

ROLAND PARK news

Quarterl

undation • Volume Ninety-Seven • Summer 2025

Keep Reading!

Roland Park Condominiums' Centennial Celebration

Ask the Gardenista



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Roland Park News is published quarterly by the



ROLAND PARK
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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

Chair: Mary Page Michel
 Treasurer: John Kevin
 Manager: Hilary Paska

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

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



Editor's Note

By Martha Marani

Editing the Roland Park News is not my full-time gig, as some of you may know. I spend most of my weeks during the school year working as Charm City Books' (CCB) children's programming specialist, sprinkling a few days in here and there as a volunteer for An Open Book Foundation (AOB) in Washington, DC. My colleagues at CCB and AOB are "book people"—some of the most dedicated advocates for literature, literacy and community I've ever had the privilege and pleasure to know. Together, we work to bring great children's books into classrooms throughout the Baltimore area and in the Title 1 public schools in DC.

That's one reason it was so easy to decide that the cover story for this issue would be Jessica Bello's great article, "From Pages to Playlists: Making Summer Reading Come Alive". Summer reading—once perhaps considered a teacher's last attempt to torture their students with homework...over the *summer!*—has changed. Schools that offer book lists have added a rainbow of diversity to these lists, to ensure that every child can find a book in which they might see themselves reflected. Most schools aren't prescriptive in their approach anymore,

encouraging students to "find a book that appeals to you, and enjoy!"

After all, reading can and should be one of life's greatest pleasures (it always has been for me). The joy a child experiences when they find "just the right book" is magical. Just look at the faces of the children on our cover!

A few contributors have offered their suggestions for summer reading: Bello mentions *Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun* by British Nigerian author Tolá Okogwu, Matthew Akras, visiting librarian at the Roland Park

library, recommends *How to Teach Physics to Your Dog* by author and physics professor Chad Orzel, and Paula Willey, longtime librarian and new member of the team at The Ivy Bookshop, has curated a list of more than 50 titles for children of all ages to peruse.

Wherever you get your books—from our very own neighborhood library, one of our amazing local independent bookstores (visit indiebound.org to see all of them in our area), Libby (libbyapp.com), which gives you access to the Enoch Pratt Free Library's ebook and audiobook collection, or Bookshop.org, which has raised more than \$38 million for independent bookstores since 2020—enjoy stocking up for the long, lazy days of summer.

Happy summer, all! ❖

Sarah Clare Goeddel, Arden Echols and Penelope Chhim share a story about Nobel Prize-winning scientist Marie Curie (Little People, BIG DREAMS™: Marie Curie, written by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara and illustrated by Frau Isa). Photo: Anne Stuzin

*“One benefit of summer
 was that each day
 we had
 more light to read by.”*

Jeanette Walls
 (author of *The Glass Castle*)

Cover: Neighborhood kids are excited about spending lazy summer days curled up with a good book. Pictured from left to right, starting at the top: Alex Walsh, Anderson Echols, Maureen-Margaret Angura, Jack Goeddel, Wesley Walsh, Sarah Clare Goeddel, Arden Echols and Penelope Chhim. Photo: Anne Stuzin

From Pages to Playlists: Making Summer Reading Come Alive

By Jessica Bello, Founder and Sole Educator, Confident Scholars Tutoring

Picture this: a group of kids eagerly sharing handmade dioramas, designing playlists for their favorite characters and hosting a backyard movie night inspired by novels they just finished. When reading sparks creativity, books are no longer assignments: they become adventures.

With the school year wrapping up, many parents are thinking about ways to keep their children engaged over the summer months. The “summer slide”, where students lose academic progress over vacation, is a well-documented challenge. The good news is that, with a little creativity, you can help your child stay connected to learning while making summer reading one of the best parts of the season.

The Power of Choice

One of the most important factors in getting kids excited about reading is giving them the power to choose. Reading becomes a chore if students are handed books they don't find interesting. A simple but effective strategy is to gather a short list of five current “hot books” tailored to your child's interests and let them pick [Editor's Note: For some great suggestions, check out *The Ivy Bookshop's* “KidLit Picks”, page 29.]

Does your child love music and stories about fame? *Solo* by Kwame Alexander could be a perfect fit. Are they fascinated by superhero stories? *Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun* by Tolá Okogwu might capture their imagination. For a sports-loving middle grader, Kwame Alexander's *The Crossover* graphic novel remains a favorite. Search for top reading lists by grade level, then let your child pick something that catches their attention. Ownership builds excitement and motivation.

Bring Books to Life with Creative Projects

After your child chooses a book, consider pairing it with a creative project. Over my 13 years of teaching English, I have seen students create playlists, film movie trailers, research historical events and design fake social media accounts for fictional characters.

Online resources like StoryboardThat (storyboardthat.com), Canva (canva.com) and Blooket (blooket.com) offer fun tools for visual storytelling. Some parents get involved, too. One mom helped her daughter cook recipes from Grace Lin's *Dumpling Days*, while another family built an obstacle course inspired by the Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan. Connecting reading to creation and discovery makes the experience memorable.

Create a Reading Challenge

Setting a tangible goal can boost motivation. Create a simple



Sarah Clare Goeddel enjoys her book *Marie Curie*, written by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara and illustrated by Frau Isa, while Anderson Echols reads Alan Gratz's *Heroes*. Photo: Anne Stuzin



SUMMER BREAK BALTIMORE

SUMMER BREAK BALTIMORE (prattlibrary.org/summer-break) is the Enoch Pratt Free Library's fun, free program for all ages that encourages literacy and learning in our community all summer long.

Participants can receive a free Summer Break t-shirt upon registration as well as a free book to add to your home library in June, July and August (while supplies and sizes last). Book title availability will vary and t-shirts are expected to go quickly, so visit your local library to learn more.

Once registered, you can earn entries into monthly prize drawings by reading books and attending programs at the library! Stop by the library to redeem your raffle tickets each time you read a book or attend a program.

reading tracker chart and post it in a common area. Every time your child finishes a chapter or a set number of minutes, they can add stickers or earn small rewards. You can also join official summer

reading programs through libraries or bookstores, many of which offer prizes and events. Whether you build your own challenge or join an existing one, creating a sense of accomplishment can make a difference.

Helping Kids Focus on Reading

Picking a book and setting a goal are important steps, but sitting down and reading without distractions can be tough for kids used to digital entertainment. Several executive functioning strategies can help:

- **Body Doubling.** Having another person quietly working nearby, even on a completely different task, boosts focus. While your child reads, you can respond to emails or do light work. This shared quiet time creates accountability and a calm environment.
- **Timers.** Using a timer helps make reading feel manageable. Start with 20 or 30 minutes, and celebrate completing each session. Often, kids get so absorbed that they end up reading longer.
- **Routines.** Whenever possible, build reading into the daily schedule. Setting aside time before bedtime or before screen time makes reading consistent rather than an afterthought.

SUMMER READING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Use Audiobooks and Movies to Build Excitement

Audiobooks are a great way to fit in more reading during car rides, on quiet afternoons or while doing chores. Listening to a story together can spark conversation and make reading feel social.

Choosing a book with a movie adaptation coming out can also help build excitement. Plan a family movie night after finishing the book and discuss how the film compares to it. Were the characters what you imagined? Was anything important left out?

If possible, connect books to real-world experiences. After reading *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown, you might plan a family hike. After Christina Soontornvat's *The Last Mapmaker*, you could visit a museum exhibit about exploration. Even small outings deepen connections between stories and the world.

For Young Readers

Younger readers often need more hands-on support, but there are still plenty of ways to make early reading feel rewarding. Before diving into a book, preview it and create colorful flashcards for challenging vocabulary words. Turn these into a guessing game, or play a round of "word detective" as your child hunts for the words while reading.



Jack Goeddel, and Wesley and Alex Walsh are engrossed in their books. Photo: Anne Stuzin

Pair reading with movement by creating a scavenger hunt. After your child finishes a chapter, encourage them to find a hidden object related to the story.

Draw simple pictures of key scenes together, or act out a favorite part of the book using stuffed animals or toys.

Celebrate small milestones, like finishing a chapter or learning a new word, to keep motivation high. Whether they are reading a graphic novel or a classic story, every book helps young readers strengthen essential skills like fluency, decoding and an understanding of how stories work.

Summer reading should be about more than checking off a list. It is an opportunity to spark creativity, imagination and real-world adventures. With thoughtful choices, creative projects and a little structure, you can help your child not only avoid summer learning loss but also discover that reading can be one of the best parts of their time off. ❖

Jessica Bello is the founder of Confident Scholars Tutoring, where she specializes in helping students strengthen their reading, writing and executive functioning skills through creative, tailored support. She loves helping students discover the joy of reading—during the summer months and beyond.



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Hillside Park Update

By Mary Page Michel, Roland Park Community Foundation Chair

The park is coming! During the first week of May, I took a Baltimore Heritage tour of Patterson Park that paid special attention to the history of the park, which was established with just six acres in 1827. Frederick Law Olmsted and his sons played a role in designing what is now a 137-acre park that is one of Baltimore's best public parks. Learning this almost 200-year history reminded me that we are birthing a park and it is going to take a little time to get it up and running. So, as excited as we all are, we are also going to have to be patient.

The anticipation is building as settlement is on the horizon! Here is what we are working on:

Originally, those of us at the Roland Park Community Foundation thought we could issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a landscape architecture firm while we were waiting for the Baltimore Country Club (BCC) to complete its requirements for settlement. However, we failed to account for a few things. First, only a small number of the many, many people that will use the park have ever been on the land. It is hard to come up with a plan that works well without input from people who are not yet familiar with the property. Second, in any high quality strategic plan, opportunities must be available to walk the property. While BCC was completing the environmental remediation, we did not have access. Now that we are close to settlement, it is time to select a landscape architect and start the plan.

The Community Foundation has put together a committee to select the firm. This small, diverse group includes residents of Roland Park and neighboring communities, who are joined by folks experienced in landscape architecture and maintenance. The committee will also include representatives from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Western High School, Coppin State University and Morgan State University, and a local business owner. The RFP will go out shortly. So exciting!

