options for another trip next spring break. Some of our London crew have expressed interest in coming along, admitting that experiencing sites firsthand further ignited their interest in history and English. ❖



Boys' Latin upperclassmen spent an educational spring break in London Photo courtesy of Boys' Latin

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

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Ensuring Students Thrive at Garrison Forest

Garrison Forest School will build on its long history of excellence in educating girls and expertise in how students learn best with a new center focused on student success and wellness. The Amabel Boyce '70 Center for Learning and Thriving will open in fall 2024. Designed as a hub that unites the school's academic, counseling and health resources, the Boyce Center will help each student become the healthiest, best version of themselves. Its core areas of focus are academic support, growth and enrichment, and wellness and wellbeing, with a mission to provide holistic support for each student to learn, grow and thrive.

Recognizing the vital connection between a student's overall wellness and their academic success is a key factor in designing a robust, intentional way to support all students. "The Boyce Center is an innovative outgrowth of our expertise in meeting each student where they are and nurturing their individuality," says Chris Hughes, Garrison Forest's head of school. "It builds on the idea that students learn best when their academic and social-emotional needs are intentionally met throughout the evolution of their learning journey."

Along with serving as the link between academic success,



Shannon Schmidt, Garrison Forest's current middle school head, will be the inaugural director of the Boyce Center for Learning and Thriving. Photo courtesy of Garrison Forest

emotional and social well-being, and physical health, the Boyce Center provides:

- Comprehensive learning support and guidance around academic enrichment opportunities for all students
- Tools and resources to instill and hone important "soft skills" like communication, public speaking, collaboration and empathy that will serve all students now and in the future
- Guidance and support to build resiliency, proactive wellness and long-term well-being

The inaugural director of the Boyce Center, Shannon Schmidt, has served as Garrison Forest's middle school head for the past five years. Prior to that role, Schmidt served as Garrison Forest's middle school curriculum and academic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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Strings of Growth: How Music Education Shapes Emotional Development and Responsibility at Waldorf



T At the Waldorf School of Baltimore, the decision between violin and cello becomes pivotal in 4th grade, with each choice offering a unique pitch. But why strings? Why now? As always with Waldorf education, there is a deep intentionality behind both.

For the 4th grader at Waldorf, the year ahead promises a new level of emotional self-awareness. The curriculum is designed to support this new level of maturity and responsibility, extending throughout their lessons, including music.



The resonance of a stringed instrument possesses a remarkable power to, as they say, “tug at the heartstrings”; these instruments have a profound connection to

In the 4th grade, students at Waldorf begin their study of a stringed instrument.
Photos courtesy of Waldorf

the emotional realm—a force keenly motivating during this phase of child development (and beyond). While their initial enthusiasm is palpable, it may taper off over the course of a few weeks or months, and this is where another “why” comes into play; daily instrument practice introduces students to their first taste of homework. Practicing an instrument, no matter how cherished, is more akin to an exercise routine than a

leisurely pastime. It demands dedication, focus, concentration and, most crucially, willpower. Guiding students in establishing a daily practice routine not only nurtures their musical talents but also presents a challenge, cultivates accountability and serves as a training ground for meeting more adult expectations, fostering resilient and responsible individuals. ❖

GARRISON FOREST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

resource coordinator and has been a member of the school’s Residential Life community for five years. As director of the Boyce Center, Schmidt will take a cross-campus, collaborative approach to create programs that advance and elevate each student’s educational experience. She will also work toward expanding resources to include math and reading specialists and programs, as well as developing professional development for teachers. In addition to building resources at the school, Schmidt will have access to an advisory board of experts that will serve as a sounding board and thought partners as the Boyce Center takes shape.

“I look forward to the exciting work ahead. This starts with continuing to bring the vision of the Boyce Center to life and creating a space that celebrates the strengths of each student, recognizing that each student matters, and providing them the toolbox to build upon their capabilities and passions to serve them throughout their educational journey and in life,” Schmidt explains. ❖

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

The Waldorf School of Baltimore (waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org) is tucked behind Cylburn Arboretum. Their Children’s Garden serves children 2.5 to 5 years. A Parent and Child Program is available for families of children 10 months through 3 years. The school also has elementary and middle school grades 1 through 8.

learn more

parent and child class

for babies and toddlers

WALDORF SCHOOL OF BALTIMORE

School News from RPEMS

By April Newton

Roland Park Elementary Middle School (RPEMS) is wrapping up a year of transition and reflecting on successes and a bright future ahead. It's been an exciting year for the scholars and teachers at RPEMS.



Inside the school building, students are demonstrating their growth and learning in class and out, with students winning city, state and national awards

The first year of Principal Brandon Pinkney's tenure has been a chance to take stock of what is already in place and to set new goals. The community has incredible resources, like a dedicated teaching and support staff, energetic scholars and their engaged families who support them, and creative and committed leadership. The community has already begun taking advantage of new opportunities for growth and strengthening the learning process, as well as developing a safe and productive learning environment.

One very exciting new opportunity is the 8th grade promotion ceremony, which will take place at Morgan State University in June, thanks to Assistant Principal Mallory Wright Gayle's coordination. Students and families are thrilled to celebrate the milestone in such an historic and academically important location. Our 5th grade students will have their promotion ceremony at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, in another opportunity for them to be immersed in a place that could be part of their future.

for their academic work, including at the National History Day competition. Additionally, the PTA held a first-ever Wellness Fair in April with many community partners participating. The event was a great way for everyone to learn more about their minds and bodies and how to support both, as well find out more about all sorts of available services.

Outside the school building, new banners decorate the outdoor spaces and welcome everyone as they enter. The banners were a project led and paid for by the Roland Park Annual Fund (RPAF), the parent-led organization that does significant fundraising to support programs and enrichment at RPEMS, as well as important updates to the building itself. Projects on the horizon include updating the school's multi-purpose rooms and gyms, and potentially developing an important STEM space dedicated to 21st century skill-building.


The RPAF raises the bulk of money they use to support their efforts through a fundraising team that takes part in the Baltimore Running Festival, bringing fundraising together with activity to meet healthy goals. RPAF is seeking corporate sponsors for the 2024 team. Anyone interested in supporting the team through a corporate donation or grant may email committee chair Caitlin Kennedy at caitlinkennedy@gmail.com. Additionally, if RPEMS families would like to become monthly donors, please email board@rolandparkannualfund.org.

Finally, scholars will kick off the summer break with a kickball game and family fun night on May 30 on the school's back field and a half-day to end the year on June 13, with a trip to watch the Orioles in the afternoon. Summer is almost here so take us out to the ballgame! ❖

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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Beyond the Pages: A Q&A with Author Dr. Delia Chiaramonte

By Martha Marani

Coping *Courageously: A Heart-Centered Guide for Navigating a Loved One's Illness Without Losing Yourself*, was published by Insight Health Publishing in January. In it, Delia Chiaramonte, MD, MS, a board-certified palliative medicine physician, shares practical strategies for families facing serious illness together, along with stories from her practice and her own life.

With the book, "I want to help families facing illness to suffer less," Chiaramonte explains. "I learned so much from my patients, their families, and my own caregiving journey. I will share what I learned with you, so you and your family can suffer less."



Chiaramonte's debut book includes practical strategies for caregivers facing a loved one's serious illness.

Cover image courtesy of Insight Health Publishing. Photo courtesy of Chiaramonte

Chiaramonte, who founded the Integrative Palliative Institute (integrativepalliative.com), also hosts "The Integrative Palliative Podcast", which is designed to support physicians who are helping families facing serious illness.

Recent episodes have focused on such topics as connecting with dementia patients who are no longer verbal, integrative nutrition coaching, coping with stress in the presence of suffering and remote neurofeedback. Guests have included psychotherapist Michelle Pearce, PhD, integrative nutrition and health coach Joel Edman, DSc, FACN, and co-founders of BreathNote, Fernando David Pinon and Nancy Estaphanous, whose tool uses music to guide relaxation breathing. A particularly compelling episode, "Acceptance is Badass", was broadcast on February 24. It perfectly captures Chiaramonte's no-nonsense style of extreme compassion.

"Acceptance gets a bad rap," Chiaramonte explains in her book. "In the serious illness world, it gets mixed up with giving up or not fighting or being depressed or not caring. Acceptance is painfully misunderstood. It isn't weak and it doesn't make you a quitter; it is brave and tough and fierce. Acceptance looks the monster in the eye, puffs out its chest, and says, 'Yeah, I see you.'"

I asked Chiaramonte to tell us a little about herself and the journey she's taken to publishing her first book.

RPN: *When and why did you decide to write Coping Courageously?*

DC: I decided to write *Coping Courageously* because of what I learned from my patients and their families. Some of the families coped well with very difficult diagnoses, and were able to support each other through the process, while other families really struggled and became fractured and distanced from each other. I noticed similarities in what the families who were coping well did and I wondered if I taught those strategies to other families, could it help them cope more effectively. The answer was 'Yes!' So I started teaching these skills to many of my

patients and families, and this helped them navigate the illness with less distress. Many of those skills ended up in *Coping Courageously*.

