ROLAND PARK news

Quarterly from the Roland Park Community Foundation • Volume One Hundred and Three • Winter 2026

Thread Shows Up for Baltimore



Holiday Gift Guide

Winter Houseplant Wisdom

ROLAND PARK news
Volume 103 • Winter 2026

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Photo: Mary Page Michel

End-of-Year Message from Hillside Park

By Mary Page Michel, President, Hillside Park, Inc.

What a year! What once seemed a long shot has come to pass—Hillside Park is alive and well!

Immediately after the purchase in July 2025, we went into action. The black chain link fence and "No Trespassing" signs were removed. Dozens of dangerous trees were taken down and, to be ecologically and financially smart, were saved onsite to be chipped for path material. As advised, we established Hillside Park, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit separate from the Roland Park Community Foundation. We applied for grants that had been awarded but could not pay out until the ownership was transferred. We reached out to schools and other groups to tell them that the park was open. We gave tours to running clubs, retirement homes and environmental groups. We talked to other parks to learn more about managing our space.

Word has spread. Dog owners walk their pets there daily. The Poly cross country team uses the park for hill runs—not an easy workout! Kids walk through on their way to school. Outdoor concerts, bird-banding classes, nature journalling and other events have been held in the park. We even held a city-wide high school climate teach-in onsite.

Two big projects are on the horizon. First, the restoration of the streams funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant will begin in late spring. It is a phenomenal win to do this work while the park is just beginning. Second, a landscape architect will lead us in the creation of a strategic plan. The Request for Proposal has been issued and a terrific committee with varied experience will work diligently to select an architect.

We receive no funding from Baltimore City for maintenance, insurance or programming. We are using our funds wisely and require multiple bids for every project. If we can do a project using volunteers, we do! A very special "thank you" to Boy Scout Troop 35 for their four major park projects at Hillside.

So many people have stepped up to make this park possible, and we would love to have you join the team! Please consider a year-end gift to Hillside Park as we continue to create a fantastic park (scan the QR code to donate).

We also welcome volunteer support—for more information, visit **hillsideparkmd.org**. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Warmly,
Mary Page ❖

Cover: Roland Park resident Monica Johnson is a longtime Thread volunteer. Photo courtesy of Thread

Showing Up for Baltimore: How Thread is Building Relationships and a More Connected Community

By Brad Cardwell, Thread Director of Communications



Thread alumni Marcus and volunteer Toni remain deeply connected more than 10 years after first meeting through the nonprofit. Photos courtesy of Thread

For more than 20 years, Baltimore-based nonprofit Thread (thread.org) has done something rare: it has shown up consistently for the most academically underperforming high school students in Baltimore City Public Schools.

Thread enrolls capable, courageous 9th grade students from seven Baltimore City high schools who are the lowest-performing in terms of GPA and who face an abundance of challenges in and out of the classroom. Thread makes a unique, 10-year commitment to never give up on these young people and matches them with committed adult volunteers and collaborators—from university students to empty nesters, small business owners to retirees—who work with them to navigate crucial life stages from high school to career. By pairing consistent, long-term, reciprocal relationships with tailored resources and opportunities, Thread weaves a new social fabric that supports the most academically underperforming young people as they move from surviving to thriving to living a life of purpose.

Through thousands of relationships, Thread has learned that the quantity and quality of personal connections drive academic and economic outcomes, and that keeping commitments is one of the most valuable things a community can do.

For Thread volunteer and Roland Park resident Monica Johnson, consistency is the foundation of any relationship, which was especially important as she developed a relationship with her Thread young person, Shakiera. Looking back to the beginning of their relationship, Johnson reflects that it took time to truly connect. When they met, Shakiera had already graduated high school and was balancing work and raising her young daughter.



High school graduation is one of the first milestones Thread young people and volunteers work toward.

"She has a good head on her shoulders and I wondered if a 20-year-old would be interested in what I had to share," Johnson explains. "Shakiera is fiercely independent and always tries to figure things out on her own. I let her know, every week, if you need diapers, I'll be there. When I would drop them off, we'd chat more. I made it a habit." At first, dropping off diapers was a means to connect. As they continued to get to know each other, the conversations got deeper, and their bond became stronger.

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THREAD

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Commitment from volunteers like Johnson has helped Thread young people defy the odds and achieve remarkable success. Historically, 9th graders with GPAs of less than 1.0 have a graduation rate of only 6 percent.
Even though the average incoming GPA of Thread students is only 0.68, they have an overall completion rate of 65 percent—10 times that of their peers.

"Lasting change happens when people, institutions, communities and policies change together."

What started with two volunteers, Thread's co-founders Sarah and Ryan Hemminger, working with 15 young people at Dunbar High School has grown to more than 1,500 students and alumni from seven Baltimore City schools working with more than 4,000 volunteers and collaborators.

While the intended objectives for students in their first five years of Thread are to complete high school and select a post-high school pathway, graduation is viewed as a milestone, not a finish line. For young people in years six to 10, the goal is to be employed or enrolled in a post-high school pathway and to demonstrate self-efficacy to attain their goals.



Thread's Annual Holiday Party brings together its entire community for a night of celebration and connection.



Thread supports young people in navigating five post-high school pathways: trades and licensure, entrepreneurship, straight-to-workforce, military service, and two- or four-year college. By taking what has worked in the schools and neighborhoods where Thread currently operates and incorporating those concepts into additional partnerships across the city, Thread believes it can positively affect the career trajectories of its young people similarly to how it has altered high school graduation rates.

"Volunteering in Thread can be as simple as connecting over dinner."

Naomia and Sarah

It is not enough for a young person to earn a diploma or land a job if the barriers to their thriving persist in the world around them. Lasting change happens when people, institutions, communities and policies change together.

Thread's focus on reciprocity means that it is equally important for the adults who support young people in Thread to also experience agency, resilience, meaning and joy through their relationship with the nonprofit.

"What really grabbed my attention was that whole concept about reciprocity," Johnson explains. "It wasn't just about a volunteer pouring into a young person. It was people coming together as equals and building community."

Thread board member and collaborator Crickett Woloson has worked with the organization for more than 10 years. She was impressed with the way that Thread is able to connect people and resources from all across the city to support the goals of young people, volunteers and partners alike.

"Thread emphasizes bi-directional goal setting, which I think is crucial in any relationship," Woloson says. "My experience has been mostly behind the scenes. Thread was able to understand my skills and how I like to work, and found a way to match those with the needs of the community."

She continues, "While some people might want to work directly with a student, others may want to connect with Thread in different ways. Thread can accommodate this in a way that everyone gets a lot out of it."

Johnson says that when she joined Thread, she wanted to work with a young person and also wanted to build a stronger connection to her community. "Most of my career was spent outside of Baltimore, where I lived," she says. "After I retired, I decided to do more and learn more about this city."

She soon found herself connected to an entire community of people she never would have met without Thread. From young people living across the city to college students at nearby universities, showing up to Thread events has broadened her experiences and understanding of the city.

"I definitely feel like I'm getting more out of it than I'm putting in," she says. ❖

Individuals can get involved with Thread by volunteering to build a relationship with a young person and other volunteers, or by providing resources or employment opportunities to support the Thread community. Learn more at thread.org.

Greater Roland Park Home Sales

(AUG — OCT 2026)

	LIST PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
4237 Wickford Rd.	$ 489,990	$ 500,000
4227 Wickford Rd.	$ 610,000	$ 620,000
4206 Wickford Rd.	$ 635,900	$ 626,500
318 Woodlawn Rd.	$ 995,000	$ 995,000
210 Northfield Pl.	$1,250,000	$1,250,000
501 Woodlawn Rd.	$1,550,000	$1,450,000
501 Somerset Rd.	$1,600,000	$1,600,000
300 Goodwood Gardens	$1,720,000	$1,680,000

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Winter Houseplant Wisdom: Lighting, Location and the Magnificent Amaryllis

By Kristin Sparkman, Owner of Gardenista Creations

As the crisp autumn air cools to winter temperatures, our indoor plant collections undergo a subtle shift. While we wrap up in sweaters and adjust our thermostats, our houseplants are reacting to changes in natural light intensity, interior heat and seasonal dormancy. Here is everything you need to know to guide your greenery through the cold months, plus a deep dive into winter's undisputed floral showstopper: the Amaryllis.

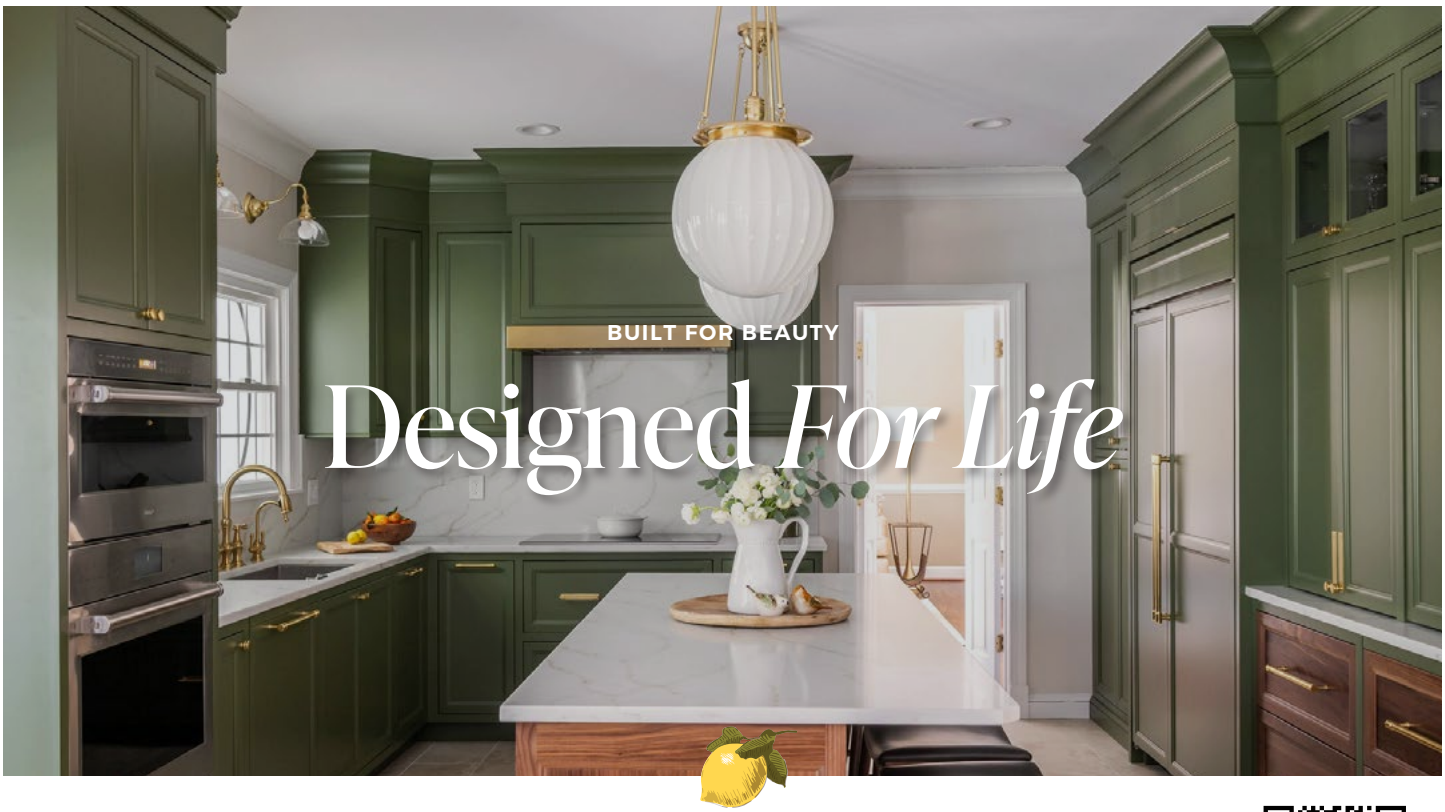
The Daylight Saving Myth and Winter Potting Limits

When the clocks roll back, many assume plants react to human time. In truth, plants respond strictly to solar energy and photoperiods. In Maryland, we are far enough north of the equator that the sun's angle shifts drastically in winter, reducing ambient light intensity indoors. Because sunlight drops, growth slows to a crawl.