A small team of volunteers are working on a new website that will be a hub for information about Hillside Park, including its history, planned events, guidelines and more. It sounds easy, but a great deal of work has gone into capturing the story of this amazing project in words and images.

The legal team is finishing up the work to create a new nonprofit, Hillside Park, Inc., which will manage the park. Again, this sounds easy but it has involved thinking through a lot of details and working with a legal representative from Maryland Nonprofits to establish the entity, a process that includes applying for tax-exempt status and filling out the required forms for the Internal Revenue Service.

Our Youngest Donor

In early April, I got an email from Erica Leigh Bloom, a neighbor. It read, "For my son's 5th birthday party, in an effort to introduce philanthropy, we asked [Jack] to choose a charity and, in lieu of gifts, ask his friends to bring \$5 to contribute to the cause....He chose Hillside Park. More specifically, a playground at Hillside Park."

Of course, this message made my day, my week, my month! After the party, I learned that Jack had raised \$110, which he was delighted to give to the Hillside Park fund.

Thank you, Jack and friends!



Jack Bloom. Photo courtesy of the Bloom family

Finally, we are meeting with representatives from multiple city agencies, including the police department and the traffic department, to make sure they know what to expect from Hillside Park. We want to be great partners with the City, and having a mutual understanding of the responsibilities and uses of the new park is vital for working together successfully.

We honestly cannot wait to run into you all soon in the park! ❖



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Ask the Gardenista

By Kristin Sparkman, Founder of Gardenista Creations

Houseplant obsession is real, but so are the problems! That gorgeous leafy friend you brought home might be looking a little less lively now. Don't panic! I am here with quick answers to your most pressing plant questions, straight from our social media feeds.

Q: Why are my leaves turning yellow?

- **Crunchy Yellow:** Thirsty plant! Water more regularly and boost humidity with a pebble tray.
- **Mushy Yellow:** Oops, too much love! Overwatering leads to root rot. Try bottom watering.
- **All-Over Yellow (Watering is Fine):** Could be natural aging or a nutrient dip. Try a plant nutrient supplement.

Q: My plant used to thrive, now it's droopy! Help!

Time for an upgrade! Repot your houseplants annually to refresh the soil and give the roots room to grow (go up just an inch or



Caring for your houseplants is a form of self-care, according to Sparkman. Photo courtesy of Gardenista Creations

two in pot size). You can even divide larger plants!

Q: Can my houseplants get a summer vacation outdoors?

Yes, please! Most love a shady porch (less than four hours of morning or evening sun). Watch for pests and treat the plants monthly with diluted neem oil or insecticidal soap.

Q: I'm seeing small, white, fuzzy spots on my plant's leaves and stems.

You've got mealybugs. These are common sap-sucking pests that live on the undersides of the leaves and in the crevices of your plants, leaving behind a cottony residue.

To solve your problem, dab the pests with a cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol. For heavier infestations, consider using insecticidal soap or spraying with diluted neem oil, ensuring

you spray the undersides of the leaves where the critters often reside. *Quarantine this plant until the infestation is under control.*

Q: What's that white stuff on my soil?

It could be a few things: nutrient deficiency, poor soil with salt or mineral build-up (time to repot!), or even mold from overwatering.

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4612 Roland Ave.	\$1,419,000	\$1,384,000
607 Somerset Rd. No. 2	\$ 300,000	\$ 295,000
4211 Wickford Rd.	\$ 630,000	\$ 630,000
108 Hawthorne Rd.	\$ 799,000	\$ 855,000
208 Edgevale Rd.	\$ 825,000	\$ 870,000
114 Ridgewood Rd.	\$1,250,000	\$1,300,000

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Q: My plant is growing long, bare stems with few top leaves?

Your plant is trying to tell you there's **not enough light!** Move it to a brighter spot, or consider grow lights.

Q: I've noticed tiny, spider web-like structures on my plant's leaves.

Yikes! Spider mites. These tiny pests thrive in dry conditions and can quickly multiply.

Fight back by increasing humidity.

Wipe down the leaves with a damp cloth or give your plant a shower to remove active mites. For infestations, use insecticidal soap or a neem oil dilution spray, ensuring you spray the undersides of the leaves where the spider mites often reside. *Quarantine this plant until the infestation is under control.*



Photo: Adobe Stock

Q: The leaves on my favorite plant are pale and washed out?

Could be the result of insufficient light, nutrient deficiency (especially nitrogen), or your plant is rootbound and does not have enough soil to facilitate nutrient transfer. Try moving it to a brighter spot, using a balanced nutrient supplement or fertilizer, and checking if it's time to repot.

“Don't let plant problems dim your dreams of a lush oasis at home. Caring for your plants is self-care!”

Q: My split-leaf philodendron (*Monstera deliciosa*) isn't developing those cool splits in its leaves (fenestrations). What's the secret?

Ah, the coveted fenestrations! First off, remember that **patience is a virtue, especially with young Monsteras**. Those solid, heart-shaped leaves are just the beginning. The characteristic splits usually appear as the plant matures, often taking a few years to really show off.

Secondly, **light is key for those fenestrations to emerge**. Your Monstera thrives in bright, *indirect* light. If it's not getting enough light, it will likely produce smaller, solid leaves as it conserves its energy. Think bright shade, not direct sun.

Also, consider this: **in their natural jungle home, Monsteras love to climb!** Providing a moss pole or a trellis for your plant to grow upwards can really encourage larger leaf development

and, you guessed it, those beautiful fenestrations as it matures.

Finally, for those eager to see splits sooner, **a regular nutrient supplement can potentially give your Monstera a boost!** Just be sure to follow the product instructions carefully to avoid any harm to your plant. Think of it as giving your green friend a little extra support as it grows into its full, fenestrated glory.

Quick Tip: Before you buy, Google it! Know your plant's light, water and soil needs for optimum success.

Need more help? I am a Master Gardener, offering in-home consultations and repotting services to support your continued houseplant success.

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How Outdoor Learning Enhances Indoor Learning

By Mel Raymond

Cylburn Arboretum works to provide educational opportunities for people of all ages. This article highlights one of the spring field trips held at Cylburn and explores its impact on young learners in Baltimore. Mel Raymond is a junior at Loyola University Maryland, majoring in English and Writing. She has been serving as a communications intern at Cylburn throughout the spring semester.

Field trips and children's programs are a great part of the learning that takes place at Cylburn. With a team of horticulturists and gardening experts, there are people working here who care greatly about the outdoors and encourage others to do so as well through these learning experiences. In late March, I got to follow along during a field trip to see Cylburn programming in action. As the children from the CJR School in southeast Baltimore unloaded off the school bus, they were excited to be back at Cylburn. Having visited earlier in the school year, they were thrilled to see how the arboretum had changed during the onset of spring. I had the joy of tagging along and speaking to some of these returning guests from the 4th grade class.



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Hands-on learning helps build connections between students and nature
Photos courtesy of Cylburn

I joined the students on their hike and participated in two smaller activities focusing on observing trail erosion and considering accessibility for those who have disabilities—two topics they had been learning about in the classroom. When I asked how visiting Cylburn helped them better understand these topics, I heard responses like, “ Yes, it helps me to better understand the things I am learning because I am actually seeing them” and “You get to actually see the trails and whether or not they’re dangerous is important—it could help elderly people.” Seeing things they are learning about in the real world helps students to recognize that these are tangible issues to consider as they go into nature.

Giving kids access to nature on a greater scale than what is typically available in the average schoolyard allows for them to be excited by a place that has so much space for them to explore. When I asked the students if they would want to come to Cylburn on their own, I heard a resounding “Yes!” Getting this feedback after a full day of learning proves that the activities we are able to do with the students are having a meaningful impact on their education and could drive them to want to learn more.

As the communications intern, I also had the opportunity to oversee students from three different schools take part in the Maryland Arbor Day activities at Cylburn. At this event, the students got to see bucket and log trucks in action, watch professional arborists climb and work in trees, go on guided hikes, and engage in many more exciting activities. For many of them, it was a rare front-row seat to tree care operations they had never seen before. On their hike, students learned to identify and categorize different trees by touch and observable traits, while also discovering other unique features of the trail. Having them come in and see the different possibilities and actions around taking care of trees gave them an exciting perspective on what trees can offer.

Learning is at the core of the work we do here at Cylburn. By combining a love of nature and learning at an early age, we help kids make real-world connections to what they’re studying in the classroom. Especially in a time when more and more kids are moving inside instead of outside, having a space where they can be excited about nature can help them to better connect with the outdoors. Cylburn also welcomes learners of all ages— from



our drop-in classes, camps, talks and more. Come visit us and explore the many ways we celebrate wonder in the natural world. ❖

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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Charlie London Joins Elite Ranks of Morehead-Cain Scholars

By Joyce Barnett

Boys' Latin senior Charlie London has been named a Morehead-Cain Scholar, earning one of the most prestigious scholarships in the country. The Morehead-Cain Scholarship provides a complete four-year scholarship to the University of North Carolina to select students from around the country and the world. In addition, Morehead-Cain Scholars are given four summers of travel and experiential learning. All of this is designed to empower dynamic, purpose-driven leaders of the future. This year's group of 75 comes from six countries, including the United States, and has a widely varied field of interests. The scholarship recognizes "students who demonstrate leadership, academic excellence, moral character, and physical vigor."

London certainly fits that description. A well-rounded student, he is president of the student body at Boys' Latin, serves on the honor board, and captains both the math and varsity tennis teams. London is an eloquent spokesperson for his school, and a strong leader academically, athletically and in service to both the school and his community. The three-sport athlete is active in the One Love and Jewish Awareness Clubs and founded the Investment Society.



Next year, London is heading to the University of North Carolina on a prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship. Photo courtesy of Boys' Latin

London has taken full advantage of all the opportunities available to him. As a Williams Scholar, he took an online course at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School called "Future of the Business World", which gave students the opportunity to make decisions about fictional companies. Selected as a participant in the Ben Cardin Jewish Scholars Program, he gained lobbying experience in Washington.



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He is active with Leveling the Playing Field, a group that holds sports equipment drives to provide much-needed equipment for underserved youth in Baltimore. As an intern with Collars & Co., he launched an initiative to donate clothing to the Baltimore community. And, he founded a power-washing business.

