

ROLAND PARK

Quarterly from the Roland Park Community Foundation • Volume Eighty-Three • Winter 2021

*CELEBRATING GREEN
SPACE ALL YEAR*

**Holiday
Gift Guide**

*Woman's Club
of Roland Park
Turns 125*

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Editor's Notes

“He who marvels at the beauty of the world in summer will find equal cause for wonder and admiration in winter.”

John Burroughs

By Martha Marani

Like Burroughs, I find beauty in the winter landscape, particularly in areas that have little in the way of manmade features to distract from the grace of a stand of leafless trees, like those captured so beautifully in Anne Stuzin's cover photo. A sparkling swath of frost-covered grass. Rainbows reflecting off ice-rimmed rocks in a lively stream. A hill draped in white—the season's first snow. All sights to be wondered at and admired.

If we are successful in our efforts to purchase the Baltimore Country Club property, on which the cover photo and those featured on pages 2 and 3 were taken, we will have firmly secured our legacy as faithful stewards of the Olmsted tradition. I believe Burroughs—an American naturalist who was active in the conservation movement in this country around the time Roland Park was created—would approve, as would his friends. These included Ralph Waldo Emerson, who said, “In the woods, we return to reason and faith. There I feel that nothing can befall me in life,—no disgrace, no calamity, (leaving me my eyes,) which nature cannot repair.” Also Walt Whitman—“Give me solitude—give me Nature—give me again, O Nature, your primal sanities!”

Many have “pitched in” for Hillside Park, making generous donations to the Community Foundation's campaign to purchase the land. They believe in the vision of “A park that would be a democratic space where people of all races, religions, and generations could gather. A park of convenient location, close to public transportation. A new

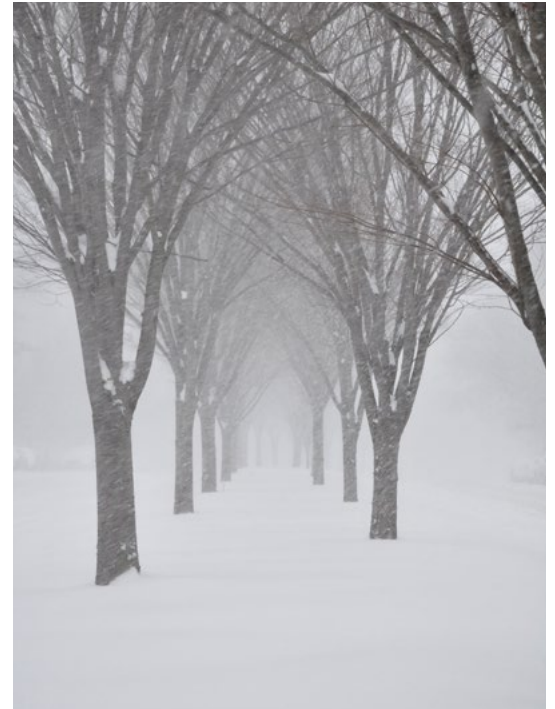


Photo: Anne Stuzin

kind of city park, community-owned and maintained, but open, inclusive and equitable, shaded by a canopy of hundreds of century-old trees.” If you believe in the promise of Hillside Park, please consider making a donation by visiting rolandpark.org/pitchin. It's a holiday gift that will keep giving!

I leave you with another Burroughs quote: “If I were to name the three most precious resources of life, I should say books, friends, and nature. And the greatest of these, at least the most constant and always at hand, is nature.”

May you have each in abundance this holiday season. ❖

Cover photo: Ann Stuzin

Message from the Civic League

Dear Neighbors,

I'm in search of a trash can. Probably not the first sentence you expected to read in my holiday message, but I hope I caught your attention. Lately, you may have noticed an uptick in the attention being paid to the main corridors that are gateways to our community. These four-lane roads were designed for cars, but they're also places where people walk regularly, going to and from our neighborhood. Millions of Americans live in communities without safe places to walk; our community should never be one.

Neighborhood volunteers have made significant progress in cleaning up. They have cut back vegetation that was completely blocking sidewalks along Cold Spring Lane, making it difficult for children and others to navigate. The Civic League has also asked nearby businesses to help with sprucing up. It's slow going, but progress is being made. At every volunteer gathering, I mention that I hope it's our last time! Inevitably, though, we're back out there, stuffing bags for the City to haul away. Unfortunately, littered environments attract more litter.

About halfway up Cold Spring from Falls Road, heading toward Roland Avenue, there is a heavily-used bus stop—marked only by a sign on a pole—that is a major source for this problem. It has neither a bench nor a trash can. It's my mission to get a permanent can for this stop, and for it to be emptied by the same crews who take care of the cans at the City's bus stops. I'm making progress. If you see a can at this stop by the time this column is published, you'll know why it's there. Ideally, we wouldn't need cans along these routes but, in our disposable society, for now, we do. So, wish me luck as I continue my conversations with the Department of Public Works. (And, while we're on the topic, we also need better bus stops—my next project!). Do you have a "favorite" spot that needs attention? Email me at CivicLeaguePresident@RolandPark.org and let's collaborate.

Starting in September, the Civic League returned to the Presbyterian Church at 4801 Roland Avenue for our monthly in-person meetings. We've also been offering a Zoom option with some success. Our meeting agendas have been full. Here are a few highlights:

We have a new office manager, Erin Pauken, who comes to us via Stuttgart, Germany. She and her husband live in Homeland, where Erin is enjoying her new home and learning how to garden. Although they are empty-nesters of the human kind, Erin recently welcomed a new puppy named Huck who is keeping her busy when she's not at work. In addition to managing the office's daily affairs, she will be working on a number of new initiatives this year, including assisting the Task Force I appointed to examine our governing structures and make recommendations about how

we assess dues for the Civic League. We expect to unveil our recommendations at the annual membership meeting in May.

We also welcomed three new at-large members to the Civic League board: Alisya Shrum-Davis, David Fitzpatrick and Ramen Tallamraju. In addition, we said goodbye to Tom Carlson, the longtime Roads & Maintenance board member whose term expired. John Morrell, president of Roads & Maintenance, recommended neighbor Patrick Ward, who was unanimously approved. As a reminder, Roads & Maintenance reviews applications for architectural changes to one's exteriors. Please reach out to them via rolandpark.org, if you're contemplating any changes.

The Civic League's Speaker Series was launched in October with an author talk held at The Ivy Bookshop and, in November, we began our partnership with our local library branch. Christopher Shorter, the City's chief administrative officer, was the November speaker. On Thursday, January 6th, at 6:30 pm, Ethan Abbott, project manager for Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition, will join us at the library to talk about the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network, a 35-mile trail throughout Baltimore that, when complete, will allow people to walk or bike to more than 50 neighborhoods, along with other destinations, parks, businesses and more.

