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Hillside Park Ribbon- Cutting

Holiday Gift Guide

“Come and See” Roland Park Presbyterian Church



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Editor's Note

By Martha Marani

Years ago, my family's holiday traditions changed...for the better. In the aftermath of 9/11, when the world felt like a dark and sorrowful place, we felt a need to bring light and joy to our community. We asked our adult family members to identify a local charity that was doing work they found meaningful and important. Rather than buying my father another flannel shirt, my brother another coffee cup, my niece another Christmas ornament, we made donations to Wreaths Across America (wreathsacrossamerica.org) for my dad, who served in the Navy, to Feed the Second Line (feedthesecondline.org) for Karl, who loves New Orleans, and to Rebel Dogs Detroit (rebeldogsdetroit.com), for pittie-loving Amanda.

I know a lot of other families that have also broadened their idea of "the giving season" to include people outside their circle of close family and friends. If yours is one of them, I offer these Baltimore-based charities that are doing vital work in our beloved city for your consideration:

Art With a Heart, enhancing the lives of people in need through visual art. artwithaheart.net

B & Dee's Baltimore Love, providing life-sustaining resources to the most vulnerable residents of Baltimore City by inspiring others to give back as well. bdeebaltimorelove.org

Baltimore Family Alliance, keeping families in Baltimore, connecting communities to create an "urban village," and empowering families to advocate for great schools, safe streets and vibrant neighborhoods. baltimorefamilies.org

Baltimore Station, offering a residential treatment program supporting veterans transitioning through the cycle of poverty, addiction and homelessness to self sufficiency. baltimorestation.org



"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

Mother Teresa



The Baltimore Women's Giving Circle, empowering women and their families in the greater Baltimore area to achieve self-sufficiency. thebwgc.org

Black Women Build, providing homeownership and wealth-building training for Black women in carpentry, electrical and plumbing by restoring vacant and deteriorated houses in west Baltimore. blackwomenbuild.org

Empowerment Through Aviation, preparing young women of color for flying careers and helping to diversify the ranks of licensed pilots. empowermentthroughaviation.org

Living Classrooms Foundation, providing access to more equitable education, workforce development, community safety, and health and wellness opportunities that enable individuals to achieve their aspirations and build safer, stronger and healthier communities for all. livingclassrooms.org

Loyola Early Learning Center, providing a scholarship-based education for children of Baltimore City families of limited means aged two through 2nd grade. loyolaearly.org

Maryland SPCA, reducing pet homelessness by providing pet-retention services, safety net housing and community engagement that empowers citizens of Baltimore and beyond. mdspca.org

The Pride Center of Maryland, offering guidance, education, cultural competency and services to improve quality of life, especially for youth, adults, elders and allies of all backgrounds, ethnicities, perspectives, genders, sexualities and cultures. pridecentermd.org

Reading Partners Mid-Atlantic, connecting community volunteers with Title I elementary schools by offering a one-on-one tutoring model that empowers young readers to succeed in reading and in life. readingpartners.org

Weekend Backpacks for Homeless Kids, improving the lives of students affected by food insecurity in Baltimore by providing child-friendly, nutritious food directly to children in need over the weekends. weekendbackpacks.org

Happy holidays, all. Be well. ❖

"Come and See" What's Ahead at Roland Park Presbyterian Church

By Jennifer Ronald, Director of Church Relations

This winter, if you walk past the corner of Roland Avenue and Upland Road, you'll notice something new taking shape at Roland Park Presbyterian Church (RPPC). Scaffolding, fresh stonework and renewed entrances point to a transformation that's been years in the making.

But this isn't just a renovation. It's an invitation.

Rooted in a capital campaign called "Come and See: An Open Invitation," this project is about creating a more beautiful, safe and accessible space for all who enter our doors, whether for Sunday worship, a community meeting, or simply to find a quiet place to sit and reflect. While the visible changes will be significant, including an expanded and more accessible front entrance from Roland Avenue, new exterior signage, a ramp to the chancel, updated audio-visual (AV) technology, and improvements to lighting and flow throughout the sanctuary and tower, the heart of this work is about something deeper: welcome.

At RPPC, we believe the church isn't just a building. It's a community. One that exists not only for its members, but for the neighborhood and city of which it is a part. Since our founding in 1901, we've tried to live out that belief. And now, as we approach our 125th anniversary, we're investing in our space in a way that reflects the kind of people we aspire to be: open, grounded in compassion and welcoming to all.

Hospitality with a Purpose

Every detail of the renovation has been designed with inclusion in mind. "One of the driving goals of this project is to ensure that people of all abilities feel comfortable and welcome in our space," says Pastor Mark Hanna, who has served the congregation since 2008. "We want everyone, regardless of mobility, age or background, to be able to participate fully in worship and community life."



The renovations were designed in partnership with Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects. Image courtesy of Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects



The new chancel ramp will accommodate people of all ages and abilities. Photo: Sally Foster

The renovation continues work that began during our 2016-2019 "Widening Our Welcome" campaign, which added an elevator, accessible bathrooms, a new choir room and enhanced gathering spaces. For this next phase, we are working with the same trusted partners: Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects, A.R. Marani, Inc., and Horizons Stewardship, all of which share our commitment to accessibility and community-centered design.

Our newly designed front entrance from Roland Avenue will offer an expanded and more accessible approach, with improved signage and lighting. Inside, a new ramp to the chancel means that musicians, liturgists and others leading in worship will no longer have to navigate stairs to serve. Our hope is that these visible signs of welcome communicate a deeper truth: that this church is committed to practicing hospitality in every sense of the word.

Thanks to AV upgrades, we'll also be able to livestream not only worship, but concerts, speaker events and other public gatherings, assuring that people can stay connected from wherever they are.

A Neighborhood Church, Open to All

While we are a worshipping community rooted in Christian tradition, we also see our building as a space we joyfully share with the community: a place for neighbors to gather, connect, reflect and create.

We're proud to host meetings for the Roland Park Civic League and the Roland Park Condominiums, and have welcomed groups such as Grateful Gatherings, Music Together, Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous, and local scout troops. We've also opened our doors for concerts, speaker events and art shows—

RPPC: COME AND SEE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a practice we hope to expand after the renovations are complete and our spaces are fully accessible and AV-equipped.

If you've attended the annual Roland Park 4th of July Parade, you've likely seen our members handing out lemon sticks, offering water and keeping the building

open for bathroom access. The church's sidewalks, lawn and front steps have long been the informal gathering space at the end of the parade route. It's just one small example of how we hope to serve the neighborhood with joy and welcome.



Principal Brittany Baugh accepts the church's donation for Western High School's new Math Lab from congregant Barbara Jarvis, (above). Photo courtesy of RPPC

A \$10,000 donation was used to purchase books for Moravia Park Elementary School students' book fair (right). Photo courtesy of Moravia Park Elementary School



More Than Bricks and Mortar

While the physical transformation is the most visible part of the campaign, "Come and See" was never just about the building. From the very beginning, the campaign included a mission component to ensure that our impact extended beyond our walls.

We committed a portion of what we raised to support education and equity

in Baltimore City. This year, we gave \$70,000 to Western High School—the oldest public all-girls high school in the U.S.—to help fund a new Math Lab, improve student attendance and support restorative justice programs. We also gave \$10,000 to Reading Partners of Baltimore (readingpartners.org) to sponsor book fairs in local public schools, including Moravia Park Elementary School. Every one of the nearly 700 students in the school received at least two diverse, age-appropriate books to keep.

"The book fair was an amazing event," says Kottrell Davis, the AmeriCorps member who manages the reading center for Reading Partners. "We were able to provide every child in the school with multiple free books. The smiles it puts on the kids' and parents' faces will last a lifetime. The appreciation from the teachers and staff was wonderful and created a lifetime relationship with our school partner and reading partners."

As Pastor Mark puts it, "We want this campaign to not just open doors at RPPC, but to open doors in the lives of our neighbors. We believe that pursuing justice, practicing hospitality and engaging curious faith are all part of what it means to follow Jesus in today's world."

Come and See

During construction, we continue to worship at 10:30 am each Sunday in our fully accessible Assembly Hall, which can be accessed through the Upland Road glass doors. We expect the renovations to be completed before Christmas.

Once the work is done, we look forward to inviting the community into the renewed space for worship, concerts, art shows, lectures and more. Whether you've been a neighbor for years or are simply curious, we hope you'll stop by.

As we often say at RPPC, wherever you are on your faith journey—or even if you're not sure you're on one—there's a place for you here.

We hope you'll come and see. ❖

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Hillside Park Ribbon-Cutting Celebration

By Mary Page Michel, Roland Park Community Foundation Chair

A light rain fell on the morning of October 11, but the skies cleared and a stunning rainbow appeared. The timing was perfect, and reminiscent of the rainbow that arced over Baltimore's newest park on the July day when the purchase of the property was finalized. The rainbow seemed to be a sign of what was to come—a lively and festive celebration of Hillside Park.

The ribbon-cutting was a true community event, drawing people from all over the city. Guests enjoyed cupcakes from Eddie's of Roland Park, ice cream from Taharka Brothers, and plenty of fun with hula hoops and bubble machines scattered throughout the park.

The celebration was held on the side of the Great Lawn, in a little-known area with flat, tiered terrain—an ideal setting for a future performance space. Council Vice President Sharon Green Middleton, who has served the district for more than 18 years and has been involved with the Hillside Park project since its inception, was the main speaker, stepping up to a tree stump provided by our friends at Camp Small. Delegate Sandy Rosenberg, who helped to bond bills for Hillside Park, spoke as well, as did Hillside Park's urban educator, Brandon Wilson Radcliffe.

Other notable attendees included Delegate Sean Stinnett, a representative for Delegate Dalya Attar, and Deputy Chief of Staff to Mayor Brandon Scott J.D. Merrill, who spoke on behalf of the mayor. Later, in a lighthearted moment, Middleton even took a few turns with a hula hoop, to the delight of the crowd.

The Powell Younger Project performed an upbeat set of R&B, filling the park with lively music and energy. And, since this was the largest gathering on the land since the 1960s, organizers took advantage of all the helping hands and invited attendees to spread grass seed throughout the park—symbolically helping new life take root in the restored space.



Scenes from the day.
Photos (above and below): Anne Stuzin



Photo (above): Sally Foster

The day was filled with joy and community spirit. While much work remains to fully realize the vision for Hillside Park, the ribbon-cutting marked a moment of celebration and pride for all that has been accomplished so far.

For more information on Hillside Park, please visit hillsideparkmd.org.





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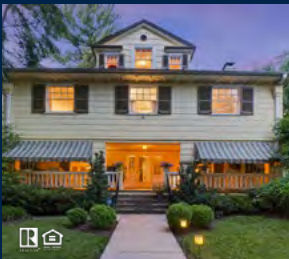
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"If You Build Them, They Will Come"

Last December, Hillside Park Committee Chair Mary Page Michel got an email with an interesting offer from Irene Connolly, whose daughter and son-in-law, Liza and Jared, live on Beechdale Road.

"I would be happy to make some bat boxes for the park if you're interested," Connolly wrote.

Nine months later, Irene and Liza have two



One of two bat houses that have been built for Hillside Park (above). Irene and Liza Connolly (pictured), volunteered their time and the building materials. Liza added a "secret" message (right), inside the houses. Photos: Irene Connolly



Did you know...