The 2025 recipient of Boys' Latin's Boyd F. Winkelblech Award for Mathematics, London plans to use the scholarship to study math and business. He will, in the words of the Morehead-Cain announcement, "join a thriving cohort of thinkers, leaders, creators, and adventurers at UNC-Chapel Hill, empowered by the Morehead-Cain Program to set their potential free." ♦

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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THE BOYS' LATIN
SCHOOL OF MARYLAND

Honors and Accomplishments Abound for RPEMS During its Centennial Year

By Karen Tong

Roland Park Elementary/Middle School (RPEMS) continues to celebrate our 100th year! There is much to celebrate as we earn accreditations, designations and honors, in an effort to provide the best education and opportunities for our scholars.

In February, we hosted “Legacy in Design: Architecture Lecture and Principal’s Symposium”, where an architectural historian presented the original design concepts of the school building, and past and present principals discussed how that vision has come to life within the school walls.

Arts Every Day School Partnership

RPEMS is an Arts Every Day School. We were selected as one of only 10 intensive partnership schools in Baltimore City to receive targeted grant funding to enhance our curriculum with arts integration. This partnership allows us to provide creative and engaging learning experiences for staff and scholars.

Pre-Kindergarten Accreditation

RPEMS has earned Pre-K accreditation, which is a wonderful milestone that reflects our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality early childhood education to our scholars. This achievement is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and collaboration of our amazing staff, highlighting the work of Mrs. Glickman, our Pre-K teacher, Mrs. Furno, our Pre-K teacher’s assistant, Mrs. Bekoe, our primary administrator, Mrs. Lambdin, our elementary math coach, and Mrs. Tavarez, our elementary literacy coach, as well as the support and involvement of our families. We are proud of this accomplishment, and look forward to continuing to foster a nurturing and enriching environment for our youngest learners.

Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education Designation

RPEMS was recognized as a 2024 Maryland Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) School. This prestigious designation highlights our commitment to providing rigorous, differentiated academic opportunities for our gifted and talented learners. We are one of only 14 schools statewide to receive



With the hard work of Glickman, Furno (shown here) and others, RPEMS earned its Pre-K accreditation this year.

Photo courtesy of RPEMS



this honor. Congratulations to Ms. McGinness, gifted and advanced learners lead teacher, and everyone who helped the school earn this accomplishment.

Roland Park After Dark Centennial Ball

Our annual PTA fundraiser for parents and adults was held in March, raising more than \$40,000. Guests enjoyed the 1920s theme as we celebrated the centennial anniversary of the school. Thank you to the event sponsors who generously supported the event: Wagner Roofing Company, The Wine Source, Roland Park Civic League, Evergreen Veterinary Care, Greenleaf Construction, Smithouse Design and Build, Social Studio Art, Cross Keys, Mobtown Brewing, The Rotunda, THB Bagelry and Deli, and Warehouse Cinemas.

97th Annual MayMart

Thank you to the Roland Park community for supporting our 97th annual MayMart. We enjoyed hosting the community on our campus for fun and games, along with lemon sticks and tasty treats. It is the largest fundraiser held at school and benefits the Parent Teacher Association.

Homecoming November 22

The Centennial Homecoming Celebration will take place at RPEMS on November 22 for all alumni. Save the date as details are forthcoming. Follow our Instagram account (@rpems100) to keep up to date with all the latest news about the centennial happenings and ways you can get involved.

We are #RPEMSProud! ❖

Roland Park Elementary Middle School embodies the art of quality instruction by fostering wholeness for all stakeholders and authentic learning through collaborative partnerships. We will empower a thriving community founded on integrity and fueled by innovation. bit.ly/RPEMS233

Bryn Mawr 6th Graders Hit the Streets with a Message: Save Our Fish

On a sunny spring day, Bryn Mawr 6th graders walked up and down The Avenue—36th Street—in Hampden handing out posters and zines, and sparking conversation as part of a semester-long interdisciplinary project on overfishing.

The project began in English class, where students read *A World Without Fish: How Kids Can Help Save the Oceans* by Mark Kurlansky. The book explains the dramatic loss of ocean species, the impact of that loss and ways to mitigate the trend. Middle School English teacher Sierra Duckworth was confident students could connect what they learned to the Chesapeake Bay. The concept of overfishing became a shared focus across science, art and math.

In their science classes, students explored the environmental impact of overfishing. Through classroom activities and research,



Students were inspired to action by Mark Kurlansky's *A World Without Fish*. Photo courtesy of Bryn Mawr

they explored how fish population decline affects ecosystems and communities that rely on fishing for food and income. They debated the ethics of fish farms and catch limits, and concluded the school year with a field trip on the Chesapeake Bay.

In art, students studied various styles of art from around the world, including Japanese gyotaku—a traditional printing technique—learning how to apply paint to molds of different fish species, and creating sculptures of overfished species and traditional fish prints. And in math, girls calculated fishery statistics to better understand fish populations.

As a part of their English class, every student created a personal zine—complete with research, writing and design—to inform others on overfishing and inspire action.

“Students are so proud of their zines, they’re proud of their work and they’re taking that work into their lives and their decision-making, they’re owning their knowledge and their final product,” Ms. Duckworth explains.

During their field trip to Hampden, students went into small businesses along The Avenue, giving a poster and magazines to each shop owner to give out to patrons to raise awareness in the Baltimore community.

Tysie Hurwitz made sure to share her knowledge. “I got to learn about something new and I got to tell my family about it. Now we only eat sustainably caught fish,” she says. “It’s cool that I get to make an impact.”

This project allows Bryn Mawr students to extend themselves beyond campus and create positive change in Baltimore. “It’s important to me that the students do care and we make as many connections to our bay as possible,” Ms. Duckworth says. “This matters to our area.” ❖

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



Bold. Bright. Bryn Mawr.

Waldorf: Meeting Children Where They Are

By Scotti Morrow

A couple months back, I was having dinner with a longtime friend. Like me, she has an elementary-aged daughter—bright, curious, full of ideas. Her daughter attends the local public school; mine goes to the Waldorf School of Baltimore. As we swapped stories about our kids, I noticed a shift in her tone. She admitted she was anxious—her daughter was coming up on two days of standardized, computerized testing later that month, and the whole family was feeling the pressure.

The results, she explained, would determine whether her daughter would be placed on the “gifted and talented” track starting in 3rd grade. Not just next year’s placement—but potentially her entire academic path, with all the social and emotional weight that comes with it, would hinge on this round of testing. I was stunned.

Maybe I’ve spent too many years in the Waldorf world, where learning is seen as a developmental journey, not a race. But even as someone who grew up in public school, I don’t remember the stakes feeling this high, this early. The idea that a 2nd grader’s future classroom experience could be decided by a series of assessments feels not only premature, it feels unjust. More like a dystopian novel than a modern education system.

In Maryland, schools are required to identify and serve “gifted and talented” students. According to the Maryland State Department of Education, these are kids who perform—or show potential to perform—at “remarkably high levels” compared to their peers. In theory, that sounds supportive. In practice? We end up telling some children they’re exceptional and others that they’re not.

And when we call one child “gifted,” what message are we sending to the rest? That they’re average? Behind?

Waldorf education rejects this kind of sorting—not just the idea that children’s learning journeys should be measured, compared and placed in boxes, but also because we know that intelligence doesn’t always show up on a test.

It can appear in a fort built with the precision of an engineer, an herbal tea brewed from the school garden with the intuition of a master herbalist or the retelling of a story that reveals insight far beyond their years. It’s there in a question that shifts an entire conversation, in a hand reaching out to help without being asked in the confidence to see the world differently.

In a mixed-ability classroom, real magic happens. A math whiz pairs up with a poetic thinker. One brings the structure, the other brings the soul. Together, they create something neither could have built alone. Separate them? You lose that magic. More importantly, you lose the chance for students to learn from each other—not just content, but empathy, collaboration and confidence. You lose the message that everyone belongs.

And this isn’t just a Waldorf ideal—it’s backed by research, common sense, and the lived experience of educators and families everywhere: children thrive when they feel like they matter, when



At Waldorf, every child is seen as full of potential. Photo courtesy of Waldorf

they’re learning with each other, not against each other.

My heart ached to know that children are being sorted and separated at such a young age—by numbers, by test scores, by a singular definition of intelligence. That children as young as seven—before they’ve even lost all their baby teeth—are already being placed on paths that divide them from their peers. Not because it’s wrong to be different, but because the system turns difference into division—into “us” and “them”—and because, too often, those separate paths begin shaping futures before they’ve even had a chance to unfold.

And I felt deeply grateful to be part of a school community that believes in something different. At Waldorf, every child is met where they are. Every child is seen as full of potential. Every child experiences an education that sparks imagination, nurtures curiosity and honors the beautifully unpredictable rhythm of real growth.

Because, in the end, for me, the most “gifted” classroom isn’t the one that separates—it’s the one where everyone belongs. ❖

The Waldorf School of Baltimore (waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org) is tucked behind Cylburn Arboretum at 4801 Tamarind Road. Their Children’s Garden serves children 2.5 to 5 years of age. 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.

Friends' Lee Roby Receives Distinguished Service Award

Each year, the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) awards one member with the association's Distinguished Service Award. Nominees must be members of ACTR in good standing and have demonstrated prominent service to the association in the form of active involvement in the work of the organization and the promotion of its goals. Additional considerations include a demonstrated devotion to the profession in activities such as teaching, professional involvement and activities in the field beyond ACTR and the classroom. The 2024 Service Award was presented to Friends School of Baltimore Russian teacher Lee Roby for her outstanding leadership and transformative contributions to Russian language education throughout more than two decades of her service to the field.

As an ACTR board member since 2014 and its current vice president, Roby has been instrumental in expanding and modernizing ACTR's programs and services. Her vision for cross-institutional collaboration led her to establish the



Roby has taught Russian at Friends for two decades.
Photo courtesy of Friends

Bridge-Building Committee in 2023, which has become a cornerstone of ACTR's efforts to strengthen connections between pre-collegiate and university programs. Under her leadership, this committee has grown to encompass several vital subcommittees focused on advocacy, K-12 outreach, graduate student support and mentorship of emerging colleagues. The advocacy subcommittee, which Roby established, has taken a proactive approach to supporting Russian programs nationwide by developing comprehensive resources, including an ACTR "Why Study Russian?" webpage and practical guidance for promoting Russian studies at educational institutions across the nation.