RPN: *You are incredibly well educated, with medical degrees from Drexel University College of Medicine and University of Maryland, Baltimore. I know that you also are committed to lifelong learning. What aspect of your education—formal or informal—has had the most significant impact on the kind of doctor you are?*

DC: While of course my formal education gave me key skills to become a physician, I learned a tremendous amount from my patients and their families. From them, I learned about the ways in which illness can reduce

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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BEYOND THE PAGES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

wellbeing and also lead to personal growth. I learned that there are many ways to cope with tough situations, and that every person walks their own illness journey. I learned communication skills, and how important it is to manage my own energy in order to provide healing presence to my patients. I also learned from my own caregiving experience, and I try to use what I learned to become an even more skilled and empathetic physician.

RPN: *Why did you decide to share so much of your personal experiences in the book? Were any of your family members concerned about what you were revealing?*

DC: I don't believe in the authoritative model of medicine, where the doctor is stoic and impervious, and the patient and family are the only ones who experience challenge and pain. My own experiences, including my caregiving experiences, have made me a more empathetic person and a better doctor. I did not want to simply tell the reader what to do, rather I wanted to show them how others, including me, have struggled and grown from the illness or caregiving experience. I asked permission to share my daughters' stories before sharing them.

RPN: *One of your chapters is "Find Flowers in the Poop". Please explain what that means and how this idea has shaped the care you provide to your patients.*

DC: The idea of finding "Flowers in the Poop" is one of the most important skills that we can all develop to improve our wellbeing. The idea is that, in every difficult situation, we have the option to look for the small positive moments or opportunities for growth that are inevitably there. Even in extremely tough situations, we can find "flowers", such as realizing that we're stronger than we thought, appreciating the people in our lives, and being inspired to focus on what matters most to us. Importantly, this is different from "toxic positivity". Toxic positivity intentionally ignores the negative parts of life (the "poop") and focuses only on the positive parts (the "flowers"). I believe that it is important to acknowledge that many situations have both "poop" and "flowers."

"...This powerful book offers hope and healing, reminding us that even in the face of illness, we can still find moments of beauty, connection and profound meaning. A must-read for anyone seeking to navigate the challenges of serious illness with grace and dignity."

Andrew Weil, MD

RPN: *Of all the advice you give in the book, which is the most difficult for you to follow?*

DC: What an interesting question. One of the chapters is titled "You Do You, Boo" and the idea is that every person should lead their life (and cope with their illness or caregiving experience) in their own, unique way. They should not feel pressured to be a certain way just because others expect them to be. I struggle with this more than I'd like to. In the ideal, I believe in following one's own compass and not being influenced by the judgements or expectations of others. In real life, I'm still working on this skill.

RPN: *Has writing *Coping Courageously* changed the way you practice medicine or live your life?*

DC: Absolutely. Writing the book reinforced for me the skills that I am certain make life better. Some of them are specific to caregiving, but many of them are relevant for all of us who are mortals living life on Earth, including me. Reminding myself to find "flowers in the poop," positively reframe difficult situations, communicate effectively with people that I love, create a legacy, etc., all help improve my own life.

Full disclosure: Chiamonte is a dear friend. What's more, she was part of the medical team that helped me during a particularly scary time. The compassionate, heartfelt advice she shares is a perfect reflection of the kind of doctor...the kind of *person*...she is. Reading her book is like having a conversation with a funny, incredibly smart friend about all the scary stuff you're facing—whether you yourself or someone you love is seriously ill. It will help. ❖

For more information on "The Integrative Palliative Podcast", including free guides on integrative pain management, ways to help a loved one make treatment decisions and support resources for those with serious illness, visit integrativepalliative.com. *Coping Courageously* is available from your local independent bookseller and Bookshop.org.

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Lasbury Tree & Shrub	lasburytree.com	410-363-8070

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Ace of Diamonds Chimney Sweeps	aceofdiamondschimneymd.com	410-477-9144
B&H Chimneys	bhchimneys.com	410-800-4298
Charmed Chimney Service	charmedchimney.com	443-286-9337
Clean Sweep	cleansweepmaryland.com	410-558-1111
Mark & Buttons Chimney Sweeps	markandbuttons.com	410-655-4367
Swift Chimney Service		443-992-5629

ELECTRICIANS

Casper G. Sippel		410-668-3910
Gurley Electric		410-668-9627
Heubeck Electric		410-235-4095

EXTERMINATORS

Atlantic Pest Control	atlantic-pest-control.com	888-743-4814
Atlas Exterminator Company		410-560-6964
Brody Brothers	brodybrotherspestcontrol.com	410-653-2121
Pest-A-Rest	pestaest.net	410-600-3113

GUTTER CLEANING AND REPAIR

Ian Garrett (also window washer)		443-418-2293
The Gutter Guys	thegutterguys.com	800-GUTTER-1

HANDYMEN/CARPENTERS

The Baltimore Handyman Company	baltimorehandyman.com	443-352-3580
Mark Evans (also a painter)		410-467-8569
Greg Gensheimer	greggensheimer.com	410-961-5436
Bob Hayward (also a painter)		410-868-4467
Ray Simmons		410-978-3376

HEATING AND A/C CONTRACTORS

Accurate Heating and A/C		410-747-7111
All Steamed Up		410-321-8116
Blue Dot Services	bluedotmd.com	410-204-2662
Carrington Heating and Air Conditioning	carringtonheatandair.com	410-893-7971

HEATING AND A/C CONTRACTORS (cont.)

Constellation Home	constellationhome.com	888-243-2120
McCord Services		410-952-1604
Perry Hall Heating and Air Conditioning	perryhallhtg.com	410-256-7285
Rowbel Services	rowbelservices.com	877-769-2351

HOME IMPROVEMENT/RENOVATION CONTRACTORS

ADR Builders	adrbuilder.com	410-561-0221
American Contracting	american-contracting.com	410-494-0900
Crossroads Building	crossroadsbuildingmd.com	410-472-2754
Custom Requirements of Maryland	customrequirementsofmarylandinc.com	410-542-9628
DeGraw Design + Build	degrowdesignandbuild.com	443-928-0981
Delbert Adams Construction Group	dacgllc.com	410-583-7575
Dennis Designs		240-535-2546
Diggian Renovation	diggianrenovation.com	410-254-1074
Federal Hill Kitchen, Bath & Closet		410-783-1992
Fick Bros. Roofing & Exterior Remodeling Co.	fickbros.com	410-889-5525
FitzGerald Design Build/Patrick FitzGerald	fitzdesignbuild.com	443-838-4095
Fulton Construction	fultonconstructionmd.com	443-463-4775
Greenbuilders	greenbuilders.com	410-472-7072
Greenleaf Construction/Greenleaf Home Services	greenleafbaltimore.com	410-207-0344
Home Tailor	hometailorbaltimore.com	240-394-9840
LAB Restoration, Louis Blankenship		410-303-8554
MB Borjas Construction	mborjasconstruction.com	443-599-6754
Oak Hill Consulting		410-382-1057
Plumb Construction	plumbconst.com	410-557-4310
Pyramid Homeworks	pyramidhomeworks.com	443-829-2738
Randlett Construction	randlettconstruction.com	443-277-8290
Rock Solid Builders	rocksolidbuildersonline.com	410-486-1955
Rodgers Home Improvement	rogersimprovement.com	443-929-3761
Scherr Contracting	scherrcontractingllc.com	443-401-1703
SouthFen	southfen.com	410-526-6008
Taylor Made Custom Contracting	taylormadecontracting.com	410-557-0322
Thomson Remodeling Company (also roofing contractors)	thomsonremodeling.com	410-889-7391
Unique Resources	uniqueresourcesinc.com	410-539-1000

INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Kate Culotta Interiors	kateculottainteriors.com	410-804-4750
Lela Knight Interiors	lelaknightinteriors.com	410-303-5806
Redhead Design	redhead-design.net	410-440-2065

LAWN AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS AND CONTRACTORS

Brady Landscape	bradylandscape.com	410-798-0879
Broadleaf Nurseries	broadleafnurseries.com	410-343-0169
Green Fields Nursery and Landscaping Company	greenfieldsnursery.com	410-323-3444
Hemphill's Garden and Aquatic Center	pondpals.com	410-803-1688
Hernandez Landscaping		443-803-4006 443 579 6748
HMD Landscaping	hmdlandscaping.com	410-243-9993
The Lawn Crew		410-882-3356
Maple Creek Landscapes	maplecreeklandscape.com	410-790-3901
Ismael Martinez		443-806-6628
Michael's Irrigation	michaelsirrigation.com	410-557-8580
Pinehurst Landscape Company	pinehurstlandscape.com	410-592-6766
Realty Landscaping	realtylandscape.com	410-744-0694
Snarski Landscaping	snarskislandscaping.com	443-632-8409