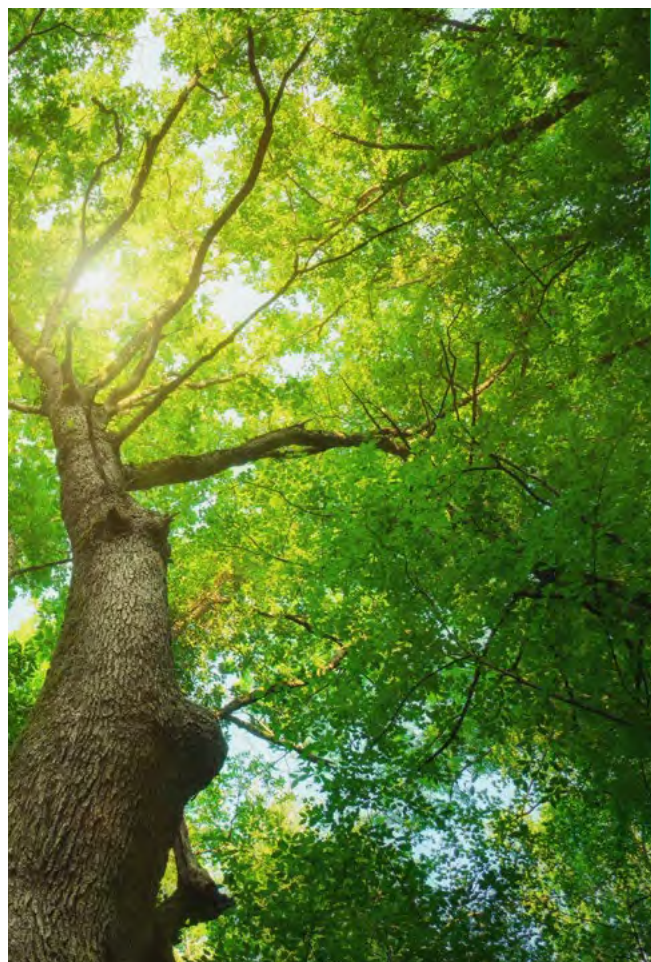
- Bats can eat up to 1,200 mosquitoes—about their body weight—every hour
- Bats are the only mammals that are capable of true flight
- Baby bats are called pups and a group of bats is called a colony
- Bat guano is one of the best fertilizers and was used during the Civil War to make gunpowder
- Bat saliva, which contains desmoteplase, has been used to treat human stroke patients
- Maryland has 10 native bats, the most common of which is the Eastern Red Bat
- Most bat species in the U.S. are under significant threat; some are endangered

Source: The Nature Conservancy (nature.org)



bat houses waiting to be installed in Hillside Park. Brandon Wilson Radcliffe, the park's urban educator, has made recommendations for their location. The plan is to install them in February, in time for the bats' spring "house-hunting" season.

Thank you, Irene and Liza! ❖



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Cylburn’s Educational Landscapes: A Living Classroom Since 1954

By Brooke Fritz, Executive Director, Cylburn Arboretum Friends

At Cylburn Arboretum, the landscape has always been more than a backdrop for beauty. Since the days when it was known as the Cylburn Wildflower Preserve and Garden Center, the grounds have served as a classroom. As early as 1967, Cylburn’s leaders described the site as an outdoor museum. “It is requested that leaders of walks stress the point that even fallen vegetation on the ground needs to be left for demonstration and explanation,” reads a newsletter from that year. This philosophy—that the entire landscape might be used for teaching—still guides us today in our stumpy, woodland edge and elsewhere.

By the 1970s, Cylburn was a vital access point to nature for Baltimore’s schoolchildren. In a 1971 letter, then-president of the Cylburn Arboretum Association, Mrs. T. Frederick Mulvenny, wrote, “For many city school children, a field trip to Cylburn Park is the first time they have been in a woodland or have seen wildflowers native to the area, a heritage that is rightly theirs.” She went on to note that more than 18,000 students came each year to study trees, wildflowers and the many species of birds attracted to Cylburn’s woodlands.

The renaming of the property as Cylburn Arboretum in 1982 reaffirmed this identity. “The change in name is designed to accentuate Cylburn’s unique character among Baltimore’s public parks as a horticultural and educational center rather than a place for picnics and strenuous recreation,” leaders explained in the members newsletter. It was a recognition that Cylburn was not simply another city park, but a space where learning and stewardship would always be central.

While new projects such as the City Demonstration Gardens and the Woodland Edge Restoration give fresh expression to this idea, the Small Tree Collection remains a vivid example of this legacy of learning. Conceived by Baltimore City’s first chief



At Cylburn, learning and stewardship are always central. Photos courtesy of CAF

horticulturist, Gerard Moudry, the collection was designed to be both practical and accessible. It is laid out in neat “library rows” so that Baltimore residents can compare species side by side, just as a reader browses books on a shelf. Trees were planted in pairs of two so that, even within the species or cultivar, a visitor could see how a tree might grow or develop differently.

This method turns a walk among the trees into a visit to a leafy classroom. At a glance, visitors can see the differences in canopy shape, bark texture, seasonal color and growth habits.

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Greater Roland Park Home Sales

(AUG – OCT 2025)

	LIST PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
403 Club Rd.	\$895,000	\$865,000
16 Elmwood Rd.	\$924,900	\$930,000
1 Merrymount Rd.	\$900,000	\$975,000
4511 Roland Ave.	\$999,000	\$999,000

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CYLBURN

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For homeowners, it provides real-life examples of how a tree might look in their own yards. For students, landscapers and designers, Cylburn serves as a living reference library. On a visit in October, for example, one might notice the extraordinary range of fruit colors among crab apple varieties.

More than a display of plants, the collection represents the philosophy that horticulture is best learned through direct encounters with the landscape. Cylburn Arboretum Friends (CAF) continues Moudry's approach today, serving as a resource for Baltimore City homeowners. The Small Tree Collection is one of two locations on the property where we continue to observe the library-row planting style. Our horticultural team tends the collection with selective curation, pruning and planting, preserving it as both a beautiful landscape and an enduring teaching tool.

Cylburn's collections demonstrate that public gardens are not only ornamental spaces but also laboratories for learning. As Moudry envisioned, every visitor who pauses to compare bark patterns, notice seasonal shifts or study the form of a tree becomes part of that ongoing classroom. Just as the 1967 newsletter reminded leaders to treat fallen leaves as teaching tools, and as Mulvenny noted in 1971, when children were encountering wildflowers for the first time, the Moudry trees embodied the idea that the landscape itself could be the teacher.



Today, that philosophy continues to guide CAF. From the preservation of the Small Tree Collection to the creation of new demonstration gardens, the principle is the same: Cylburn's value lies not only in its beauty but also in its ability to spark curiosity, invite observation, and nurture a deeper connection between Baltimore City residents and 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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Ask the Gardenista: Beat the Winter Blues

By Kristin Sparkman, Gardenista Creations Founder

As the chill of fall sets in, we and our beloved plants are forced to retreat indoors. This is actually the most critical time for active plant nurturing, while plants take a necessary rest from the lush growth of summer. When the outside world goes dormant, the key to beating the winter blues is to create a supportive, healthy environment for your indoor jungle. As your PlantScape professional, I'm here to help your jungle shine brighter than the dark winter days.

Here is your essential guide to preparing your houseplants for the season, focusing on the most important fall topics: root health, humidity, light and pest prevention.

The Great Fall Repot: Inspect and Restyle

Before settling your plants into their winter homes, give them a physical. Fall is the time for root inspection, not just routine repotting. Gently pull your plant from its pot and check the health of the roots.



A plant with healthy, plump roots (left) and one with dying, brown roots (right).
Photos: Kristin Sparkman

- **Trim the dead:** Use clean, sanitized shears to remove any brown, dead, or stringy roots—these are prone to rot and harbor disease. It's always wise to clean your tools with alcohol between tending to each plant to prevent the spread of disease.

- **Scale down if necessary:** If you suspect moisture-related dieback (mushy roots or soil, visible mold), your plant is drowning! Scale the plant down a pot size until it recovers. This emergency measure will allow the moisture-shocked roots to breathe and encourages fresh, happy growth! Note: If root rot fungus has already set in (wet, yellow leaves are falling off the plant when you touch it, or it has a mushy, wet crown, black, slimy roots or a foul-smelling soil), do not reuse the soil. Give the plant fresh soil and let it recover until spring.

Watering and Fertilizing: Less is More

One of the easiest ways to accidentally harm a houseplant in the winter is to treat it as you do during summer. The reduced light and cooler temperatures cause most plants to enter dormancy, meaning their growth stops or severely slows.

- **Scale back on watering:** Wait significantly longer between

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THRIVING HOUSEPLANTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

waterings than you did during the spring and summer months. Always check the soil moisture several inches down before watering, and try to water from the bottom to encourage deep root growth.

- **Do not fertilize:** Since plants rest during winter, they don't need the high-energy boost of fertilizer. Feeding them now with high-nitrogen products is a wasted effort and can actually lead to root burn or weak, leggy growth. Think of it as forcing a nap-taker to run a marathon.
- **Routine nutrients are okay:** If you want to provide a little supportive care, use water-soluble supplements like SUPERthrive®. These provide routine vitamins and hormones without the heavy mineral salts found in typical fertilizers.



Check your plant's soil before watering.

Light Evaluation and Jungle Rotation

With the sun lower in the sky and fewer daylight hours, finding enough light is a serious challenge. Every ray counts!

- **Clean your windows:** This simple step can make a huge difference. Dirt and dust on windowpanes block a surprising amount of precious winter light.
- **Rotate your plants:** Rotate your plants a quarter-turn every few weeks. This allows all sides to enjoy the available light and prevents the plant from getting lopsided—a simple calendar reminder can help!
- **Rearrange your jungle:** Have fun with it! See what new shapes your plants have taken over the summer and bring something that has shown off to the forefront. Moving your plants around also helps you scout the best available light for each species and prepares you (and your space) for new purchases once spring arrives!

Combating Dry Air and Pests

Indoor heating, especially forced-air, creates a dry, arid environment that tropical plants hate—and that pests like spider mites absolutely love.

- **Group your plants for warmth and humidity:** Grouping your plants close together is like people huddling together when it's cold! Plants release moisture through transpiration, and grouping them traps that humidity in a beneficial microclimate.
- **Increase humidity further:** Place plants on pebble trays—shallow trays filled with water and pebbles—ensuring the pot sits above the waterline. For a larger impact, consider investing in a simple room humidifier placed near your newly-created PlantScape.

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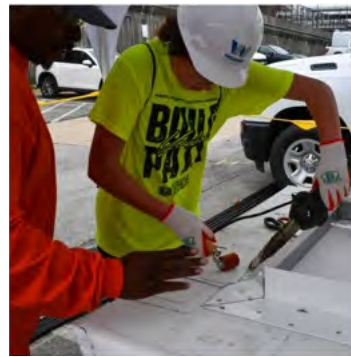
Becoming a Woman of Impact at Garrison Forest

The upper school at Garrison Forest School (GFS) combines a focus on academic excellence with opportunities for students to explore and expand their interests. In 9th through 12th grades, students can step outside of the classroom and gain an in-depth understanding of many different fields through hands-on work and partnerships with academic and industry mentors.

"We provide a robust curriculum that encourages students to think critically and connects them with unique opportunities," says Andrea Perry, dean of Special Programs and director of the James Center. "This is experiential learning with a public purpose, designed to help students explore, engage and contribute."

With a combination of long-standing programs and initiatives that evolve with the needs of students, here is a glimpse of the opportunities available in the GFS upper school:

- **Women in Science and Engineering (WISE).** Now in its 20th year, this partnership with Johns Hopkins University places juniors and seniors in research opportunities for a semester. More than 360 students have participated with more than 160 Hopkins faculty hosts in nearly 30 departments and centers. Student projects span the disciplines from biology and public health to social sciences and the arts.
- **Public Health Fellows.** In a partnership with the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Master of Public Health



GFS provides a variety of experiential learning opportunities to its students in 9th through 12th grade. Photo courtesy of GFS

program, each year students work closely with two graduate students to learn more about public health topics. Nearly 30 students participate each year, meeting regularly with their mentors to learn more about current topics, work on awareness initiatives and expand their knowledge of careers in public health.