This brings us to a crucial winter rule: repot most houseplants before Daylight Savings Time ends. Moving a plant into a larger container during late autumn leaves excess soil surrounding dormant roots. Without active growth to drink



With its dramatic blooms, the Amaryllis is a real showstopper in the winter!
Photo courtesy of Gardenista



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up the extra water, moisture sits in the pot for days, creating conditions for root rot. If you miss the cutoff, hold off on repotting until increasing sunlight returns in March.

Managing Radiators, Vents and Cold Entrance Drafts

As home heating systems kick into gear, plant placement becomes vital. Dry, hot air can strip moisture from foliage and scorch delicate leaf margins.

Just as damaging are cold drafts and wild temperature swings around busy front or back doors. A plant that may have thrived by an entryway all summer long can quickly become stunted or suffer leaf damage in the same spot once winter arrives and cold gusts rush in every time the door opens.

The answer? Shift cold- and heat-sensitive foliage (like Calatheas, ferns, Fittonia and Monsteras) away from direct hot airflow, bare radiator tops and exterior doors. If you love styling plants on top of your radiator, place a shallow tray filled with pebbles and water beneath the pots. They will act as thermal barriers against direct heat and allow evaporating water to raise ambient humidity around the leaves—a double win!

While most houseplants rest, orchids are the grand exception, preparing for their spectacular mid-winter bloom during the coldest months. To support flower spike development for a vibrant January and February display, orchids require fresh bark or potting mixture now, along with consistent, balanced fertilization until flowering is complete.

The Winter Showstopper: The Story of Amaryllis

Nothing brightens a winter home like the dramatic eruption of an Amaryllis bloom. Known botanically as *Hippeastrum*, these bold bulbs carry a rich horticultural history and offer an extraordinary return on investment.

Originating in the tropical regions of South America and the Caribbean, *Hippeastrum* was introduced to Europe in the 18th century. Dutch and South American breeders quickly recognized the bulb's potential, selectively breeding specimens for larger blooms, varied colors and reliable indoor forcing. Today, they remain a staple of winter indoor gardening. Understanding the differences between Dutch and Peruvian cultivars helps you curate the perfect floral aesthetic.

Dutch Amaryllis are bred for dramatic grandeur, producing thick, sturdy stems topped with massive, velvety, trumpet-shaped flowers. Popular varieties include 'Red Lion' (a classic deep crimson), 'Apple Blossom' (a soft pink and white) and 'White Nymph' (with luxurious double petals). They are best for statement centerpieces and classic holiday color.

Peruvian Amaryllis hail from native South American genetics, featuring slender, star-like or orchid-shaped petals. They offer a refined, exotic look compared to the broad Dutch trumpets. Popular varieties include 'Chico'' (spidery, with green and red petals) and 'Exotic Star'. Known for their unique texture, they are best for modern interior designs and botanical collectors.

Because amaryllis bulbs require six to 12 weeks to bloom from potting (depending on the variety), repotting and restarting the growing season in late fall ensures a spectacular holiday or early January show. Place potted bulbs in a bright spot, and water well *once*. When the first green sprout emerges, begin regular watering and watch the daily growth unfold!

Amaryllis bulbs are not single-use holiday décor—they are perennial heirlooms. With proper post-bloom care, a single bulb can bloom annually for over five years.

Once the blooms have faded, cut the flower stalks back at the base, leaving the long green foliage. Water your amaryllis consistently through Mother's Day so the leaves can recharge the bulb for the next cycle. After the threat of frost, you can move your pot to a protected spot outdoors or keep it indoor as a leafy houseplant. To force the foliage to die back naturally, reduce its light exposure, watering it *lightly* about once a month from the bottom so the bulb doesn't sit in moisture and rot. Repot your amaryllis in fresh soil in a pot that is tight to the bulb before every growing season, using a well-draining potting mix and leaving the top half of the bulb exposed. Place it in a bright, sunny location and water once. As soon as new growth appears, water regularly. Then sit back and *watch the show!*

For video guides on amaryllis bulb care and seasonal houseplant tips, follow along on social media. ❖

For video guides on amaryllis bulb care and seasonal houseplant tips, follow along on social media, @GardenistaCreations! Want personalized support? I can help! Visit **gardenistacreations.com** or call 410-497-7737.



Highlighting the Master Naturalist Program

By Erika Castillo, Education Director, Cylburn Arboretum Friends

Imagine: it's a clear fall morning at Cylburn Arboretum. Twenty eager students listen attentively as their instructor describes what they'll learn that day. If you are picturing children, think again: many of these students are retired nurses, lawyers and other professionals. This is the start of a Cylburn Master Naturalist class, a volunteer training program for adults. Cylburn hosts the class as part of a statewide University of Maryland Extension (UME) program that prepares volunteers to care for Maryland's natural resources.

If you take a walk along Cylburn's Circle Trail on that same fall morning, you might open a mailbox and find a written piece about leaf litter and a suggested activity. At the Nature Education Center, you might flip through a binder of pictures showing what was blooming here this same week last year. Near the service entrance, you might spot a bluebird nesting box. Each of these began with a Master Naturalist volunteer asking, "What could I learn more about, and how could I share it?"

The Master Naturalist program began in Colorado in the 1970s, long before it became a program in Maryland. Since Cylburn began hosting classes in 2011, 86 people have completed the training here. Together, they have contributed more than 9,000 volunteer hours.

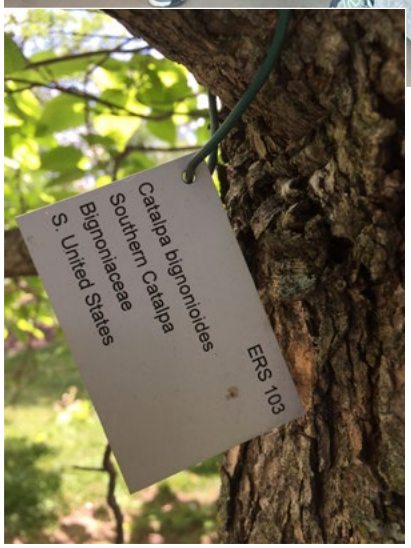


Cylburn began hosting Master Naturalist program classes in 2011. Photos courtesy of Cylburn





Master Naturalists maintain Cylburn's tree database.



That first year, Nancy Hill, then education director of Cylburn Arboretum Friends (then the Cylburn Arboretum Association), and Glenda Weber, a naturalist with Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, led the program together. Hill recruited participants, while Weber arranged guest presenters and taught the botany section. After the training, Hill and the association helped graduates with design volunteer projects at Cylburn.

Today, Cylburn Arboretum Friends facilitates the class, working with a statewide coordinator at UME. Hosting the program is a labor of love for us. It takes considerable work, but there is the massive benefit of a highly-trained group of volunteers when it is all over. Another thing that makes it special: participants bring their own interests, and Cylburn gives them a place to put those interests into practice.

Master Naturalists serve as stewards of Cylburn's natural resources and help visitors learn about them, enhancing the property's value as an educational resource. Some of their projects include making seasonal activities for our educational mailboxes, building and maintaining nesting boxes that have helped bluebirds raise their young, and developing pop-up displays in our Nature Education Center. Through these projects and many others, they enrich Cylburn for both wildlife and visitors.

Another project worth highlighting is the Master Naturalists' work to maintain Cylburn's tree database. They regularly make field observations, create tags for trees that need them, and ensure that collection records are accurate and up to date.

"Finding each tree and seeing many new tree varieties is fun and interesting," says Master Naturalist Jan Clark. "I enjoy helping to maintain Cylburn's wonderful collection as a resource for the community." Their work helps keep the collection documented and accessible to visitors. A comprehensive, up-to-date database also helped Cylburn achieve Level III accreditation through ArbNet, an international program that sets professional standards for tree care, scientific research and public education.

As of 2026, 34 states have Master Naturalist programs. Maryland's program includes 57 host sites and more than 3,000 volunteers across the state. Cylburn plans to offer its next Master Naturalist class in fall 2027. If you or someone you know is interested, watch our website for application details next spring! In the meantime, you can see the work of Cylburn's Master Naturalists throughout the arboretum, from the mailboxes along the Circle Trail to the bluebird boxes and the discoveries waiting inside the Nature Education Center. ❖

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



Serving Again: Bob Connors

By Kathy Hudson



Bob Connors has served the community in different capacities for years. Photo courtesy of Connors

In between daily workouts at CrossFit in Towson and his job as chief medical officer at PinnacleCare, a private healthcare navigation company, physician Bob Connors is serving his second tenure as president of the Roland Park Civic League.

For more than 10 years, he's been very involved in the community, first volunteering to become a Civic League plat representative in 2015. "I knew I was going to live here for a long time, and I wanted to play a larger role in our neighborhood and in the city," he explains. At the end of his term as a plat rep, he served three years as president, from 2018 to 2021, then worked on the Hillside Park committee, before stepping back into the Civic League presidency this year.

A native of Massachusetts, Connors moved to Baltimore in 1998 to practice internal medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital. In 2002, he and his ex-wife moved to Roland Park. "We had a growing family. We loved the architecture of Roland Park and how close schools were for our kids to walk and bike to school. We also found a home on Edgevale Park, and that was a huge asset."

Their son is now 26, a practicing psychologist and an affiliate professor at Loyola University, and their daughter is 23, in graduate school in architecture in New York City. Connors and his husband of nine years, Jonas David Gray, a teacher at The Odyssey School and actor, and their miniature Schnauzer Benny live in Plat 6, still on Edgevale Park.

We recently asked Connors a few questions about his involvement in Roland Park.

KH: ***Highlights and lowlights of your service?***

BC: Highlights were the many opportunities to interact with the community, both in and out of Roland Park. We started a Thanksgiving food drive for the Langston Hughes Center in Park Heights and helped to serve dinner. The 4th of July parade was always a great time, especially seeing the faces of the kids (and let's face it, lots of adults, too) when water from the fire hose came raining down. Also, Trunk or Treat with the Presbyterian Church.

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Free Trees and More from the Landscape Committee





If you would like a tree planted in the verge (the green space between the sidewalk and street), please contact Kate Culotta at **krculotta@msn.com** prior to December 15. Only 18 are available.

Please also:

- Deeply water newly planted trees and shrubs before a hard frost.
- During the winter months, prune dead and broken branches, and trim hedges off sidewalks.
- Consider leaving fallen leaves as mulch under trees and in garden beds, and some plant litter (e.g., summer-blooming perennials) for the birds and beneficial insects.
- Raking up fallen leaves and pruning vines in lanes (alleys) is the homeowner's responsibility. Please keep organic debris out of the street, particularly the storm drains. Leaves can cause blockages.