Throughout her 20-year career as a Russian teacher at Friends, Roby has exemplified excellence in teaching while building a strong program that serves as a model for pre-collegiate Russian instruction. Each year, she supports

student participation in national and state ACTR Russian contests, including the National Russian Essay Contest and Maryland Olympiada of Spoken Russian, always resulting in students bringing home gold, silver and bronze medals for their diligent study of the language. Friends students have repeatedly been selected to serve on the national delegation to the international Olympiada in Russia, some earning international awards. Roby also inspires students to explore the study of Russian in intensive summer programs. Every year, Friends Russian students earn prestigious State Department National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarships for fully-funded summer study and homestay trips abroad.

Beyond the classroom, Roby has created numerous initiatives to engage students with Russian language and culture, including an after-school Russian program that serves Friends students. She plans, coordinates and chaperones a biennial 18-day spring break intensive homestay and study program for juniors and seniors, formerly to St. Petersburg, Russia, and currently to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. She also advises the Upper School Russian club, hosts various cultural programs, including weekly lunch in Russian, monthly Russian film viewings and current events discussions, and serves as an academic advisor and much more.

Through her exceptional teaching, visionary leadership in program development, tireless mentorship of colleagues and unwavering commitment to making Russian language education more accessible and inclusive, Roby has made an indelible impact on ACTR and the field of Russian language education. Her service exemplifies the highest ideals of our profession and has helped create a stronger, more connected and more inclusive community of Russian language educators. ❖

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



The Journey Matters

At Friends School of Baltimore, we believe that The Journey Matters and are deeply committed to helping young people discover and become the person they are meant to be.

Schedule your visit today!

friendsbalt.org/admission



Park Welcomes Wynton Marsalis This Fall

The Park School is excited to welcome world-renowned trumpeter, bandleader, composer and a leading advocate of American culture, Wynton Marsalis, to the school for a two-part engagement. Marsalis currently serves as managing and artistic director of jazz at Lincoln Center, the director of jazz studies at The Juilliard School and president of the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation. He has lectured widely about meaning in American music, and has been a strong advocate for the significance of jazz and improvisation in the development of the American aesthetic.

As the 2025 Park School Resident Scholar, Marsalis will address our entire upper school student body in a special assembly on October 27, and will conduct a small-session Master Class for upper school students. Sponsored by our Parents' Association, Park's Resident Scholar program has brought uniquely qualified individuals to engage, challenge and inspire our students for more than 30 years.

That evening, Marsalis will join us for a conversation about music, America and the power of art. This is an open-to-



Wynton Marsalis!
AT THE PARK SCHOOL

OCT 27 < NEW DATE!

PUBLIC EVENT:
MUSIC, AMERICA, AND THE POWER OF ART
A CONVERSATION WITH WYNTON MARSALIS

Image courtesy of Park

the-public speaking engagement in the school's Athletic Center. Tickets are \$30, with all proceeds supporting student participation in the annual Civil Rights Trip for Baltimore high schoolers. Tickets can be purchased online at parkschool.net.

Since 2004, Park Upper School Principal Traci Wright and faculty from Park, Baltimore City College and City Neighbors High School have traveled with more than 1,000 Baltimore-area high school students through the South, visiting sites and meeting people who were—and are—important to the civil rights movement. What they experience is used as a springboard for discussion about activism and ways we can tackle current civil rights issues in Baltimore and beyond. ♦

Founded in 1912, The Park School of Baltimore (parkschool.net) is an independent, gender-inclusive, non-sectarian, progressive Pre-K through 12 school located on a 100-acre campus minutes from the city.



PARK CAMPS 2025
WWW.PARKCAMPS.COM

THE PARK SCHOOL'S Summer Program provides dynamic experiences for children ages 3 ½–15.

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NEW!

WEEKLY ADVENTURE CAMPS! "Paddles & Trails," "Paddles & Peaks," "Rocks & Ropes," and "Float & Fly" — for ages 8–10 and 11–14!

Fellowship Flows Freely at Gilman's Stutter Support Group

Charlie Dieveney has been seeing a speech language pathologist for as long as he can remember. He wasn't teased by his peers about his stutter as he came up through his younger years but, "I never knew anyone else who stuttered like me," says the freshman, who has attended Gilman since kindergarten. He always wished he'd had somebody like him to talk to at school. In the spring of 2024, he decided he could do something about that for boys who faced similar challenges.

Stuttering is a speech disorder characterized by involuntary disruptions in the flow of speech. After talking with his private fluency specialist about the need for peer support, Dieveney brought his proposal to Kate Schmick, Gilman's director of middle school academic support and speech language pathologist, who "loved the idea." She consulted with Chrissy Payne, Gilman's lower school reading specialist, who was immediately on board as well. Payne was especially excited about the prospect of an older student supporting his younger counterparts. Without hesitation, they got to work forming the Stutter Support Group at Gilman.

In January 2025, 9th grader Dieveney and a handful of boys ranging from pre-kindergarten to 5th grade gathered for their



Dieveney (center) with Director of Middle School Academic Support Schmick (left) and Lower School Reading Specialist Payne (right). Photo courtesy of Gilman

first meeting. Dieveney led the informal discussion and, in the intimate setting, "It was a wonderful surprise to see, even in the first few minutes, how quickly the boys opened up to Charlie," says Schmick.

One student expressed how he doesn't always want to raise his hand to talk in class. Another shared an experience during which a private athletic coach teased him for the way he talked. Dieveney offered insights about handling these types of situations. "We are so impressed by his confidence and leadership in his efforts to support the younger boys," says Schmick. "He has really taken this on independently and has goals and ideas for the group."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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Word of Mouth: Recommended Contractors

The Roland Park News is not endorsing any of the contractors listed below. Rather, they were recommended to us by neighbors.

ARCHITECTS

Melville Thomas Architects	mtarx.com	410-409-9152 410-409-9153
Mark Mobley Architecture	mmarchitecture.com	443-386-6924
Andy Niazy Architecture	andyniazyarchitecture.com	410-803-3396
Penza Bailey Architects	penzabailey.com	410-807-8290
Place Architecture: Design	placearchitecture.com	410-370-6848
VGArchitects	vgarchitect.com	410-366-9982

ARBORISTS

A-AAA Tree Service	treeworkmd.com	410-321-0921
A&A Tree Experts	aatreeexperts.com	410-486-4561
Carroll Tree Service	carrolltreeservice.com	410-998-1100
Castlewood Tree Service	castlewoodtree.com	410-321-1130
The Davey Tree Service (also lawn and landscape contractors)	davey.com	410-946-1547
Lasbury Tree & Shrub	lasburytree.com	410-363-8070

CHIMNEY SWEEPS/REPAIR CONTRACTORS

Ace of Diamonds Chimney Sweeps	aceofdiamondschimney.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	pestarest.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
John Logan		443-414-2641
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
Constellation Home	constellationhome.com	888-243-2120
McCord Services		410-952-1604

HEATING AND A/C CONTRACTORS (cont.)

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
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
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
Your Home Group	yourhomebaltimore.com	443-253-2498

HOUSEPLANT CARE

Gardenista Creations	gardenistacreations.com	410-497-7737
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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	snarskilandscaping.com	443-632-8409
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	samspaintingllc.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.

Dive into Summer Fun at the Pool

Staff at the Roland Park Swimming Pool are buzzing with anticipation for another unforgettable summer season! Mark your calendars for our grand Opening Day celebration on Saturday, May 24th—a day that will feature vibrant activities and the joyful spirit of our community.

Start the summer right with sidewalk chalk masterpieces, friendly yet competitive cornhole games and exciting water volleyball matches. Opening Day is the perfect occasion to reconnect with old friends, make new ones and embrace the summer fun together!

Visit our website (rolandparkpool.org) regularly for updates on our event calendar, and information about membership and swim team registration.



The pool opened Memorial Day weekend. Photo courtesy of the Roland Park Swimming Pool

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We have an exciting line-up of special summer events:

- Jun. 19, **Juneteenth**. Dive into history and fun with exhilarating floatie races, treasure hunts and vibrant festivities for the whole family.
- Jul. 4, **Independence Day**. Celebrate July 4th with traditional games like the hilarious greased watermelon race and belly-flop contest, and enjoy tasty hot dogs and sweet watermelon slices.
- Aug. 30, **Burger Grilling Competition**. Heat up the grills and let your culinary creativity shine at our beloved "Grilling and Chilling" burger contest.

Here are some of our weekly and monthly favorites:

- **Music Nights Fridays**. Relax poolside with the soothing tunes from local musicians on select Fridays.
- **Food Truck Fridays**. Savor delicious dishes from a variety of food vendors on select Friday evenings.
- **Water Aerobics**. One of our pool members will energize your mornings and evenings with invigorating water aerobics sessions—perfect for fitness and fun!

In pursuit of our mission—"The Roland Park Swimming Pool exists to build intergenerational fellowship and youth development in the surrounding community via an inclusive and relaxing outdoor setting by promoting safe and healthy activity"—we try to eliminate the waitlist at the start of each season. We take each word of this mission statement seriously and welcome feedback from all members of the pool and of the community in support of this mission. To learn more, please visit our website.

We can't wait to welcome you back to your summer oasis at the Roland Park Swimming Pool, where community, friendship and fun unite, ensuring a safe, vibrant and unforgettable summer experience for everyone! ❖

Beyond the Pages: A Q&A with Author Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson

By Martha Marani

Local author Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson first learned about American fashion designer Claire McCardell in the late 1990s when she was working for the Maryland Center for History and Culture in Baltimore's Mt. Washington neighborhood. McCardell has strong Maryland connections, growing up in Frederick and spending two years studying at Hood College before moving to New York to study at the New York School of Arts (now known as Parsons School of Design).

"They had an exhibition of her clothes, and I was stunned by the elegance and ingenuity of her designs," Dickinson explains. "Models could have walked a runway that day wearing her garments, even though these were made in the 1930s and 1940s."