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Stone Hill Landscape Architecture	stonehillinc.net	443-996-0659
Wm. F. Turner Landscape	turnerscapes.com	410-472-9333

MASONRY CONTRACTORS

Ruane Contracting		443-643-6513
Stinebaugh Masonry	stinebaughmasonry.com	410-652-5163

PAINTERS

Absolute Best Custom Painting		410-733-2384
Baltimore Paint Authority	baltimorepaintauthority.com	410-484-0753
Bill Bischoff House Painting		443-992-6045
CertaPro Painters	certapro.com/baltimore-central	410-592-6006
Coady Painting and Decorating		410-366-7294
Edward Crutchfield House Painter		410-377-6421
Cutting Edge Custom Painting		443-789-4111
Falko Painting		443-570-7357
M&M Brothers Painting		410-908-8060
Colleen Murk Custom Painting	murkpainting.com	443-386-1382
Nikitaras Painting	nikitaraspainting.com	443-417-5886
Paint Perfection	paintperfectionmaryland.com	667-208-0436
Pride Painting Contractors		410-876-8322
Sam's Painting	sampaintingllc.com	443-610-3471
Slater Painting and Home Improvements	slaterpaintingandhomeimprovements.com	410-371-4210

PLUMBERS

Dennis J. Diem Plumbing Services	dennisdiemplumbing.com	443-865-0389
Forster Plumbing	forsterplumbing.com	410-444-0016
Gasper's Plumbing and Heating		410-256-0594
Brent Goldsmith, Plumber		443-463-2766
Hamilton Plumbing (also HVAC contractors)	hamiltonplumbingandheating.com	410-529-3283
Len the Plumber	lentheplumber.com	800-950-4619
O'Neill Plumbing and Heating	oneillplumbingandheatinginc.com	410-433-4047
Saffer Plumbing & Heating	safferplumbing.com	410-855-4618
Wes Plumbing	wesplumbing.com	410-236-3656

ROOFING CONTRACTORS

Architectural Fabrication and Installation	afi-roofing.com	410-239-6115
Black Diamond Roofing	blackdiamondroofingcompany.com	443-604-0662
Bob Tuttle Roofing	bobtuttleroofingandgutters.com	240-268-7668
Bravo Roofing	bravoroofingmd.com	443-450-6110
Columbia Roofing	columbiarroofing.com	410-379-6100
Hasslinger Roofing	hasslingerroofing1.com	240-315-2708
McCreesh Slate Roofing	mccreeshslateroofing.com	800-399-41114
Remarkable Home		443-618-5225
Thompson Slate Roofing	baltimoreslate.com	410-889-7391

TILERS

Bryan Tile & Marble		410-808-5354
Giovanni Irias		443-388-0372
Webb Tile and Hardwood	webbtile.com	301-639-1300

WINDOW CLEANERS

Friendly Neighborhood Window Cleaning	fnwcinc.com	410-733-5511
Wingspan Window Washing	wingspanwindows.com	801-759-9953

To verify that a contractor is properly licensed or if they have had any complaints filed against them, contact the Maryland Home Improvement Commission at 410-230-6309 or 888-218-5925, or visit dlr.state.md.us/license/mhic. Please submit recommendations to magazine@rolandpark.org.

All That's Green Is Not Gold

By Jan Danforth

Those promising evergreens—the holly, white and red cedar, sweetbay magnolia, pines—seem to carry us through the monochromatic Maryland winter.

Those promising evergreens—the holly, white and red cedar, sweetbay magnolia, pines—seem to carry us through the monochromatic Maryland winter.

But the evergreen English ivy (*Hedera helix*)—always crawling, spreading, climbing—endangers our urban canopy. Many carry sentiments for it, with images of romantic thatched-roofed stone cottages hugged by ivy. In my mom's small, sloped front yard, it was the ground cover. It took two years to rip out, and still it tries to return. Ivy falsely promises to be maintenance-free. The Disneyfication of nature presents all things natural as sublime, but that doesn't always reflect the realities.

In *Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas*, issued by the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, English ivy and 15 other vines are listed as “ecological threats ...climbing tree trunks spread out, and envelop branches and twigs, blocking sunlight from reaching the host tree's foliage ...impeding photosynthesis ...a reservoir for bacterial leaf scorch ...a harmful plant pathogen that affects ...trees such as elms, oaks and maples. The added weight of vines makes trees susceptible to blowing over during storms.” Ivy robs a tree of water and nutrients, and the tree declines for many years before it dies.

When allowed to climb vertically, ivy fruits black berries with stone-like seeds that are consumed by birds, which spread the seeds from late summer to early fall. Leaves and berries contain glycoside hederin, which is poisonous to humans and pets if ingested.

Detaching and removing English ivy can be daunting. I've cut stems 4 to 5 inches thick, and Urban Forester Megan Carr counted 18 rings in one recent case! Although some vines remove easily, they can and do become embedded. Indiscriminately ripping them from the bark can damage the tree. Older vines without leaves are hairy, and closely resemble the native and ecologically beneficial poison ivy, whose vine has a distinctive reddish tinge.



English ivy robs trees of water and nutrients. Photo: Jan Danforth

One stopgap technique called the “window cut” is performed by removing a 4- to 8-inch section of the vines around the circumference of the tree. The intent is to cut the upper vines off from their roots, starving them of nutrients and water. Although removing vines from the base of the tree is best, the expedient window cut is a leap toward a healthier canopy, especially if it's performed before the fruiting. There are plenty of videos to explore, but here's an option to learn more, and get guided, good old fashioned, hands-on experience.

Baltimore City Recreation & Parks' Forestry Division offers remarkably free and comprehensive courses on becoming a certified Weed Warrior twice a year, in May/June and the fall, with two virtual sessions, two hands-on field experiences, volunteer opportunities, occasional celebrations, and plenty of camaraderie. Join us and let's tackle the English ivy in our area! It's an action that recognizes we are part of and interdependent with nature and each other. Find out the course schedule at treebaltimore.org/weed-warriors-1! There's also no need to wait—join a volunteer event and learn from the experience of your fellow volunteers.

And the trees? Did you know Baltimore City is on a track to achieve a 40 percent tree canopy by 2029? Look into the Forestry Department's TreeKeepers' program, which also offers stewardship training, including planting and pruning, open to all city residents. The next session will be held in the fall. Explore both further at treebaltimore.org. ❖

Melissa Campanella and Lee Connah also contributed to this article.



Cucumber, Tomato and Mozzarella Summer Salad

Miss Shirley's Café

Yields 1 quart, about 4 servings.



Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Café

while slowly adding in the oil. Taste and adjust the salt and pepper to taste. If using a jar, add in oil and screw the lid on tightly. Shake the jar vigorously until the vinaigrette is well combined. Set aside until ready to use. The vinaigrette can be kept refrigerated for 5 to 7 days.

Red Wine Vinaigrette

Yields 1½ cups.

Ingredients

- 8 oz. olive oil
- 4 oz. red wine vinegar
- 1 T. Dijon mustard
- 1 T. agave nectar
- 1 clove chopped garlic (about 1 ½ tsp.)
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- ½ tsp. dried thyme
- 1 ½ tsp. kosher salt
- ¼ tsp. cracked black pepper

Add all ingredients except the oil to a small bowl or a glass jar with a lid. If using a bowl, whisk ingredients together well

Summer Salad

Ingredients

- 1 each European cucumber, cut in quarters and diced small
- 1 pint mixed cherry tomatoes, cut in halves
- 4 oz. fresh mozzarella, diced small
- ½ cup roasted corn
- 2 T. red onion, finely diced
- 1 T. fresh basil, finely chopped
- ¼ cup red wine vinaigrette
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a large bowl, place diced cucumber, tomato, roasted corn, diced mozzarella, red onion and basil, and toss together. Add vinaigrette and toss to coat. Taste and adjust the salt, pepper and dressing. Refrigerate for 1 to 2 hours before serving. Mix again before serving. The salad can be kept refrigerated for 2 to 3 days. ❖

GILMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

with their heads and working with materials and tools with their hands—they realize sculpture is more than just the sum of the parts that the artist adds or subtracts from the piece. It turns out, a true masterpiece comes from the heart. “If it doesn’t mean anything to you, it’s not going to mean anything to anyone else,” Sachs often tells her students when pushing them to dig deeper inside themselves to communicate through their art.

By tapping into their vulnerabilities, the students form sculptures—and friendships too. Inside the “sacred space,” as Sachs refers to the art room, students are able to stretch outside their comfort zones, not only in sharing about themselves but also in learning to use new techniques. “The expectation is that they will experiment and they will fail,” Sachs says. “I tell them, ‘If you don’t fail, you’re not pushing yourself as much as you could.’” Through the process, they build resilience and develop creative, problem-solving skills.