- **Architecture, Construction, Engineering (ACE).** Throughout the year, student groups work with a team of mentors from local architecture, construction and engineering firms to tackle all phases of a design project inspired by real-life client needs. The culmination of the project is an all-school competition in May, where GFS teams have won awards and several students have won scholarships and internships.
- **The Jenkins Fellows Program.** Students in this program focus on service learning, immersing themselves in research before launching into a year-long service initiative. Work

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A Year of Top Honors for Bryn Mawr

The Bryn Mawr School is celebrating some major recognitions this year. The all-girls school earned top honors from **Niche.com**, a prominent platform that connects students and families with colleges and schools, in addition to being named a Top Workplace by *The Baltimore Sun* for the 6th time.

Bryn Mawr was awarded multiple top positions by Niche, including:

- #1 Best Private K-12 School in Maryland
- #1 Best STEM School in Maryland
- #1 Best All-Girls High Schools in Maryland
- #10 Best All-Girls High School in America



Bryn Mawr has been recognized for its "outstanding culture and outcomes" in two highly regarded rankings.

Photo courtesy of Bryn Mawr



To our Roland Park neighbors

Happy Holidays!

THE BRYN MAWR SCHOOL • brynmawrschool.org

Notably, Bryn Mawr Online, the school's virtual learning program that launched in 2022, was named the #2 Best Online Private High School in the country. This year is the first year that Bryn Mawr Online was eligible to receive a ranking from Niche.

The platform's rankings factor in academic metrics, extracurricular opportunities, feedback, reviews from students, parents, alumnae and employees, and comprehensive data from sources like the U.S. Department of Education.

This December, Bryn Mawr is also being honored by the *Sun* as a top workplace. The paper recognizes organizations that demonstrate exceptional culture, leadership and employee satisfaction. Based on anonymous employee feedback, the honor reflects the school's deep commitment to fostering a workplace where educators feel valued, inspired and empowered to make a difference.

"At Bryn Mawr, we believe that excellence, leadership and well-being go hand in hand," says Head of School Sue Sadler. "Our strategic priority of Living Well and Learning Well helps us stay focused on the joy and well-being of our students and faculty without sacrificing the academic excellence Bryn Mawr exemplifies."

She adds, "It's wonderful to be recognized, in two such well-known rankings, for outstanding culture and outcomes, and it affirms our commitment to taking care of people so that they can do their best work." ❖

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.

Visiting Author Reinforces Reading Revolution at RPCS

In October, Roland Park Country School (RPCS) was thrilled to welcome *New York Times* bestselling author Dhonielle Clayton as the featured speaker for the school's annual Anne Healy Lecture. A former teacher and elementary and middle school librarian, Clayton is the author of *Shattered Midnight*, *The Belles* series, and *The Conjureverse* series, comprised of *The Marvellers*, *The Memory Thieves* and *The Deadly Fates*. She also co-wrote the *Tiny Pretty Things* duology, which is now on Netflix as an original series.

Clayton's visit coincided with an all-school book fair and her discussions with the community supported the themes of Roland Park Country School's ongoing "Reading Revolution." This initiative, which launched a few years ago, encourages students of all ages to read a book of their choosing during the school day to foster a lifelong love of independent reading. Studies have shown that individuals who read for pleasure have higher test scores, boast a more robust vocabulary, show more empathy and live longer, among other benefits.



Author Dhonielle Clayton was this year's Anne Healy lecturer. Photo courtesy of RPCS

Over two days, Clayton met with all students in grades 3 through 12, many of whom read her books over the summer. In the lower school, she introduced the girls to characters and themes in her three *Conjureverse* books, and in her meetings with middle and upper school students, she talked about her journey as a writer, the secret to becoming an author and tips for how to write books. She also led a writing workshop with 7th graders and guided

a conversation about the themes from *The Belles* books with 9th graders. In every meeting, Clayton graciously answered thoughtful questions from the students and signed their books.

In her personal and thought-provoking evening lecture to adult members of our community and upper school tri-school students, titled "Books Save Lives: The Lighthouses of Community," Clayton talked about her family's history and how books provide comfort and guidance in times of darkness. As co-founder and Board Chair of the nonprofit organization We Need Diverse Books (diversebooks.org), Clayton advocates that every child should

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



Find your path at RPCS.

At Roland Park Country School, the paths our girls take are as unique and diverse as they are. Students are empowered to follow their curiosities, pursue their passions, challenge themselves to excel in an academically rigorous environment, and commit enthusiastically to the entire process.

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Recess Reimagined: Friends' New Lower School Playground

As Friends School of Baltimore advances its multi-year lower school transformation, the latest milestone, a reimagined lower school playground, reflects the school's unwavering belief that learning extends far beyond the classroom. The new space embodies the same spirit of innovation and joy that defines Friends' approach to education—blending play, exploration and community connection into every corner of the campus.

Following the 2024 renovations of the lower school's east and west buildings, which include a new makerspace, science labs that offer a highly collaborative workspace, murals throughout the hallways and stairwells that celebrate flora and fauna, and facility upgrades that ensure equitable access to programs, the playground project represents the natural next phase in creating a holistic learning environment for Friends' youngest students.

"At Friends, we know that play is far more than a break from learning; it is an integral part of the learning process," says



Friends' new playground was built to spark imagination and curiosity while offering age-appropriate challenges and experiences. Photo courtesy of Friends

Head of School Christian Donovan. "Through hands-on and joyful interactions with peers, children engage their bodies and minds in a way that fosters growth and development...[and] lays the foundation for essential skills such as collaboration, empathy, creativity and resilience that will serve them well throughout their lives."

Officially opened at the start of the 2025/26 school year, the new playground was built to spark imagination and curiosity while offering age-appropriate challenges and experiences for students ages 5 to 12. The updated space features new play structures, safety matting, benches, landscape restoration and ADA-compliant improvements. Plans are already underway for additional phases of playground enhancements, which will continue to expand outdoor learning opportunities and create new ways for students to connect through play. In keeping with Friends' long-standing commitment to community, the playground also serves as a welcoming space for neighborhood families after school hours and on the weekends.

Beyond its physical upgrades, the playground reflects Friends' deep commitment to child-centered, experiential education. Thoughtful design choices encourage open-ended exploration, cooperative play and problem-solving—values that mirror what happens inside the classroom. The result is a dynamic outdoor environment where curiosity and connection flourish side by side.

Just as the lower school transformation has revitalized Friends' historic buildings for a new century of learning, the new playground invites students to engage with the natural world, their peers and their own imaginations in meaningful ways. It is more than a place to play; it is an extension of the Friends experience.

In reimagining both learning and play spaces, Friends reaffirms its mission to nurture every child's potential and build a community rooted in creativity, curiosity and joy, today and for generations to come. ♦

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



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Park's Winter Break Camp

The Park School's Winter Break Camp, open to the public for campers ages 4 to 11, brings the same spirit of adventure, creativity and community that families love about Park Camps—this time during the holiday season!

At Park Camps, the school's 100-acre wooded campus is the perfect place for children to explore, play and grow—even in winter. Caring teachers and counselors get to know each camper's personality and interests, making sure every child feels welcomed and supported. With staff who embrace the joy and fun of the season, campers experience a warm, engaging environment where they can thrive.

This December, join Park for exciting camp days filled with sports, arts, games and winter-themed activities designed for elementary-aged children (grades Pre-K through 5th). Whether indoors or outdoors, campers will have opportunities to stay active, be creative and connect with friends old and new.

Just like the summer camp, Winter Break Camp groups campers into dens by age, each with a lead teacher and supporting counselors who guide the children through a variety of engaging activities every day. Campers participate in a mix of den activities, specialty workshops, PE and art, with each day capped by an all-camp activity that brings everyone together to celebrate the season and strengthen connections across camp.



Park's Winter Break Camp features activities that are geared to the season. Photo courtesy of Park

There are two sessions:

- Session 1: December 22 and 23
- Session 2: December 29 and 30

Registration is open to the public and space is limited! Visit parkschool.net/park-camps/winter-break-camp for information and registration. ❖

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

GET TO KNOW THE PARK SCHOOL

PRE-K — GRADE 12 PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION



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



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< Dallas, Kindergarten

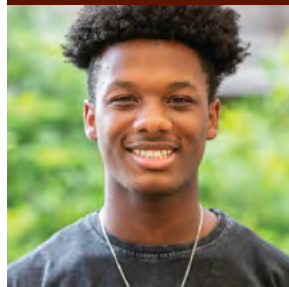
I'm really passionate about lacrosse. Playing, practicing, working hard, getting better, being with my friends — it all just gives me joy.

Phoebe, Grade 8 >



My favorite class right now? Probably Psychology and Literature. I love the integration of social science with our reading and analysis.

< Kyle, Grade 11



EVENTS: [WWW.PARKSCHOOL.NET/VISIT](https://www.parkschool.net/visit)

Learning Comes to Life in Gilman's Immersive Program

A new initiative at Gilman—created to give choice in community time programming and to provide a space for faculty to share their passions—offers upper school students nearly 40 non-traditional offerings for academic extension, alternative enrichment or casual recreation. The immersive program's topics range from life skills like DIY Home Repair to hobbies like Juggling; from future-focused subjects like Careers in Sports to friendly competitions like Cornhole.

Math Teacher Donell Thompson, Jr. ('91), who moonlights as a mixmaster, puts a new spin on school in the Learning to DJ immersive. "At Gilman, we actively engage in our roles as teachers, coaches and mentors for our students," he says. "I see it as a way of building relationships with students."

Caleb Park ('29), who participated in Thompson's immersive throughout the fall, looked forward to this time each week. "This class helped me appreciate how much skill and time go into making music flow naturally," he says. "I think the program is a fun way to learn unique skills and engage in different interests." Another student in the group had already been DJing for a couple of years, which presented an opportunity for him to help guide the learning. "His input was invaluable, and he taught me a few things," Thompson says, noting an additional lesson students came away with—that they have agency in their own learning process.



Math Teacher Donell Thompson, Jr. ('91), works with a student in the Learning to DJ immersive. Photo courtesy of Gilman

Pat Franz, executive assistant to the head of school, expertly plays the Celtic harp, among other instruments, and leads the Traditional Music Sessions immersive. "I felt confident that the students interested in exploring traditional music would find a different way to express themselves musically, building on their foundational knowledge and expanding their understanding," she says. "They enjoy it more than I had anticipated."

Before returning to Gilman as an employee, Director of Advancement Programs & Operations Nathaniel Badger ('94) ran a photo art business, an enterprise that was inspired by a photography class he took at Gilman. He wanted to teach the Art as a Business immersive to reach students, "who have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

A photograph of a modern bedroom interior. The room features a large bed with a grey tufted headboard and several pillows. A large fireplace with a dark stone surround is visible, with a fire burning inside. To the right, there are large floor-to-ceiling windows with black frames, offering a view of green trees outside. A wooden chair with a cushion is positioned near the windows. The walls are made of light-colored wood. A framed picture hangs on the wall above the bed.


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Mattering Matters at Waldorf

By Scotti Morrow

I recently listened to an interview with Jennifer Breheny Wallace, author of *Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic—and What We Can Do About It*, and I couldn't stop thinking about The Waldorf School. Wallace explores the concept of mattering—the psychological experience of feeling valued by others and knowing we add value in return. Her words echoed clearly what I see at Waldorf of Baltimore every day!

It's in the Children's Garden morning circle, when the class sings, "Good morning, _____. We're glad you're here today," pausing to name and celebrate each child. It's in the many hundreds of tiny, intentional moments—like a morning handshake, a handmade tooth box offering a special place for a small moment that, to a child, feels so big, or a warm water bottle for a tummy ache, real or imagined—a gesture of care and comfort. It's in the 3rd grade, where if someone is absent, their classmates draw a heart on the chalkboard with that child's name inside it, just to say: you were missed.

Wallace's research shows that mattering acts as a buffer against stress, anxiety, depression and loneliness—conditions affecting more and more young people today. And while Waldorf education is no magic cure, it offers something powerful in return: a culture that honors the whole child. We don't rush children to specialize. The athlete is also a poet. The budding scientist is a gardener, a knitter and a singer. There's no race to the top, and no fear of falling from it—instead, there is space to grow in all directions.