Dickinson, an award-winning journalist and author whose writing has been widely published in *The New York Times*, *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *The Southern Review* and *The Washington Post Magazine*, was fascinated by McCardell's designs and by the fact that her name is much less well known than many of her contemporaries, even though, in her time, Betty Friedan called "The Gal Who Defied Dior." And she's written a compelling history of her life and work, *Claire McCardell: The Designer Who Set Women Free*.

I asked Dickinson to tell us a little about her experience researching and writing about McCardell.

RPN: What drew you to write about Claire McCardell?

EED: Claire McCardell invented ballet flats and mix-and-match separates, she pioneered the use of wrap dresses, hoodies, leggings, denim and pockets in womenswear. She was one of the few fashion designers to make the cover of *Time* magazine. She was a household name and revered in her lifetime. Today, she remains beloved by the world's top designers. So, I couldn't understand how someone so integral to what we wear every day could be forgotten. I set out to learn her story, and as I did, I discovered how truly revolutionary she was. McCardell not only pioneered American fashion; she also advanced the independence of women through her clothes while becoming the first woman in ready-to-wear to have her name on

her label. She created the business model for today's fashion brands. And all of this from someone born in 1905 in Frederick, MD.

RPN: What was your biggest challenge in writing the book?

EED: I needed to conduct a lot of research. So much research! McCardell was private about her life and rarely went on the record about her feelings. Lucky for me, her family donated a cache of her letters, work journals, scrapbooks and clothes to the Maryland Center for History and Culture and to the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. I spent many weeks in those archives. I had to learn to decipher her cursive to read her handwritten letters and day planners, which date back to the 1920s. I also traveled to other archives to dig into the lives of the women central to her work. I interviewed living relatives, and I spent hours at their kitchen tables reading family letters and documents. I read too many history and fashion books to count. Filtering through all that research, mapping out the chronology of her life and locating the heart of this story was the thing that took the most time.

RPN: Were their stories about McCardell that didn't make it into the book?

EED: So many! It's hard to distill a life as vibrant and dynamic as McCardell's into just 80,000 words. There's the time she hung out with Ernest Hemingway on a steamship from Europe. There's the time she spent with Greta Garbo and Lauren Bacall and other Hollywood stars. Joan Crawford wrote letters asking if she would design clothes for her. She went to amazing parties, attended openings at the newly opened Museum of Modern Art, met the stars of Broadway and was a part of the World's Fair in New York in 1939.

One story I had to cut happened when she was just starting out in her 20s. McCardell had a job in New York as an assistant to a male designer and he asked her to help sketch gowns for a Broadway actress named Helen Mencken. Mencken was that blend of famous and infamous that was so common in a 1920s celebrity. She was a woman whose



Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson first learned about McCardell more than 30 years ago. Photo: Stefani Foster LaBrecque



This 1955 "Modern Masters" dress (top), was made with fabric designed by Marc Chagall.

Photo courtesy of the Maryland Center for History and Culture (ID 1998.19a,b).

The short-sleeve "popover" dress (right), was popular in the 1950s. Photo courtesy of the Maryland Center for History and Culture (ID 1998.30.2a,b).

Cover Jacket photo courtesy of Simon & Schuster

BEYOND THE PAGES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

life choices filled column after column of gossip rags simply because she was bold. In 1926, Mencken had starred opposite the actor John Barrymore in a play called "The Captive". It was about a wife who dared to leave her husband after she fell in love with a woman. The police raided the theater one evening and placed Mencken in handcuffs. She was charged with "contributing to a common nuisance" and "obscene exhibition." Public portrayals of divorce and lesbianism were not tolerated. She'd escaped to London. But when McCardell worked with her, Mencken was back in New York and preparing for a new role on Broadway. McCardell met many interesting and strong-willed women who prioritized their art and their creativity. Only a few such stories could make the book, but it was interesting for me to see how those encounters may have helped contribute to McCardell's own gumption.

RPN: *The book seems particularly timely. You write in the epilogue, "...the past informs our present. Hard-won freedoms can be stripped away again. We can find the courage to defy and overturn the rules and dress codes meant to keep us controlled and confined." Please elaborate.*

EED: You've pinpointed one of the main reasons I wanted to write this book. I was very interested in the feminism between the wars—the women, like McCardell, who diligently worked to advance their educations, their careers, and their roles in public

Author Events: Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson

- Jun. 17, 6 pm, **Book Launch**, Maryland Center for History and Culture, 610 Park Ave. Tickets available at mdhistory.org/calendar/claire-mccardell-the-designer-who-set-women-free-book-launch.
- Jun. 26, 7 pm, **Writer's Live at the Enoch Pratt**, The Enoch Pratt Central Branch, 400 Cathedral St. Register at eventbrite.com/e/elizabeth-dickinson-claire-mccardell-tickets-1278030496619.

and civic life. I wanted to understand how it was that McCardell came to be a partner in her own firm at a time when women weren't even allowed to open their own bank accounts. And how it was that she transformed what women could wear at a time when women could still be fined or arrested for having bare legs on a beach or sporting pants in public. McCardell diligently chipped away at such dress codes and she subtly challenged the rules that kept a woman's life small by simply refusing at times to comply, or by cleverly working around them. Women are called to action in times of economic depression, world war, calamity, but then they're dismissed and told to return to the kitchen as soon as they've righted the ship. The 1950s brought a societal backlash to all that women, like McCardell, had gained. It was the rise of the perfect wife and mother trope. Sadly, that's coming back around. In my lifetime, women in America finally earned the right to take out credit or a mortgage loan, and they finally had the right to control their reproductive health. And now, rights are being stripped away again. Women are being told that their sole use is to be stay-at-home mothers. Simply put, we have less rights today in America than when I was born. You will see echoes of our current situation in McCardell's story, and you will see how women worked together to advance their rights.

RPN: *What do you think McCardell would think about women's fashion and the fashion industry today?*

EED: She would be enthusiastic about the evolution of human-made fabrics and all that they can do, and she would be thrilled at the creativity of many American designers. She would be shocked by how few women run their own design houses. McCardell also abhorred waste, and she would surely be outraged by the ecological devastation of fast fashion.

RPN: *Please tell us about McCardell's Roland Park and, more widely, Baltimore connections.*

EED: The McCardell family has a long relationship with Baltimore. McCardell was married in the city, at Old St. Paul's Church downtown. Her cousin, Lee McCardell, was an award-winning journalist at the Baltimore Sun. Lee was embedded with the Army in Europe during World War II and he deserves his own book! One of my favorite details—another story that had to be cut from my book for space—was that during World War II, he wrote an annual Christmas Eve letter from the front to his children back home, living in Roland Park. They are poignant observations about life in war-torn London. That house is still in the family, with one of Lee's descendants living there now. And Claire's late brother, Adrian Leroy McCardell, lived on Winding Way for many years. And in the "smalltimore" way, I first learned about Lee because my neighbors in Roland Park, who knew I was writing this book, introduced me to one of his relatives at a party! ❖

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Roland Park Condominiums' Centennial Celebration

By Kitty Simpson

At our annual open house, held on January 5 of this year, the residents of the Roland Park Condominiums began the celebration of their home's centennial.

The buildings started their life at 6 Upland Road in 1925 as apartments, but the property had a very interesting history before that. The land was once owned by the Roland Park Apartment Stable Company, which had its beginnings in 1900. Horses and carriages were the primary mode of transportation in those days,

and the land the condominium now occupies was home to rows of stables, with housing for grooms on the upper floors.

By 1920, streetcars were running to and from the rest of the city to Roland Park, which was annexed in 1919, and demand for stabling diminished.

In 1924, the land and stables were sold to Maurice Long, a Baltimore developer and the organizer of the Roland Park Apartment Company.

Plans were drawn up, architects were hired, approval was given by the Roland Park Roads & Maintenance Corporation and construction was begun. There was very little resistance to having such a large structure built in Roland Park, although it was thought by some that apartment buildings represented a health threat. A Minneapolis civic leader wrote, "The apartment of today becomes the tenement of tomorrow."

Those concerns were no impediment here, though. Rather, the Roland Park Apartments were perceived as an asset located at a very enviable address. Sales brochures



The Roland Park Condominiums retain their elegance and charm. Photos courtesy of the Roland Park Condominiums



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CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

CONDOMINIUMS' CELEBRATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

described the apartments as offering “the epitome of domestic elegance.” In fact, the amenities were top-notch. There was a 24-hour switchboard, and full-time groundskeepers, boiler engineers, porters, painters, and handymen. Many tenants had their own personal staff, some of whom were roomed in what, today, are storage rooms for condominium owners.

The apartments were very popular and they filled quickly. But the Great Depression took its toll and Maurice Long's company went into receivership in 1934. The property was sold by the courts and, from that point until 1979, when it was converted into



condominiums, it changed hands three or four times.

Our world has changed since 1925, but the fundamentals that go into making a sound community are not much different today. The units are still elegant, the grounds are still beautiful, and many in the community contribute by supporting events, being active on the board and being good neighbors. No. 6 Upland Road is still a very desirable address.

On June 21, we will gather in our courtyard under summer tents to celebrate the centennial with food, drink, music and shared stories in this place which retains its domestic elegance. ❖




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The Best Grilled Corn on the Cob

Eddie's of Roland Park

Ingredients

4 ears corn, silk removed, husk still intact	1/4 tsp. coarse kosher salt
1 T. vegetable oil	1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
1/2 cup mayonnaise (light mayo can be used)	1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 tsp. chili powder	1 T. fresh cilantro, minced
1/4 tsp. smoked paprika	1 lime cut in wedges
1/4 tsp. ground cumin	

Soak the ears of corn in cold water for 10 minutes. Prepare the grill for high direct heat and brush the grill rack with oil to prevent sticking.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine mayonnaise and the next four ingredients and set the mixture aside. Mix the Parmesan cheese with the cilantro, and set the mixture aside on a separate plate.

Remove corn from water and grill, in the husk, over hot coals for 7 to 10 minutes, being sure to turn the corn frequently. When the corn is slightly charred and tender, remove it from



Photo courtesy of Eddie's of Roland Park

the grill and peel back the husks, tying them with an extra piece of husk, like a ponytail. Brush the corn with the mayonnaise mixture, then roll it in the Parmesan and cilantro.