Or, in sculpture terms, they carve away doubt, fear and apprehension while adding courage, determination and grit; in the end, they have created meaningful expressions of themselves through art.

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

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.

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Community Building: Chris McSherry, 26 Years of Roland Park Leadership

By Kathy Hudson

When she first volunteered for the traffic committee of the Roland Park Civic League, attorney Christine (Chris) McSherry did not know it would lead to 26 years of volunteer leadership. “Like most people, there was an issue I was passionate about shortly after we moved to Deepdene Road in 1997. In 1998, we learned that [Roland Park Country School] was planning to build their new middle school on the hill across the street from our house, so we wanted to be involved in the design and its effect on our street. Shortly thereafter, Civic League President David Blumberg asked me to be the Civic League Secretary and get involved, so I did.”

Although McSherry and her 11 siblings grew up in Frederick, MD, she has deep Roland Park roots. Her mother grew up on Merryman Court, and her aunts and uncles have lived on Hawthorn Road, Wyndhurst Road and Roland Avenue. “I have strong childhood memories of all of those relatives’ houses,” she says. “My grandfather grew up on Woodlawn Road, and there have been Macsherrys (my mother’s side with a different spelling) since Roland Park was first built.”

Her husband, Fred Hopkins, an attorney for Chevy Chase Trust, also has family in Roland Park. McSherry and Hopkins have three grown children and two grandchildren. She says that when they gather with her siblings, spouses, children and grandchildren, more than 60 are present. “Four of my siblings are lawyers, and a few of my in-laws too. The rest either work in mental health/social services, teaching or business. The most interesting jobs are those of my sister, who is a flower farmer in Montgomery County, and my brother who is a United Church of Christ minister in Massachusetts.”

We asked McSherry a few more questions about her many volunteer roles.

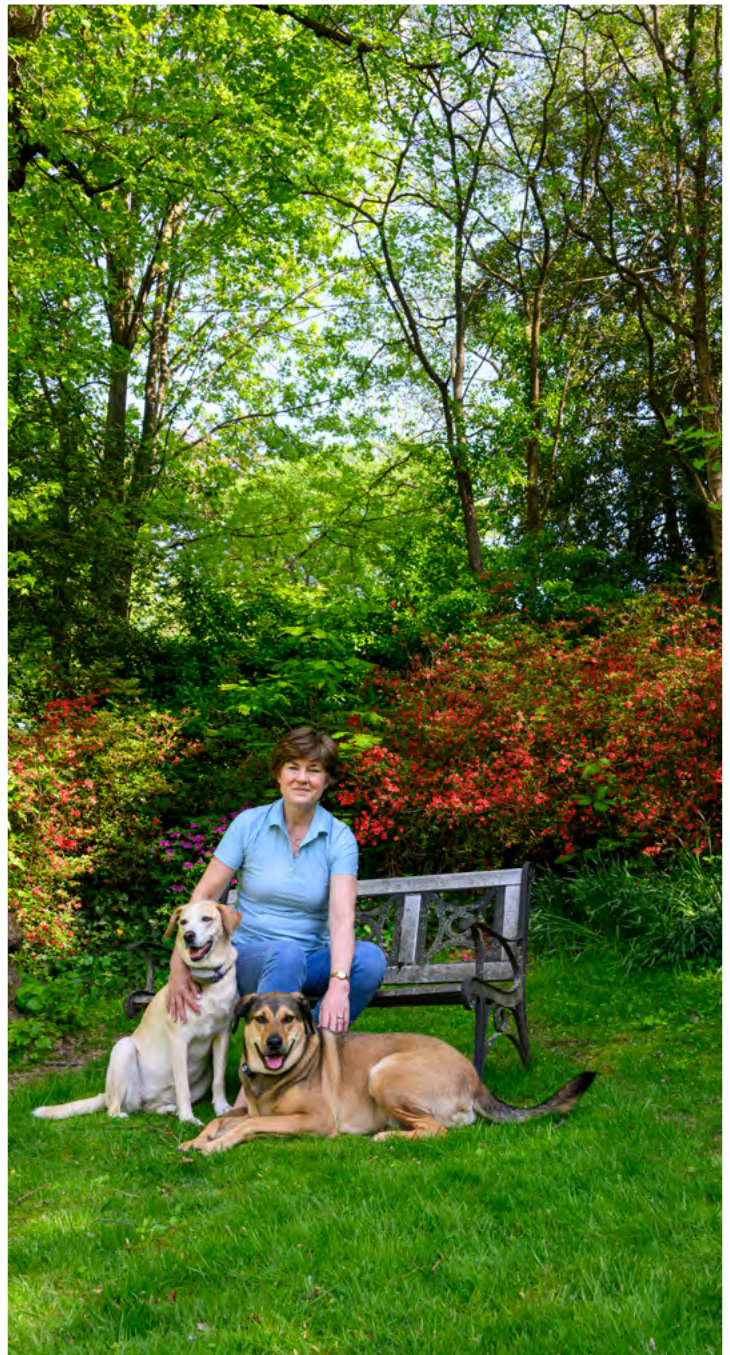
KH: *What has been your Roland Park involvement?*

CM: I was on the Civic League board on and off from 1998 to 2016, and served as the secretary, vice president, plat representative and president. I really wanted to be involved in the Hillside Park effort and worked on that while I was president from 2013 to 2016. I’ve been with the Roland Park Community Foundation exclusively since 2016, and currently serve on the Hillside Park committee as its secretary.

KH: *As a community volunteer leader, what have been your biggest challenges?*

CM: The response to the 2008 to 2010 Keswick proposal [to purchase the surplus land at the Baltimore Country Club] was a huge effort by the community, but I was only one of the foot soldiers in that battle. Phil Spevak, Ken Rice, Mary Page Michel, Anne Stuzin and many others gave hundreds of hours to that [effort], and they succeeded.

I was president of the Civic League when the cycle track was installed. What sounded like a good idea in the 2010 Master Plan turned into a



McSherry has two foster dogs and has been fostering for the SPCA for years.
Photo: Sally Foster

major point of disagreement. I wisely asked Andrew Marani to lead the committee to study it, and he led that effort very thoughtfully and thoroughly. Things eventually went back to how they had been.

I guess my biggest undertaking has been the Hillside Park purchase and development. The Community Foundation, especially Mary Page Michel and John Kevin, have devoted countless hours to that, and I am proud to be on their team. We are hoping to close on the sale of the land by the end of 2024. That will be a huge accomplishment.

KH: *What has been your most gratifying Roland Park volunteer experience?*

CM: It will come when we are finally able to open Hillside Park to the public. That will be a momentous day!

KH: What do you see as Roland Park's greatest strength?

CM: The people who live here are the best! I am so grateful to be a member of this neighborhood, because most of my neighbors care deeply about Roland Park, and are committed to maintaining it as the close-knit, historic and mutually supportive community that it is.

I also think it is one of the most charming, architecturally intriguing and attractive neighborhoods in the world. Where else can you live in an historic home, have neighbors who are interesting and friendly, walk to the grocery store, the bank and school, and still be minutes away from the downtown attractions or the countryside?

KH: What are its challenges?

CM: We have a reputation for exclusiveness. That may have been true at one time, but it isn't true today. I hope that image is fading as the neighborhood gets more diverse, and more young families move in and learn how inclusive Roland Park actually is. We welcome new neighbors eagerly and encourage them to join in on the things that bring us together, like the schools, the pool, Roland Park Little League, the community associations and the annual events.

KH: What would you like to see happen in Roland Park over the next five years?

CM: I dream of sitting on the ground at Hillside Park and watching children play on the new playground or play basketball on the sports court (if we get a sponsor to build one), or walk through the meadow and the woods with their friends exploring nature. It will be such a joy to welcome the wider city into Hillside Park and share the balm that nature provides. It will happen in the next few years too!

I also hope the trend of more diversification in the community continues to grow as houses turn over to new families. It strengthens our neighborhood to welcome everyone!

KH: Are there other community organizations in which you are involved?

CM: My other favorite "community" is the Maryland SPCA. Currently, we have two noisy dogs (sorry, neighbors) and three cats, but I also foster for the SPCA. So often we have a cat and/or kittens living in the basement playroom. As an animal lover, I really appreciate what that organization does. My family started fostering for them in 2016, and we haven't stopped since we brought the first two tiny kittens home to bottle-feed. Those kittens both still live in Roland Park too! Since then, hundreds of cats and kittens have passed through our lives, and I love finding them homes (many in the neighborhood) and knowing that they will be well-loved. It's the one small thing I can do for all the lost, stray and abandoned animals in the city.

KH: Is there anything else you'd like to say?