Wallace is also clear on the point that mattering isn't the opposite of achievement—it's what allows it to grow from a place of confidence and wholeness. In a world where children (and hey, adults as well) often feel they have to earn their worth, at Waldorf we remind them: you already matter, exactly as you are. ❖

The Waldorf School of Baltimore (waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org) is tucked behind Cylburn Arboretum at 4801 Tamarind Road. The 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.



Waldorf students start their day by singing "good morning" to one another in the Children's Garden and by greeting their teachers with a morning handshake.

Photos courtesy of Waldorf

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PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN PRESCHOOL-GRADE 8

The Gift that Gives Back: Aligning Your Generosity with Your Financial Strategy

By Matt Horton, CFP®, CPA, Certified Financial Planner®

For many of us, charitable giving is driven by the heart. We want to support causes that matter to us and make a positive impact in our communities, especially when living in a vibrant neighborhood like Roland Park. This giving season, did you know that charitable giving can do more than help others—it can also strengthen your financial picture?

As a financial advisor and CPA (and new resident of Roland Park), I help clients turn generosity into lasting impact by combining philanthropy with strategic planning to support the causes they care about, while also enhancing their financial well-being. Here are key areas where giving back can align with your overall financial plan.

The Tax Side of Charitable Giving

Many people are aware that charitable donations can offer tax benefits, but with higher standard deductions, some believe they need to give big to make it worthwhile. The truth? Not necessarily.

Donating appreciated assets (like stocks) through a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) can give you an immediate deduction, reduce capital gains and lower taxable income. Timing also helps.



Horton and his family recently moved to Roland Park. Photo courtesy of Horton

“Bunching” gifts into one tax year can unlock larger deductions if you itemize.

With recent tax changes making it easier for some families to itemize, charitable giving can be even more valuable depending on your situation. Coordinating your donations with tax laws enables you to support the causes you care about while optimizing your financial plan.

Charitable Giving as an Estate-Planning Tool

To me, estate planning is about passing on your values, protecting your heirs and leaving a lasting impact. Charitable giving can also be a powerful part of that plan.

Including donations in your estate plan can reduce estate taxes, but the impact can also extend beyond financial considerations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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Holiday Gift Guide

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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

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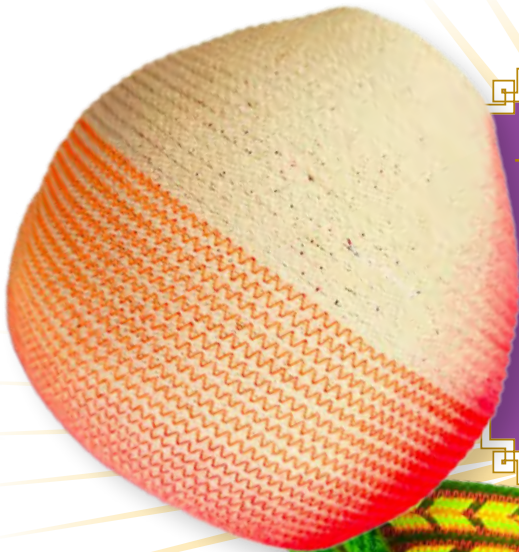


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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

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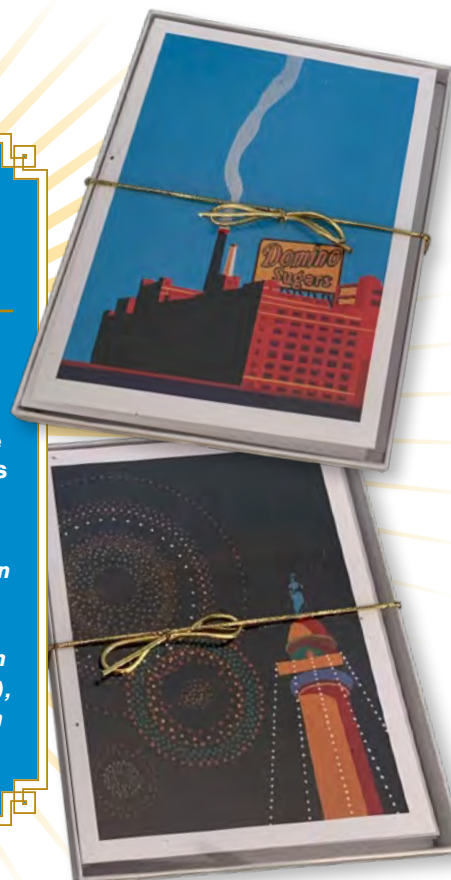


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A True School for Boys

By Kacey Grogan

At The Boys' Latin School of Maryland, understanding how boys learn best shapes everything, from outdoor play to character education.

Across the country, educators are sounding the alarm: boys are struggling. They're falling behind in school, spending more time online than outdoors, and often feeling disconnected from purpose and community.

At Boys' Latin, that challenge is met with clarity and care. The school's mission is rooted in a deep understanding of how boys learn and grow. Movement, mentorship and learning how to embrace meaningful challenges are at the core of every day.

"Boys learn best by doing," says Headmaster Chris Post. "They need to move, to take healthy risks, to collaborate and compete. At Boys' Latin, we've created an environment where boys receive an excellent education while learning and growing into good men."

Research supports what Boys' Latin has practiced for generations: boys perform better when they're active learners. Here, the day balances movement with focus and competition with collaboration, giving boys the confidence to take on challenges and the resilience to try again.

This approach is evident across campus. On any given day, you might see students testing water samples in the stream, working together on a class project under the oak trees or competing on the athletic fields. At drop-off in the mornings, you will see the lower school students playing on the playground, starting their day off with recess. Classrooms are lively and interactive, and a no-cellphone policy encourages boys to focus on face-to-face



Boys' Latin understands that boys perform better when they're active learners. Photos courtesy of Boys' Latin



relationships rather than screens.

"Connection is at the heart of everything we do," Post explains. "When boys put down their phones, they make eye contact. They listen. They learn how to have real conversations, which is such an important skill in life."

But academics are only part of the story. Boys' Latin places equal emphasis on its core values: courage, integrity and compassion. From advisory programs and leadership workshops to community service projects across Baltimore, students are encouraged to lead with purpose, act with honesty and care for others.

"Being a Laker means understanding that success isn't just about what you achieve," Post says. "It's about who you are, how you treat people and how you contribute to something bigger than yourself."

Families often describe Boys' Latin as feeling different and, if you visit the campus, you will understand what they mean. The school's small size ensures that every student is known, valued and supported by all members of the staff. Teachers serve as mentors, guiding boys through challenges and celebrating their growth.

In a time when boys are often told to sit still, stay quiet or look down at a screen, Boys' Latin offers something rare and different: a place built for how boys truly learn, play and grow.

As Post puts it, "At Boys' Latin, we don't just teach boys. We understand them." ♦

Founded in 1844, The Boys' Latin School of Maryland (BoysLatinMD.com) is a K-12 all-boys university-preparatory school, and the oldest independent, nonsectarian secondary school in the state.

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RPEMS Rings in its Centennial Year with Celebration, Community and Innovation

By Karen Tong

Roland Park Elementary Middle School (RPEMS) began the school year on a high note, marked by excitement, achievement and community spirit. As the school continues to celebrate its 100th anniversary, this year's theme— "Rooted in Legacy, Ready for Tomorrow"—reflects both pride in a century of excellence and a commitment to a bright future.

Autumn was full of events that showcased the vibrant life of the RPEMS community. Families cheered on the Orioles during a fun-filled school night at Camden Yards. The Wellness Festival in September kicked off the season with a morning of movement, mindfulness and connection, promoting physical and mental well-being for students and families.

October was a festive month, beginning with College Awareness Month, where teachers and students celebrated higher education with themed shirts and a door-decorating contest displaying teachers' alma maters. The elementary movie night, restaurant fundraisers and 6th and 7th grade dance added even more energy to the season. Sixth graders also enjoyed an unforgettable three-night adventure at North Bay, strengthening friendships and leadership skills through outdoor learning.

Younger scholars shone during the Fall Festival Parade on October 31, showing off creative costumes as they marched down Roland Avenue to Eddie's, cheered on by neighbors and community members. The Leaves, Literacy and Logic Night in November invited families to enjoy games, goodies, giggles and learning activities centered around math and reading.

RPEMS' Baltimore Running Festival team, organized by the Roland Park Annual Fund (RPAF), once again demonstrated the power of community. A record 223 runners, including teachers, scholars and parents, participated in races from the 5K to the marathon, raising more than \$28,000 to support classroom technology. Thanks to this generosity, the RPAF hopes to equip all 63 classrooms with 65-inch SMART Boards with iQ LED technology. The group has already funded 21 new SMART Boards that were delivered before the Running Festival fundraiser.

Wrapping Up Our Centennial Year

The centennial celebrations reached their peak on November 22, with the RPEMS Centennial Homecoming and Gala, a day where alumni, families and friends reunited to honor the school's enduring legacy.

Join the RPEMS Centennial Brick Campaign today to add your personalized, engraved brick on the school's entrance walkway and become a permanent part of the school's legacy. Families, alumni and local businesses can visit donate.brickmarkers.com/

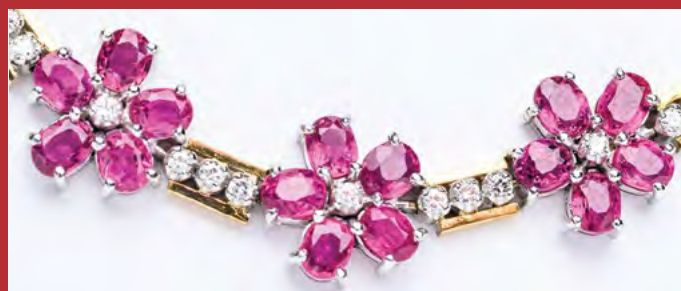


Principal Brandon Pinkney (left), shows off one of the new SMART boards donated by the RPAF. Cross country team members (below), ran together connected as a caterpillar in the 5K of the Baltimore Running Festival. Photos courtesy of RPEMS



rpems to purchase a brick. Connect with us on Instagram @ **rpems100** to enjoy centennial memories.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



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The Nation's Longest Running Bach Marathon Celebrates 50 Years

By Kathy Hudson

The Baltimore Bach Marathon will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sunday, March 15, from 1-6 pm at St. David's Episcopal Church, 4700 Roland Ave. All stops are being pulled out. (Pun intended.) In addition to a full program featuring half a dozen organists, Bach's *Mass in B Minor* will begin at 4 pm. Current and former members of the St. David's choir will perform the Mass with an orchestra.

"*Mass in B Minor* is one of Bach's masterworks, a culmination of his skill as a composer," says Dr. Douglas Buchanan, director of music at St. David's. "It's really a compendium of Bach's mastery of composition, from the technicalities of counterpoint to theological symbolism to the affective sweep of the whole work. It's sort of a time capsule of different points in time for Bach, as it was compiled over numerous years. It ranges the emotional gamut from joy to sorrow, from majesty to subtle introversion."



Buchanan has served as St. David's director of music for more than a decade.

The *Mass in B Minor* is a fitting selection for the 50th Baltimore Bach Marathon, which began in 1975 as an all-organ event at Wilson Memorial Methodist Church. Organist Randall Mullin participated in that first event, which was established by Theodore J. (Ted) Talbert. When Talbert left Wilson Memorial, Mullin, then the newly appointed St. David's organist and choirmaster, asked if he could continue the event at St. David's. He felt that its organ was even more appropriate for the works of Bach, because of its Neo-Baroque voicing.

Under Mullin, who served at St. David's from 1975 to 2003, the Bach Marathon ran from 12:30 pm to 8 pm. Except for a few piano and organ duets, it was strictly organ music. "Eventually there was even a 'Bach's lunch' available for purchase that helped to sustain some of the patrons," remembers Mullin, who now lives in Maine, continues to give organ recitals and plans to come to St. David's for the 50th anniversary of the Marathon.