Our November board meeting focused on the installation of Verizon 5G small cells in Roland Park and led to a wide-ranging discussion regarding the City's process for approving applications to place these cells on existing utility poles. In addition to a representative from Verizon, we were joined by people from the City's planning department and two scientists with backgrounds in studying the electromagnetic rays emanating from cell devices, such as our phones and the cell networks necessary to ensure connectivity. We're fortunate to have so many people of varied backgrounds in our neighborhood who offered important insights. Relevant documents and a video from the meeting are available on our website.

Finally, along with neighborhood associations north of us, the Civic League signed on to a letter regarding findings made in a traffic study commissioned by the City concerning the Falls Road/Northern Parkway intersection and beyond. The full study is available online. If you're interested in the letter (not available as I write this column), please email me.

And, to come full circle, the traffic study also addresses the need to improve the positioning of the bus stops and improving the quality of pedestrian access and safety at this intersection. That's worth endorsing.

Happy Holidays!
Claudia Diamond, President ❖



CIVIC LEAGUE UPDATE

Celebrating Green Space All Year

The land currently owned by the Baltimore Country Club (BCC) is beautiful in all seasons. Its 20 acres abound with a variety of flora and fauna. Should the proposal the Community Foundation has submitted to the BCC be accepted, it will be transformed into Hillside Park—a park for strolling, jogging, dog walking, playground play, and playing in the snow. A park for field sports and nature walks and possible educational and recreational partnerships with nearby schools.



Photo: Sally Foster



Photo: Sally Foster



Photo: Ann Stuzin



Photo: Sally Foster



Photo: Ann Stuzin

Photo: Sally Foster



Photo: Sally Foster

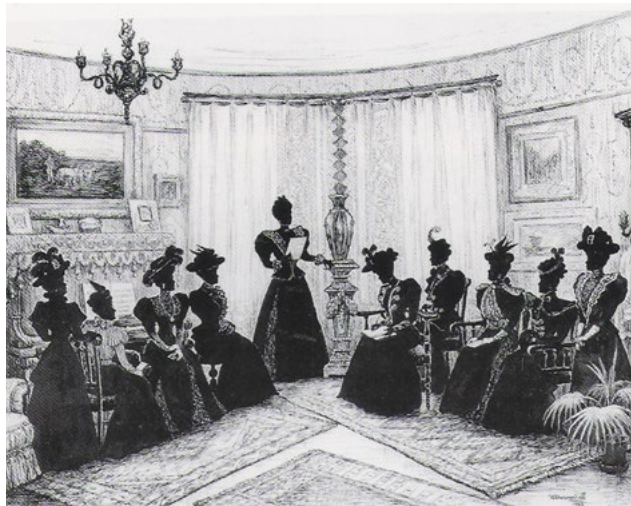
The Woman's Club of Roland Park Turns 125

By Allison Parker-Abromitis,
Club Manager

Late for a meeting? You are charged a nickel. No show? It jumps to a dime. In today's world, that nickel translates to roughly \$1.63 and a dime would be about \$3.27.

In the fall of 1896, a determined group of Roland Park women met in their new community, a blend of country and city, to establish a club. There was a need for them to create a social environment around their new homes that were far from downtown Baltimore, where they were used to having access to cultural activities and opportunities. The first regular meeting of The Woman's Club of Roland Park (WCRP) was held on December 9, 1896, at the home of Mrs. C. Pinkney Brown. Mrs. Charles Heath was elected President.

In 1904, the year of the big Baltimore fire, the vision of a clubhouse was realized and on January 11, an opening at 100 Roland Avenue (now 4500) was held.



In the fall of 1896, a determined group of Roland Park women met in their new community to establish a club. Photo courtesy of the WCRP

The members of the WCRP were serious about their mission and commitment to obligations made to the community. To this day, they remain dedicated to the growth of women through educational, cultural, social and philanthropic pursuits.

Literature remains an important part of club activities. In the early 1900s, book reviews flourished. Music was also a large part of the social scene, as was dancing, with evening functions lasting well into the early hours. Lectures were held during the day, which has become known as the "Thursday Program" series.

Speakers have included Richard Folsom Cleveland, Lieutenant

Colonel U.S. Grant III, Russian princesses, astronauts, H.L. Mencken and Senator John McCain. Other speakers of note include Ginger Rogers and several first ladies, including Bess Truman, Mamie Eisenhower and Barbara Bush.

More recent speakers have included Congressman Kweisi Mfume, Ambassador Barbara Bodine, poet E. Ethelbert Miller and international street artist Gaia, among many local and national authors.

To the members, community also meant raising money for civic causes. Between 1906 and 1916, the members purchased a piano for the Roland Park Public School on Roland Avenue, and endorsed an ordinance asking the City Council for an appropriation of \$1,000 to build Woodberry-Hampden Recreation Center. Members of the club continued their interest and work on this project for many years.


The mid-1920s saw an increase in support of Child Welfare and to the Florence Crittendon Mission, an organization that worked to reform prostitutes and unwed pregnant women through the creation of establishments where they were to live and learn new skills.

These were progressive women. Between 1936 and 1945, members' interest lay in the field of legislation. The WCRP endorsed resolutions favoring permanent registration and citywide use of voting machines. They were against the sale of fireworks in the city, wanted to prohibit billboards closer than 500 feet from roadsides and opposed discrimination against illegitimate children. On national issues, the club emphatically opposed President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's plan to enlarge the Supreme Court.

On Thursday morning, December 11, 1941, war was declared on Italy and Germany. The speaker at the club that day was interrupted as all in attendance listened to the radio to hear the message. At its conclusion, the WCRP president said, "We women should do efficiently and conscientiously our allotted tasks to be prepared to assume any responsibility

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that may be assigned to us in the days ahead. Let us avoid overemotionalism and hysteria. May this be our aim and prayer to carry on with courage and unselfishness our task, humbly relying on God for strength and direction."

The next four years were met with a strong work ethic from the membership in cooperation with the Red Cross, USO, hospitals and military installations.

The country had gone through a critical period. A club president challenged her members by asking if they were to sit back and let other organizations carry on the work that the intelligent club women should do or shall they organize and, without thought of self-honor or self-sacrifice, do their part as they did during the trying period of the war.

The woman's club movement has continued to evolve since the late 19th century. Women across the country gather to identify problems and influence their communities.

For 125 years, the WCRP has played an important part in our community. It has undertaken more varied types of civic and philanthropic activities and, each year, it has offered to its members programs richer in interest, wider in scope and of greater merit; it has kept faith with its founders.

Today's members continue to form lifelong friendships, sharing in a mutual desire to educate, inspire and engage women from

diverse backgrounds and cultures. All have a place at the club and all contribute richly to the mission. The membership wants to see a difference in the world.