CM: It really is a privilege and an honor to be able to work for the community in which we live, whether that is for the neighborhood, the wider city or the state. I cannot think of a better way to spend time than trying to improve the lives of those around me. ❖

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

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Noises Off!

Adapted from an Environment America Email

Is there any sound more annoying than the high-pitched whine of a gas-powered leaf blower?

These ear-piercing menaces aren't just offensive to the ears. They're also huge polluters.

In fact, a single gas leaf blower produces as much air pollution as 15 cars driving up and down your block, contributing to climate change and a host of health problems, including asthma attacks, cancer, reproductive challenges, heart attacks and even premature death.¹

It's time to switch to cleaner, quieter electric lawn equipment. Environment America ([environmentamerica.org](https://www.environmentamerica.org)) is urging local and state governments to phase out the dirtiest gas-powered leaf blowers and encourage the shift to clean electric options. [You can read more about pollution from lawn care equipment at [environmentamerica.org/resources/lawn-care-goes-electric](https://www.environmentamerica.org/resources/lawn-care-goes-electric)]

Gas-powered lawn equipment produces a shocking amount of pollution—pound for pound, even more than cars and trucks.

In 2020, fossil fuel-powered lawn equipment emitted more than 30 million tons of carbon dioxide, the leading driver of climate change.



Gasoline-powered leaf blowers, lawn mowers, string trimmers and chainsaws are noisy, polluting and putting our health at risk. Stock photo: 123RF

To put that in context, that's as much global warming pollution as comes out of the tailpipes of 6.6 million cars over the course of a year. And that's more carbon pollution emitted by gas-powered lawn equipment in one year than was emitted by the entire city of Los Angeles in 2021.²

Is all that pollution really worth it just to clean up the yard when the same job can be done with cleaner, quieter, electric equipment—or a rake—without annoying the whole neighborhood?

Local and state governments can take the following steps to tackle lawn care pollution:

- Lead by example by adopting electric lawn equipment for their own facilities.
- Create financial incentives to encourage the purchase of electric lawn equipment.
- Consider policies that phase out the sale of gasoline-powered lawn equipment over time.
- Restrict the use of the noisiest and most polluting equipment under certain circumstances (like during smog season).

Working to ditch the dirtiest gas-powered lawn and garden equipment is just one of our strategies to cut climate pollution and clean the air. We're also working to promote solar energy, stop offshore drilling and defend our public lands from dirty energy projects.

Together, we can ensure cleaner air for our communities.

Thank you,

Wendy Wendlandt, President, Environment America ❖

Environment America is a national network of 30 state environmental groups. Their staff work together for clean air, clean water, clean energy, wildlife and open spaces, and a livable climate. Members across the U.S. put grassroots support behind our research and advocacy. To support their work, visit [environmentamerica.org/take-action](https://www.environmentamerica.org/take-action).

We thank Roland Park's Eugenie Jenkins, longtime advocate for the environment, for bringing this email to our attention.

¹ Tony Dutzik, Louis Sokolow, Luke Metzger and Kirsten Schatz, "Lawn Care Goes Electric," Environment America, October 30, 2023.

² Tony Dutzik, Louis Sokolow, Luke Metzger and Kirsten Schatz, "Lawn Care Goes Electric," Environment America, October 30, 2023

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Grilled Lamb Burgers with Portobello Mushrooms

Eddie's of Roland Park

No bun is needed for these Mediterranean-style burgers. They are perfect for summertime outdoor entertaining.

Preparation time: 15 minutes. Cook time: 20 minutes. Serves four.

Ingredients

1½ lbs. ground lamb	4 portobello mushrooms, stem and gills removed
½ cup crumbled feta	1 large tomato, sliced half-inch thick
1 T. fresh oregano, chopped	1 red onion, sliced half-inch thick
1 tsp. dried oregano	⅓ cup balsamic vinegar
2 cloves garlic, crushed	½ cup plus 1 T. olive oil
Coarse kosher salt	1 cup Cibo Naturals Basil Pesto
Fresh ground pepper	

In a large bowl combine the lamb, feta, fresh oregano, dried oregano, garlic, salt and pepper. Form burgers, each about one-third pound. Set aside.

For the marinade, whisk together the balsamic vinegar with one-third cup olive oil, salt and pepper. Brush the portobellos generously with marinade. Save the extra marinade for basting.



Photo courtesy of Eddie's of Roland Park

Prepare the grill for medium-high direct heat. Brush the grill with oil to prevent sticking or use non-stick spray. Place the burgers, mushrooms, tomato slices and onion slices on the grill, basting the tomato and onion with the reserved marinade. Grill the burgers for 6 to 7 minutes on each side for an internal temperature of 130 degrees for medium rare. You may need to grill them a few minutes longer depending on the thickness of the burgers. Grill the portobellos until tender, about 5 minutes on each side, and grill the tomato and onion until grill marks appear, about 4 minutes on each side.

Place the portobellos on a platter. Top each with a burger and a tomato and onion slice. Top everything with a dollop of fresh basil pesto. ❖

Eddie's Tip: To add some variety, switch up your toppings with traditional tzatziki or olive tapenade

Grill Safety

Kristi Giles, Senior Volunteer Recruitment Specialist, American Red Cross

Though more than three-quarters of adults in the U.S. have used a barbecue grill, grilling sparks more than 10,000 home fires on average each year. To avoid this, the Red Cross offers these grilling safety tips:

- Always supervise a grill when in use. Make sure everyone, including pets, stays away from the grill
- Never grill indoors—not in the house, camper, tent or any enclosed area
- Keep the grill out in the open on a flat surface, at least 10 feet away from the house, deck, tree branches or anything that could catch fire
- Don't add charcoal starter fluid when coals have already been ignited
- Use the long-handled tools especially made for cooking on the grill to help keep the chef safe
- Wear appropriate clothing, be careful about long sleeves or apron strings that can catch on fire.

To learn other ways to have fun and stay safe this summer visit the Red Cross website at [redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/summer-safety.html](https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/summer-safety.html).

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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 and 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.
- Jun. 1, 11 am. **Summer Break Baltimore Kick-Off Party: Ice Cream Social.** Kick off Summer Break Baltimore (prattlibrary.org/summer-break) at the Roland Park branch with an ice cream social! All participants have a choice between a henna and an airbrush tattoo. Ice cream will be provided! This event

is part of Summer Break Baltimore, a fun, free program for all ages that encourages literacy and learning in our community.

- Jun. 3, 3 pm. **Rainbow Cloud Fun:** Decorate and create your own rainbow that hangs from a cloud!
- Jun. 12, 3 pm. **Paper Popsicle Craft.** Thinking of cold treats during a hot summer? Make a paper popsicle to cool off!
- Jul. 15, 1 pm. **Flamingo Paper Craft.** Create a flamingo out of a paper plate! All materials provided.
- Jul. 24, 1:00pm. **Summer Collage Journal.** Summer is here! Use old magazines and some fun art supplies to make a scrapbook of your summer!
- Aug. 5, 12:45pm. **S'More Summer Fun.** Are you ready for s'more fun? Come to the Roland Park branch to make your very own cardboard s'more!
- Aug. 15, 11am. **Fun with Flowered Cupcake Liners.** Visit the library for a fun post-storytime craft that turns cupcake liners into special summer scenes!

For Teens


- Jun. 5, 3 pm. **Button Making.** Need an after-school brain break? Visit the Roland Park branch and design your own buttons.



GET TO KNOW THE PARK SCHOOL

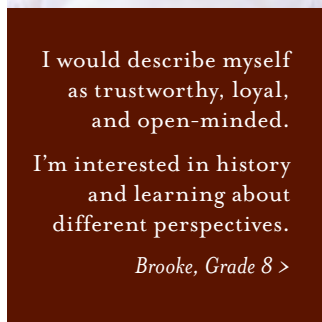
PRE-K — GRADE 12 PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION

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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

- Jun. 5, 3 pm. **Anime Club: Sushi Plushies.** It's International Sushi Day! Celebrate at the library with a food-themed anime and snacks, and create your own sushi plushie.
- Jun. 6, 3 pm. **Doughnut Decorating.** Let's go nuts for doughnuts! Visit the Roland Park branch to celebrate National Donut Day by creating a custom-made donut, munching on munchkins and putting a twist on the "old classic" recipe. Don't blink or you'll miss the deliciousness.
- Jun. 10, 3 pm. **Airbrush Tattoos.** Summer is almost here! Create a lasting memory by getting a free air-brushed tattoo from the Airbrush Unlimited Group.
- Jul. 6, 2 pm. **Sphero BOLT Maze.** The Roland Park library needs your help! The Sphero BOLT Coding Robots are stuck in a maze and need help to get out. Visit the library and see if you can solve the maze and win a prize. Note: If you have a tablet or smartphone, please bring it. You will need to connect to the Sphero BOLT. A limited supply of devices will be available to use.
- Jul. 20, 1 pm. **Upcycled Disco Ball.** Create your own disco ball using recycled CDs and DVDs.
- Aug. 1, 1 pm. **Tie-Dye Backpacks.** Visit the library to create your own tie-dyed backpacks.