Buchanan, who was raised in Dallas and received his Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition at the Peabody Conservatory, came to St. David's in 2014. "When I arrived, I knew I wanted to



The Bach Marathon was brought to St. David's by organist Randall Mullin. Photos courtesy of Buchanan

incorporate the choir into the Marathon, with the hopes of growing the offerings from cantatas and motets into more substantive works. St. David's has an excellent choral tradition, and it seemed natural to weave the choral program into concert offerings."

Thinking over highlights of the Bach Marathon during his tenure, Buchanan focuses on several choral works. "The end of the *Johannes-Passion* is just sublime. It's a chorale that asks angels to watch over our *Schläfkammerlein*, our 'little sleeping chamber.'...In Germany, in the Bach Archives, there's a little display with a glass box lined in green velvet. Resting on the velvet are two scraps of wood, believed to belong to Bach's coffin. I kept thinking of this little glass box, this *Schläfkammerlein*, as we brought that work to a close."

Then there's the *Matthäuspension* (St. Matthew's Passion), of which Buchanan copied the first 20 pages while in graduate school. "I learned more from that one project than any other project in all my degree programs...You can really hear the music at your fingertips when you do this...To be a part of bringing that music to life was really thrilling."

Buchanan has loved performing the *Goldberg Variations* and has done so twice at the Marathon. He also offered his own completion of the *Art of Fugue*. "A lot of these have been bucket-list projects," he says. "It's gratifying to share them with audiences."

In addition to the Bach Marathon, Buchanan organizes a robust series of evening programs, some with Evensong and some without. "Since my first season, I've incorporated an ensemble-in-residence, one that's featured several times per year," he says. "And, beginning in my second season, we've commissioned a composer-in-residence each year to write music for us to premiere, resulting in over a dozen new works."

Evensongs have also been important in his commitment to canon-expansive music, highlighting composers historically excluded from the "Western classical music" canon, including Evensongs celebrating Hildegard von Bingen, Indigenous Peoples Day, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Frederick Douglass and Pride Month.

The expansive music program at St. David's is reflective of Buchanan's broad educational and professional experiences. From a musical family that includes his brother Ben, director of music at St. John's Western Run, Buchanan graduated summa cum

Childhood Memories of Wartime Baltimore

By J. Denis Glover

Young Tuck, my grandson, couldn't believe I lived through WWII in Baltimore, but I did.

Long before our family moved to Roland Park, I was born on Longwood Avenue in Ashburton, at a time when Hitler's blitzkrieg was coming close to conquering England.

The first event I don't remember. But I do distinctly remember being a small boy in the car with my mother when the Studebaker radio—a luxury in those days—reported the impending devastation of Hiroshima. An eerie silence reigned in the car. My little mind didn't know precisely what that announcement meant, but recognized it as implying a terrifying, awful event.

When Germany surrendered, we children ran out into the middle of Ridgewood Avenue in West Arlington—shouting and exultantly clapping our mothers' soup spoons against kitchen pans as if they were cymbals. Neighbors declared the surrender "official." I had no idea what that meant either, but knew again that the event was of vast importance.

I don't remember my folks going off to war, but do remember their returning. The Nazis twice shot down my first cousin Jimmy, a ball-turret gunner, over Europe. And my Uncle Paul, one of the first Marines to land on Guadalcanal, met heavy combat in the Pacific theater. When he went missing, my mother was determined to find him. And, against all odds, she did! A church contact of hers located Paul in a South Pacific hospital.

Odd little things made an impression at the time. Food was limited, with government-issued ration books allowing us to buy a modest amount. There was little sugar, and no bubble gum or butter—but there was Spam and liver, both of which I hated then and do to this day.

We were allowed margarine, of sorts. It came as white goo in a flat plastic bag with a red dye dot in the middle. The children's job was to massage the dot to break it, and then work the color through the goo with our fingers. Somehow the red turned to yellow. The dairy industry wouldn't let it be sold in that color!

My Grandmother Hummel, who lived in a row house on Fulton Avenue, saved bits of aluminum, even separating them from the paper linings of gum wrappers and mashing them into balls to turn in for the war effort. She saved string, too, but I don't know what happened to that.

In school, we received empty savings bond booklets. For a small fee, we could buy a stamp. When they were full, the booklets could be turned in for a war bond. I never had the small fee.

Baltimore had terrifying air raid drills. Sirens screamed like fire engines. Neighbors became wardens—ours was old Mr. Flickenger, grandfather of my friends Kenny and David. When the sirens rang out, we had to immediately rush inside, close the Venetian blinds and turn off all the lights.

Nevertheless, my father's unerring custom was to sit on the front porch in the morning and evening to do *The Baltimore Sun's* twice-daily crossword puzzles. When the sirens went off while



Glover (right), remembers what growing up during wartime was like.

The author's uncle, Paul Hummel (above), occupied a Guadalcanal foxhole during the war.

Photos courtesy of Glover



Mr. Flickenger walked his rounds, he would order my father to get inside. My father retorted, "As soon as I finish the crossword puzzle!" (My mother occasionally voiced the term, "another hardheaded Glover"!)

At some point during the war, my father enlisted in the Coast Guard on a branch of Baltimore harbor. JC was his first name,

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WARTIME BALTIMORE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

not an abbreviation for anything. (It was a Southern thing.) When an officer demanded that he write his full name, my father said he could fill in either “Julius Caesar”—or the other one...

Gasoline was rationed, too, and JC ran out completely one day. In order to get enough to drive to a station, he began siphoning gas from a kind neighbor’s car, sucking through a plastic tube to start the flow. He was supposed to drop the tube before the gas reached his mouth, but he didn’t. I watched him race desperately to rinse out his mouth!

When my cousin Jimmy and Uncle Paul came back home to Baltimore, my mother comforted both men, working to help move them beyond their traumas, of which they never spoke. She even bought my uncle a T-bone steak, the first I’d ever heard of, upon his return. Wonder of wonders! And he brought me a 78 Basil Rathbone recording of *Treasure Island*.

My father’s double first cousins served in Europe, too. Russell, a farm boy from the Shenandoah Valley, served as one of the first medics to enter a Nazi extermination camp to help save Jewish lives. He could never talk about it, either.

I didn’t tell my grandson Tuck all these stories, just enough to make him a believer.



In 1948, only a very few grocers were allowed to sell margarine that was yellow, which made it look more like butter. Manufacturers got around the restrictions with food coloring.

Photo courtesy of Glover

These are the kind of memories fewer and fewer Baltimoreans have, yet they suggest the timbre of a brave city and its population’s survival under colossal stress. A timbre that continues in a different, but still challenging, way today. ♦

Denis Glover is a native Baltimorean who attended Mordecai Gist Elementary School, Roland Park Junior High and Baltimore City College. He’s the author of a novel, *The Smithy Miracles*, and holds an advanced honors degree in British and American literature from Columbia University.

THE GIFT THAT GIVES BACK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Tools like DAFs or philanthropic trusts can guide heirs, teach financial stewardship and ensure your wealth reflects your values.

With thoughtful planning, charitable giving helps protect your legacy, provide clarity for your family and leave a meaningful mark on your community.

Giving Back and Your Retirement Plan

Charitable giving can do more than warm your heart—it can also support your retirement savings. Many are surprised to learn that giving strategically can actually enhance the effectiveness of their savings.

When Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) begin at age 73 or 75, withdrawals from IRAs or 401(k)s can push you into a higher tax bracket. A Qualified Charitable Distribution allows you to donate directly from your IRA, meet your RMD, and reduce your taxable income—effectively checking two boxes at once.

Your Giving, Your Impact

As we approach the end of the year and consider our giving, I hope it has been helpful to see how combining charitable goals with financial planning can be worthwhile for you and your family. When done thoughtfully, your giving can reflect your values, enhance your financial situation, and help you leave a legacy that benefits both your family and your community.

From my family to yours, I wish you a joyful holiday season and a meaningful year ahead. ♦

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Such trusts are used to create a vehicle for donations to a favorite charity, which also allows for the reduction of income taxes through a charitable deduction and favorable tax treatment at the date of the gift, as non-recognition of built-in capital gains is applied. The use of trusts involves a complex web of tax rules and regulations. You should consider the counsel of an experienced estate planning professional before implementing such strategies.

Generally, a donor advised fund is a separately identified fund or account that is maintained and operated by a section 501(c)(3) organization, which is called a sponsoring organization. Each account is composed of contributions made by individual donors. Once the donor makes the contribution, the organization has legal control over it. However, the donor, or the donor’s representative, retains advisory privileges with respect to the distribution of funds and the investment of assets in the account. Donors take a tax deduction for all contributions at the time they are made, even though the money may not be dispersed to a charity until much later.

The strategies mentioned may not be appropriate for all investors. Please consult your financial advisors to determine a strategy that works best for you. Distributions from traditional IRAs and employer sponsored retirement plans are taxed as ordinary income and, if taken prior to reaching age 59 ½, may be subject to an additional 10% IRS tax penalty.



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Warm and Cozy Dumpling Soup

Eddie's of Roland Park

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

Ingredients

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6 oz. Ty Ling Chinese noodles or angel hair pasta | 2 cups Eddie's rotisserie chicken, shredded |
| 2 T. vegetable oil | 1 cup Chinese or Napa cabbage, shredded |
| 1 tsp. ginger, minced | 2 scallions, sliced diagonally |
| 1 clove garlic, minced | 2 tsp. Momofuko Chili Crunch |
| 32 oz. chicken broth | 2 T. fresh cilantro, chopped |
| 1 T. low sodium soy sauce | 1 lime, cut in 4 wedges |
| 1 pkg. Laoban Ginger Chicken Dumplings | |
| 1 cup fresh snow peas, halved diagonally | |

Cook the Chinese noodles or angel hair pasta in boiling water according to the package directions. Drain, rinse with cold water and set aside.

In a large stock pot, heat the vegetable oil over medium-high heat. Add the ginger and garlic, and stir for about 1 minute until the fragrance is released. Add the chicken broth and soy sauce. Bring to a boil, add the dumplings and simmer for 5 minutes, until the dumplings float. Add the noodles, chicken and pea pods, and simmer for a few minutes to heat through.



Photo courtesy of Eddie's of Roland Park

Stir in the Chinese cabbage and cook for about a minute, until it is just wilted.

Ladle the soup into individual bowls, and top with fresh scallions, cilantro, a drizzle of chili crunch and a wedge of lime.

*Pair with Pierre Sparr Pinot Gris. ♦

Eddie's Tip: To prepare a vegan version, use vegetable broth and Laoban Vegetable Dumplings, and replace the chicken with sliced shiitake mushrooms.

RPEMS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Roland Park After Dark: Sponsors and Auction Donations Needed

Support Roland Park After Dark, the PTA's largest adult fundraiser and auction! Help make the March 6 event a success as a sponsor or auction donor. Contact Emily Finton at emilyfinton@hotmail.com to inquire about sponsorships and marketing opportunities. To donate auction items, gift cards, services or experiences, email rolandparkpta@gmail.com. Your involvement will help us reach new heights!

As RPEMS culminates its yearlong celebration of 100 years of excellence and community partnership, one thing is clear: the spirit of Roland Park continues to thrive!

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THRIVING HOUSEPLANTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

- **Full-scale leaf cleaning:** Make a commitment to bi-weekly leaf cleaning. Since the air is dry, dusting the leaves with a damp, dust-free cloth is your best defense against spider mites, scale and mealybugs. It also clears the dust, ensuring the leaves can absorb all available light and breathe through their pores.

Air Temperature and Drafts

Tropical plants are easily damaged by sudden temperature swings. Be mindful of where your plants sit.

- **Avoid vents and registers:** Keep plants clear of hot air vents, which will blast them with dry air, quickly drying out the soil and shriveling the leaves.
- **Mind the chill:** Keep tender plants off window sills and a few feet back from drafty windows or exterior doors. Window glass can become extremely cold at night, damaging leaves that touch it.