Future-Ready Learning in Action at GFS

Garrison Forest School (GFS) recently partnered with LSE Generate, the entrepreneurship and innovation hub of the London School of Economics and Political Science, to bring the first-ever Innovation Summit to the GFS campus. Over two full days, upper school students heard from 19 innovators and thought leaders from around the globe, who explored topics ranging from artificial intelligence and entrepreneurship to leadership, sustainability, marketing and social impact. Through interactive workshops led by LSE alumni and meaningful conversations with global experts, students were challenged to think creatively, consider new perspectives and explore how their ideas might address real-world challenges.

From an inspiring keynote on building unique careers in the age of automation to interactive workshops on AI, climate change, social impact, negotiation and more, students spent the day challenging assumptions, exploring new ideas and imagining what's possible.

A highlight was the Design Sprint Challenge, where 36 students worked in small teams to identify a problem, present supporting data and design an app or website to help address it. Topics included student body image and school sports, community connection among teen girls, athlete mental health, menstrual education and academic confidence. Students had just a few short hours to work to develop a presentation that the teams then pitched to the entire upper school community and a panel of LSE Innovators in a Shark Tank-style event.



Upper school students participated the GSF Innovation Summit with the London School of Economics and Political Science. Photo courtesy of GFS

The seeds of this partnership were sown with last spring's Career Readiness trip to London, during which GFS students spent eight days immersed in real-world business practices and learning more about branding, finance, entrepreneurship and operations, including a workshop at the London School of Economics and Political Science. This exciting new partnership with LSE Generate reflects the school's commitment to future-ready learning and providing unique experiential learning opportunities for all students.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



GARRISON FOREST SCHOOL

WHERE WOMEN OF IMPACT GET THEIR START

LEARN MORE: gfs.org/visit

GIRLS' DAY, K-12 / COED PRESCHOOL
GIRLS' NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL BOARDING, GRADES 8-12
300 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Investing in Experience: From the Classroom to the Stock Market

At Friends School of Baltimore, students are encouraged to explore their interests, share their talents and take an active role in school life. From academic and service organizations to arts and special-interest clubs, co-curricular opportunities give students the chance to pursue their passions alongside peers who share them. And when an interest isn't represented among the school's offerings, middle and upper school students can take the initiative to start a club of their own.



Finance Club members, hosted by alumnus Sam Burgunder '21, visit J.P. Morgan Private Bank to explore investment strategies from finance professionals. Photo courtesy of Friends

Last year, that spirit of student initiative led to the launch of the Investment Committee, a new group within the upper school Finance Club that gives students hands-on experience in investing, financial research and decision-making.

Led by Finance Club Co-Heads Clara W. (2027), Owen R. (2028) and Cary D. (2028), with guidance from a faculty advisor, the committee will manage a real $10,000 portfolio invested in the U.S. financial markets, including bonds, exchange-traded funds, mutual funds and individual stocks. Students will research investment opportunities, develop stock pitches and present their recommendations to the Board of Trustees before making investment decisions.

The initiative was made possible by a generous gift from a Friends donor who recognized the value of allowing students to put financial concepts into practice. Last spring, then-Finance Club Co-Heads Will A. (2026), Semir I. (2026) and Jack M. (2026) presented a proposal to the Board of Trustees to fund the Investment Committee, making the case for managing real money rather than a simulated portfolio. They believed that working with actual investments would deepen their understanding of financial markets while teaching important lessons about risk, responsibility and accountability.

The donor shared their enthusiasm for an experience that would challenge students to research opportunities, collaborate with peers, make informed decisions and learn from the results.

Earnings from the portfolio will be donated to the Friends endowment, adding another dimension to the experience: learning not only about investing, but also about giving back to the school.

Friends alumni are also helping students see how their interests translate into professional opportunities. Last year, alumnus Sam Burgunder (2021), an analyst at J.P. Morgan Private Bank, welcomed Finance Club members to the firm's Baltimore office. Students met with Burgunder and senior members of his team, learned about J.P. Morgan's operations as a global financial institution, and explored how the private bank serves its clients.

During the visit, students examined different asset classes and discussed investment considerations such as risk, time horizons, and the potential for income and growth. They then put their knowledge to work through a hands-on case study.

Through experiences like these, supported by the generosity of donors and the involvement of alumni, Friends students are doing more than studying financial markets. They're developing the analytical skills, judgment and confidence to make thoughtful decisions—skills that will serve them well after they leave Friends. ❖

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



Park's Winter Break Camp

The Park School's Winter Break Camp, 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!

- Session 1: December 21-23
- Session 2: December 28–30

At Park Camps, the school's 100-acre wooded campus is the perfect place for children to explore, play and grow—even in winter. Park's 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 (PreK to 5th grade). Whether indoors or outdoors, campers will have opportunities to stay active, be creative, and connect with friends old and new.

The school will also partner with PedalPower Kids to offer families even more ways to personalize their camper's experience. In addition to the engaging traditional Winter Break Camp program, families can choose optional biking add-ons designed to meet campers where they are—from learning to ride independently to building confidence, developing new skills and taking on fun biking challenges. These specialized experiences give campers the opportunity to focus on their individual interests and goals while making the most of winter break.



Campers enjoy a wide range of winter-themed activities on the school's 100-acre campus.
Photo courtesy of Park

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

Park EST. 1912

PLAN A VISIT:

I'm a reader and a writer. I'm an athlete, a lawyer for the Mock Trial team, and a photographer. I'm a leader. *I love being all of these things.*

None of us really sees the world in the same way — *and that's just such an exciting idea to me.*

I want to dedicate my life to something that's bigger than myself — something that helps other people.



—Aria
Grade 11

THE PARK SCHOOL *of* BALTIMORE

Author/Illustrator Duo Brings Storytelling to Life at Gilman

From writing their own stories to learning what it takes to bring an idea to life, Gilman students explored the art of storytelling during a multi-day visit from author/illustrator duo Matthew Swanson and Robbi Behr. The visit was made possible by support from the Class of 2005 Visiting Artists Fund, which sustains the annual tradition of connecting Greyhounds with working artists.

Swanson and Behr, a married creative team based in Chesterfield, MD, have spent the last 20 years of their lives writing and illustrating numerous children's books together, including *Life on the Moon*, a National Book Award longlist selection for Young People's Literature, the Cookie Chronicles graphic novel series, and the two-book series, *The Real McCoys*.

Outside of their publishing ventures, they visit schools across the country through their nonprofit Busloads of Books, sharing their love of reading and writing with every classroom they drop in on.

During an assembly with lower school students, Swanson fielded questions from an eager crowd about his work. Students' curiosities ranged from inquiries about how many paragraphs Swanson had ever written to what inspired him to become a writer.

"Their energy was contagious, bringing the entire room to life. Boys and adults alike were captivated, engaged and completely mesmerized," says Lisa Nochumowitz, lower school library assistant.



The husband and wife duo of Swanson and Behr inspired Gilman students' creativity.
Photo courtesy of Gilman

"We couldn't get enough of the two!"

Later in the morning, Swanson conducted a create-your-own-story workshop, complete with live illustrations from Behr. During subsequent classroom visits, students got to work passing notebooks around the room, taking turns adding words and illustrations to develop stories together.

"I liked the workshop because it let us have fun with writing in a new way," says James F. (2035).

On the second day of the visit, middle school students participated in a lunch-and-learn workshop in the library, where Swanson and Behr shifted to topics such as self-publishing, the editing process, dealing with rejection and the entrepreneurial spirit creatives need to pursue their work full-time.

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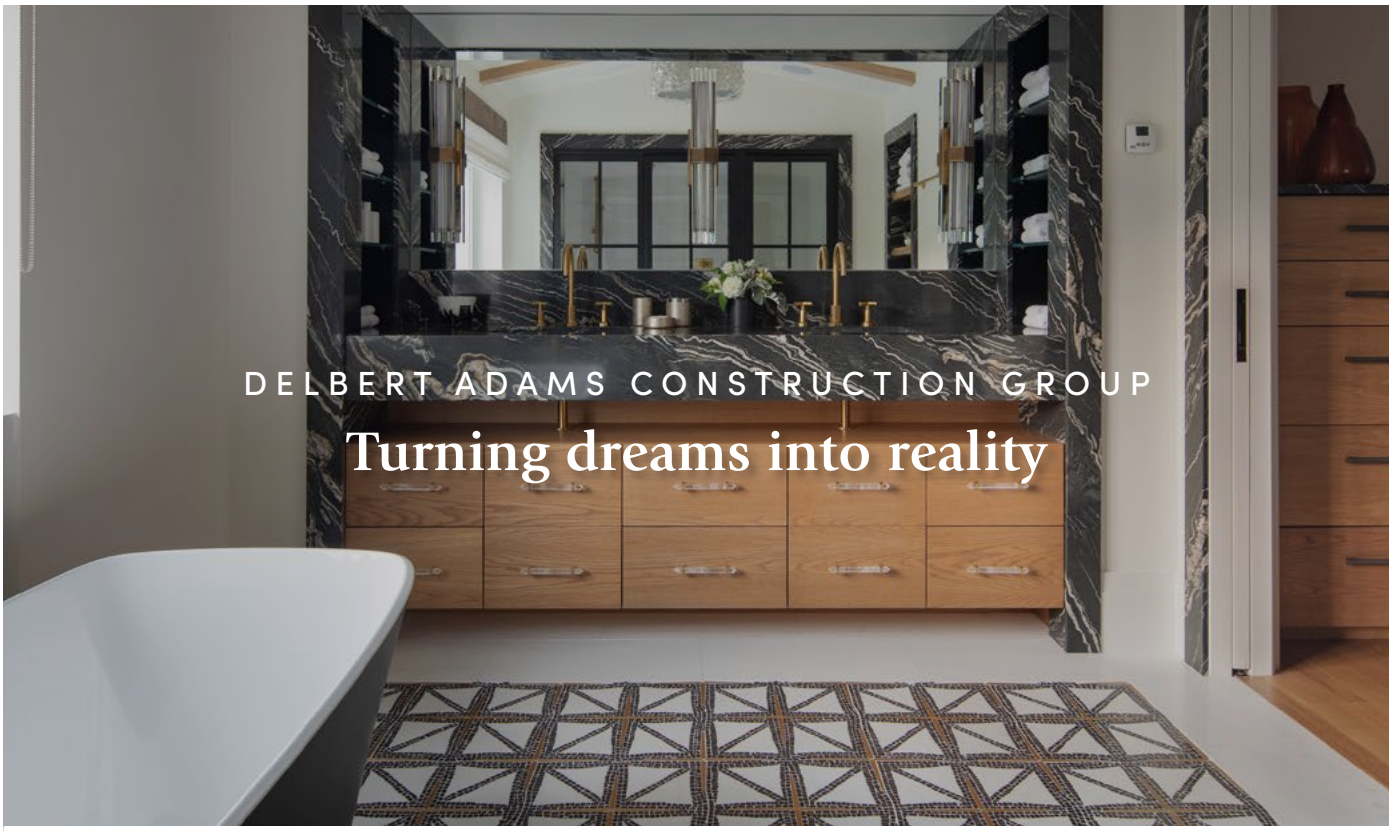

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A Little More Winter, A Little Less Hurry





Waldorf encourages familiar rhythms that mark the passing of seasons. Photos courtesy of Waldorf

Adults tend to notice what winter takes away—daylight, easy mornings, the ability to leave the house without a search for the other mitten. Children are often more interested in what it adds. Ice to crack. Breath you can see. A bird's nest suddenly visible in a bare tree.