For Adults

- Jun. 15, 11 am. **Pressed Flower Hanging Frames.** Join Hailey of Wildry in learning the process of pressing flowers to preserve them for years to come. Participants will be guided through the process along with tips and tricks to get colors bright and long-lasting. Then, construct a piece of pressed flower artwork in a glass hanging frame to take home with you. Please call 410-396-6099 to register.
- Jun. 24, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: *Foster* by Claire Keegan.** Read and discuss this "international bestseller and one of *The Times* Top 50 Novels Published in the 21st Century," Keegan's piercing contemporary classic is a heartbreaking story of childhood, loss and love, now released as a standalone book for the first time ever in the U.S.
- Jul. 10, 1 pm. **Roland Park Branch 100th Anniversary Celebration.** Please mark the 100th anniversary of the Roland Park library with cake and live jazz music performed by The Greg Thompkins Quartet. Come share any library-related memories and photos you have. There will also be a Baltimore history-themed story time for the kids in the morning, as well as a library-themed coloring pages.
- Jul. 15, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: *To Die in Spring* by Ralf Rothmann.** Read and discuss this novel, which describes the lunacy of the final months of World War II, as experienced by a young German soldier. Told in a remarkable impressionistic voice, focusing on the tiny details and moments of grotesque beauty that flower even in the most desperate situations, this is the story of Walter and his dangerously outspoken friend Friedrich Caroli, 17-year-old trainee milkers on a dairy farm in northern Germany who are tricked into volunteering for the

army during the spring of 1945—the last and, in many ways, the worst months of the war.

- Jul. 27, 11 am and 2 pm. **Film Series: *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny.*** Daredevil archaeologist Indiana Jones races against time to retrieve a legendary dial that can change the course of history. Accompanied by his goddaughter, he soon finds himself squaring off against Jürgen Voller, a former Nazi who works for NASA. Rated PG-13.
- Aug. 24, 11 am and 2 pm. **Film Series: *American Fiction.*** Thelonious "Monk" Ellison's writing career has stalled because his work isn't deemed "Black enough." Monk, a writer and English professor, writes a satirical novel under a pseudonym, aiming to expose the publishing world's hypocrisies. The book's immediate success forces him to get more deeply enmeshed in his assumed identity and challenges his closely-held worldviews. Rated R

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

***This Time Tomorrow* by Emma Straub** (recommended by Abby Lyon, children's librarian). Have you ever wondered what life would be like if you could travel back in time with the knowledge of what you know now? In *This Time Tomorrow*, protagonist Alice

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



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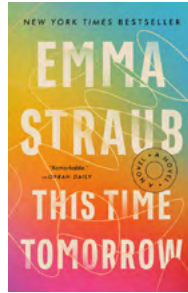
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BOOK NOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

is a native New Yorker struggling with turning 40 and dealing with her father's terminal illness. So it's clearly a surprise when, on her birthday, she wakes up to find herself in 1996 and 16 years old again. Her father is healthy, she's a teenager and the world looks very different. All of Straub's books are well-written; but by adding a poignant father/daughter relationship, a love letter to the city, and an abundance of warmth, humor and emotional resonance, Straub elevates this literary novel above the expected time-traveling genre. Thought-provoking and insightful, it's a must-read.



is told from the points of view of a number of Von Neumann's colleagues, contemporaries and family members. The final chapters of the book describe the incredibly complex computer programs that were designed to compete against the world's best chess and Go players. (Go is an incredibly complex game that originated in China several thousand years ago.) *The MANIAC* is a fascinating exploration of technological advancement from the middle of the 20th century up to present time.

***To Die in Spring* by Ralf Rothmann**

(recommended by Greg Fromme). This short and poignant novel will be the subject of our library book discussion on July 15. As mentioned above, it tells the story of young German army enlistee, Walter Urban, during the brutal and chaotic last days of World War II in Europe. The events of the story are filtered through the imagination of Walter's son, who describes his father's exploits as a teenaged military recruit during the spring of 1945. The novel depicts the loss of innocence and abrupt immersion into war of a 17-year-old as he experiences the widespread misfortune and tragedy unfolding across Europe as Germany faces imminent defeat in the final few months of the war. ❖



***The MANIAC* by Benjamin Labatut**

(recommended by Greg Fromme). This is the latest book by the author of the previous recommendation, *When We Cease to Understand the World*. Labatut once again blurs the line between fiction and nonfiction as he focuses on the exploits of John Von Neumann, the Hungarian physicist who is widely considered to have been one of the leading developers of modern computing and early artificial intelligence. The novel



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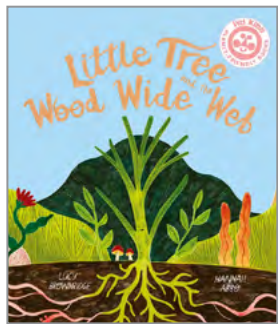


KidLit Picks

The Ivy Bookshop

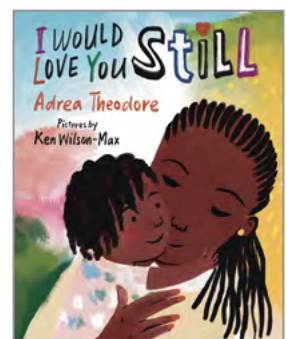
Picture Books (Age 3-6)

Little Tree and the Wood Wide Web by Lucy Brownridge (recommended by Lizzie Bonsal). This story is based on Professor Suzanne Simard’s real scientific discovery that she calls “the Wood Wide Web”, which describes the ancient underground fungal networks that enable different species of trees to share resources and actively communicate with each other. This beautifully illustrated tale tells the story of Little Tree, a Douglas fir sapling, who is very small and terribly lonely down on the dark forest floor. Follow along as she grows and learns through her roots just how supported she is by the forest all around her! Little nature lovers will learn all about root communication, photosynthesis, symbiotic relationships and the importance of community. And, best of all, this book is made from 100 percent recycled paper!



Early Readers (ages 6-9)

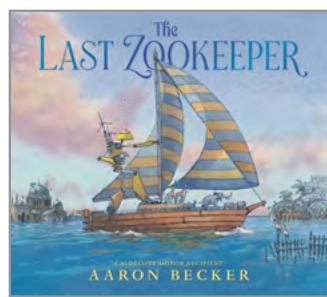
Bunny and Clyde by Megan McDonald (recommended by Hannah Fenster). You might know Megan McDonald from her beloved Judy Moody early reader series. Now she’s back, with an illustrated chapter book for those young readers just setting out on their own! As you might expect from the title’s reference, the main characters



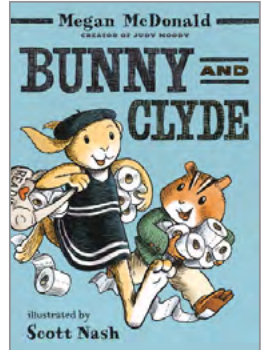
I Would Love You Still by Adrea Theodore (recommended by Amani Jackson). This is a gorgeously illustrated book about a mother’s love. As she walks through the zoo with her child, a mother expresses her love through rhymes about the animals they encounter. This is a perfect bedtime story for goodnight kisses and snuggles.

Middle Readers (ages 10-13)

The HISTORY™ Channel’s This Day in History For Kids: 1001 Remarkable Moments & Fascinating Facts by Dan Bova (recommended by Emma Snyder). What a great way to make history feel more lived in and approachable! The first kids book produced by The History Channel™, which provides a snapshot of each calendar day in history, is always substantive and touched with humor. Perfect for middle reader history buffs, but also provides an accessible way to work a little bit of history into family conversations throughout the year.



The Last Zookeeper by Aaron Becker (recommended by Hannah Fenster). Aaron Becker is a master of the epic-without-words form, and his latest picture book, *The Last Zookeeper*, doesn’t disappoint! This sweet story follows an endearing robot, the last of a crew of seawall construction machines, as he finds a new purpose in life caring for animals. Detailed, expressive illustrations make every page a discussion topic and open pathways for conversation between adults and children in Becker’s signature style, complete with an emotional ending you didn’t see coming.



Join The Ivy Bookshop for IvyKids events at least once a month on a weekend morning, featuring a craft for the kids and coffee for the grown-ups from Bird in Hand! Visit theivybookshop.com/event to see the schedule.

Young Adult (ages 14-18)

Canto Contigo by Jonny Garza Villa (recommended by Amani Jackson). This YA romance takes on the rivals-to-lovers trope in a fun and original way. Imagine “Bring it On” but, instead of high school cheerleading squads, it’s dueling high school mariachi bands. Two talented boys who are drawn to each other must balance their attraction with their desire to be the group’s lead singer. I’ve never read anything like this, but I hope to see queer minorities represented in such a fun way in the future of YA. ❖



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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.