Serve the corn hot with wedges of lime to squeeze over just before eating. ❖

**Pair with Frenzy Sauvignon Blanc.*

Eddie's Tip: Serving a crowd? Prepare this dish an hour ahead of time and keep it warm in the oven. Sprinkle the corn with extra Parmesan just before serving. For an extra kick, sprinkle with chipotle powder or cayenne pepper.

GILMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Payne expressed that the parent response has been very positive. One mom sent an appreciative email to Dieveney after the first meeting. Her son "came home so enthusiastic and happy about the Stutter Support Group. I can tell that he already looks up to you, and he felt really special and had a sense of belonging in the group."

At the second meeting, in February, the casual conversation veered off in many directions: lower school traditions, spring break plans and birthday parties. The boys played a couple games that encourage conversation before Dieveney shared a list of famous people who also have a stutter. The boys were surprised to recognize names like Samuel L. Jackson (who they know as Nick Fury from Marvel's Avengers movies), James Earl Jones (who they know as the voice of Darth Vader and Mufasa), Kendrick Lamar, former President Joseph Biden and others.

The meetings, Dieveney says, are purely supportive in nature; no time is spent on improving fluency. "I just want to create a group where everyone feels comfortable and can make good friends who are there for each other." The goal "is just to get the boys talking." ❖

Gilman School (gilman.edu) is a pre-kindergarten through 12th grade independent school in Baltimore, Maryland, 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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Get Into the Spirits (or Don't)

These cocktails and “zero proof” drinks will help you stay cool during the heat of summer. Some feature locally distilled spirits. Others are equally spirited in taste, but alcohol-free.

My Summer Crush

(Source: missshirleys.com/blog)

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

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| Raw sugar | 1/2 oz. triple sec |
| 1 oz. Strawberry Lime Jalapeño Jam | lemon wedges |
| 1 1/2 oz. bourbon (eg., from Maryland-distilled Fiore Winery & Distillery, Fordham Lee Distillery, Meinelschmidt Distillery) | fresh mint |

Rim a mason jar or glass of choice with raw sugar. Fill the glass with ice and then add Strawberry Lime Jalapeño Jam,



My Summer Crush. Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Café

bourbon and triple sec. Fill the rest of the way with strawberry lemonade (brands include Simply Lemonade). Garnish with a lemon wedge and a fresh mint sprig and enjoy!

Cucumber Mint Refresher Mocktail

(Source: thirstytales.com.org)

The coolness of the cucumber and the mint blend together to make a refreshing drink that's perfect for a hot summer day.

- 3-4 cucumber slices
- 6-8 mint leaves
- 1 T. lime juice
- 1 T. simple syrup
- Club soda

In a tall glass, muddle the cucumber slices and mint to release their flavors. Add lime juice and simple syrup, fill the glass with ice and top with club soda. Stir to blend all the ingredients. Garnish with a cucumber slice and a sprig of mint.

Oyster Shooter (Source: visitmaryland.org)

Whether you serve your Maryland oysters in vodka or enjoy a beer chaser, this is a salty treat.

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Watermelon Cucumber Spritz Mocktail

Miss Shirley's Café

Serves 4-6.

A blend of fresh watermelon purée, watermelon syrup, cucumber-infused simple syrup and club soda, garnished with diced watermelon and a cucumber slice.

Cucumber Simple Syrup

(yields approx. 1 qt. and has a 5- to 7-day shelf life)

- 1 English/European cucumber
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 3 cups water



Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Café

Peel the cucumber, putting the peel into a plastic, heat-proof quart-sized container. Remove and discard the cucumber seeds. Chop the cucumber into chunks and add to the peels.

In a small pot, stir water and sugar together. Bring the mixture to a simmer, stirring to fully dissolve the sugar. Simmer for 1 to 2 minutes. Remove the simple syrup from the heat and pour it over cucumber chunks and peels. Let the mixture cool completely to room temperature. Cover and refrigerate. This should be done at least 4 to 6 hours before making the mocktail. *For the best flavor, create the simple syrup the day before using. Strain out all cucumber pieces before using.*

SPIRITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

- 1 fresh Maryland oyster, shucked
- 1 tsp. cocktail sauce
- 1 tsp. horseradish
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- 1 pinch black pepper
- 1.5 oz. pepper vodka

Put the shucked oyster into a shot glass and top with the other ingredients. Stir and shoot!

Orange Crush (Source: visitmaryland.org)

Just about everyone who's gone "downy oshun" has had a fresh-squeezed Orange Crush, which is said to have been invented at Ocean City's Harborside Bar & Grill. It's a simple recipe that's been adapted to feature other flavors, like watermelon and strawberry. Purests seem to favor the OG crush.

- Cubed ice
- 2 oz. orange vodka
- 2 oz. triple sec
- Juice of 1 crushed orange
- Splash of Sierra Mist (or Sprite or club soda)

Mix all ingredients into a tall glass and garnish with an orange wedge. ❖

Watermelon Purée

(yields approx. 1 qt. and has a 2- to 3-day shelf life)

- 1/4 small seedless watermelon, chopped (about 4 cups)

Wash the watermelon and cut the rind off the rind. Cut it into large chunks and purée the chunks in a blender until the mixture is smooth. Pour the purée into a container and cover, refrigerating it. *The purée can also be frozen. Make sure to stir it well before using, as the liquids and solids will separate.*

Mocktail

Mix 1 1/2 cups of cucumber syrup and 32 ounces of watermelon purée in a pitcher. *If you would like more watermelon flavor, you can add a 1/2 ounce of a store-bought watermelon syrup.*

Add 2 cups of club soda and stir. If desired, add alcohol at this point. Stir well.

To serve, fill tall glasses with ice and pour the drink over the ice. Garnish with a slice of cucumber on the rim of the glass and some small, diced pieces of fresh watermelon on top. Enjoy! ❖

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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 recommendations from the library staff.

All Pratt libraries will be closed June 19 for Juneteenth, July 4 for Independence Day and September 1 for Labor Day.

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 little ones under 2 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. 4, 10:30 am. **Shake Out Your Sillies With Ms. Eliza.** Join in the fun for songs, nursery rhymes, puppet shows, instruments and, of course, a dance party! Each class begins with a breathing exercise before transitioning into music

and movement activities. Taught by Eliza Adams, a former Maryland preschool teacher and musician. For ages birth to 5 with a favorite adult. All abilities welcome.

- Jun. 9, 3 pm. **Tissue Paper Rainbow:** Rainbows are the perfect way to brighten up any day! Using vibrant tissue paper and a little creativity, young artists will design their own rainbow masterpiece to take home and display. This hands-on craft activity is perfect for kids of all ages, and all materials will be provided. Just bring your imagination and get ready for a colorful afternoon of crafting! No prior experience necessary—this activity is simple, fun and a great way to explore colors and shapes.
- Jun. 25, 1:45 pm. **Torn Paper Crafternoon.** Feel like making a collage? What about something fun about summer? Maybe both? The possibilities are endless at the library's torn paper crafternoon! All supplies are provided to make the most imaginative scenes that you can think of.
- Jul. 9, 1:45 pm. **Create A Sun.** Keep cool! Beat the heat and use your imagination to create a sun.
- Jul. 17, 11 am. **Cupcake Liner Ice Cream Cones.** Join friends after storytime to make your own ice cream cone out of cupcake liners.
- Aug. 2, 2 pm. **Decorate A Summer Puzzle.** Decorate your favorite summer activity or favorite summer scene on a puzzle that you can take home and put together over and over again.
- Aug. 13, 2:30 pm. **Decorate a Collage Bookmark.** Just in time for back to school, decorate a new bookmark with some old magazines.

For Teens

- Jun. 2, 3 pm. **African American Music Bingo.** Visit the Roland Park branch for a new take on the classic game of Bingo. Test your knowledge of popular African American music from jazz to R&B and hip hop. Celebrate Juneteenth with music from the soul.
- Jun. 5, 3 pm. An Introduction to **Taiko: The Art of Japanese Drumming.** This interactive program features the performance of both traditional and contemporary songs and rhythms, along with an exploration of the instruments, the use of voice in taiko, and a bit of history and Japanese vocabulary. Performances include the chance for volunteers to get up and try their hand at playing these big drums!
- Jun. 12, 6 pm. **Student Job Application Practice.** Are you a teen looking for a job, but having trouble filling out job applications? Join Ms. Jackie as she helps students with basic information needed for job applications. Call (410-396-6099) or email (RLN@prattlibrary.org) the branch to reserve your spot.
- Jul. 14, 2 pm. **Candle Making Workshop.** Perfectly Lit's essential make-and-take candle workshops offer a fun and interactive experience where creativity meets relaxation. Participants craft high-quality candles while enjoying great conversations in a lively, welcoming atmosphere. Make your candle and get "Lit" with us today!
- Jul. 17, 1 pm. **Bleach Tie Dye Backpacks.** Create a one-of-a-kind backpack using bleach. Space is limited, so don't forget to reserve your spot.



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- Aug. 11, 1 pm. **Emoji Lanterns.** Create a lantern inspired by your favorite emoji.
- Aug. 14, 1 pm. **Pixel Picture Frames.** Create a customized pixel art picture frame. Capture the memories of summer with this craft.