There's something worth following in that attention. At the Waldorf School of Baltimore, the changing seasons help shape daily life, from outdoor discoveries to the stories and activities that welcome children back inside. Winter has plenty to offer when we give ourselves time to notice.

Let the Season Set Some of the Pace

The calendar often gets busier just as the natural world grows quieter. We don't have to match that stillness entirely, but we can borrow a little of it.

Try leaving an afternoon open after a busy weekend. Read the same beloved story several evenings in a row. Take a short walk along the Stony Run as the light begins to fade, noticing which windows glow first.

In Waldorf education, familiar rhythms help children find their bearings. A seasonal song returns. A favorite winter activity comes around again. Children begin to recognize where they are in the year and anticipate what comes next. Family traditions can offer that same reassurance. They don't have to be elaborate. Making soup together on Sundays or putting a simmer pot on the stove every time it snows can become a tradition a child remembers for years.

Take Warmth Seriously

An adult on a brisk walk and a child stopping to investigate every frozen puddle are having very different outings. Dress for the puddle investigator.

Waldorf educators give warmth particular attention, because a child who is cold stops exploring and starts waiting to go home. Hats, natural-fiber layers like wool, dry mittens and boots with room for warm socks all help. Keep an extra pair of mittens handy and bring a thermos of warm tea or cocoa. A drink on a fallen log can turn a short walk into an occasion.

Back home, warmth might come from a pot of vegetable soup or cinnamon stirred into morning porridge. Children can help chop vegetables, knead bread or set the table. The smell of something cooking and a candle lit at supper can make an ordinary winter evening feel especially welcoming.

There's also the warmth of being close. After a long school day, a child may need a few minutes in your lap before telling you anything about it. A back rub at bedtime or a story read tucked together under a blanket offers time to reconnect. Leave a little room for that, too.

Leave Some of the Discovering to Them

A winter walk doesn't need a scavenger hunt or a lesson plan. Visit the same place often enough and children will find their own questions. Why did this puddle freeze but that one didn't? Where are the birds finding food? Will the snow still be here tomorrow?

You don't have to know every answer. "Let's come back and see" is a perfectly good response.

Indoors, the same principle applies. Put out paper and crayons or scraps of yarn without a finished example to copy. Let children decide what to make. An afternoon can be full without much on the schedule.

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"We Are Many, We Are One": RPCS Installs its 10th Head of School

By Melissa Tully, Assistant Director of Strategic Communications

On Friday, October 16, Lara D. Wulff, Ph.D., was formally installed as Roland Park Country School's 10th head of school before an audience of students, faculty, trustees, alumnae, families and friends of the school. The ceremony opened with the Potomac Brass Quintet giving way to the sounds of a bagpipe as Ed Kitlowski, who has welcomed our students on Opening Day for more than 18 years, began the processional.

Board of Trustees President David Clapp, (parent, class of 2026), opened the program, welcoming the community. "From our Little Reds to our graduating seniors," he said, "our students give this special moment its purpose."



Wulf, the new head of school, was officially welcomed to RPCS in October. Photo courtesy of RPCS

Student representatives from each division presented Wulff with 10 roses in an engraved vase with the school seal. The vase represents the foundation and nurturing environment of the RPCS community, and the roses represent Wulff and the nine Heads of School who led before her. Lilly, the upper school student representative, shared, "The flowers in the vase are roses, which are symbolic of the dozen red roses carried by the seniors as they process at Commencement. As the class of 2027 and the first class that you will graduate, we included an additional red silk rose as a symbol of our everlasting connection to RPCS."

Cary Zink Kassouf (1995), president of the Alumnae Association, and Hannah Whitman Clark (2003), president of the Parents' Association, offered remarks and presented gifts on behalf of their respective organizations. The faculty also shared remarks and presented a gift. Longtime employee and current RPCS parent Fitz Hardcastle presented Wulff with a crystal bowl engraved with the school seal.

The keynote address was delivered by Christy Diefenderfer, lower school principal at Georgetown Day School and Wulff's sister. Following the key note, students from the 4th grade, 8th

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Roland Park Country School
Find your path at RPCS.



At Roland Park Country School, academic excellence isn't an aspiration, it's a standard. We're not just preparing girls for college, we are preparing them for a life of purpose.

Register for a Parent Information Session to learn more at **rpcs.org/visit**

All Girls K-12 Independent School with Co-Ed Preschool | Scholarships and Tuition Assistance Available

RPEMS Celebrates Community, Creativity and Continued Success

By Alex Moschina

As winter approaches, the Roland Park Elementary Middle School (RPEMS) community has much to celebrate! From community events and creative performances to improved academic results, our Rams continue to demonstrate the power of collaboration and school spirit.

Running for a Greener Future

In October, more than 200 RPEMS students, staff, parents and community members participated in the Baltimore Running Festival, running and walking a combined 1,005 miles—roughly the distance from Baltimore to New Orleans!

Organized by the Roland Park Annual Fund, the effort raised awareness and funds to improve campus green spaces. Watch for fresh blooms and exciting upgrades this spring! Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this initiative.

A Season of School Spirit and Creativity

RPEMS celebrated inclusion, teamwork and the arts through a variety of fall events. Unity Day promoted kindness, acceptance and bullying prevention, while Dot Day encouraged creativity, courage and self-expression.

School spirit was on full display during the Roland Park Elementary Class Soccer Tournament Fall Field Day, also known as the R.A.M.S. World Cup! Grandparents Day celebrated family connections, and the PTA-sponsored Family Fun Movie Night brought families together for a screening of *s*.

Our elementary scholars also took the stage in a production of *The Jungle Book*, and the RPEMS chorus and glee clubs enjoyed a special performance by the Yale Society of Orpheus and Bacchus, celebrating the joy of music and providing an inspiring experience for our young singers.

Together, these events strengthen the connections that make our school community special.

Academic Progress Earns Four-Star Recognition

In the recently released 2026 Maryland School Report Card results, RPEMS once again earned a four-star rating. Overall scores improved across all metrics for both elementary and middle school grade bands. This achievement reflects the dedication of our scholars, teachers, staff and families. Principal Brandon Pinkney emphasizes that the ultimate goal goes beyond ratings. As he explains, the priority is to “ensure that every scholar is learning, growing, achieving and experiencing success.”

We celebrate this progress while continuing to help every scholar reach their full potential.

Support RPEMS through Roland Park After Dark

The RPEMS PTA is preparing for its annual fundraiser, Roland Park After Dark, on March 5, 2027. The PTA welcomes donors, sponsors and auction items to help make the event a success.



The RPEMS Baltimore Running Festival team raised money for the school’s green spaces.
Photo courtesy of RPEMS

Local businesses and community members can support the school while showcasing their businesses and connecting with neighbors. To contribute or learn more, contact **pta@rolandparkpta.org**.

From greener campus spaces to creative performances and academic growth, RPEMS has plenty to celebrate. Thank you to our families, staff, neighbors and community partners for helping our scholars learn, grow and thrive. ❖

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



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Holiday Gift Guide

The season of giving is upon us. We asked some of our wonderful local merchants and creators to suggest some of their favorite ideas for holiday gifts. Visit them to find that special something for everyone on your list!

Melko Designs

melkodesigns.square.site

Also available at Found StudioHex Ferments Superette and We Make DC

Handmade rope baskets made from cotton rope, fabric scraps, ribbon, thread, fibers and different color dyes by Roland Park artist Janine D'Adamo





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Tiny Gallery Art Kits, includes a 9-page watercolor book, 12-color paint set and gallery frame



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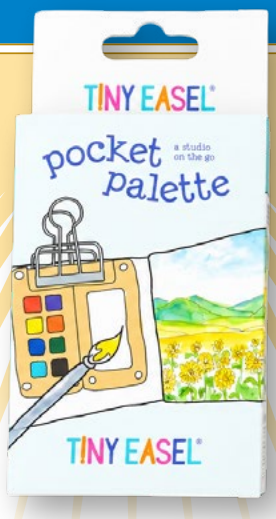
Thoughtfully curated art kits designed to inspire kids of all skill levels to paint, create and grow.



Art Roll: Treasure Map, includes 12 artist crayons in a reusable case



Watercolor Stickers Art Kit, includes 12 sticker sheets and a design pad



Pocket Palette Art Kit, includes a Pocket Palette, watercolor journal, water brush and pencils



HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

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Greg Otto 2027 Calendar and Note Cards

Available at Bird in Hand, The Ivy Bookshop, The Ivy at Kenilworth, The Margaret Cleveland, Papers Plus, The Pig & the Parrot, Schneider's Hardware, and Shananigans Toy Shop

American artist Greg Otto lives in Roland Park. All proceeds from his calendar and cards will be donated to The Sweat for Breath Foundation (sweatforbreath.org), which works to help people with ALK+ lung cancer.



Charitable Giving

The holidays are a perfect time to make annual contributions to local, national and international charities. Here are a few Baltimore-based charities to consider.

- **Roland Park Community Foundation (RPCF)**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, maintaining and improving our community, including Hillside Park (see p. i for information on directing donations to the park). **rolandpark.org/organizations committees/roland-park-community-foundation** or send a check to P.O. Box 16214, Baltimore, MD 21210.
- **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**, a residential treatment program supporting veterans transitioning through the cycle of poverty, addiction and homelessness to self sufficiency. **baltimorestation.org**
- **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**, a homeownership and wealth building initiative training Black women in carpentry, electrical and plumbing by restoring vacant and deteriorated houses in west Baltimore. **blackwomenbuild.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 the 2nd grade. **loyolaearly.org**
- **Maryland SPCA**, an independent, local nonprofit operating out of one small but mighty campus in Baltimore. **mdspca.org**
- **Santa Claus Anonymous**, a unique volunteer non-profit 501(c)(3) organization raising money to give every child a Christmas. **santaclausanonymous.org**
- **Thread**, a community impact organization that leverages the power of relationships to support Baltimore City students through graduation and beyond. **thread.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** ❖

Networking, Resumes and Real-World Skills: Bryn Mawr Sophomores Prepare for the Future



Weinman gives the keynote address at Bryn Mawr's Career Day in October.
Photo courtesy of Bryn Mawr

Preparing students for lifelong learning and leadership is a core part of The Bryn Mawr School's mission statement. While academic classes, arts, athletics and student clubs lay the groundwork every day, the Office of College Counseling's Career Exploration Program elevates this mission to new heights.

Looking to complement the second-semester career curriculum for sophomores, which includes strength-based assessments to identify interests, Associate Director of College Counseling Shanae Giles saw an opportunity. She asked, "How could we prepare them for being mentally ready to evaluate themselves?" And with that, Career Day was introduced.

Though the day has taken on variations in the details over the years, the structure of the event has stayed the same: A group of alumnae, parents and friends spend time with students in small groups discussing their fields, the paths they took to get to where they are and the lessons they learned along the way. This year, more than 40 professionals in 10 fields shared their wisdom with the Class of 2029.