By following these intentional care steps, you won't just keep your plants alive—you'll keep them healthy and vibrant. This active plant care is a wonderful way to connect with nature, bringing life, color and a sense of purpose to the long winter months. After all, **plant care is self-care!**

Have questions I haven't answered? Reach out! Visit gardenistacreations.com for more information. ❖



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GILMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

creative passions of their own and are curious about how they might make viable careers out of these talents." In addition to his own expertise, Badder brought in alumni and parents to share their stories and approaches. Tyler Linkinhoker ('28), who took Badder's immersive in the fall, says, "It was great to hear from people in the industry to see how they were able to pursue their passions and make a living while doing it."

In addition to bringing specialized topics to supplement the established curriculum, immersives present opportunities for friendships to develop and grow. Classics Teacher Harriet Livesay, who offers the Board Games immersive, says, "Where I see the lasting impact is in the relationships, as groups often form with students who might never have a chance to do something together." History Teacher and JV Basketball Coach Matt Baum ('93) runs the 3-on-3 Basketball immersive. He notes that, while the skill levels vary widely, the program builds camaraderie. "The students genuinely look forward to the immersive experience, which is rewarding to see."

Read this article and see more photos at gilman.edu/immersives. ❖

Gilman School (gilman.edu) is a pre-K through 12th grade independent school in Baltimore, with an enrollment of approximately 1,000 boys. A diverse community dedicated to educating boys in mind, body and spirit, Gilman seeks to produce men of character and integrity who have the skills and ability to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live and work.

BACH MARATHON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

laude in piano performance from the College of Wooster. He then received two master's degrees from Peabody, one in composition and one in music theory pedagogy. Since 2011, he's taught in the music theory and musicology departments there. From 2014 to 2022, he also taught composition and music theory at Dickinson College.

"And I served as artistic director of the Maryland Choral Society for nine seasons, from 2015 to 2023," he adds, "seeing them through Covid and their 50th anniversary, and becoming its longest-serving artistic director."

Recent compositional and performance accomplishments include winning the 2025 National Opera Association Dominick Argento Prize in Chamber Opera, as well as the 2025 Choir Master Prize and S. Lewis Elmer Award from the American Guild of Organists.

Buchanan and his wife Kelly, an alto in the St. David's choir for 11 years, have a 6-year-old daughter who enjoys singing. "But she's most interested in anything fast and rhythmic, so I imagine she may be a budding percussionist!" says Buchanan.

As he approaches the Baltimore Bach Marathon anniversary, he says, "I'm profoundly grateful for the trust that the St. David's community has placed in me. It is a great joy to be able to offer music here, and I hope it enriches the lives of the Baltimore arts community and beyond." ❖

Cinnamon Apple Bread

Miss Shirley's Café

Yields: 1 loaf or 12 muffins.

Ingredients

3 large Granny Smith apples	$\frac{2}{3}$ cup brown sugar
5 oz. unsalted butter, melted	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
3 tsp. ground cinnamon	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup applesauce
2 cups all-purpose flour	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup yogurt
1 tsp. baking soda	1 large egg
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. baking powder	1 tsp. vanilla extract
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. kosher salt	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup buttermilk

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Peel and core the apples, and dice into small cubes. Mix 1 ounce of melted butter with $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped apples and 1 teaspoon of cinnamon. Set aside.

In a large bowl, mix together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt and remaining 2 teaspoons of cinnamon. In a separate bowl, mix together the brown sugar, granulated sugar, applesauce, egg, yogurt, vanilla extract and buttermilk. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix well. Add the remaining melted butter (4 ounces) and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups chopped apples and stir until well incorporated.

If using a loaf pan, spray it with nonstick spray and line the bottom with a piece of parchment paper. Spray again. Evenly distribute batter in the pan. Sprinkle the remaining apple cubes and cinnamon on top of the loaf. Bake for 45 to 55 minutes, making sure to rotate the loaf pan halfway through and covering if necessary to prevent over browning. The bread is done when a toothpick inserted into the center



Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Café

comes out clean. Let it cool to room temperature then remove it from the pan and refrigerate before cutting. A loaf will yield about 12 slices.

If using muffin tins, spray them or use muffin cups. Scoop batter evenly

into the cups, filling each about halfway. Sprinkle the remaining apple cubes and cinnamon on top of each muffin. Bake for about 18 to 20 minutes, rotating the muffin tin about halfway through. The muffins are done when a toothpick inserted into their center comes out clean.

The bread or muffins will keep for three days covered at room temperature or for four to five days refrigerated. You can also freeze them for up to two months in a resealable bag. ❖

RPCS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

be able to read books that reflect their own realities. She also talked about how reading books connects us as a community, helps us learn from and listen to each other, and makes us more empathetic and self-aware. She encouraged the audience to keep reading and never stop dreaming. "Books are your greatest weapons," Clayton told the audience. "Always make good trouble."

About the Anne Healy Lecture

The Anne Healy endowment was created to honor Miss Healy, who served as the head of school for 25 years, from 1950 to 1975. A special day is set aside every year and a distinguished person in the field of letters is invited to meet and work with groups of students during the school day, and to present an evening program for students, faculty and members of the larger school community. ❖

Roland Park Country School (rpcs.org) is an independent school for girls in grades K-12, with a coed preschool for children 6 weeks through 5 years. RPCS is a place of profound and hands-on learning with a rich history of dedication to the intellectual and moral development of its students.

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The Book Nook

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

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

All Pratt libraries will close at 5 pm on December 24 for Christmas Eve, and will be closed December 25 for Christmas, January 1 for New Year's, January 19 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and February 16 for President's Day.

Programming at the Pratt

(details at calendar.pratt.library.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. For families with children ages 2 to 5. All abilities welcome.
- Dec. 4, 11 am. **Hot Cocoa Fun.** Warm up with some post-storytime fun of making your own hot chocolate craft. All materials provided.



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- Dec. 10, 3 pm. **Penguin Newspaper Craft.** Bring in winter by making a snowy scene completely out of old newspaper.
- Jan. 7, 3:15 pm. **Washi Tape Notebooks.** New year, new notebook! Decorate a notebook with washi tape and more.
- Jan. 15, 11 am. **Cotton Ball Polar Bears.** Make a polar bear out of cotton balls for some winter wonderland fun!
- Feb. 11, 3:15 pm. **Torn Paper Cards.** Share the love and create a special card for someone!
- Feb. 23, 3 pm. **Scratch Art Crafternoon.** Spend an afternoon doing scratch art. Bring your imagination and make something new!

For Teens

- Dec. 8, 3 pm. **Smart Phone Photography: Capture Like A Pro.** Learn how to unlock your smartphone's full photo-taking potential. The guest presenter will share photography tips as well as apps and editing techniques.
- Dec. 11, 3 pm. **Gingerbread House Ornaments.** Do you enjoy making gingerbread houses? Join Ms. Jackie in the teen department to create gingerbread houses that will last even after winter break. Supplies are limited, so reserve your spot today!
- Dec. 22, 3 pm. **Super Smash Brothers Tournament.** Calling all Smash Bros. fans! Compete against other teens to claim the title of Super Smash Bros. Champion.
- Jan 15, 3 pm. **Comic Clay Cakes.** Visit the teen department to decorate a clay foam cake that looks like it jumped right off the page of a comic book.
- Jan. 26, 3 pm. **Stress Re-DUCK-tion Snow Globes.** Feeling a little stressed? Stop by the Teen department and make a duck-themed snow globe with a positive message.
- Feb. 12, 3 pm. **Valentine's Day Candy Jars.** Are you having trouble trying to come up with a gift idea for your Valentine? Visit the Roland Park Library to create a custom candy jar for that special someone.
- Feb. 23, 3 pm. **African Cloth Bangles.** Stop by the teen department to create an Afrocentric bangle using African print fabrics. Supplies are limited. Call or email the library to reserve your spot.

For Adults

- Dec. 13, 2 pm. **Film Series: *Jurassic World Rebirth.*** Five years after the events of Jurassic World Dominion, covert operations expert Zora Bennett is contracted to lead a skilled team on a top-secret mission to secure genetic material from the world's three most massive dinosaurs. When Zora's operation intersects with a civilian family whose boating expedition was capsized, they all find themselves stranded on an island, where they come face-to-face with a sinister, shocking discovery that's been hidden from the world for decades. Rated PG-13.
- Dec. 15, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk.** Read and discuss

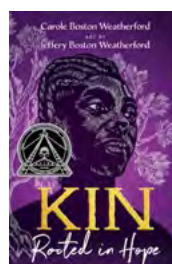
this finalist for the 2019 Man Booker International Prize. A deeply satisfying thriller cum fairy tale, *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* is a provocative exploration of the murky borderland between sanity and madness, justice and tradition, and autonomy and fate. In a remote Polish village, Janina devotes the dark winter days to studying astrology, translating the poetry of William Blake, and taking care of the summer homes of wealthy Warsaw residents. Her reputation as a crank and a recluse is amplified by her not-so-secret preference for the company of animals over humans. Then a neighbor, Big Foot, turns up dead. Soon other bodies are discovered, in increasingly strange circumstances. As suspicions mount, Janina inserts herself into the investigation, certain that she knows whodunit.

- Jan. 10, 2 pm. **Coffee Cupping with Sophomore Coffee Roasters.** This will be a sensory experience designed for coffee enthusiasts and amateurs alike. The Pratt is excited to welcome Kris Fulton of Sophomore Coffee to lead an interactive coffee cupping, delving into the art and science of coffee tasting. Participants will explore the diverse flavors, aromas and nuances of various coffees, while learning more about brewing techniques. Visit prattlibrary.org under "events" to register.
- Jan. 17, 2 pm. **Film Series: *Fantastic Four First Steps*.** Forced to balance their roles as heroes with the strength of their family bond, the Fantastic Four must defend Earth from a ravenous space god called Galactus and his enigmatic Herald, Silver Surfer. Rated PG-13.
- Mon. Jan. 26, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: *The Friend* by Sigrid Nunez.** Read and discuss this moving story of love, friendship, grief, healing, and the magical bond between a woman and her dog. When a woman unexpectedly loses her lifelong best friend and mentor, she finds herself burdened with the unwanted dog he has left behind. Elegiac and searching, *The Friend* is both a meditation on loss and a celebration of human-canine devotion.
- Sat. Feb. 14, 2 pm. **Film Series: *1992*.** A shopkeeper must save his son from an angry mob during the 1992 Los Angeles uprising after the Rodney King verdict. Rated R.
- Feb. 23, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: *On The Calculation Of Volume (Book 1)* by Solvej Balle Tara Selter,** the heroine of *On the Calculation of Volume*, has involuntarily stepped off the train of time: in her world, November 18 repeats itself endlessly. We meet Tara on her 122nd version of the day. She no longer experiences the changes of days, weeks, months or seasons. She finds herself in a lonely new reality without being able to explain why: how is it that she wakes every morning into the same day, knowing to the exact second when the blackbird will burst into song and when the rain will begin? Will she ever be able to share her new life with her beloved and now chronically befuddled husband?

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

***Some Recollections of St. Ives* by David Mamet** (recommended by Abby Lyon, children's librarian). When you hear Mamet's name, you immediately recognize him as the Tony-nominated, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of *Glengarry Glen Ross* or as

the Academy Award-nominated screenwriter of *The Verdict* and *Wag the Dog*. But did you know he has just published a novel? *Some Recollections of St. Ives* is the fictional memoir of Charles Hollis, an alumnus, long-time teacher and eventual headmaster at the legendary St. Ives School. Hollis logs more than 40 years of his life intertwined with the prep school and with the added influence of the changing world, including world wars, outside its gates. Traditions and customs on the campus, and the people who inhabit it are described with keen perception by Mamet, and in language that is insightful and beautifully written. The author has even included footnotes and an appendix to give a further nonfiction feel to this novel. Already respected and lauded as America's premier living playwright, Mamet's new book enhances his reputation with this excellent example of superb storytelling using an unusual format to create long-remembered characters in a well-devised and concisely written narrative.