For Adults

- Jun. 7, 11 am. **Bonsai Bonanza with the Maryland Bonsai Association.** Interested in learning more about bonsai? Join the Maryland Bonsai Association for this crash course for getting your bonsai boots on! Registration includes your very own bonsai tree, pot, wire and soil. The class will teach you how to style your tree and keep it thriving.
- Jun. 21, 2 pm. **Film Series: Mufasa: The Lion King.** Rafiki is enlisted to relay the legend of Mufasa to young lion cub Kiara, daughter of Simba and Nala, with Timon and Pumbaa lending their signature schtick. Rated PG.
- Jun. 23, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: Creation Lake by Rachel Kushner.** Written in short, vaulting sections, Kushner's rendition of "noir" is taut, propulsive and dazzling. *Creation Lake* is her finest achievement yet as a novelist—a work of high art, high comedy, keen insights and unforgettable pleasure.
- Jul. 26, 2 pm. **Film Series: The Shallows.** A young surfer is hunted by a great white shark at a secluded beach, and ends up stranded on an embankment away from the shoreline. Alone and wounded, she attempts to survive the attack and get ashore. Rated PG-13.
- Jul. 28, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: Ruin by Cara Hoffman.** Ruin is both bracingly timely and eerily timeless in its examination of an American state in free-fall, unsparing in its disregard for broken institutions, while shining with compassion for all who are left in their wake. Hoffman's short fictions are brutal, surreal, hilarious and transgressive, celebrating the sharp beauty of outsiders and the infinitely creative ways humans muster psychic resistance under oppressive conditions. The ultimate effect of these 10 interconnected stories is one of invigoration and a sense of possibilities—hope for a new world extracted from the rubble of the old.
- Aug. 18, 5:30 pm. **Jazz Concert with The "Home Cookin' Quartet".** Home Cookin' consists of a piano, bass, sax/clarinet and trombone that pairs two young Peabody graduates with two older veterans of the Baltimore jazz scene. The band plays jazz standards and lesser-known but great tunes by well-known jazz musicians.
- Aug. 25, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: All Day is a Long Time by David Sanchez.** All Day is a Long Time is a spectacular, raw account of growing up and managing, against every expectation, to carve out a place for hope. We see what it means, and what it takes, to come back from a place of little control—to map ourselves on the world around, and beyond us. Sanchez's debut resounds with real force and demonstrates the redemptive power of the written word.

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

Show Don't Tell by Curtis Sittenfeld (recommended by Abby Lyon, children's librarian). Are you a full-length novel reader

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



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BOOK NOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

looking to venture into the world of short stories? If so, a great place to start is the collected, more concise works of one of your favorite writers. My entry was through the *New York Times* bestselling novelist Curtis Sittenfeld, known for wry, intelligent subject matter whether she is writing fictionalized/alternative histories of famous figures, an updated version of *Pride and Prejudice* or perceptive observations of modern suburban life. Novels such as *American Wife*, *Rodham* and *Eligible* explore insightful and engaging themes of relationships, power and gender dynamics. Her latest short story collection, *Show Don't Tell*, is no exception. In each of these 12 stories, Sittenfeld thoroughly engages readers with her wit and well-written prose. And a bonus is a short story epilogue to one of her best-known novels, *Prep*. The well-crafted works of Curtis Sittenfeld are those of a master storyteller whatever length you choose.



the spa due to chronic respiratory problems. The spa seems to be inhabited by a cast of mostly older, opinionated men who take it upon themselves to thrust their world views and life advice upon the young Wojnicz, who is striving to discover his own identity. As the novel unfolds, it becomes evident that a mysterious, possibly supernatural force seems to be at work in the remote woodlands surrounding the health resort. Tension builds gradually throughout the novel, leading up to surprising revelations. This wonderfully rendered novel reveals much about the fraught historical moment on the eve of the cataclysm of World War I.

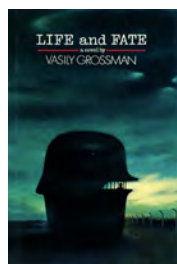
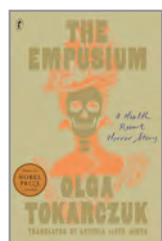
***How to Teach Physics to Your Dog* by Chad Orzel**

(recommended by Matthew Akras, visiting librarian). Did you ever hear the phrase, “Quantum mechanics,” and suddenly panic? Have no fear! In this funny and quirky book, Orzel breaks down the fundamental principles of quantum mechanics by having a conversation with his favorite furry pal. Learn about the infamous Shrodinger’s experiment, how light waves behave and some of the mind-bending questions behind String Theory!



***The Empusium* by Olga Tokarczuk**

(recommended by Gregory Fromme, branch manager). *The Empusium* is the latest work by Nobel Laureate Tokarczuk. The novel is set at a health resort in the Silesian Mountains (modern-day Poland) during the peaceful period just before the outbreak of World War I. The story centers around a young Polish college student, Mieczyslaw Wojnicz, who is newly admitted to



***Life and Fate* by Vasily Grossman**

(recommended by Matthew Akras). This novel follows the story of Viktor, an accomplished physicist in the Soviet Union, who is conducting experiments for the motherland. One mistake, and he is being scrutinized by the Russian authorities and risks the ultimate price. Filled with heartbreak, adventure and reflections, Viktor contemplates life under the regime. ♦

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KidLit Picks

By Paula Willey, The Ivy Bookshop

Editor's Note: Given that the cover story for this issue offers parents recommendations for encouraging their children to read this summer, we asked The Ivy's Paula Willey, a longtime librarian and children's literature expert, to offer her suggestions that will delight students of all ages. Willey curated a terrific list!

Picture Books to Enjoy Together

Wind Watchers by Micha Archer

The Three-Year Tumble by Dayeon Auh

Every Monday Mabel by Jashar Awan

Stalactite & Stalagmite by Drew Beckmeyer



We Are Definitely Human by X. Fang

The Tide Pool Waits by Candace Fleming

Uncle John's City Garden by Bernette Ford

Wash Day with Mama by Monica Mikai

Don't Trust Fish by Neil Sharpson

So Many Years by Anne Wynter



Fun Books for Early and Emerging Readers

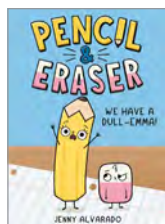
Pencil & Eraser: We Have a Dull-Emma! by Jenny Alvarado

Words Are Magic! by Zaila Avant-garde

Sky & Ty 1: Howdy, Partner! by Steve Breen

The Best Worst Camp Out Ever by Joe Cepeda

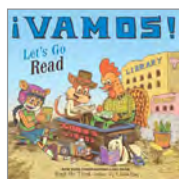
The Greatest in the World! by Ben Clanton



Indigenous Peoples' Day with Yasmin by Saadia Faruqi

¡Vamos! Let's Go Read by Raúl the Third

Cranky, Crabby Crow (Saves the World) by Corey R. Tabor



Tana Cooks with Care by Stacy Wells

The Luna Sisters Battle for the Moon Blossom by Dan Yaccarino

Adventure, Mystery and Drama for Independent Readers

Just Harriet by Elana K. Arnold

Creaky Acres: A Graphic Novel by Calista Brill

Stranded in the Mojave Desert by Ailynnn Collins

Ghost Town by Eric Colossal

The Mystery of Locked Rooms by Lindsay Currie

Warrior on the Mound by Sandra W. Headen

A World Worth Saving by Kyle Lukoff

Maeve Mulvaney Has Had Enough by Kelly Mangan

Farah Rocks Florida by Susan Muaddi Darraj

It Happened to Anna by Tehlor Kay Mejia



Safe Harbor by Padma Venkatraman

Summer at Squee by Andrea Wang

Candle Island by Lauren Wolk

True Stories

Oppenheimer and the Atomic Bomb by Kai Bird

Squad Goals by Laurie Calkhoven

Hurricane by Jason Chin

Interrupted Lives by Amanda Friedeman

Killer Underwear Invasion! by Elise Gravel

Science Comics: Human Spaceflight by Andy Hirsch

96 Facts About the G.O.A.T. Athletes (Greatest of All Time) by Arie Kaplan



Lionel Messi A Little Golden Book Biography by Roberta Ludlow

History Smashers: The Titanic by Kate Messner

Banned Together by Ashley Hope Pérez

Who Smashed Hollywood Barriers with Gung Fu?: Bruce Lee by Teresa Robeson

Great Books for Teen Readers

The Last Bookstore on Earth by Lily Braun-Arnold

Plan A by Deb Caletti

Bright Red Fruit by Safia Elhillo

Pretty Furious by E.K. Johnston

When Devils Sing by Xan Kaur



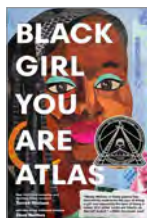
This Is the Year by Gloria Muñoz

The Assassin's Guide to Babysitting by Natalie C. Parker

Everything We Never Had by Randy Ribay

Deadstream by Mar Romasco-Moore

Black Girl You Are Atlas by Renée Watson ❖



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Calendar Highlights

Houses of Worship

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

HOUSES OF WORSHIP	PHONE	WEBSITE
Bolton Street Synagogue , 212 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-235-5354	boltonstreet.org
Cathedral of Mary Our Queen , 5200 N. Charles St.	410-464-4000	cathedralofmary.org
Cathedral of the Incarnation , 4 E. University Pkwy.	410-467-3750	incarnationbmore.org
Church of the Redeemer , 5603 N. Charles St.	410-435-7333	redeemberbaltimore.org
Congregation Beit Tikvah , 5802 Roland Ave	410-464-9402	beittikvah.org
First Christian Church , 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-1506	rolandparkcc.org
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Baltimore , 102 W. University Pkwy.	410-467-7974	christiansciencebaltimore.org
The Gathering of Baltimore , 5802 Roland Ave.	410-252-7816	thegatheringbaltimore.org
Grace United Methodist Church , 5407 N. Charles St.	410-433-6650	graceunitedmethodist.org
Mt. Olivet Christian Church , 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-1506	rolandparkcc.org
North Baltimore Mennonite Church , 4615 Roland Ave.	410-467-8947	bmoremenno.org
Roland Park Presbyterian Church , 4801 Roland Ave.	410-889-2001	rolandparkchurch.org
St. Andrew's Christian Community , 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-9470	rolandparkcc.org
St. David's Church , 4700 Roland Ave.	410-467-0476	stdavidsbaltimore.org
Second Presbyterian Church , 4200 St. Paul St.	410-467-4210	secondpresby.org
Stony Run Friends , 5116 N. Charles St.	443-703-2590	stonyrunfriends.org

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 Lane. All are welcome.

Saturdays from September through June, 10 am-4 pm.
Regular Hours, Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301 York Rd.
firemuseummd.org

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.