From Contacts to Connections

Before breakout sessions, students heard from the keynote speaker, who talked about the art of networking. Mandy London Weinman, a 1994 Bryn Mawr graduate and recruiter at The Walt Disney Company, demystified the process, teaching students that true networking is about forming authentic connections rather than collecting contacts. She shared practical strategies for leveraging everyday networks—like family, teachers and coaches—and stressed the single most critical habit: following up. She encouraged students to put that step into action immediately after the event.

Following the panel sessions—which spanned industry-specific fields like healthcare, law, business and education, alongside themed discussions such as "Following Your Passion" and "Navigating Non-Traditional Pathways"— girls participated in a new Career Day feature, putting their new networking skills into practice. During the follow-up conversations portion of the morning, students had the freedom to move around the library to connect directly with guests who sparked their interest. As Weinman coached during the keynote, some students gave brief "elevator pitches" about their experiences and goals, some asked meaningful questions to guide their next steps, and some shared in casual discussions to begin building relationships.

Roland Park resident Richard Schmitt, a senior software developer at Nvidia, wanted to give back to the community where his daughter, who attends the Little School at Bryn Mawr, "has grown and learned so much." Through his participation in the "Explorer: Finding Your Path" panel, he encouraged students to pursue careers that would allow them to learn. "Even if you are unsure of where you want to be at the end of your career, all the experiences along the way will shape it and help drive you forward," he said.

Several panelists remained for the final segment of Career Day: résumé writing workshops. Sophomores left the event not only with a working document but also with a newfound confidence and curiosity as they look toward their professional journeys ahead.

For a full list of Career Day guests, visit **brynmawrschool.org/careerday**. ❖

The Bryn Mawr School (**brynmawrschool.org**), is a private, all-girls pre-kindergarten through grade 12 school with a coed preschool for ages 2 months through 5 years. Bryn Mawr provides students with exceptional educational opportunities on a beautiful 26-acre campus in Roland Park.

Holiday Happenings at St. David's

St. David's Church and Day School have teamed up to kick off the holidays with two exciting community events, one old and one new, that inspired and delighted shoppers of all ages this festive season. Both events, organized and run by volunteers, raise essential funds for parish programs and improvements, as well as needs outside of the school's annual budget.

"The holidays are such a special time for us at St. David's...we truly relish the opportunity to extend our reach by welcoming families and neighbors from inside and outside of our parish to experience the magic," says Rector and Day School Chaplain Fr. Todd Bruce.

The Day School welcomed November with a week-long Shananigan's Toy Shop fundraiser sponsored by the Parents' Association. The shopping bonanza, a new effort this year, offered parents the opportunity to shop early for Christmas, and ended with a family-friendly gathering in the Wyndhurst Station courtyard. Dozens of local families, alumni and neighbors gathered for an afternoon of crafts, games, toy demonstrations and a private shopping experience highlighting some "teachers' favorite" gift ideas.



Parishioners pose with the iconic Christmas Bazaar welcome sign. Photo: Fr. Todd Bruce

While the children enjoyed fresh popcorn, face painting and an exclusive Tiny Easel painting station, adults had the opportunity to make a dent in their holiday shopping lists, all while supporting a beloved neighborhood small business. "It was a win-win for everyone!" says Parents' Association President Rebecca Clark Stoyanova.

The next event, St. David's legendary Christmas Bazaar, returned for its 35th year on November 21, and featured an impressive lineup of vendors and seasonal wares for sale, as well as a North Pole-themed winter wonderland just for kids. The bazaar is a staple Roland Park holiday tradition, offering fun and fellowship for shoppers of all faiths and ages.

Shoppers found a cornucopia of locally made soups, jams, breads and pies for sale in the bazaar's famous "Country Store", while freshly shucked oysters, homemade waffles and hand wrapped eggrolls were available in the "Food Court". Freshly cut Christmas wreaths, pine roping and boxwood topiaries were offered up in the "Holiday Greens" shop, and a wide assortment of antiques, stationary, jewelry and collectibles were available from vendors big and small.

The "North Pole" was a must for kids, with wintery activities extending through the Day School hallways and classrooms and out onto the playground. Holiday-themed crafts, seasonal snacks and even a visit with Santa Claus, himself, were included with each family ticket. All proceeds benefit St David's Day School, Roland Park's oldest parish preschool.

Whether you're a neighbor or a seasonal visitor, the church community welcomes your support at these events, which beautifully capture the spirit of St. David's during the most joyful time of year. ❖

St. David's Day School (**stdavidds.org**) nurtures children, encourages their innate enthusiasm for learning, and prepares them for the school years ahead by providing individualized attention at each stage of their intellectual, emotional, spiritual, social and physical development.



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125 Years: Come and See

By Jennifer Ronald, Director of Church Relations



The church's anniversary year, with its theme of "Come and See," is drawing to a close. Photos courtesy of RPPC

Roland Park Presbyterian Church (RPPC) celebrates a milestone by growing in love

Last winter, as RPPC looked toward its 125th anniversary, we extended a simple invitation to our neighbors: Come and See.

Rooted in the Gospel of John, that invitation reflects the life of a congregation that has called the corner of Roland Avenue and Upland Road home for generations. Come and see renewed spaces designed to be safer, more accessible and more welcoming. Come and see a community still asking what it means to pursue justice, practice hospitality and engage curious faith.

As our anniversary year draws to a close, "Come and See" has become more than a theme. It has described a year of opening our doors, reaching beyond our walls, learning from our neighbors and considering how 125 years of faith might prepare us for what comes next.

In May, we kicked off the celebration with "Come & See: Art & Soul," opening our renovated building for an evening of art, music and fellowship. Artist Rena Diana's work filled our



sanctuary and fellowship spaces while musician Shaun McMullen performed on the lawn. Friends gathered over refreshments, children explored and visitors enjoyed the renewed space.

The evening also showcased the results of RPPC's "Come and See: An Open Invitation" capital campaign. Improvements to accessibility, the sanctuary and chancel, audio-visual capabilities, and our historic building and grounds have helped our physical space better reflect the welcome we hope to extend.

But the campaign also reflected a conviction that has long shaped RPPC: that our responsibility to our neighbors extends beyond our property. Alongside building improvements, the congregation directed $70,000 to Western High School and $10,000 to Reading Partners Baltimore, supporting educational opportunities in our city.

That outward-looking spirit has been woven throughout our anniversary year.

In June, members of RPPC joined other congregations through Faith Communities of Baltimore with PRIDE for Baltimore's Pride Parade and Pride in the Park. As a More Light Presbyterian congregation committed to the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people, it was a joyful opportunity not simply to say, "all are welcome," but to show up, celebrate and stand alongside our neighbors.

Our 125 Trees Challenge carried us beyond our walls in another way. The original goal was to fund 125 trees across Maryland. We exceeded that goal, contributing $5,200 to fund 130 trees through the Maryland Forest Service in support of Maryland's effort to plant five million trees.

Join us this Christmas season!



Carols Around the Firepit

THU, DEC 17 @ 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**

ROLAND PARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pursuing Justice • Practicing Hospitality • Engaging Curious Faith



Members and friends of RPPC gather for an evening of fellowship, music, and shared memories on November 14, celebrating 125 years of growing in love. Photo: Jackie Capecci.

It was a tangible expression of a phrase that became a refrain throughout our anniversary: growing in love. We celebrated our deep roots by investing in something for generations we may never meet.

Growing in love also asks us to keep learning.

Throughout the fall, RPPC's speaker series welcomed the congregation and community into conversations about Baltimore and the Chesapeake region. Programs explored environmental restoration in South Baltimore, the role of trauma and trusted relationships in helping young people change their lives, and connections among people, place and conservation throughout the Chesapeake watershed. A field trip following the South Baltimore program offered an opportunity to see community renewal efforts firsthand.

These conversations reflect something we value deeply: curious faith is willing to listen.

That willingness has been especially important in our racial justice work. This year, members spent significant time reading Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg's *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World*. Through study, worship and conversation, we wrestled with questions of acknowledging harm, accountability and repentance, and what genuine repair requires.

Those conversations continued as RPPC considered the Presbytery of Baltimore's newly established Reparative Justice Fund. Listening sessions gave members opportunities to learn, ask questions and participate in the discernment process. Whatever the outcome, the process reflected something important about this anniversary: honoring our history also means asking what faithfulness requires of us now.

At RPPC, we believe faith is not about possessing every answer. It is about trusting a loving God enough to keep asking difficult questions and listening for where we are being called next.

Of course, an anniversary needs plenty of joy, too.

This fall reminded us of the importance of simply being together. Kickoff Sunday began a new program year. A game night inspired a new Friday Night Hangout, where games are optional and conversation may be the most important activity. Fall Meet-Ups brought fellowship beyond the church walls, from a hike at Cylburn Arboretum to plans for a casual gathering at Union Craft Brewing.

Music also filled our anniversary year. In October, RPPC welcomed Bach in Baltimore for the opening concert of its 39th season, featuring our Director of Music, Dr. Phillip Collister-Murray, among the soloists. After generations of music within these walls, hearing our historic sanctuary filled with Bach, Handel, Telemann and Vivaldi felt especially appropriate.

The anniversary celebration also included a 125th Anniversary Dinner in November, an opportunity for members and friends to gather around the things that have defined life at RPPC across generations: music, food, stories and friendship. The evening's included historical recipes prepared by members of the congregation, a fitting connection between our past and the people shaping our future.

Anniversaries naturally invite us to look backward. We have enjoyed sharing stories about everything from RPPC's water-powered first organ to the 1946 church fire, historic stained glass, beloved traditions and generations of people who shaped this place.

But perhaps the greatest gift of looking back is realizing that the story was never meant to stop there.

A church grows in love by opening its doors and walking through them into the world. By making room at the table. By caring for creation. By standing with our neighbors. By listening when conversations are difficult. By learning, laughing, worshiping and serving together.

After 125 years, the invitation remains wonderfully simple: *Come and see.*

All are welcome. Wherever you are in your faith journey, there's a place for you at RPPC. ❖



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Warm Cranberry Crisp à la Mode

Eddie's of Roland Park

Cozy up to the holidays with this comforting cold weather dessert. Prep time: 20 minutes. Cook time: 40 minutes. Serves six.



Photo courtesy of Eddie's of Roland Park

Ingredients

- 4 cups fresh cranberries
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- ¼ cup plus 1 ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- Juice and zest of 1 orange
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. ground ginger
- ¼ tsp. fresh ground nutmeg
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 cup rolled oats
- ¼ cup pecans, chopped, optional
- ¾ cup light brown sugar
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¾ cup unsalted butter, chilled and cubed
- 1 pint Taharka Brothers vanilla ice cream

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Lightly butter an 8 x 8-inch baking dish or a 9-inch pie pan.

In a large bowl, combine the cranberries, granulated sugar, ¼ cup of flour, orange juice and zest, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg. and vanilla. Transfer the mixture into the baking dish or pie pan.

In another bowl, stir together 1 ¼ cup of the flour, rolled oats, pecans, brown sugar and salt. With a pastry blender or a fork, cut in the chilled butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Spread the crumb mixture evenly over the filling.

Bake for 40 minutes uncovered, until the topping is golden and the filling is bubbly. Cover with foil if the topping is getting too brown.

Serve the cranberry crisp warm with a creamy scoop of Taharka Brothers vanilla ice cream. ❖

Eddie's Tip: Add sliced ripe pears to the cranberry mixture and top with roasted hazelnuts for a different twist.