Occasional Mondays, 6:30 pm. **Nature Book Club**, Lake Roland Nature Center, 1000 Lakeside Dr. Adults only. Discuss some of the greatest nature books. Bring a snack to share. Free, with registration by email to lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov. lakeroland.org

First Tuesday of the month, 10 am. **Stretch and Slide**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Adults only. Take a 0.75-mile leisurely walk on an ADA-accessible boardwalk through the forest to the lake. Meet at the Light Rail parking lot. Limited to 10 participants. Free, with registration by email to lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov. lakeroland.org

Wednesdays to Saturdays from Jun. 1 to Sep. 1, 10 am-4 pm. **Summer Hours**, Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301 York Rd. Visit the museum for fire safety fun activities on Wednesdays, the Fire Rescue Game on Thursdays and Story Time on Fridays. firemuseummd.org

Fridays, 10 am. **Friday Walks**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Adults only. Get some exercise while enjoying Lake Roland. Bring boots and water. Free, with registration by email to lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov. lakeroland.org

First Saturday of the month, 9 am. **Saturday Yoga**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Ages 10 and up. Take a gentle, all-levels yoga class. Meet under Pavilion No. 2 or inside the Nature Center. \$2 per person, with registration by email to lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov. lakeroland.org

Second Saturday of the month, 9 am. **Weed Warriors**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Remove invasive plants and clean up the park. Bring gloves, boots and water. Meet at the Ranger Station. Free, with registration by email to lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov. lakeroland.org

Social Studio Summer, 737 and 739 Deepdene Rd., has camps for kids aged 3 to 5, 6 to 9, and 10 to 16, and for adults. Social Studio, 737 and 739 Deepdene Rd. socialstudioart.com/camps

June

- Jun. 4, 9:30 am. **In the Garden Series: Planting 101**, Ladew Topiary Gardens, 3535 Jarrettsville Pike, Monkton. Learn advanced gardening skills from professional gardeners. In-person: \$10 for members, \$25 for non-members (includes admission to the gardens). Meet at the admissions gatehouse. ladewgardens.com
- Jun. 6, 6 pm. **John Copenhaver: Hall of Mirrors**, The Ivy Bookshop Patio, 5928 Falls Rd. Do you love mysteries? Need a new crime fiction pic for your summer reading? Spend an evening with acclaimed mystery writer Copenhaver in celebration of his latest novel, a Judy Nightingale and Philippa Watson Mystery. He'll be joined by other local mystery writers, including Chris Chambers and Austin Camacho. RSVP at theivybookshop.com
- Jun. 8, 9:30 am. **Fishing Frenzy**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Ages 7 and up. Learn to identify some common fish, bait a hook and try to catch one! There will also be games and crafts, including a make-your-own fishing pole workshop. Fishing license not required. \$4 for members, \$6 for non-members. Register by email to lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov. lakeroland.org
- Jun. 12, 6:30 pm. **Wine and Art Wednesdays: Fish Embroidery**, Social Studio. Adults. Create and connect once a month, with a different art project, finger food, wine and water. socialstudioart.com/camps.
- Jun. 15, 9:30 am. **Wild Walks and Talks: Maryland Biodiversity Project with David Webb**, Ladew Topiary Gardens. Learn how the Maryland Biodiversity Project promotes conservation by documenting living things using the iNaturalist app. Hike with Webb to identify and catalog insects, birds and plants in the meadows and the forest of the Nature Walk. In-person: \$10 for members, \$25 for non-members (includes admission to the gardens). Meet at the admissions gatehouse. ladewgardens.com
- Jun. 15, 10 am. **Nature Quest Canoe**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Ages 6 and up. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Take a guided tour of the lake on a canoe, looking for beavers, eagles and turtles. \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members. Register by email to lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov. lakeroland.org

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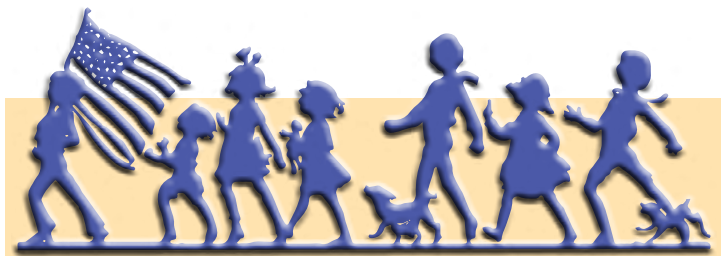
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NEXT TO ROLAND PARK VISION SERVICES

- Jun. 15, 10:15 am. **Mr. Trash Wheel**, Charm City Books, 426 W. Franklin St. Join the Mr. Trash Wheel team in celebrating the new book, *Green Machines and Other Amazing Eco-Inventions*, in which Dr. Seuss's beloved icon of environmentalism, the Lorax, celebrates Mr. Trash Wheel and other inventions. This free event will also feature a sing-along, craft and Mr. Trash Wheel merchandise. charmcitybooks.com
- Jun. 18, 6 pm. **Susan Coll: *Real Life and Other Fictions***, The Ivy Bookshop Patio. Coll (Bookish People) celebrates her new novel. In conversation with Marion Winik. RSVP at theivybookshop.com
- Jun. 23, 10 am. **Summer Sundays Art Camp for Adults: Flowers**, Social Studio. Adults. Enjoy an immersive creative experience. All materials provided. \$175 per class or \$825 for five. socialstudioart.com/camps.
- Jun. 25, 9:30 am. **In the Garden Series: Pruning**, Ladew Topiary Gardens. Learn advanced gardening skills from professional gardeners. In-person: \$10 for members, \$25 for non-members (includes admission to the gardens). Meet at the admissions gatehouse. ladewgardens.com
- Jun. 29, 9 am. **Donut Run**, Lake Roland Nature Center. All ages. Enjoy donuts after taking a five-mile run along Lake Roland's marked trails. No pets or strollers, please. \$4 for members, \$6 for non-members. Register by email to lakerolrp@baltimorecountymd.gov. lakeroland.org

July

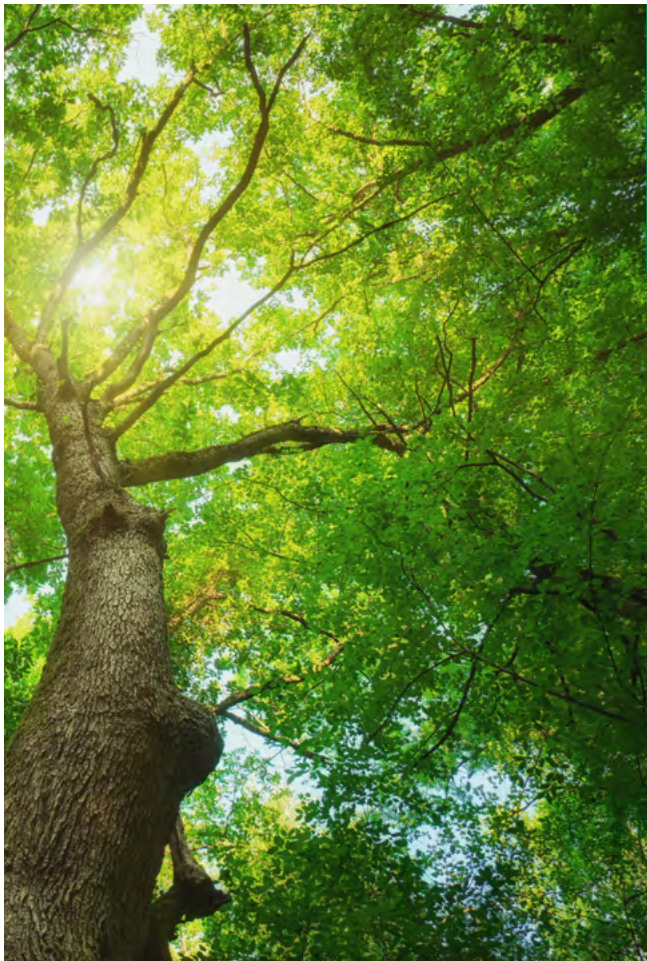


Roland Park 4th of July Family Parade

Jul. 4, 10 am.