Through support of such organizations as Sisters Circle (mentorship program) and Days for Girls (whose mission is to internationally advance menstrual equity, health, dignity and opportunity for all), the club focuses on the needs of women, young and mature.

If you have ever driven by the building at the corner of Cold Spring Lane and Roland Avenue and wondered about its history, know that good work is being done and will continue.

For more information on The Woman's Club of Roland Park, visit twcrp.org or call 410-889-0760. The club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. ❖



Photo: Mary Kay Battafarano

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THOSE EARS.

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September Socials

The Civic League hosted several successful social gatherings in September, organized by plat. The first annual September Socials were an opportunity for Roland Parkers to meet for light fare and libations in their neighbors' yards and, in one case, a nearby park. These family-friendly events were enjoyed by the more than 350 people who attended. The Civic League hopes to continue this new tradition next year.

Hosts were Ann-Barron Carneal (Plat 1), Mary Kay Battafarano and Margaret Black (Plat 1), Steven Ralston (Plat 2), Ken Rice (Plat 3), Bobby Marinelli (Plat 4), Andy Niazy (Plat 5 City/County), and David Blumberg (Plat 6).

"It was wonderful to meet new families and reconnect with longtime residents," says Civic League President Claudia Diamond. "The large turnout confirmed our belief that neighbors were excited to connect with one another again."

The Civic League is grateful to all the hosts and plat representatives, and to Eddie's of Roland Park (eddiesofrolandpark.com) and The French Paradox Wines (thefrenchparadoxwines.com), which donated refreshments and libations. ❖



Photos: Bobby Marinelli and Ken Rice





Landscape Committee Update

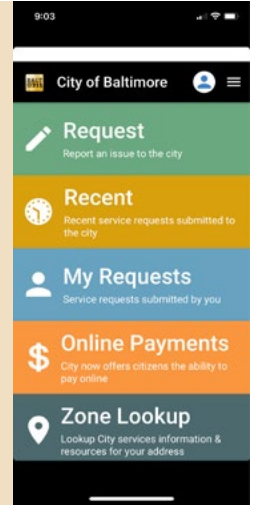
By Kate Culotta

The Landscape Committee is working with the Department of Forestry and Baltimore 311 to keep better track of dead City trees (*not* trees on personal property) in Roland Park and to initiate faster tree replacements. If you have a dead tree in the verge along the curb in front of or along the lane behind your house, please report it using the Baltimore 311 smartphone app, which is the easiest way to keep track of dead tree service requests. You can include a photo of the tree and request a tree inspection, and track the status under “My Requests”.

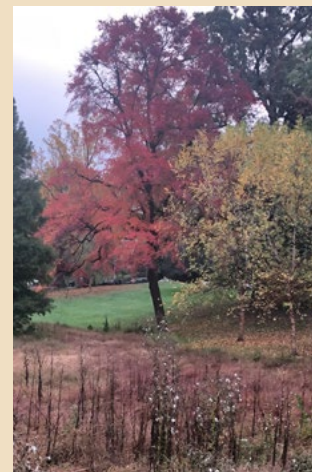
After you’ve submitted your request, please email the Landscape Committee at landscape@rolandpark.org or krculotta@msn.com, including your name and contact information, address of the dead tree, information about the tree (e.g., species if you know it), and the confirmation number assigned by Baltimore 311. We will follow up on dead tree service requests. If the tree has a metal tag or a paper tree removal notice, it is already in the City’s system.

The Landscape Committee started planting trees to restore the landscape at Centennial Park in the fall of 2020, and planted more in November, adding large shade trees and flowering ornamental trees. When you walk the park next spring, you’ll be pleased to see that black gum, willow oaks, white dogwoods and pink redbuds have joined the flowering serviceberries, white fringe trees and yellow flowering witch hazel shrubs.

Please contact the Landscape Committee (landscape@rolandpark.org) or Kate Culotta (krculotta@msn.com) if you need help reporting a dead tree or have any questions about the ongoing tree restoration of Centennial Park.



City tree tag. Photo: Martha Marani



Centennial Park. Photo: Kate Culotta

Community Foundation Update

By Mary Page Michel, Chair

The Roland Water Tower restoration is complete, after a decade of negotiating, fundraising and advocating. For those of you who are new to the neighborhood, here is a brief history. The tower was built in 1905 to provide water for Hampden. It was taken out of service in the 1930s when the City's reservoir system was established. The road around the tower was used as a turnaround spot for streetcars until they became obsolete, and then it was used for buses. The City wanted to tear the tower down, but the neighborhood formed a Friends of the Roland Water Tower group and worked with City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke to save the historic structure. In 2009, a fence was installed around much of the tower and its grounds to protect residents from falling debris. The Community Foundation stepped in to secure State and City funds, and donations from foundations and individuals to restore the Roland Water Tower. Lewis Contractors was hired in 2020 and began work in October.

Lewis repaired and stabilized the tower's roof, replaced the plywood on the soffits with cement, repaired and replaced the balustrades, replaced the gutter, and installed new windows



Photo: Sally Foster

and a new door. They cleaned the plinth, along with much of the terracotta along the bottom of the tower. The project was completed on time and everyone is thrilled with the result.

Many thanks are due to members of the Roland Water Tower Committee, including Phil Spevak, Ian Macfarlane, Jamie Snead, Don McPherson, Richard Truelove, Peter Pearre, Suzanne Frasier and Ed Berlin. We also owe enormous gratitude to Al Copp, who led this effort for many years. Sadly, Al passed away in 2017 before he could see the fruits of his labor.

The next phase for the Roland Water Tower is the creation of the pocket park at its base. Unknown Studio was hired last year to lead a robust community engagement effort that will guide the scope of the project. We are currently waiting on the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) for approval of our plans. Once we have MHT approval, we will share the options with the community.

There is also wonderful news on the improvements to the Stony Run. Back in 2018, the Community Foundation led the effort to create a Strategic Plan for the northern portion of the Stony Run. Our hope was that there would be such value in the plan that residents along the southern portion of the stream would want one as well. Sure enough, with the support of Johns Hopkins University, the Friends of Stony Run (FSR), embarked on the Strategic Plan for the southern end. FSR hired Tom Gilloway with Mahan Rykiel, the same team that led our effort. How exciting! If you want to get involved, go to the Friends of Stony Run website (stonyrun.org).

Finally, we are waiting to hear from the Baltimore Country Club on our proposal to buy the 20 acres of their land to create Hillside Park. Keep your fingers crossed! ❖

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Habitat and Pollinator Planning for Spring

By Devra Kitterman

Each fall, I tramp about my yard with a small notepad, assessing my habitat and pollinator forage plantings to determine:

- Which areas need additional soil, organic matter and amendments?
- Which plants are the best performers and should I add to their number?
- Which plants are not performing well, and need to be moved, trimmed or eliminated?
- Which perennials should be pruned back harder early next summer to increase overall strength and flowering?
- Which plants need to be tagged to protect their locations from being disturbed next spring?
- Whether I can squeeze in another high-performing pollinator plant without blocking sunlight to nearby plants?
- Where are all these darned ivy sproutlets coming from?