WALDORF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

A Little Light on the Longest Night

One Waldorf winter tradition brings this quieter attention into a shared experience is the evergreen winter spiral walk. Evergreen boughs are laid in a spiral path. One by one, each child walks to the center, lights a candle and then sets it along the path on the way out, so the spiral grows brighter as the evening goes on. There's nothing to perform and nothing to get right. Children simply take their time and follow the light.

Families are invited, whether or not they have a connection to the school, to experience it with Waldorf's early childhood educators at Hands on Holiday: Winter Solstice at The Ivy Bookshop (5928 Falls Rd.) on December 21, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. The gathering will include songs, a story, a seasonal craft, the spiral walk and warm cocoa under The Ivy's covered patio.

Best suited for children ages 7 and under, though delightful to all, tickets are available at **waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org**. ❖

The Waldorf School of Baltimore (**waldorfschoolofbaltimore.org**) is an independent PreK through Grade 8 school that has served Baltimore families since 1972.

Signature Gumbo and Stone Ground Grits with Diced Bacon

Miss Shirley's Café

Yields: six to eight portions..



Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Café

Ingredients: Gumbo

- 8 oz. boneless, skinless chicken breast, diced
- 8 oz. cooked large shrimp, diced
- 8 oz. cooked crawfish meat
- 8 oz. chicken Andouille sausage, diced small
- 2 stalks celery, diced small
- ½ red bell pepper, diced small
- ½ yellow bell pepper, diced small
- 1 cup okra, diced small
- 1 28-oz. can diced tomatoes
- ½ Spanish onion, diced small
- 2 T. gumbo filé
- ½ tsp. fresh thyme, chopped
- 1 tsp. parsley, chopped
- 1 tsp. garlic, chopped
- 4 oz. butter
- ½ cup flour
- 1 tsp. shrimp base
- 1 tsp. chicken base
- 2 T. tomato paste
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ cup Pinot Grigio
- ½ tsp. Tabasco sauce
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- 1 cup clam juice
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- Cajun spice

In a large pot over medium heat, melt 1 oz. of butter, then add sausage and chicken, and stir. Stir in gumbo filé, thyme and garlic. Cook chicken fully (about 5 to 8 minutes), then add diced celery and onion. Stir and cook until the celery and onions are soft (about 5 minutes). Add red and yellow peppers and tomato paste, stirring occasionally and cooking for 2 to 3 minutes, careful not to burn the bottom. Stir in the wine, lemon juice and Worcestershire, and cook for 3 to 4 minutes. Add the diced tomatoes, shrimp and chicken base, clam juice and 2 cups of water. Stir well. Bring to a boil, then add the okra and Tabasco.

In a small pot, melt 3 oz. of butter and then whisk in the flour. The mixture should be the texture of wet sand. Cook over low heat for about 15 to 20 minutes, stirring constantly, to make a dark roux.

With the gumbo at a simmer, slowly whisk in the roux. Let simmer for 10 to 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Check for flavor, adding salt and pepper if necessary. If the gumbo is too thick, add water. Add the cooked shrimp and crawfish, and stir until heated. Serve hot, topped with grits or rice and dusted with Cajun spice.

Ingredients: Stone-Ground Grits with Diced Bacon

- ½ cup diced uncooked bacon
- ¾ cup whole milk
- ¾ cup heavy cream
- 1 ¼ cup water
- ¾ cup stone-ground white grits
- 2 T. mascarpone
- 2 tsp. kosher salt
- Pepper, to taste

Sauté the chopped bacon in a large pot over medium-high heat. Stir frequently to brown the bacon, being careful not to burn it. Add milk, cream and water. Bring the mixture to a simmer and whisk in the stone-ground grits. Continue stirring until there are no lumps. Lower the heat and continue to stir frequently so that no lumps form and the bottom does not burn. Season with salt and pepper, and let simmer for 20 to 25 minutes, stirring occasionally. If the grits become too thick before being fully cooked, add water. Once grits are fully cooked, remove the pot from the heat. Whisk in the mascarpone and adjust the seasoning, if needed.

Top the gumbo with a 2-ounce scoop of finished grits! ❖



BOB CONNORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Additionally, it was inspiring to see the dedication of so many folks working at City Hall who really want to see this city thrive. There were, of course, some lows, but I really look upon them as growth opportunities to find common ground when possible, cast aside divisive tactics and social media, and listen to understand rather than respond. It's impossible to make everyone happy, but I am very proud of the work our board did during my first tenure as president.

KH: ***Once again, you are president of the Civic League. What do you hope to accomplish this time?***

BC: I really want to continue the work of my predecessors in financing projects in each of our plats that improve the quality of life of our residents, especially spaces to bring the community together, such as our paths and parks and green spaces.

I also want to ensure that our plat parties continue, because they really help bring neighbors together in a world that is otherwise so busy. We are also very lucky to have top performing public schools and a public library in our neighborhood. I want to make sure they are supported and remain successful. And, of course, we have Hillside Park, a wonderful new public park that really solidifies [Frederick Law] Olmsted's vision for how urban living should be. I want to be sure the Civic League maintains its leadership role in that endeavor as it has for the past 135 years.

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

BC: Community. This is an incredibly engaged neighborhood that is committed to the success of this great city.

KH: ***Any current challenges you see for Roland Park?***

BC: Not really a challenge, more of an opportunity. This is a fantastic city that will thrive if we all stay committed to its success. We need to stay engaged and ensure the unique characteristics of each neighborhood and its wonderful culture and, yes, charm, are cherished.

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

BC: I would love to hear from residents on what they would like their Civic League to take on to fulfill its mission of "fostering the common good and welfare of its members." I know not everyone can make our monthly board meetings [first Wednesday of every month, except July and August, at 6:30 pm at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church], so they can always email their plat representative (visit **rolandpark.org** to find the email for your rep) or me at **CivicLeaguePresident@RolandPark.org**. ❖



RPCS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

grade and the Upper School Chorus performed the "Finale" of the RPCS Centennial Song, a piece that has become a cornerstone of RPCS tradition. Clapp then officially recognized Wulff as Head of School on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

In her installation address, Wulff, a historian, did not speak about herself. Instead, she recounted 125 years of RPCS history through the lens of a children's story, beginning each chapter with "Once upon a time." Her highlights brought chuckles and smiles from those in attendance who had lived through some of the experiences, while our students learned more about the legacy of their beloved school. She incorporated not only significant moments in RPCS history, but wove the school's core values into each historical moment, creating a tapestry that brought the school's history to life while illuminating the values that continue to guide its future.

"It was a remarkable day," Wulff shared. "I was also so impressed by our lower school girls and how attentive they were during the event. I am truly humbled by the support I feel from these amazing people with whom I get to spend my days and who care so much for each student's and this school's success."

From the familiar sound of the bagpipes to the stories that brought the school's 125-year history to life, the ceremony honored what makes RPCS extraordinary. Wulff begins this next chapter as part of a community whose story continues to unfold. ❖

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.

The Book Nook

By Gregory 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 be closed December 25 for Christmas, January 1 for New Year's Day, January 18 for Martin Luther King's birthday and February 15 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. **Stories Together.** Stories, movement, songs and our most fun activities. Come ready to move, laugh and learn together. For families with children ages 2 to 5. All abilities are welcome.
- Dec. 10, 11 am. **Let It Snow.** Spend some time after storytime and make a snowball scene!'
- Dec. 16, 3 pm. **Polar Bear Cups.** Warm up from the cold with an art project that'll make a cup look like a polar bear!
- Jan. 6, 3:15 pm. **Tissue Paper Snowmen.** Make a melted snowman out of tissue paper.
- Jan 19, 10:15 am. **Mother Nature Storytime.** Enjoy seasonal, nature-filled stories and interactive fun with the team from the Carrie Murray Nature Center.
- Jan. 20, 3:15 pm. **Puzzle Crafternoon.** Celebrate National Hobby Month by making your own puzzle!
- Feb. 10, 3:15 pm. **Share the Library Love.** February is National Library Lover's Month, so join in the fun to decorate cards about what you love about the library!
- Feb. 24, 3:15 pm. **Penguin Puppets.** Create and decorate a penguin puppet.

For Teens

- Dec. 17, 3 pm. **Marvel Bingo.** Think you know your Marvel heroes and villains? Join a Marvel-themed bingo event packed with fun, prizes and superhero excitement as the branch gears up for *Avengers Doomsday*. Test your Marvel knowledge and compete with friends to see who calls "BINGO" first!
- Dec. 21, 3 pm. **Blast From the Past Gaming: Kinect Sports.** Step back in time and get moving with Kinect Sports on the Xbox 360! Challenge your friends in fun, action-packed sports games using just your body. No controller required!
- Jan. 7, 3 pm. **Illuminated Zodiac Paper Circuits.** Discover the basics of circuits while creating a glowing Zodiac constellation. Choose your own or a favorite Zodiac sign template, and learn how simple paper circuits can bring the stars to life with light.
- Jan. 11, 3 pm. **Teen Yoga and Exploratory Movement Teens.** Join after school for some movement and mindfulness with the Pratt's professional yoga instructor, Julia! You will work through various yoga poses, breath exercises and playful movement activities to work through energy and stress.
- Feb. 11, 3 pm. **Kindness That Shines: Paper Circuit Card Making.** Get creative and make a card that really lights up! Design your own light-up card to give to that special someone while learning the basics of simple electric circuits. No experience needed and all supplies will be provided.
- Feb. 22, 3 pm. **After-School Gaming: Dragon Ball: Sparking! Zero.** Power up and join in an action-packed gaming tournament featuring Dragon Ball: Sparking! Zero on the PS5! Battle your friends with your favorite characters as you fight for the top spot in this legendary Dragon Ball series.

For Adults

- Dec. 21, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: *On the Calculation of Volume, Book IV* by Solvej Balle.** Join the discussion of the latest installment in this imaginative and thought-provoking series. With echoes of the biblical Tower of Babel, Book IV explores the power of language—and the ways we name, understand and connect with the world around us. As Tara, our steadfast cataloger and cartographer, continues

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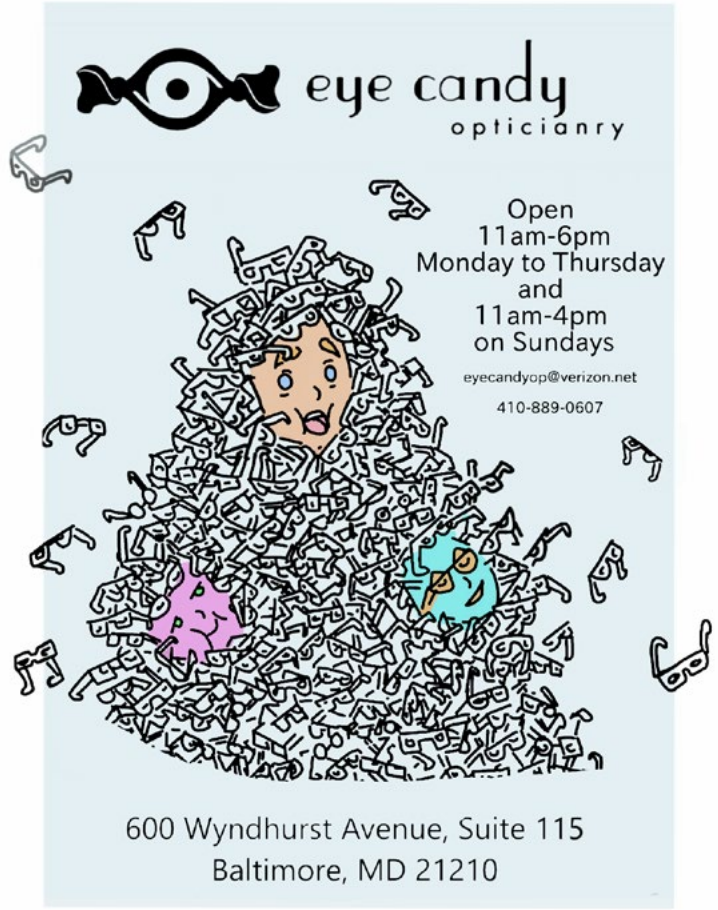

BOOK NOOK

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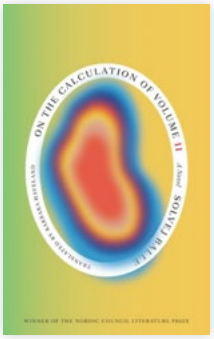
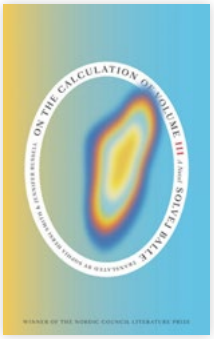
navigating an endless November day, new questions emerge about language, community and what it means to make sense of a world that refuses to behave as expected. And, just when you think you know where the story is headed, an unexpected cliffhanger changes everything!