***Kin Rooted in Hope* by Carole Boston Weatherford**, with art by Jeffery Boston Weatherford (recommended by Gregory Fromme, branch manager). *Kin* is a short but powerful novel written in verse by Weatherford and illustrated with striking black and white drawings by her son, Jeffery. The book brings to life the stories of slaves, wealthy planters

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



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BOOK NOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

and a variety of other characters who resided on Maryland's eastern shore during the 18th and 19th centuries. Although it is nominally fictional, the story is based on historical figures, including relatives of the Weatherfords. Even Frederick Douglass makes an appearance on the Wye Oak plantation, which is owned by generations of the powerful Lloyd family. In stark poetic verse, each of a wide variety of characters is allowed to tell their stories in their own voices. The hardships and indignities of slavery come to life as the characters are subjected to endless labor through all weather conditions without adequate clothing and food. The reader is viscerally transported to a place where those living in bondage lived in perpetual fear of being separated from loved ones at the whim of their masters. The urge to flee was frequently considered against the wrenching prospect of leaving family members behind. Ultimately, we learn how several characters achieve liberation and empowerment through service in the Union army during the Civil War and are then able to establish an independent township on the eastern shore. *Kin* is this year's "One Maryland One Book" (OMOB) selection. OMOB is a project created by Maryland Humanities.

***Banal Nightmare* by Halle Butler**

(recommended by Gregory Fromme). *Banal Nightmare* is a darkly comic novel that explores the underlying anxieties, fears and petty jealousies of its characters. Set in a Midwestern college town, the novel is told from the perspective of Moddie Yance, a young woman who, having broken up with her self-absorbed, judgmental boyfriend, leaves Chicago to reinvent herself in the small town where she grew up. The novel explores the dynamics of codependent relationships (as well as the insecurities of people in general) and presents a dark commentary of contemporary American culture and values. It may come across as oppressively pessimistic to some readers, as the book dwells on the negative side of human relations and aspirations. For me, though, it reads as an excellent character study for those who are interested in the darker side of human relationships. ❖



KidLit Picks

By Paula Willey, The Ivy Bookshop



Picture Books to Enjoy Together

***The Snow Theater*, written and illustrated by Ryoji Arai, translated by David Boyd**

***Little Santa*, written and illustrated by Jon Agee**

***Abrazos for Baby: A Little Book of Hugs* by Jen Arena, illustrated by Blanca Gomez**

***Billie Jean Peet, Athlete* by Andrea Beaty, illustrated by David Roberts**

***If It's Lunar New Year and You Know It....*, written and illustrated by Belinda Chen**

***All the Stars in the Sky* by Art Coulson, illustrated by Winona Nelson**

***Knight Owl's Little Christmas*, written and illustrated by Christopher Denise**

***Moon Song*, written and illustrated by Michaela Goade**

***Yellow Is a Banana*, written and illustrated by John Himmelman**

***All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah* by Emily Jenkins, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky**

***César's Cerulean Surprise* by Jenny Lacika, illustrated by Laura Sandoval Herrera**

***Cat Nap*, written and illustrated by Brian Lies**

***Construction Site: Hanukkah Lights* by Sherri Duskey Rinker, illustrated by Shawna J. C. Tenney**

***The Dangerous Alphabet Book* by DK Ryland**

***The Book of Candles: Eight Poems for Hanukkah* by Laurel Snyder, illustrated by Leanne Hatch**

***A Snow Day for Amos McGee* by Philip C. Stead, illustrated by Erin E. Stead**

***Searching for Mr. Johnson's Song* by Ariel Vanece, illustrated by Jade Orlando**

***Body Beautiful* by Susan Verde, illustrated by Steph Littlebird**

***A Hug Like Michelle's, a Voice Like Beyoncé's* by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Savanna Durr**

GFS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

can be done locally or abroad, with a group of students completing an environmental immersion trip to Costa Rica in summer 2023.

Many students participate in multiple programs throughout their upper school experience, deepening their understanding of a topic of interest. Whatever path they pursue post-GFS, they are prepared to be thoughtful learners, informed researchers and curious scholars. ❖

Garrison Forest School, in Owings Mills, is a day and boarding school educating girls in grades K-12, with a coed preschool and early childcare starting at 6 weeks. Daily transportation is offered to the Roland Park area. Learn more at gfs.org.



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Hands On Holiday: Winter Solstice • Dec. 21, 4:30 pm
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Bundle up and join the Waldorf School of Baltimore on the covered patio for a safe, fun and special seasonal evening celebration. This special program is best for children up to age 9 and will include songs, story time, a holiday craft and a very special candlelit walk. Families are welcome to sit on a blanket brought from home. Tickets are \$10 per child and include a craft and refreshments, and can be purchased at theivybookshop.com.

Hanukkah 1-2-3! A First Counting Book by Joy Nelkin Wieder, illustrated by Aura Lewis

Series Books for New and Emerging Readers

Ada Twist and the Disappearing Dogs by Andrea Beaty, illustrated by David Roberts

Aaron Slater and the Sneaky Snake by Andrea Beaty, illustrated by David Roberts

Spidey and His Amazing Friends Spidey Cat by Steve Behling



The Kids in Mrs. Z's Class: Thunder Nelson Does the Impossable by Martha Brockenbrough, illustrated by Kat Fajardo

The Bakery Dragon and the Fairy Cake by Devin Elle Kurtz

Ling & Ting's Lunar New Year: Two Times Lucky by Grace Lin

BLACKPINK: A Little Golden Book Biography by Jessica Yoon, illustrated by Honee Jang

Fun and Adventure for Independent Readers



Pocket Bear by Katherine Applegate

The Nine Moons of Han Yu and Luli by Karina Yan Glaser

Ginny Off the Map by Caroline Hickey

Jax Freeman and the Tournament of Spirits by Kwame Mbalia

Kindred Dragons: A Graphic Novel by Sarah Mensinga

Dragonborn by Struan Murray

On the Block: Stories of Immigrant Families by Ellen Oh

The Book of Dust by Philip Pullman

Coach by Jason Reynolds

The Poisoned King by Katherine Rundell

The Queen of Ocean Parkway by Sarvenaz Tash

Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Book of Anansi by Angie Thomas



Graphic Novels

A Waffle Lot of Love! (A Narwhal and Jelly Book), written and illustrated by Ben Clanton

Pencil & Eraser: New Friends Rule!, written and illustrated by Jenny Alvarado

The First Cat in Space and the Baby Pirate's Revenge by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Shawn Harris

Curlfriends: Back in Business, written and illustrated by Sharee Miller

Ghost Boys: The Graphic Novel by Jewell Parker Rhodes, illustrated by Setor Fiadzigbey



True Stories

This Is How You Know by Kirsten W. Larson, illustrated by Cornelia Li

Snow Dogs by DK



Baltimore Ravens vs. Pittsburgh Steelers: Rival Rumble by Elliott Smith

Women on a Mission: The Remarkable Heroes Who Put Men on the Moon by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Molly Magnell



Who Is Beyoncé? by Kirsti Jewel

Eyewitness Dog by DK

History Smashers: Ancient Egypt by Kate Messner

How the Word Is Passed (Adapted for Young Readers) by Clint Smith, illustrated by Sonja Cherry-Paul

Loudmouth: Emma Goldman vs. America (A Love Story) by Deborah Heiligman

Pushing Hope: An Illustrated Memoir of Survival by Raymond Santana, illustrated by Keith Henry Brown

Great Books for Teen Readers

Last Chance Live! by Helena Haywoode Henry

The Scammer by Tiffany D. Jackson

Immortal Consequences by I. V. Marie

La Historia de mi Furia / The Story of My Anger by Jasminne Mendez



We Could Be Magic by Marissa Meyer, illustrated by Joelle Murray

Fireblooms by Alexandra Villasante ❖

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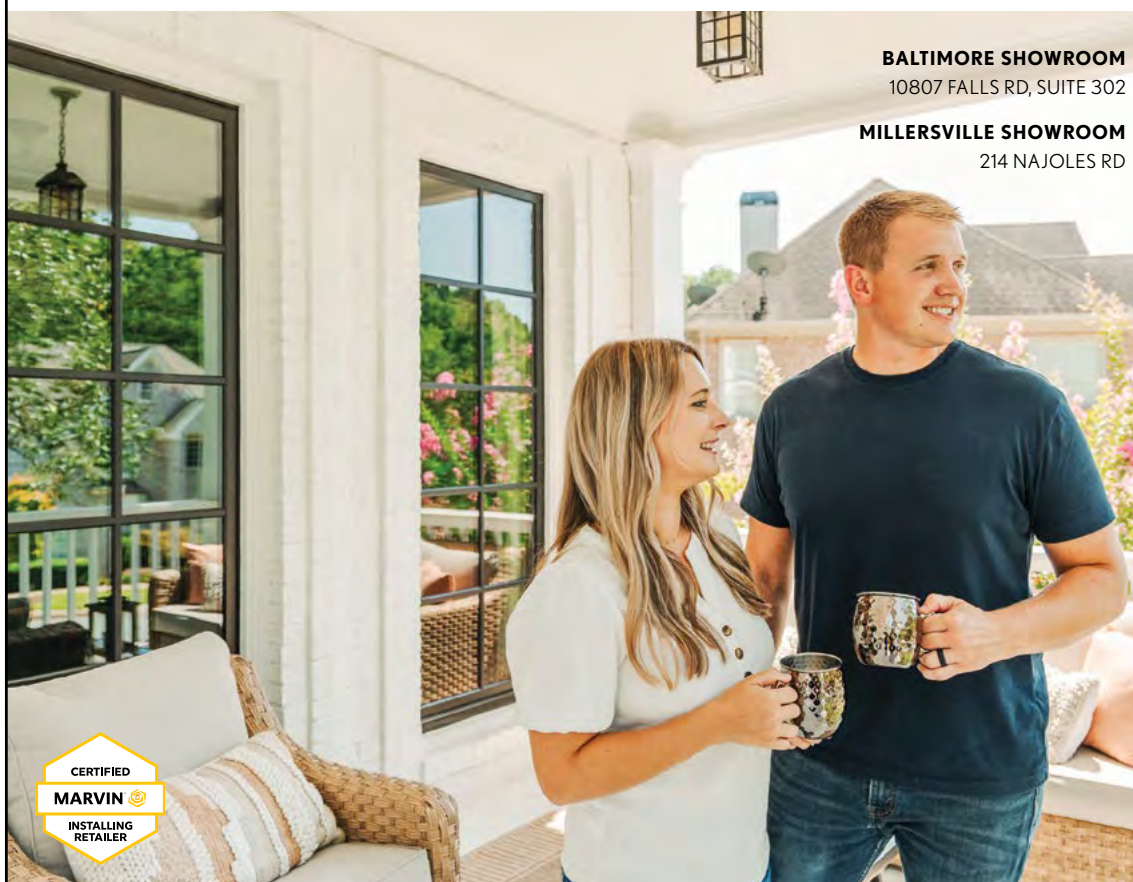
Calendar Highlights

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

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

Saturdays, 10 am-4 pm. **Regular Hours**, Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301-R York Rd., Lutherville. firemuseummd.org

December

- Nov. 30 to Jan. 4. **Deceived**, Everyman Theatre, 315 W. Fayette St. In this gripping new adaptation of the famous psychological thriller *Gaslight*, we find a young woman desperately trying to unravel a dangerous mystery while a web of manipulation and lies forces her to doubt the relationships around her—and her own sanity. everymantheatre.org
- Dec. 5, 7:30 pm. **Music at St. David's: The Canticle Singers of Baltimore: A Choral Kaleidoscope**, St. David's Episcopal Church, 4700 Roland Ave. The Canticle Singers of Baltimore, led by Wendy Wickham, will welcome the holiday season with festive choral music. The event is free and open to the public, with doors opening at 7 pm. A suggested donation of \$10-\$20 will directly benefit the musicians and the music series. Register at stdavidsbaltimore.org/music-events/event-tickets.
- Dec. 6, 9 am. **Holiday Greens Sale**, Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Celebrate the season with handcrafted wreaths, winter arrangements, poinsettias and unique gifts, all supporting the care and programs of Cylburn Arboretum Friends (CAF). Free to attend; items will be available for purchase. Cylburn.org
- Dec. 6 (10 am), 7 (12 pm) and 26 to 30 (10 am). **Holiday Train Garden**, Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301-R York Rd., Lutherville. Watch as O-scale trains wind through a 20th century town and snap a selfie with Santa firemuseummd.org
- Dec. 6, 1 pm. **Holiday Open House**, The Woman's Club of Roland Park (TWCRP), 4500 Roland Ave. Santa is coming! Celebrate the holidays at the annual TWCRP holiday open house. Bring your family and friends to share in the fun. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by December 1 to manager@twcrp.org. twcrp.org
- Dec. 7 and 8, 11 am, **Art Market Holiday Edition**, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), 1301 W. Mt. Royal Ave. A three-floor holiday market that provides MICA students, alumni, faculty and staff the opportunity to sell their artwork, crafts and artisan-made pieces. mica.edu/annual-events-series/art-market
- Dec. 7, 2:15 pm. **Sound Bath**, Baltimore Breathwork, Roland Park Community Center, 5802 Roland Ave. Tickets are \$55. baltimorebreathwork.com
- Dec. 9, 10:30 am. **Children's Tree Time: Winter Solstice I**, Cylburn Arboretum. Join this parent/child class to learn about nature through stories, crafts and exploration. Ages 2-5. Free for CAF members and \$5 suggested donation for non-members. Cylburn.org
- Dec. 10, 6 pm. **Winter Craft and Music Night**, Bird in Hand Coffee & Books, 11 East 33rd St. Enjoy a night of crafting

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.). The next meeting will be December 3.