In pondering these questions, it helps to think of your garden or landscape first in terms of management, which every plant and landscape eventually requires.

My husband once wondered aloud, amused, why we were laboring in the yard he thought was supposed to be “low maintenance”. In fact, it always has been. Due to a large maple tree that grew in front of our house and multiple 100-year-old-plus trees that grew behind it, our yard—typical of many in Roland Park—was very shaded during our first 17 years in the neighborhood. So, I planted a Japanese Shade Garden, with many dwarf conifers, 21 types of Japanese maples, a rare fern-leafed azalea, moss and lots of shade-loving perennials. After I became a beekeeper and the large maple died fortuitously, I found myself with a very hot, sunny front yard, and I jumped at the opportunity to completely change the landscape with habitat and pollinator plantings.

And yet, the management of our landscape hasn't changed much and it remains relatively low maintenance. It undergoes a spring clean-up, during which plants are moved and soil is amended, as needed, and a bit of meticulous mulching is done. In late spring and early summer, we cut back several types of vigorous perennials to maximize flowering. We have only a few patches of grass, which will soon give way to additional planting areas and another permeable stone walkway. For people who enjoy a bit of yard work, this is the way to go, especially given the many visceral delights of a habitat- and pollinator-oriented landscape. Further, management of a low maintenance landscape requires less labor (and noise!) than a yard that must be mowed every week during warm weather, in perpetuity and for no environmental benefit. In the fall, we blow or rake the leaves into the planted beds to protect insect eggs, insulate insects that nest underground in the winter, and provide cover for wildlife and birds during the harshest weather.



Photo: Devra Kitterman

As I write this, the corner of my eye is catching constant movement outside my window—small birds feeding on seed heads of asters, coneflowers, goldenrods, evening primrose, false sunflower and common boneset. We wait until late winter to cut these back, after the birds have stripped away all the seeds. A few weeks ago, cardinals and squirrels were eating fruits from our native *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood) and non-native, variegated *Cornus kousa* ‘Wolf Eyes’ (Kousa dogwood), a reminder of how important fruiting trees are to wildlife. The fruit of the *Ilex opaca* (American holly) and several other Ilex cultivars provide critically needed sustenance in January and February for hungry migrating birds. They are particularly favored by cardinals and robins, and are one of the top five flowering trees for pollinators in the spring.

If you're up for making some changes, here are a few more great plants to consider:

Generally, plants that are the most valuable for pollinators are messy, especially when it comes to trees. *Tilia americana* (American linden or basswood), *Liriodendron tulipifera* (tulip tree or yellow poplar) and *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple) all drop lots of spent flowers or seeds (i.e., organic matter and future soil).

My window boxes are filled with *agastache* (hummingbird mint or hyssop), a generous, fragrant and bountiful perennial that blooms from the beginning of June well into the fall. While my front steps are always covered with tiny dead hyssop flowers, we don't mind having to sweep them. We enjoy the fact that our yard is so natural—home to a multitude of birds, chipmunks and insects. Thanks to an overly bright street light, I can see moths and other pollinators visiting the agastache throughout the night, a reminder of the many important creatures that feed after dark, completely unnoticed by most humans. Agastache is one of the very best perennial pollinator plants, and I also have it in several sunny locations

Q&A with Education Director at Cylburn Arboretum Friends

Cylburn Arboretum Friends is excited to welcome Erika Castillo as our new education director. We are looking forward to everyone meeting her in person but, in the meantime, here is a glimpse into her plans for nature education programming at the Arboretum.

What are you looking forward to most about being the Education Director for CAF? I am thrilled to be working at Cylburn, on these gorgeous grounds! I love being outdoors with students and I'm looking forward to helping them to build knowledge and make connections with their world.

Where did you grow up and how did that influence your decision to study nature? I grew up on the Florida panhandle. My father was a professor of horticulture at a research station through the woods from our house. I spent endless hours in the woods and fields as a child. I'd play in the muddy creek in my yard, and pick blueberries and peaches in the fields at my father's work. When I went to college, I wasn't sure exactly what I wanted to study and changed my major several times, however, I kept coming back to the natural sciences, and wanting to share nature with children was what brought me into teaching.

Where did you go to school and what did you study? I earned my BS and MS in entomology and nematology, with a concentration in biology education, at the University of Florida. I also completed all the coursework for an MS in science education. I feel like I really learned how to teach from my phenomenal science education professor, Dr. Linda Cronin Jones. I owe a lot to her!

Where have you taught? After earning my master's degree, I taught in a public school in Gainesville, FL, for a year. In Maryland, I've taught in the Montgomery County Public Schools and the Baltimore City Public Schools, most recently at Tunbridge Public Charter School on York Road. I've also taught preschoolers as well as college students, but have the most experience with middle schoolers.

What type of programming should people expect this next year? My approach to nature education is to harness children's natural curiosity and enthusiasm for nature and direct it through engaging, inquiry-based activities. For example, rather than lecturing about biodiversity, students will estimate the number of species found in one square foot of ground. Then, getting down on their bellies and using a magnifying glass, they will count the types of plants, fungi and animals they find in their square. Students may be amazed at the number of different living things in such a small space! Then, they can compare this number with their estimate, leading to a discussion about biodiversity—what is it, why is it important? How does the biodiversity in a square of grass compare to the biodiversity in a square of forest floor? The end goals are, of course, increased knowledge and awareness of the natural world but, above all, developing a true kinship with nature.



Erika Castillo is excited to share her love of nature as Cylburn's new education director.
Photo courtesy of Cylburn

Is there any special philosophy that guides your work? I believe joy should permeate learning. When we engage with nature in a joyful and meaningful way, we are no longer simply passive observers, but want to care for, protect and continue to enjoy it. Wendell Berry said, when receiving a national award (he was quoting the title of a book by another author), "It all turns on affection." My hope is that by helping children to love and appreciate the earth, they will live lives that care for the world.

Do you have a special area of interest when it comes to the natural world? I am especially interested in watersheds and the ways that huge areas of land are linked to specific bodies of water. It's amazing to me that we are so connected to the Chesapeake Bay even when standing on top of a hill at Cylburn. Along these lines, I love hunting for aquatic macroinvertebrates in streams (we found crayfish and caddisfly larvae in the stream today at camp!). My family has also recently gotten into birding, which is a passion my mom instilled in me and my children (my daughter is 11 and my son is 9). More time at home during COVID gave us ample opportunities for bird-watching.