- Jan. 25, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: *The Zone of Interest* by Martin Amis.** Join the discussion of this powerful and unsettling novel, in which Amis explores the complexities and contradictions of the human experience through an extraordinary story set within a Nazi concentration camp.
- Feb. 22, 6 pm. **Book Discussion: *Women Without Men* by Shahrnush Parsipur.** Join the discussion of a modern literary masterpiece that follows the intertwined lives of five women in Tehran. Each woman arrives at a lush garden on the outskirts of the city by a different path, bringing her own hopes, struggles and story. Together, their lives unfold against the backdrop of a changing Iran, creating a thought-provoking exploration of freedom, identity, friendship and womanhood.

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

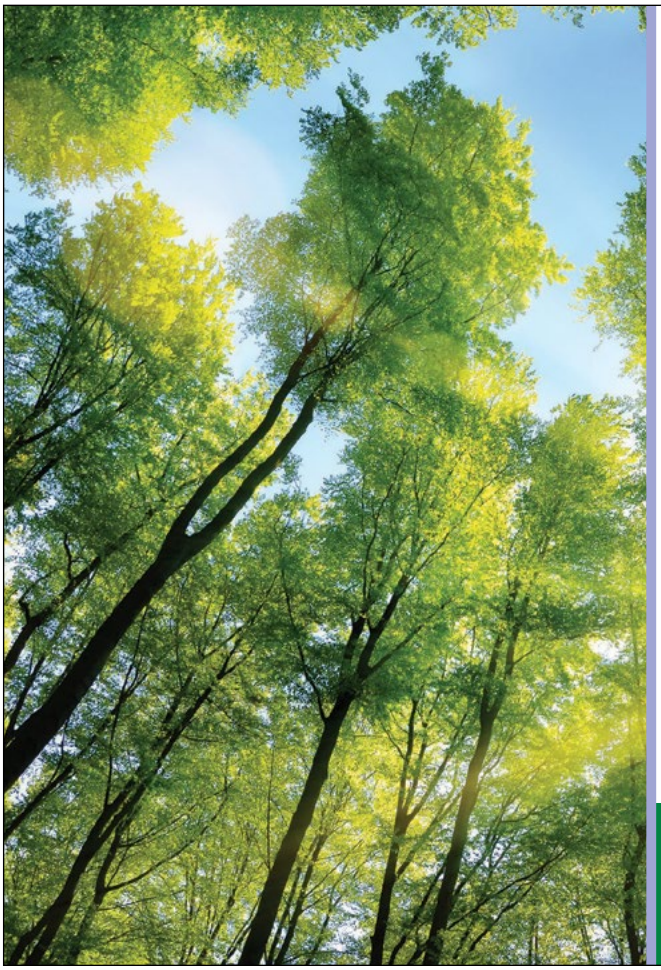
***On the Calculation of Volume (Books II and III)* by Solvej Balle** (recommended by Gregory Fromme, branch manager).
In the second installment of this thought-provoking and reality-bending series, Tara Selter, our intrepid narrator who is still





trapped in the "container" of time that is a 24-hour period in November, embarks on a project to create variety and seasonal change within her day by traveling to different geographic regions in order to create a change in routine and climate. She uses extensive travel and documentation of her experiences to help come to terms with the monotony of her situation. She also begins studying Roman history in depth to compare how the Romans imposed boundaries on their empire and how they moved within the confines of their own borders.

In the third installment, new characters emerge who are condemned to repeat the same November day along with Tara. While the mysteries of this confounding time loop are far from being unraveled, Tara now has companions who share her experience. Each "time looper" has his or her own story to tell as well as having their own perspective on how to live life under these bizarre circumstances. The members of the group each have their own thoughts on how to live constructively within the temporal confines imposed on them. Each volume in this seven-book exploration of our time continuum provides subtle yet illuminating developments in the journey. Highly recommended. ❖



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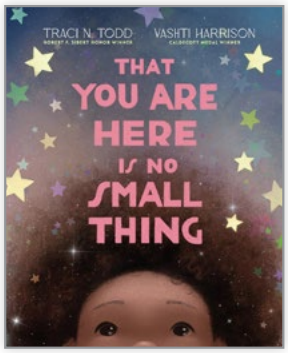


Picture Books for Every Kid

That You Are Here Is No Small Thing **by Traci N. Todd**

Curious Capybara **by Natali de Mello**

All the Ways We Learn **by Chloe Ito Ward**

The Only Way to Dance **by Cristina Quintero**

Love in Every Language **by Anoosha Syed**

Help! I'm Being Eaten by a Bear! **by Neil Sharpson**

The Bats on the Bus **by Alison Jackson**

One Small Moment **by Rebecca Donnelly**

Oh! **by Kevin Henkes**

The Elephant and the Piano **by Colette Hiller**

A Pathway for Pollinators **by Michelle Schaub**

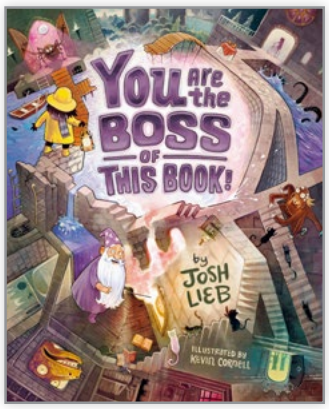
I Am the Mountain **by Steven Weinberg**

Stubby **by Sydra Mallery**

Who Knows the Way to Mr. Grimly's Classroom? **by Chris Priestley**

Together **by Winsome Bingham**

Bitsy Bat, Snow Star **by Kaz Windness**



First Friends for Emerging Readers (ages 5-10)

Violet Goes Voting **by L'Oreal Thompson Payton**

Millie Magnus is NOT Jealous **by Brittany Mazique**

You Are the Boss of This Book! **by Josh Lieb**

Sashimi and the Field Trip of Doom **by Dan Santat**

I Am Human **by Laura G. Lee**

Tuck and Tina and the Lost Fortune **by Jess Brallier**

CatStronauts: Module Mayhem **by Drew Brockington**

Gnome and Rat: First Snow! **by Lauren Stohler**

Dream Big **by Shannon Hale**

Don't Be Scared **by Saadia Faruqi**

Animals and Adventure for Independent Readers (ages 10 and up)

Shook **by Julian Randall**

Fast Break **by Shawn Pryor**

Boundless **by Marieke Nijkamp**

Raven, Rising **by Christine Hartman Derr**

Where the Wild Horses Are **by Amy Alznauer**

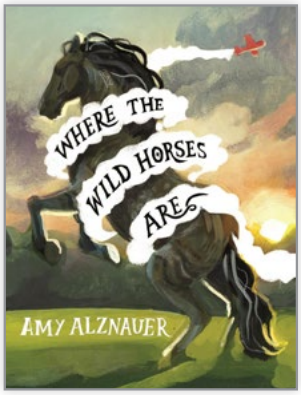
Home of the Brave **by Dave Isay**

Tree Dog **by Margarita Engle**

Spark **by Chris Baron**

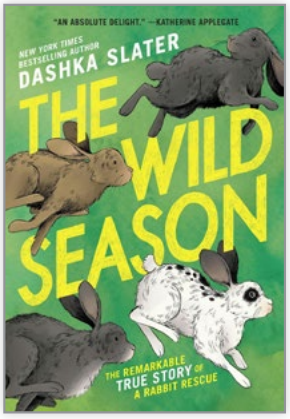
Absent **by Rex Ogle**

Project Wooff **by Matthew McElligott**



Bunnies, Brains and Crimes: Nonfiction

Actual Factual Files: Ancient Egypt **by Heather Alexander**



Actual Factual Files: Outer Space **by Ali Adams**

Art Heist **by Erin L. Thompson**

History Smashers: The Space Race **by Kate Messner**

Science Comics: The Senses **by Andy Hirsch**

The Amazing Generation **by Jonathan Haidt**

Crimes Through Time **by Rosie McCormick**

The Wild Season **by Dashka Slater**

Future Tense: How We Made Artificial Intelligence—and How It Will Change Everything **by Martha Brockenbrough** ❖

The Ivy Bookshop (5928 Falls Rd.) is Baltimore's independent literary bookstore, carrying a broad range of titles with an emphasis on new fiction, non-fiction, biography, art, interior design, cooking and, of course, children's books. **theivybookshop.com**

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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	**redeemerbaltimore.org**
First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-1506	**rolandparkcc.org**
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Baltimore, 102 W. University Pkwy.	410-467-7974	**christiansciencebaltimore.org**
The Gathering of Baltimore, 5802 Roland Ave.	410-252-7816	**thegatheringbaltimore.org**
Grace United Methodist Church, 5407 N. Charles St.	410-433-6650	**graceunitedmethodist.org**
Mt. Olivet Christian Church, 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-1506	**rolandparkcc.org**
North Baltimore Mennonite Church, 4615 Roland Ave.	410-467-8947	**bmoremenno.org**
Roland Park Presbyterian Church, 4801 Roland Ave.	410-889-2001	**rolandparkchurch.org**
St. Andrew's Christian Community, 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-9470	**rolandparkcc.org**
St. David's Church, 4700 Roland Ave.	410-467-0476	**stdavidsbaltimore.org**
Second Presbyterian Church, 4200 St. Paul St.	410-467-4210	**secondpresby.org**
Stony Run Friends, 5116 N. Charles St.	443-703-2590	**stonyrunfriends.org**

The Baltimore Police Department Northern District Commander's Monthly Crime and Community Meeting is held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Northern District Headquarters, 2201 W. Cold Spring Ln. All are welcome. **baltimorepolice.org/find-my-district/northern-district**

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

December

- Through Dec. 27. ***Charmz: The Other Reindeer: A Motown-Inspired Christmas Musical,*** Baltimore Center Stage, 700 North Calvert St. Enjoy a new holiday musical that blends heart, humor and soulful sound. The show follows Charmz, a determined reindeer who dreams of shining just as brightly as Rudolph. Full of warmth and big aspirations, the story celebrates self-belief, friendship and discovering that your own light is more than enough. **centerstage.org**
- Through Dec. 30. ***The Mirror Crack'd,*** Everyman Theatre, 315 W. Fayette St. For the first time, Agatha Christie's iconic and clever sleuth, Miss Marple, steps out of the novel and onto the stage to solve a chilling murder at a summer soiree hosted by a glamorous Hollywood star. Adaptation by Rachel Wagstaff. Directed by Brandon Weinbrenner. **everymantheatre.org**
- Through Jan. 11. **Roo Taylor: "As the Crow Flies"**. Archer Hawkins Gallery, 5722 Falls Rd. The gallery's first solo exhibition will feature Baltimore-based artist and recent graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art, Roo Taylor. In it, Taylor considers the spaces that connect us, both physically and emotionally. **archerhawkinsgallery.com**

The Civic League meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church at the corner of Roland Avenue and Upland Road (4801 Roland Ave.). The next meeting will be December 2.