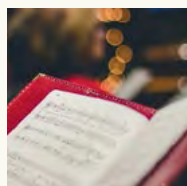


and live music with the family, and maybe try some of Bird in Hand's seasonal specialties. RSVP for this free event at theivybookshop.com

- Dec. 11, 11 am. **Claire Jones: A Floral Master Class, Entertaining for the Holidays**. The Woman's Club of Roland Park. Herald the holidays with festive winter arrangements using fresh greens, berries, branches and flowers to create long-lasting decorations for your home. Accompanied by volunteers from the audience, Jones will create several arrangements that will be sold at the conclusion of the demonstration. RSVP to manager@twcrp.org. twcrp.org
- Dec. 11, 2 pm. **Gardeners' Workshop: Tool Sharpening**, Cylburn Arboretum. These adult workshops, taught by the horticulture team, are an opportunity to learn more about gardening concepts and skills. Free to CAF members and \$5 suggested donation for non-members. Cylburn.org
- Dec. 11, 6 pm. **Peter Mountford: Detonator (with Danielle Evans)**, Bird in Hand Coffee & Books. The characters in *Detonator* are struggling to do better, to save their souls. These stories are deeply preoccupied with the consequences

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

Join us this Christmas season!



Carols Around the Firepit

THU, DEC 18 @ 6PM

Cozy up with us for Caroling around the Firepit on the church lawn as we share songs and holiday cheer.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

WED, DEC 24 @ 5PM

Join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service in-person or online via Zoom or Facebook Live.

For more information, visit RolandParkChurch.org



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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

of human decisions—these often funny and sometimes painful stories highlight flawed but fascinating characters making flawed choices in the hopes of achieving grace, or at least growth. RSVP for this free event at theivybookshop.com

- Dec. 13, 10 am, **Charm City Craft Mafia's Holiday Heap**, 2640 Space, 2640 St. Paul St. Holiday market with vendors of all kinds. charmcitycraftmafia.com/holiday-heap
- Dec. 13, 11 am, **Poinsettia Fairies**, Cylburn Arboretum. Learn some fun facts about the holiday flower presented by Maryland Master Naturalist Daisy Sudano, and make a poinsettia fairy or gnome. Cylburn.org
- Dec. 13, 7:30 pm, **Music at St. David's: The Lorelei Ensemble: Frost and Fire**, St. David's Episcopal Church. This winter tour program of the Grammy-nominated ensemble of women's and treble voices will feature Scott Ordway's *North Woods* and the world premiere of arrangements by Laura Jobin-Acosta, Greg Brown and Jocelyn Hagen, as well as a new work chosen from scores from rising women, trans and nonbinary composers. \$35 for general admission and \$15 for students, and are available at stdavidsbaltimore.org/music-events/event-tickets.
- Dec. 17, 12 pm, **Wednesday Walk: Cylburn History Tour**, Cylburn Arboretum. These walks are geared toward an adult audience. Topics range broadly and each walk is led by a

different expert. Free for CAF members and \$5 suggested donation for non-members. Cylburn.org

- Dec. 18, 10:30 am, **Children's Tree Time: Winter Solstice II**, Cylburn Arboretum. Join this parent/child class to learn about nature through stories, crafts and exploration. Ages 2-5. Free for CAF members and \$5 suggested donation for non-members. Cylburn.org
- Dec. 18, 6 pm., **2nd Annual Caroling Around the Firepit**, Roland Park Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Ave. Cozy up to share songs and holiday cheer on the church lawn. Hot cocoa and light refreshments will be served, and everyone is welcome. rolandparkchurch.org
- Dec. 19, 1:30 pm, **Horticulture Culture: Impressive Tree Ages**, Cylburn Arboretum. In-depth classes taught by the horticulture team and designed to include the "why" behind what is seen in the Cylburn landscape. Free for CAF members and \$5 suggested donation for non-members. Cylburn.org
- Dec. 21, 7:30 pm, **Music at St. David's: A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**, St. David's Episcopal Church. Join the Choir of St. David's in this annual festival service that weaves together readings, carols sung by the choir and hymns of the season to prepare for the arrival of Christmas. Free. Register at stdavidsbaltimore.org/music-events/event-tickets.
- Dec. 24, 5 pm, **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**, Roland Park Presbyterian Church. Join the congregation in-person or online via Zoom or Facebook Live. rolandparkchurch.org

January

- Jan. 1, 4 pm, **Music at St. David's: New Year's Day Chamber Concert**, St. David's Episcopal Church. Ring in the New Year with an intimate and inspiring chamber concert featuring the First Chair players of the Bach in Baltimore Orchestra. Enjoy virtuosic performances, elegant repertoire and the warmth of great music in a cozy setting. \$33 online, \$37 at the door, and \$10 for students. Register at stdavidsbaltimore.org/music-events/event-tickets.
- Jan. 4, 2:15 pm, **Sound Bath**, Baltimore Breathwork, Roland Park Community Center, 5802 Roland Ave. Tickets are \$55. baltimorebreathwork.com
- Jan. 15, 10 am, **Third Thursday Morning Social Hour**, The Woman's Club of Roland Park. The 11 am lecture will feature Colleen Webster: Portraiting Frida Kahlo. In her dynamic one-woman show, Webster will portray early 20th century Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, whose full and fascinating life will be highlighted by a projected display of her remarkable paintings along with photographs of the artist. The 1:15 pm lecture will feature Dr. Teresa Nguyen: Managing Stress, Maintaining Wellness. In this interactive experience, you will learn and practice mind-body-spirit techniques to decrease stress and enhance well-being throughout the day. Please register by emailing manager@twcrp.org. twcrp.org
- Jan. 18, 4:30 pm, **Music at St. David's: Recital and Evensong for the Feast of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King**,

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Jr., St. David's Episcopal Church. This annual event will include a recital by mezzo-soprano Taylor Hillary Boykins, the music of Margaret Bonds, Xavier Montsalvatge and Kathryn Bostic, and a Service of Evensong. Free. Register at stdaidsbaltimore.org/music-events/event-tickets.

- Jan. 25, 2 pm. **Travelogue: Jay Sherman, Uzbekistan**, The Woman's Club of Roland Park. World traveler and photographer Jay Sherman will share photos and stories from his recent travels to Uzbekistan in Central Asia. Uzbekistan is the heart of the Ancient Silk Road. It continues to reflect a vibrant fusion of cultures. Sherman will present images of the landscape, people, markets, architecture and art of this fascinating region, once part of the Soviet Union. Please register by Jan. 19 by emailing manager@twcrp.org. twcrp.org
- Jan. 25, 3:30 pm. **Community Concerts at Second: Pianist Brian Ganz**. Community Concerts at Second, 4200 St. Paul St. Widely regarded as one of the leading pianists of his generation and a preeminent interpreter of Chopin, Ganz has appeared as soloist with such orchestras as the St. Louis Symphony, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, the Baltimore Symphony, the National Symphony (USA), the National Philharmonic, the City of London Sinfonia and the Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra. Free, but donations are welcomed. cc2nd.org

February

- Feb. 1 to Mar. 1. **Dawn**, Everyman Theatre. In this world premiere by Tuyét Thị Phạm, author of the acclaimed *Dinner and Cake* and recognized for her powerful writing on the topics of family, culture and identity, comes a new story about a mother and daughter who confront their legacy of love and loss, set against the backdrop of historical trauma. everymantheatre.org
- Feb. 1, 2:15 pm. **Sound Bath**, Baltimore Breathwork, Roland Park Community Center, 5802 Roland Ave. Tickets are \$55. baltimorebreathwork.com
- Feb. 4, 1 pm. **General Volunteer Orientation**, Cylburn Arboretum, Nature Education Center. All CAF volunteers are required to attend the one-hour general volunteer orientation before volunteering. Cylburn.org
- Feb, 12 am. **Third Thursday Morning Social Hour**, The Woman's Club of Roland Park. The 11 am lecture will feature **Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson: The Hidden History of Claire McCardell**. Designer Claire McCardell forever changed fashion and, most importantly, the lives of women. She shattered cultural norms around women's clothes, and today much of what we wear traces back to her ingenious, rebellious mind. Dickinson reveals how McCardell built an empire at a time when women rarely made the upper echelons of business. At its core, McCardell's story is about our right to choose how we dress—and our right to choose how we live. Dickinson's book, *Claire McCardell: The Designer Who Set Women Free*, will be available for purchase. The 1:15 pm lecture will feature **Lisa Airey: Wine Pairings with Herbs**. An author and wine expert, Airey will share her insights and tips about pairing wine with herb aromas. Airey has been actively involved in the wine industry for more than 20 years. She is also a Maryland master gardener and fiction author. Please register by emailing manager@twcrp.org. twcrp.org

- Feb. 15, 4:30 pm. **Music at St. David's: Recital and Evensong for the Feast of Frederick Douglass**, St. David's Episcopal Church. This annual event honors the life and legacy of Frederick Douglass with poetry and music featuring themes of truth and justice, beginning with a recital by mezzo-soprano Gayssie Lugo. The event is free and open to the public, with doors opening at 7 pm. A suggested donation of \$10-\$20 will directly benefit the musicians and the music series. Register at stdaidsbaltimore.org/music-events/event-tickets.
- Feb. 20, 7:30 pm. **Music at St. David's: The Baltimore Consort: In Angel's Wede**, St. David's Episcopal Church. Join the internationally acclaimed musicians of the Baltimore Consort in a program of early music based on the life of Mary, Queen of Scots, including Scottish music, music from the French court Mary would have heard in her childhood, English music from the end of her life, a short detour to the Italy of her murdered secretary/lutenist (and papal spy?) David Rizzio, and an English piece by William Byrd commemorating her martyrdom. Captivating narration will be provided by Emmy Award winner (and television and radio personality) Robert Aubry Davis. The event is free and open to the public, with doors opening at 7 pm. A suggested donation of \$10-\$20 will directly benefit the musicians and the music series. Register at stdaidsbaltimore.org/music-events/event-tickets. ♦

Please send calendar announcements to magazine@rolandpark.org.

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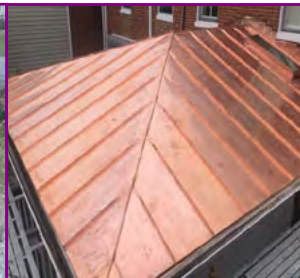
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