The festivities will begin with a reading from the Declaration of Independence on the library steps. The parade will start in front of the library and proceed south down Roland Avenue, led by our local fire truck to the intersection at Upland Road. There will be popsicles for everyone and, if history is a guide, the firefighters will hook up a hose to the hydrant to cool us all down. The Roland Park Presbyterian Church will once again open its doors to offer bathrooms, water and air conditioning for those who need to cool down. Please join us in your brightest and boldest red, white and blue regalia, and be sure to decorate your bikes, strollers and pets! rolandpark.org

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

- Jul. 6, 11 am. **Antique Car Show**, Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301-R York Road, Lutherville. Check out the Chesapeake Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America's antique car show, featuring classic and custom vehicles, trucks, motorcycles, police and military vehicles. firemuseummd.org
- Jul. 6, 8:30 pm. **Firefly Lanterns**, Lake Roland Nature Center. All ages. Search for fireflies. Bring a flashlight. \$4 for members, \$6 for non-members. Register by email to lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov. lakeroland.org
- Jul. 7, 1-3 pm. **Terrarium Building Workshop**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Ages 8 and up. Create a self-contained moss garden in a jar. Materials will be supplied. \$4 for members, \$6 for non-members. Register by email to lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov. lakeroland.org
- Jul. 9, 5 pm. **Wild Walks and Talks: Evening Birding with Ecologist John Canoles**, Ladew Topiary Gardens. Explore the grounds on this Twilight Tuesday with ecologist Canoles to catch a glimpse of the summer resident birds before they tuck themselves in for the evening. In-person: \$10 for members, \$25 for non-members (includes admission to the gardens). Meet at the admissions gatehouse. ladewgardens.com

The Civic League meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church at the corner of Roland Avenue and Upland Road (4801 Roland Ave.). There will be a meeting June 5, but not again until September 4.



- Jul. 10, 6:30 pm. **Wine and Art Wednesdays: Water Lily Watercolors**, Social Studio. Adults. Create and connect once a month, with a different art project, finger food, wine and water. socialstudioart.com/camps.
- Jul. 11, 6 pm. **Noa Silver: California Dreaming**, The Ivy Bookshop Patio. Silver celebrates her debut novel. In conversation with Christine Grillo. RSVP at theivybookshop.com
- Jul. 14, 10 am. **Summer Sundays Art Camp for Adults: Weaving**, Social Studio. Adults. Enjoy an immersive creative experience. All materials provided. \$175 per class or \$825 for five. socialstudioart.com/camps.
- Jul. 19, 9:30 am. **Wild Walks and Talks: Native Bees with Sally Lent**, Ladew Topiary Gardens. Explore the gardens, meadows and forest in search of the many different bee species found at Ladew. Lent is an American Conservation Experience Intern with the Interagency Native Bee Lab and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In-person: \$10 for members, \$25 for non-members (includes admission to the gardens). Meet at the admissions gatehouse. ladewgardens.com
- Jul. 21, 10 am. **Summer Sundays Art Camp for Adults: Color Wheel Mandala**, Social Studio. Adults. Enjoy an immersive creative experience. All materials provided. \$175 per class or \$825 for five. socialstudioart.com/camps.
- Jul. 26, 6 pm. **Clifford Murphy: Ink: The Indelible J. Mayo Williams**, The Ivy Bookshop Patio. Murphy, director of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, launches his new biography with a musical performance and author talk. RSVP at theivybookshop.com
- Jul. 28, 10 am. **Summer Sundays Art Camp for Adults: Black and White**, Social Studio. Adults. Enjoy an immersive creative experience. All materials provided. \$175 per class or \$825 for five. socialstudioart.com/camps.
- Jul. 30, 9:30 am. **In the Garden Series: Gardening Photography**, Ladew Topiary Gardens. Learn advanced gardening skills from professional gardeners. In-person: \$10 for members, \$25 for non-members (includes admission to the gardens). Meet at the admissions gatehouse. ladewgardens.com

August

- Aug. 2, 5:30 pm. **Sturgeon Moon Canoe**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Ages 8 and up. Canoe the lake and learn about the abundance of the Atlantic sturgeon in August and early

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September. \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members. Register by email to lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov. lakeroland.org

- Aug. 9, 8:30 pm. **Wild Walks and Talks: Nocturnal Night at Ladew**, Ladew Topiary Gardens. Peek into the world of nocturnal insects with David Webb from the Maryland Biodiversity Project. In-person: \$10 for members, \$25 for non-members (includes admission to the gardens). Meet at the admissions gatehouse. ladewgardens.com
- Jul. 10, 6:30 pm. **Wine and Art Wednesdays: TBD**, Social Studio. Adults. Create and connect once a month, with a different art project, finger food, wine and water. socialstudioart.com/camps.
- Aug. 18, 10 am. **Summer Sundays Art Camp for Adults: Summer Place**, Social Studio. Adults. Enjoy an immersive creative experience. All materials provided. \$175 per class or \$825 for five. socialstudioart.com/camps.
- Aug. 22, 9:30 am. **Wild Walks and Talks: Lessons from Ladew with Sarah Oktavec**, Ladew Topiary Gardens. Learn

stories about Harvey Ladew and the evolution of the gardens from the former lead horticulturist, Sarah Oktavec. This walk will be packed full of stories, lessons learned as a horticulturist and a shared wealth of knowledge. In-person: \$10 for members, \$25 for non-members (includes admission to the gardens). Meet at the admissions gatehouse. ladewgardens.com

- Aug. 24, 10:30 am. **The Bees and the Butterflies**, Lake Roland Nature Center. Ages 7 and up. Learn about what pollinators do for our ecosystem, and what makes bees and butterflies so special. Free. Register by email to lakerol-rp@baltimorecountymd.gov. lakeroland.org
- Aug. 27, 9:30 am. **In the Garden Series: Edible Landscaping**, Ladew Topiary Gardens. Learn advanced gardening skills from professional gardeners. In-person: \$10 for members, \$25 for non-members (includes admission to the gardens). Meet at the admissions gatehouse. ladewgardens.com ❖

Please send calendar announcements to magazine@rolandpark.org.

Summer Fun at Roland Park Swimming Pool

By Kristen Bowden, Member, Roland Park Swimming Pool Board

The Roland Park Swimming Pool fosters intergenerational fellowship and youth development within our community through an inclusive and relaxing outdoor environment, promoting safe and healthy activities. Membership is open to Roland Park residents, but we currently have a small waiting list.

The pool opens on Saturday, May 25. You'll find essential information about pool membership, hours and rules at rolandparkpool.org. We are excited for you to see our new and improved North Wall, designed to help with run-off from the Friends School athletic fields and to increase seating. Thanks to George Elfrey's generous assistance, we have adjusted the terrain to enhance our flood defenses and hopefully secure a dry future for our grounds. The effort, designed to ensure that any standing water is managed by our drainage system, was skillfully coordinated by volunteer board member Ian Craig and thoughtfully designed by pool member Claire Agre. This will provide us with more usable and enjoyable grounds. Planted with native flowers, grasses and trees, the area is both functional and beautiful, and we are looking forward to the shade the trees will eventually provide. This effort was the last task in Phase 1 of the Roland Park Swimming Pool Master Plan Vision. If you would like to be part of the effort to make our next phase a reality, please contact rolandparkpoolboard@gmail.com and let us know which of the following skill sets you can offer: fundraising, event planning, project management, financial modeling or something else.

We had some great pre-season events, including our second Sleep Under the Stars event on May 11, with a clothing swap,



The pool opens the day before Memorial Day, with some exciting improvements. Photo: Ken Benjes

food truck and outdoor movie. Regular season events include our annual Juneteenth event scheduled for June 19, 4th of July Activity Day, Float into August on August 3, Labor Day Live Music on September 2 and the always-adventuresome Dog Swim. Movie nights, food trucks and other activities can fill your summer with poolside fun!

Our swim team season begins on June 5, so please be sure to register your swimmer at rolandparkpool.org/teams-lessons/swim-team, where you can also find meet dates and practice information. Our first meet is scheduled for June 18, when we'll host the Baltimore Country Club swim team! Come cheer on the Penguins!

The pool has beautiful swag designed and distributed by pool member, Elizabeth Graeber. Visit elizabethgraeber.art/pool to see hats, mugs, clothing and prints. Purchases help raise money for additional improvements at the pool.

Please remember to visit the website for all summer happenings at the pool and to see announcements and weather-related closures. ❖



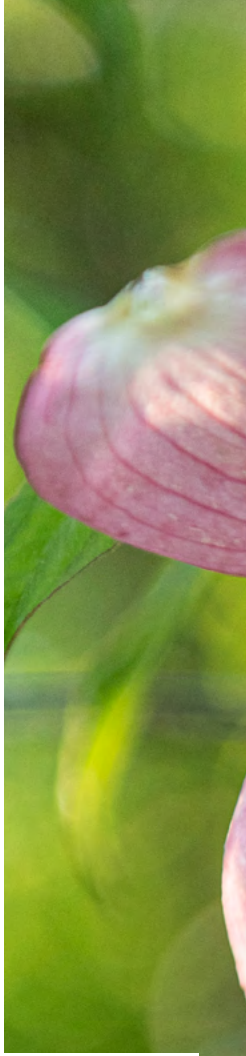
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