How will having the new Nature Education Center impact the way future visitors experience the Arboretum (or nature)? The Nature Education Center will be a homebase for our educational programming, and having a space to gather indoors opens up a lot of options for programs at Cylburn. The Nature Education Center will create an interactive learning space that will complement all that Cylburn already offers outdoors. For example, we hope to have data boards where staff and visitors to Cylburn can share with others what to be on the lookout for on the grounds. I hope our center will orient visitors and help them understand the ecology and complexities of the Arboretum in ways they might not grasp simply from walking the grounds.

Erika is accepting field trip requests for the spring and can be reached at Erika.castillo@cylburn.org. ❖

Signature Gumbo

Miss Shirley's Cafe

Gumbo Ingredients

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

Grits Ingredients

½ cup uncooked bacon, diced	¾ cup stone-ground grits
¾ cup whole milk	2 T. mascarpone cheese
¾ cup heavy cream	Salt and pepper to taste
1 ¼ cup water	

In a large pot over medium-high heat, sauté the chopped bacon, stirring frequently to brown bacon but being careful not to burn it. Add milk, cream and water to pot. Bring to a simmer and stir in the stone-ground grits using a wire whisk. Continue to stir until there are no lumps. Lower heat, continuing to stir 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 grits become too thick before being fully cooked, add more water. Once grits are fully cooked, remove pot from heat. Whisk in mascarpone and season to taste with salt and pepper. ❖



Photo courtesy of Miss Shirley's Cafe

Sauté andouille sausage and chicken in a large pot with 1 oz. of butter. Stir in gumbo filé, thyme and garlic. When chicken is cooked (about 10 minutes), add celery and onion, cooking and stirring for about 5 minutes. Add red and yellow peppers, and tomato paste. Stir in wine, lemon juice and Worcestershire sauce, and cook for 5 minutes. Add diced tomatoes, shrimp and chicken base, clam juice and 2 cups of water. Bring to a boil and add okra and Tabasco® sauce.

In a small pot, melt 3 oz. butter and whisk in flour. Cook mixture over low heat, stirring constantly to form a dark roux. Whisk roux into gumbo slowly and let simmer for 10 to 15 minutes. Add cooked shrimp and crawfish, and stir until heated. Serve hot, topped with grits and dusted with Cajun spice and a 2 oz. scoop of grits.

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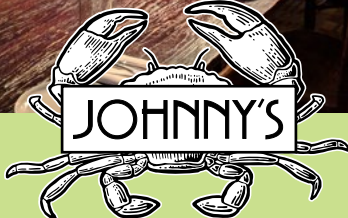
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1 bottle dry white wine	1 tsp. cinnamon
½ cup Tito's vodka	1 tsp. cloves
¼ cup Cointreau or Triple Sec	4 star anise pods
½ cup apple cider	1 inch ginger root, peeled and diced
½ cup brown sugar	

To make apple cider syrup, simmer apple cider, brown sugar (if you don't want to add sugar, add a splash of orange juice instead), cinnamon, cloves, star anise pods and ginger root for 30 minutes, then strain and cool.

Combine syrup, white wine, vodka and Cointreau or Triple Sec, and serve over ice in glasses. Garnish with apple slices. ❖

Greater Roland Park Home Sales (August–October 2021)

	LIST PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
4902 Wilmslow Rd	\$ 539,500	\$ 560,000
106 Woodlawn Rd.	\$ 595,000	\$ 600,000
101 Park Ln.	\$ 695,000	\$ 675,000
600 Edgevale Rd.	\$ 598,000	\$ 678,000
301 Club Rd.	\$ 715,000	\$ 782,000
306 Woodlawn Rd.	\$ 869,000	\$ 887,500
17 Midvale Rd.	\$ 947,500	\$ 901,888
3 Kenwood Rd	\$1,095,000	\$1,050,000
6 Elmhurst Rd.	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000
119 Beechdale Rd.	\$1,095,000	\$1,057,500
4612 Roland Ave.	\$1,495,000	\$1,355,000
4707 Roland Ave.	\$1,475,000	\$1,570,000
210 Club Rd.	\$2,488,000	\$2,300,000
205 Goodwood Gardens	\$2,750,000	\$2,300,000

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Christian Donovan Named Head of Friends School

Friends School of Baltimore recently announced Christian Donovan as its next head of school after an intensive national search. Donovan will come to Friends from Head-Royce School in Oakland, CA, where he currently serves as the assistant head of school and director of strategic research. Prior to serving as assistant head, he worked for seven years as Head-Royce's director of enrollment management and as director of admissions and enrollment management at his alma mater, George School, a Quaker school in Newton, PA.

"I am deeply honored for the opportunity to lead Friends School of Baltimore," Donovan says. "As a lifelong member of the independent school community, I have had the great fortune to provide leadership in multiple areas over the course of my career. I believe deeply that schools should be places where students and adults pursue academic excellence, seek community, build trust and develop their own sense of identity."



Christian Donovan will be the 13th head of Friends School. Photo courtesy of Friends School

A statement from the school's search committee's co-clerks, Norman Forbush (1978 and parent of a 2021 graduate) and Lester Davis (parent of members of the 2028 and 2030 classes), "After intentional reflection, carefully weighing all that is needed for our school at this time, we developed a strong sense that Christian is the right person to lead Friends. He is described by colleagues as a thoughtful and collaborative leader—someone adept at creating culture and making people feel heard. He also has deep experience with Quakerism as someone who both attended and worked at a Quaker School and as the child of a Quaker."

Donovan will be the 13th head of school, following the leadership of Interim Head Dennis Bisgaard and previous Head of School Matt Micciche. He is set to begin

his tenure at Friends School on July 1, 2022. ❖

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

HABITAT/POLLINATOR PLANNING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

in my yard. The best locally available cultivars are 'Black Adder', 'Purple Haze', 'Blue Fortune' and 'Blue giant' hyssop (note that bees are very attracted to pink, blue and purple flowers).

If you have a sunny spot along the edge of a planting bed, treat yourself and your pollinators to *Calamintha nepeta*, either 'White Cloud' or 'Blue Cloud' (lesser calamint). This absolutely fantastic and underused plant also blooms from the beginning of June well into the fall, is a low grower at up to 15 inches, performs optimally in sun, has tiny, minty leaves and flowers, and is a favorite of bees and smaller pollinators. I shear mine back in the late winter to encourage fuller, thicker growth and heavier blooming in the coming year. Another benefit is that deer hate this plant. It's no wonder that lesser calamint was designated the Perennial Plant of the Year for 2021.

A 2018 Perennial Plant of the Year is *Allium 'Millenium'*, one of the ornamental onions. A great pollinator plant, blooming from July through August, the 12-inch foliage is attractive and compact, with copious purplish flowers. You cannot have enough of any form of allium, which can be purchased as bulbs or potted. Try *Allium schubertii* (tumbleweed onion), which resembles a large Sputnik.

Questions about your garden and plantings? Email me at devra.kitterman@gmail.com.