June

- Jun. 5, 6 pm. **McKay Jenkins: *The Maryland Master Naturalist's Handbook* (with Lia Purpura)**, The Ivy Bookshop Back Patio, 5928 Falls Rd. Along with Joy Shindler Rafey, Jenkins, a local author, edited this essential guide to Maryland's ecosystems, history and conservation that explores the intricate tapestry of the state's natural world, from the geological foundations of the Susquehanna River to the vibrant ecosystems of the Chesapeake Bay. RSVP for this free event at theivybookshop.com
- Jun. 7, 11 am. **Gardenista Creations Pop-Up Plant Sale**, Evergreen Veterinary Care, 410 W. Cold Spring Ln. Check out the expertly curated, one-of-a-kind plantscapes and locally sourced plant-related gifts and treasures! gardenistacreations.com

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- Jun. 12-27, 9:30 am. **Paint and Play Plus: Shapes**, Social Studio. Drop-off camp experiences for ages 3 to 5 full of art-making, story time and play. Each week will have a theme focused on an art element; each day will have different content. You can sign for one or more days or the whole week. \$275 per week, \$60 per class. socialstudioart.com/classes
- Jun. 12, 5:30 pm. **Digital Crash Course: Movie Poster**, Social Studio, 739 Deepdene Rd. Explore the world of digital design with artist and educator Jane Peterson using programs such as Vectr, PicsArt, Adobe Creative Suite, Clip Studio Paint and Procreate. Through hands-on projects, students ages 12 to 15 will learn how to combine imagery, typography and layout techniques to create striking movie posters and album covers. All experience levels and programs are welcome. \$75 per workshop. socialstudioart.com/classes
- Jun. 16-20, 9:30 am. **Paint and Play Plus: Texture**, Social Studio. Drop-off camp experiences for ages 3 to 5 full of art-making, story time and play. Each week will have a theme focused on an art element; each day will have different content. You can sign for one or more days or the whole week. \$275 per week, \$60 per class. socialstudioart.com/classes
- Jun. 21, 9 am. **Community Yard Sale**, Roland Park Community Center, 5802 Roland Ave. Vendor pre-registration required. \$10 booth rentals. rolandparkcc.org

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



Photo courtesy of Petit Louis

Petit Louis Turns 25!

Joyeux anniversaire!

On Sunday, June 29, from 1-5 pm, join in the celebration of 25 wonderful years at Petit Louis. It will be an afternoon full of festive fun, including two drink tickets to enjoy beer, wine and a curated cocktail; music; light snacks; birthday cake; a commemorative t-shirt to take home and more. Tickets are \$50 per guest, and can be purchased at petitlouis.com.



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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

- Jun. 22, 10 am. **Summer Sundays: Stamping and Stenciling**, Social Studio. This all-day workshop for ages 16 and up, led by artist Pamela Kostmayer, provides immersive experiences with printmaking, collage and composition. \$125 per workshop. socialstudioart.com/classes
- Jun. 22, 6 pm. **Summer Series 2025: Outdoor Concerts**, Roland Park Community Center. Musicians to be announced. rolandparkcc.org
- Jun. 24, 6 pm. **Leslie Gray Streeter: Family and Other Calamities (with Meghan Riordan Jarvis)**, The Ivy Bookshop Back Patio. From the author of *Black Widow* comes a heartfelt, utterly real new novel about returning home to Baltimore. RSVP for this free event at theivybookshop.com
- Jun. 26, 5:30 pm. **Digital Crash Course: Album Cover**, Social Studio. Explore the world of digital design with artist and educator Jane Peterson using programs such as Vectr, PicsArt, Adobe Creative Suite, Clip Studio Paint and Procreate. Through hands-on projects, students ages 12 to 15 will learn how to combine imagery, typography and layout techniques to create striking movie posters and album covers. All experience levels and programs are welcome. \$75 per workshop. socialstudioart.com/classes

July

- Jul. 5, 11 am. **Gardenista Creations Pop-Up Plant Sale**, Evergreen Veterinary Care, 410 W. Cold Spring Ln. Check out the expertly curated, one-of-a-kind plantscapes and locally sourced plant-related gifts and treasures! gardenistacreations.com
- Jul. 7-11, 9:30 am. **Paint and Play Plus: Color**, Social Studio. Drop-off camp experiences for ages 3 to 5 full of art-making, story time and play. Each week will have a theme focused on an art element; each day will have different content. You can sign for one or more days or the whole week. \$275 per week, \$60 per class. socialstudioart.com/classes
- Jul. 7-11, 2 pm. **Art Afternoons: Drawing**, Social Studio. Kids ages 10 to 15 will learn new techniques, create a portfolio piece, develop their personal style and make new friends. \$375 per week. socialstudioart.com/camps-workshops
- Jul. 10, 5:30 pm. **Digital Crash Course: Movie Poster**, Social Studio. Explore the world of digital design with artist and educator Jane Peterson using programs such as Vectr, PicsArt, Adobe Creative Suite, Clip Studio Paint and Procreate. Through hands-on projects, students ages 12 to 15 will learn how to combine imagery, typography and layout techniques to create striking movie posters and album covers. All experience levels and programs are welcome. \$75 per workshop. socialstudioart.com/classes
- Jul. 12, 9 am. **Community Yard Sale**, Roland Park Community Center. Vendor pre-registration required. \$10 booth rentals. rolandparkcc.org
- Jul. 13, 10 am. **Summer Sundays: Collage with Neutral Tones** Social Studio. Ages 16 to adult. This all-day workshop for ages 16 and up, led by artist Pamela Kostmayer, provides immersive experiences with printmaking, collage and composition. \$125 per workshop. socialstudioart.com/classes
- Jul. 13, 5 pm. **Second Sundays: Live Music**, Social Studio. Enjoy a community concert for all ages. BYO drinks. Donations suggested. socialstudioart.com
- Jul. 22, 7 pm. **Book Launch for Dan Fesperman: Pariah**, The Ivy Bookshop Back Patio. The Ivy is delighted to invite you to the launch of Dan Fesperman's newest novel, *Pariah*, an adrenaline-fueled thriller about a disgraced comedian-turned-politician who takes on the role of a lifetime: infiltrating a corrupt Eastern European country to spy on its brutal dictator. RSVP for this free event at theivybookshop.com
- Jul. 27, 6 pm. **Summer Series 2025: Outdoor Concerts**, Roland Park Community Center. Musicians to be announced. rolandparkcc.org
- Jul. 28-Aug. 1, 2 pm. **Art Afternoons: Painting**, Social Studio. Kids ages 10 to 15 will learn new techniques, create a portfolio piece, develop their personal style and make new friends. \$375 per week. socialstudioart.com/camps-workshops

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- Ju1. 29-Aug. 1, 9:30 am. **Paint and Play Plus: Line**, Social Studio. Drop-off camp experiences for ages 3 to 5 full of art-making, story time and play. Each week will have a theme focused on an art element; each day will have different content. You can sign for one or more days or the whole week. \$275 per week, \$60 per class. socialstudioart.com/classes
- Ju1. 31, 5:30 pm. **Digital Crash Course: Album Cover**, Social Studio. Explore the world of digital design with artist and educator Jane Peterson using programs such as Vectr, PicsArt, Adobe Creative Suite, Clip Studio Paint and Procreate. Through hands-on projects, students ages 12 to 15 will learn how to combine imagery, typography and layout techniques to create striking movie posters and album covers. All experience levels and programs are welcome. \$75 per workshop. socialstudioart.com/classes

August


- Date TBD. 2025 **Living History Day**, Fire Museum of Maryland. See history come to life with people and activities from the past. firemuseummd.org
- Aug. 2, 11 am. **Gardenista Creations Pop-Up Plant Sale**, Evergreen Veterinary Care, 410 W. Cold Spring Ln. Check out the expertly curated, one-of-a-kind landscapes and locally sourced plant-related gifts and treasures! gardenistacreations.com
- Aug. 9, 9 am. **Community Yard Sale**, Roland Park Community Center. Vendor pre-registration required. \$10 booth rentals. rolandparkcc.org
- Aug. 9, 6 pm. **Laura Resau: *The Alchemy of Flowers* (with Nicole Hackett)**, The Ivy Bookshop Back Patio. The Ivy is delighted to present an evening with Resau, celebrating her debut novel for adults. An enchanting, modern-day take on *The Secret Garden*, *The Alchemy of Flowers* is sprinkled with magic and guided by a story of healing, newfound family and second chances. And, oh yeah—a mysterious job ad and French castle. RSVP for this free event at theivybookshop.com
- Aug. 10, 5 pm. **Second Sundays: Live Music**, Social Studio. Enjoy a community concert for all ages. BYO drinks. Donations suggested. socialstudioart.com
- Aug. 11-15, 9:30 am. **Paint and Play Plus: Space**, Social Studio. Drop-off camp experiences for ages 3 to 5 full of art-making, story time and play. Each week will have a theme focused on an art element; each day will have different content. You can sign for one or more days or the whole week. \$275 per week, \$60 per class. socialstudioart.com/classes
- Aug. 16, 8 am. **Neighborhood Walk/Run with the Roland Park Annual Fund's "Race for the Future Part II" Fundraising Team**, Roland Park Elementary/Middle School Front Courtyard, 5207 Roland Ave. Beginners and experienced runners alike are invited to join the team for

a 1-mile walk or light run and to get information about joining the team that is training for the Baltimore Running Festival in October to raise funds for school enrichment activities. Children, adults and all community members are welcome; no affiliation with the school is required. Free. rolandparkannualfund.com


- Aug. 17, 10 am. **Summer Sundays: Collage with Color**, Social Studio. This all-day workshop for ages 16 and up, led by artist Pamela Kostmayer, provides immersive experiences with printmaking, collage and composition. \$125 per workshop. socialstudioart.com/classes
- Aug. 18-22, 9:30 am. **Paint and Play Plus: Value**, Social Studio. Drop-off camp experiences for ages 3 to 5 full of art-making, story time and play. Each week will have a theme focused on an art element; each day will have different content. You can sign for one or more days or the whole week. \$275 per week, \$60 per class. socialstudioart.com/classes
- Aug. 24, 6 pm. **Summer Series 2025: Outdoor Concerts**, Roland Park Community Center. Musicians to be announced. rolandparkcc.org ❖

Please send calendar announcements to magazine@rolandpark.org.

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