ROLAND PARK CIVIC LEAGUE

- Dec. 2, 12 pm. **Tree Collection Walk: Deciduous Conifers,** Cylburn Arboretum Friends, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Enjoy a one-hour guided walk exploring a different tree collection each month. Free to CAF members or $5 for non-members. **cylburn.org**
- Dec. 3, 11 am. **An Introduction to the Mission of First Fruits Farm,** The Woman's Club of Roland Park, 4500 Roland Ave. First Fruits Farm is a nonprofit Christian ministry dedicated to providing fresh, nutritious food to children and adults facing hunger. The farm donates 100 percent of everything it grows, ensuring that healthy food reaches those with limited resources and access. Please register in advance at **manager@twcrp.org. twcrp.org**
- Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26, 28, 29 and 30, 10 am, and Dec. 6, 13, 20 and 27, 12 pm. **Holiday Train Garden,** Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301-R York Rd., Lutherville. Snap a selfie with Santa and watch O-scale trains wind through a 20th century town. Kids under 12 free on Dec. 19. **firemuseummd.org**
- Dec. 5, 11 am. **An Enchanted Evergreen,** Evergreen Museum & Library, 4545 N. Charles St. Explore Evergreen's first floor decked out in its holiday finery, hear live carolers, enjoy a kid's scavenger hunt, make an Evergreen-inspired craft, shop the Gift Shop and snack on festive treats. Tickets are free for JHU faculty, staff and students, $5 for members of Friends



David DeBoy and Da Hons in "Crabs for Christmas" Concert

For over 40 years, "Crabs for Christmas" has been a regional holiday favorite. At 2 pm on December 12, David DeBoy will bring his hilarious, interactive and Baltimore-centric show to the Three Arts Club of Homeland (4 Wyndhurst Ave.). You'll sing, you'll laugh and you'll celebrate the season like never before. It will be a Crab-tastic combination of laughter, music and audience participation, all with a Bawl-a-mer twist! Visit **crabsforchristmas.com** for more information and to buy tickets.



of the Museums and $7 for the general public. Advanced registration is required at **museums.jhu.edu/events**.

- Dec. 8 and 17, 10:30 am. **Children's Tree Time,** Cylburn Arboretum Friends. A parent/child class where participants learn about nature through stories, crafts and exploration. Free to CAF members or $5 for non-members. **cylburn.org**
- Dec. 9, 7:30 pm. **Lorelei Ensemble: "Zero Summer"**. Music at St. David's, St. David's Church, 4700 Roland Ave. The Grammy-nominated ensemble of women's and treble voices will offer their winter tour program, featuring traditional and contemporary works. Tickets are required and may be purchased at loreleiensemble.com. **stdavidsbaltimore.org**
- Dec. 10, 12:30 pm. **Gardeners Workshop: Tool Sharpening,** Cylburn Arboretum Friends. These adult workshops are taught by Cylburn's horticulture team and are an opportunity to learn more about gardening concepts and skills. $5 for CAF members or $8 for non-members. **cylburn.org**
- Dec. 10, 6 pm. Homewood Museum, 3400 N. Charles St. Historian and author Richard Bell will discuss his new book, which positions the American Revolution not as a parochial drama but as a world war that unleashed chaos, opportunity and transformation across six continents. Tickets range from $5 to $7. Advanced registration is required at **museums.jhu.edu/events**.
- Dec. 16, 12 pm. **Wednesday Walk: Estate History,** Cylburn Arboretum Friends. These walks are geared toward an adult audience. Topics range broadly and each walk is led by a different expert. Free to CAF members or $5 for non-members. **cylburn.org**

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GARRISON FOREST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

As Shannon Schmidt, director of the GFS Boyce Center for Learning and Thriving, said at the start of the second day of the Innovation Summit, this is future-ready learning in action. While the summit offered an extraordinary opportunity to connect with experts from one of the world's leading academic institutions, the curiosity, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration on display are qualities GFS nurtures in classrooms every day. Experiences like these build upon the school's strong academic foundation, connecting learning to the wider world and helping students develop the confidence and skills to navigate a future full of possibility. ❖

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

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

- Dec. 20, 10 am. **A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.** Music at St. David's, St. David's Church. A service of carols and hymns drawing from the tradition popularized by King's College in Cambridge. Free with suggested donation. **stdavidsbaltimore.org**
- Dec. 21, 4:30 pm. **Hands on Holiday: Winter Solstice with the Waldorf School of Baltimore,** The Ivy Bookshop, 5928 Falls Rd. Each year as the Winter Solstice approaches, Waldorf Schools hold the quiet festival of the Winter Spiral, an ancient symbol of the inward-turning we tend to experience as the night grows longer and cold drives us indoors. Tickets are $15 per child (adults are included), and include a warm drink and craft supplies. RSVP at **theivybookshop.com**.

January

- Jan. 1, 4 pm. **Bach in Baltimore.** Music at St. David's, St. David's Church. Bach in Baltimore will perform a concert of Baroque chamber music to celebrate the New Year. Tickets are required and may be purchased at bachinbaltimore.org. **stdavidsbaltimore.org**
- Jan. 6, 12 pm. **Tree Collection Walk: Evergreen Conifers,** Cylburn Arboretum Friends. Enjoy a one-hour guided walk exploring a different tree collection each month. Free to CAF members or $5 for non-members. **cylburn.org**
- Jan. 7, 11 am. **A New Approach to Gynecology Healthcare at GBMC,** The Woman's Club of Roland Park. Under the leadership of Dr. Joan Blomquist, chair of the Department of Gynecology, the new Women's Center at GBMC consolidates comprehensive, multidisciplinary care for women under one roof. Blomquist will describe how this modern system is improving healthcare for women. Please register in advance at **manager@twcrp.org. twcrp.org**
- Jan. 12 and 21, 10:30 am. **Children's Tree Time,** Cylburn Arboretum Friends. A parent/child class where participants learn about nature through stories, crafts and exploration. Free to CAF members or $5 for non-members. **cylburn.org**
- Jan. 14, 4 pm. Friends of Early Music: Ensemble Prose. Music at St. David's, St. David's Church. Ensemble Prose

GILMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

"We didn't wait around for a publishing company to say they were going to publish our books; we just got started and never stopped," explains Swanson.

For Gilman students, experiences like these offer opportunities for boys to discover new interests, develop confidence in their ideas and explore creative expression in a nurturing environment that encourages them to try new things, from PreK to graduation. ❖

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

will present "Odys-she," a program that includes Baroque cantatas based on the stories of women in ancient epics. Free with suggested donation. **stdavidsbaltimore.org**

- Jan. 16-Feb. 7. ***Liberation,*** Baltimore Center Stage. Written by Tony Award-winner Bess Wohl (Grand Horizons) and directed by Obie Award-winner Taibi Magar, *Liberation* is a refreshingly irreverent and intensely relevant powerhouse of a play about what we inherit, what we forget and what we're still fighting to understand. **centerstage.org**
- Jan. 18, 4:30 pm. **MLK Recital and Evensong.** Music at St. David's, St. David's Church. A community concert with the chamber voices of Charm City Sings and the Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus. Free with suggested donation. **stdavidsbaltimore.org**
- Jan. 20, 12 pm. **Wednesday Walk,** Cylburn Arboretum Friends. These walks are geared toward an adult audience. Topics range broadly and each walk is led by a different expert. Free to CAF members or $5 for non-members. **cylburn.org**
- Jan. 21, 11 am. **Thibault Manekin: Larger Than Yourself,** The Woman's Club of Roland Park. Manekin will draw on stories from the streets of Baltimore, the divided communities he has worked in across the globe, and the unlikely real estate projects that became catalysts for something bigger. Please register in advance at **manager@twcrp.org. twcrp.org**
- Jan. 24, 3:30 pm. **Musicians of the Baltimore Symphony.** Community Concerts at Second, 4200 St. Paul St. This concert will include pieces by Claude Debussy, Cécile Chaminade, Paquito D'Rivera and Ludwig van Beethoven. **cc2nd.org**

February

- Feb. 4-6. ***The Outsiders.*** St. Paul's Schools, 11152 Falls Rd. Based on the novel by S.E. Hinton, the play follows Ponyboy Curtis, a 14-year-old "Greaser" navigating loyalty, sibling bonds and a bitter feud with the "Socs" of his Oklahoma town. Adapted by Christopher Sergel. Tickets are available at **stpaulsmd.org/tickets**.
- Feb. 4, 11 am. **From Tradition to Discovery, What the Amish Can Teach Us,** The Woman's Club of Roland Park. University of Maryland School of Medicine professor and genetic epidemiologist Dr. Braxton Mitchell has spent nearly three decades studying health and disease in the Amish population, a unique community that has yielded transformative insights into the genetic and environmental determinants of conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and aging. In this talk, he will introduce the Amish community, explain what makes it such a powerful population for scientific discovery, and highlight major findings from his research. Please register in advance at **manager@twcrp.org. twcrp.org**
- Feb. 7, 11 am. **Jay Sherman: Travelogue, Georgia and Armenia,** The Woman's Club of Roland Park. Sherman will delight us with his beautiful photography and interesting stories. Sit back and immerse yourself in images of ancient monasteries surrounded by dramatic snow-covered peaks; welcoming, warm people who are not jaded by mass tourism; and gorgeous wine country tended by the descendants of the oldest winemakers in the world. Please register in advance at **manager@twcrp.org. twcrp.org**
- Feb. 18, 11 am. **The New Baltimore Streetcar Museum,** The Woman's Club of Roland Park. Take a ride down memory lane and into the future with Matt Nawn, the new executive director of the Baltimore Streetcar Museum. A lifelong streetcar enthusiast, Nawn will share the story of Baltimore's public transit past and describe the museum's vision to restore the former Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad Roundhouse at 2601 Falls Road. Please register in advance at **manager@twcrp.org. twcrp.org**
- Feb. 21, 3:30 pm. **Morgan State University Choir.** Community Concerts at Second. The Morgan State University Choir is renowned as one of the nation's most prestigious university choral ensembles. While their wide-ranging repertoire spans classical, gospel and popular music, the choir is especially acclaimed for their historic and authoritative performances preserving the heritage of the spiritual. **cc2nd.org**
- Feb. 21, 4:30 pm. **Lenten Recital and Evensong.** Music at St. David's, St. David's Church. Featuring Thomas Tallis' "Lamentations of Jeremiah" and other Lenten choral works. Free with suggested donation. **stdavidsbaltimore.org** ❖

Please send calendar announcements to **magazine@rolandpark.org**.

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