Have a peaceful and safe winter, neighbors! ❖

KAYLA KURTZ
CLASS OF 2021

Attending Loyola University
New Orleans for Nursing

"I want to be a nurse because there is a lack of representation of biracial women in the medical field. I want to be a nurse that never places judgment on her patients."

experience.friendsbalt.org

Gateway Scholars Program at GFS

A key focus of the educational experience at Garrison Forest School (GFS) is helping students discover their authentic voices, and encouraging students to use their voices to shape the world with confidence and creativity. As part of discovering their voices and their passion, students are encouraged to embrace the joy of learning and follow their natural curiosity in a supportive campus environment. The Upper School recently announced a program that will give students the opportunity to follow this approach to learning while delving deeper into a specific area of study: the Gateway Scholars Program.

An immersive learning program designed to challenge students, enrich their experience, deepen their understanding and document their process of discovery, the Gateway Scholars Program offers tracks in Global Citizenship, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), and Visual Art and Design. Once they identify their area of interest, students work with advisors to create the combination of requirements that will be most interesting and meaningful for their individual path. Each track offers a personalized combination of interdisciplinary coursework, co-curricular engagement and leadership, experiential learning, and on- and off-campus mentoring. Ultimately, students will leave the program with a portfolio that represents their learning experiences throughout the program and certification in their chosen area of focus.

"This program really helps our students find their passion and their voices, and helps them as they plan to move on

to their next steps in college," says Reema Khanchandani, head of the Upper School. "It connects those students who have an idea of what their interests may be with experiential learning opportunities, curricular and co-curricular options, and mentors for a comprehensive, unique educational experience."

The program builds on academic strengths that have long existed at GFS, including a focus on hands-on experiences and cross-curricular learning. Built for flexibility, it offers entry as early as 10th grade or as late as the end of 11th grade. Students interested in the Gateway Scholars Program can review a list of potential courses, extracurricular involvement and other requirements with their advisor to determine how they can personalize the experience for their goals and needs. Learn more at gfs.org/gatewayscholars.

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.



The Gateway Scholars Program is designed to challenge students.
Photo courtesy of GFS



Garrison Forest School

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Caldecott Panelist Brings Experience to Boys' Latin Lower School Library

By Alex Barron

Every year, a select group of 13 to 16 children's librarians gather to determine the book that will receive the Randolph Caldecott Medal from the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association. The renowned award, first given in 1938 and named in honor of 19th century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott, is given to the artist of the "most distinguished American picture book for children." An appointment to the selection committee is perhaps the highest honor that can be achieved by a children's librarian. This year's panel is composed of just 16 representatives nationwide and includes Boys' Latin's lower school librarian, Eiyana Favens.

Favens is excited and grateful for the opportunity. "It's going to be a lot of fun," she says, with trademark humility. She knows, though, that the honor is the result of hard work behind the scenes. She completed the prestigious Bill Morris Seminar, sponsored by the ALSC, which teaches librarians how best to evaluate books for their collections. She also participated actively in Capital Choices, a group of librarians and other educators who work together to create lists of outstanding titles for children and teens.

Librarians like Favens take great care in considering potential recipients of the Caldecott. She reads piles of books, of course. Her committee is tasked with choosing from the pool of books that will be published in 2022, but some advanced copies have already started to trickle in. Preliminary meetings of the committee began last July.

"One of the things about the Caldecott book is that a lot of times educators have the expectation that the award will go to the most loved book. The best story. That isn't always the case," Favens says. "We aren't looking at popularity; we're looking at content."

Prior to Favens' arrival at Boys' Latin last fall, she worked for five years at Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Library System as an early literacy outreach specialist. In that role, she visited city schools, Head Start programs and other community organizations, where she introduced children to books in order to instill a love and appreciation for reading.

"I like the challenge of being able to find books and stories that [children] will like based on their age range," she says. "I can usually steer them towards something I like, that's appropriate for their age."

Now that she has found a home at Boys' Latin, Favens says she looks forward to developing relationships with the boys, and watching their progress as they journey through the lower school and upward.

"Working with children every day I get to see them. I get to learn what their likes and dislikes are," she says. "I get to support them."

According to upper school librarian Claire Ricci, Favens has already been a valuable asset to the team. "Young boys are especially able to sense when someone is genuine and our youngest Lakers are spot-on in connecting to Favens," she says. "[She] more than meets their needs, modeling reading as a means of accessing information, expanding world view, developing empathy and as a pleasurable escape." ❖

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



Eiyana Favens will serve on the 2022 Caldecott committee.
Photo courtesy of Boys' Latin



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Holiday Gift Guide

The season of giving is upon us. We asked our wonderful local merchants to suggest some of their favorite ideas for holiday giving. Visit them to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list! ❖



Left: **Local Artist Jen Kraus' Dish Towels and Potholders**, **Local Artist Steph Stilwell Cotton Dish Towels, Indian Block-Printed Napkins**

Right: **Local Artist Leonor Trujillo Mosaic Tables**



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Left: **Fair Trade Frida Kahlo Pillow and Hand-Painted Stainless Steel Cups**

Right: **Christmas Ornaments and Decor**



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Area Dining Options

Some restaurants and grocery stores offer gift certificates or gift cards, which make terrific presents for friends and family members! Buying them also helps to support a local business that may have been hard hit by the pandemic. You can even buy them for your favorite essential worker! While some offer gift certificate/card sales online, some do not. When in doubt, please stop by or call the restaurant. Remember, shop locally! ❖

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Chow Mein Charlie	508 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-889-8886		
Corner Pantry	6080 Falls Rd	667-308-2331	corner-pantry.com	✓
Eddie's of Roland Park	5113 Roland Ave.	410-323-3656	eddiesofrolandpark.com	✓
Evergreen Café & Deli	501 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-235-8118	evergreen-cafe-deli.business.site	
Johnny's	4800 Roland Ave.	410-773-0777	johnnysdownstairs.com	✓
Miss Shirley's	513 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-889-5272	missshirleys.com	✓
Namasté Baltimore	415 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-889-2233	namastebaltimore.com	✓
Pekara Bakery	506 W. Cold Spring Ln.	443-873-7190	pekarabakery.us	✓
Petit Louis Bistro	4800 Roland Ave.	410-366-9393	petitlouis.com	✓
Roland Park Bagels	500 W. Cold Spring Ln.	410-889-3333	rolandparkbagels.com	✓
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Maryland Food Bank Virtual Food Drive

Since 1979, the Maryland Food Bank has been working to end hunger in the state. The non-profit organization supplies food to hundreds of food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and faith-based organizations that serve food-insecure Marylanders.

During this holiday season, please consider making a donation to the Maryland Food Bank Virtual Food Drive by visiting mdfoodbank.fenly.org/drive/maryland-food-bank-virtual-food-drive.

"Well-fed children learn more, struggling working families get back on their feet, seniors thrive, and individuals are able to focus on more productive pursuits than finding food...With your help, we can give more than food. We can give hope." (Source: mdfoodbank.org/hunger-in-maryland/impact).



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Bryn Mawr's Pre-K Program

There is something special about a young student finding the joy in learning for the first time. Tynaya Quickley sees that excitement in her pre-kindergarten classroom at The Bryn Mawr School every day.

Quickley finds magic in those moments, like when one of her students let out an "absolute squeal of joy" when she saw a leaf emerge while doing an art robbing project. "Those moments—the surprise and joy of learning or trying something new and having fun—those are what make teaching awesome," she says.

Last year, in the height of the pandemic, Quickley helped launch the inaugural pre-K class at Bryn Mawr, making it the only all-girls pre-K program in Baltimore. Starting any new program is a large undertaking, but Quickley and Lower School Director Laurie Vennes were able to step back and prioritize the most important elements of what make a great experience for young learners. They prioritized things like bright, warm spaces that allow students to explore and gain confidence in their new learning environment.

This year, Quickley leads a class of seven, which gives her the opportunity to ensure that each lesson is designed not just with their social, emotional and academic development in mind, but also with topics and subjects that will excite them. "A small class size helps me learn their interests. Knowing what they are curious about helps me create activities that feel like something they want to be a part of," Quickley shares.

As the pandemic has progressed, Quickley has been able to add more traditional pre-K elements into her students' daily schedule and integrate her class into Bryn Mawr's Lower School. This means students have more choices, including shared physical learning spaces, while still adhering to health and safety guidelines and taking part in Lower School activities. "This year, just being a part of Lower School weekly assembly has allowed the girls to hear favorite songs, do some dancing, see other teachers they don't know yet and experience being around our joyful community," Quickley says.

Whether they are working on problem solving and spatial awareness in their device-free computer science class, developing fine motor skills in art, or improving large motor skills in PE, pre-K students take part in various special area classes in the Lower School. They also explore both French and Spanish, learn music, and investigate the literary options in the Lower School library.

But for Vennes, one of the most important parts of the Lower School Pre-K program is showing students early and often that girls are leaders. "One of the first things Lower School students see every morning is a 5th grade leader opening car doors and welcoming them to school," Vennes says. "Showing our students that girls are leaders is part of the Lower School culture and our pre-K students experience that firsthand."



Bryn Mawr's all-girls Pre-K program is the only one of its kind in Baltimore. Photos courtesy of Bryn Mawr

Learn more about Bryn Mawr's all-girls pre-K program at brynmawrschool.org/academics/lower-school/pre-kindergarten. ❖

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

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RPCS Welcomes Olympic Athlete for Inaugural Leadership Speaker Series

This fall, the Athletics Department and Gore Leadership Institute at Roland Park Country School (RPCS) rolled out a monthly speaker series for the Middle School and Upper School called RPCS Athletics x GLI. The series features guests who will share how their athletic endeavors have led to leadership experiences, hoping to inspire the rising leaders at RPCS.

In October, RPCS welcomed the series' first speaker, Claire Collins, a Team USA Olympian from the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Collins represented the United States on the Olympic rowing team as a member of the crew of the coxless four+, winning the B final. Collins attended Princeton University and Deerfield Academy. She was the 2019 winner of Princeton University's C. Otto von Keinbusch Award for the school's top senior female athlete and was nominated for NCAA Woman of the Year in 2019.

During her visit, Collins spoke about the lessons she learned on her athletic journey to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, and the power of writing down and speaking goals out loud. She also outlined three steps for success: confidence and effort, relationships with teammates and coaches, and day-to-day focus. Finally, Collins participated in a panel discussion with a select group of Upper School students who row or are in the school's Power Lunch Club, which focuses on networking and investing. Students, coaches and teachers appreciated Collins' valuable insight about how commitment to energy and effort in the small moments can lead to big results.

"There are many valuable lessons learned and leadership opportunities provided through sport," says Carol Hatton, RPCS director of athletics. "While our speakers have a background in or connection to athletics, their message can inspire and impact everyone in our community. Overcoming adversity, setting goals, reaching your full potential and embracing diversity are a few of the many lessons that our community will learn this year."

Additional speakers scheduled for the RPCS Athletics x GLI series include lacrosse player and alumna Mary Griffin (2019) and members from The Nora Project and Team Up For 1 Foundation.

The GLI was established earlier this year by Paula and Kyle Gore, the parents of three RPCS graduates. It is integrated within the Upper School curriculum to equip RPCS students with the tools to innovate and create positive change in the



"Every day, learn a little, grow a little and always try your best. You never know what can happen."
Olympic Rower, Claire Collins.
Photos courtesy of RPCS



world, and emphasizes experiences that foster creative problem solving, ethical leadership, wellness, and diversity, equity and inclusion through academic engagement, community outreach and personal reflection. The program also emphasizes a deeper awareness of one's strengths and areas for growth, as well as one's ability to lead change for the greater good. ❖

Roland Park Country School (rpcs.org) believes that young women who build each other up will thrive. As an independent school in Baltimore for girls in grades K-12, the all-girls culture is rooted in the notion that female empowerment begins with young women empowering one another. This enables RPCS students to build courage and confidence in an environment where female leadership across all areas of study is the norm, not the exception.

Gilman Lower School Builds Community Through New House Program

“Think Harry Potter without the magic.” That’s how one staff member described the house program initiative that got underway at Gilman Lower School this fall.

Instead of Gryffindor and Hufflepuff, houses are named with Latin words that correspond with the “Gilman Five”—Honor, Integrity, Respect, Humility and Excellence—words that comprise the code of ethical conduct at the school.

“The idea came from the desire to improve the sense of community in the Lower School,” says 5th grade teacher Katie Thomas. A few years ago, she and Lower School counselor Laura Jordan visited a local elementary school to see how a house system was implemented there. “After we observed them celebrate a house party, we knew it was something we wanted to bring to Gilman,” Jordan says. With a lot of hard work, support and input from faculty and administration, the concept came to life.

To begin, students and faculty from pre-kindergarten through 5th grade were sorted into five houses: Virtus, Honestas, Dignitas, Humilitas and Excellentia. “Having the houses named after traits that make up the Gilman Five was a way for us to explicitly teach them,” explains 3rd grade teacher Jen Reiter, who is on the committee.

Each house has an affiliated color and animal, which are worn proudly on custom t-shirts twice a month for house meetings, and three times a year for parties where a house winner, based on points earned for demonstrating the Gilman Five values, is announced.

“One of the most important goals of a house meeting is to create a space where all of the boys see that they belong to a family,” says Michelle Turner, a 4th grade teacher who is also on the planning committee. “Through various activities, the boys build relationships, strengthen their bonds to each other and the adults in their house, and work together to share their house’s purpose with the greater Lower School community.”

During the first meeting of the year, each house took a different approach toward that goal. At Humilitas, the boys were paired off: one older student and one younger one. The partners asked each other questions and then presented to the group things they learned they had in common. “We both live in the same neighborhood and we both love pizza,” 1st grader Landon says of himself and his 5th grade buddy, Ben.

“I think one of the biggest benefits of the mix of ages is that as the boys grow up in the house system, they will have natural opportunities to become leaders,” explains Reiter. “The older boys will become big buddies and mentors for the younger guys. They can encourage each other.”

While each house will spend the year focusing on the particular Gilman Five value that corresponds with their house name, Reiter says, “It’s the idea of them all coming



The houses in Gilman’s new initiative have affiliated colors and animals.
Photo courtesy of Gilman School

together into one whole that makes Gilman the special place it is.” ❖

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

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Roland Park Elementary & Middle School Highlights

The Roland Park Elementary & Middle School (RPEMS) community continues to demonstrate resilience, love, and a fierce commitment to education and equity in the face of extraordinary challenges. Over the course of the past 19 months, our staff, teachers, parents, guardians and student scholars have adjusted to virtual and hybrid learning, and returned to in-person learning. They have adapted to mask-wearing, and weathered the disappointments of missed hugs, field trips and the chest-swelling walk during graduation. We want to thank everyone who made and continues to make our journey one of growth, grace, laughter and community. During all of this, there have been true moments of pride, happiness and connection. Please allow us to brag (a little) about some of those moments.

Remarkably, during the 2020-2021 school year, we were able to meet many of our school performance goals and close opportunity gaps in learning. Forty-eight RPEMS students formed the first cohort in all of Baltimore City Schools to start Algebra in 7th grade! We had four students compete in the National History Day® 2021 National Contest. Last spring, 15 of our students were accepted at the Baltimore School for the Arts. We also had teachers provide special learning



The RPAF Run for Big Returns 2021 campaign raised \$65,000. Photo courtesy of RPEMS

opportunities via Instagram and YouTube (thank you, Ms. Perkins, Ms. Vize and Ms. Hoffman!). We are so proud of you!

Last spring, one of our art teachers, Ms. Porter, was awarded a grant from the CIA in a national competition. She won \$25,000 to start up RPEMS' photography program. Our young scholar/artists have also collaborated with the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation on creative arts projects.

In the spring of 2020, the Roland Park Annual Fund (RPAF), led first by Kurt Overton and then by Brendan Lilley, collaborated with Daniel Horwitz of The Pantry Catering, Terra Scott of Scotty Cakes Handmade Sweets and RPEMS families for a Pantry Push, which provided bimonthly meals to families in our community experiencing food insecurity.

Safety and wellbeing remained a priority for RPEMS after we returned to the school this fall. In two short weeks, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and RPAF helped raise \$12,000 for outdoor lunch equipment. RPEMS families were extremely generous, especially when it came to the health of their kids and school staff and faculty.

The RPAF Run for Big Returns 2021 campaign raced to their \$65,000 fundraising goal to rehab and update the school's library. This year, families, teachers and staff participated as part of our charity team in the Baltimore Running Festival. We could not have crossed the finish line without huge community support. RPEMS is grateful to the Roland Park Civic League for donating \$1,000 to the campaign, and to neighbor and Civic League board member David Blumberg for matching that \$1,000 through his personal foundation.

Please look out for the RPEMS PTA fundraiser this spring to support teacher resources, field trips, student materials for academics and safety, and community building events. More details are forthcoming. Fingers crossed, we will be able to gather in person for a real party! ❖

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

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The Book Nook

By Julie Johnson, Branch Manager, Roland Park Branch,
Enoch Pratt Free Library

Hello, everyone! We are pleased to announce plans for in-person programming at the library this winter. Of course, all COVID protocols must be followed (currently, health and temperature checks, contact tracing information, masks and social distancing) for these events. All events are subject to change.

Programming at the Pratt

FOR KIDS

- Dec. 1st, Jan. 12th and Feb. 2nd, 12:30 pm. **Early Release Crafternoon and Story.** Craft and story experience. Seating is limited; please call 410-396-6059 to register.
- **Children's Take & Make kits.** Supplies are limited. December: Prepare for snow with your very own Wooden Snowman Snow Measuring Stick Craft kit; January: Celebrate Read Across America's title *A Sled for Gabo* by Emma Otheguy by making your own Snowflake kit; February: Celebrate the Year of the Tiger with a Chinese Lantern kit

FOR TEENS

- Dec. 8th at 3:30 pm. **Drawing with Rick Wright!** Wright will teach participants how to draw their favorite people, cartoon characters and more. Seating is limited; please call 410-396-6059 to register.
- **Teen Take & Make Kits.** Supplies are limited. January: Danish coziness on a cold winter day! Make your own little lantern, complete with a winter scene, to enjoy at home. We've included a few poems to read as well as some writing prompts so that you create your own version of Danish Hygge.

FOR ADULTS

- Jan. 6th at 6:30 pm. **Roland Park Civic League Speaker Series: Ethan Abbott of the Baltimore Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.** Seating is limited; please call 410-396-6059 to register.
- Dec. 8th (Overdrive/Libby for eMagazines), Jan. 12th (Hoopla Digital for eBooks, music and video), Feb. 9th (PressReader for eNewspapers and eMagazines), 11:30 am. **Library Tech.** Presented in partnership with the Keswick Wise & Well Center for Healthy Living. Bring your computer, tablet or smartphone, and learn how to use a different library downloadable service each month. Please call the Wise & Well Center for Healthy Living at 410-662-4363 to register each class in your preferred option (in-person or virtual).

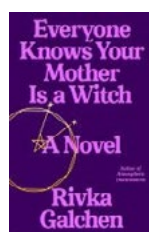
All Pratt libraries will be closed Nov. 24th at 5 pm for Thanksgiving Eve, Nov. 25th for Thanksgiving Day, Dec. 24th for Christmas Eve, Dec. 25th for Christmas Day, Dec. 31st for New Year's Eve, Jan. 1st for New Year's Day, Jan. 17th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and Feb. 21st for Presidents Day.

I always update the first voice message recorded on the branch phone (410-396-6099) when there are changes to our public service schedule. Changes are also posted, usually as a banner, on the Pratt webpage at prattlibrary.org.

Our branch email is rln@prattlibrary.org. Please summarize your question in the email's subject line (e.g., "book request").

As always, the following reviews are excerpted from the library's online catalog (prattlibrary.org). Where noted, titles are also available on OverDrive (overdrive.com) and HooplaDigital (hoopladigital.com), free services offered by libraries and schools that let you borrow eBooks and audiobooks.

Fiction



Everyone Knows Your Mother Is a Witch by Rivka Galchen (also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook). A 17th-century German witch hunt—really. Katharina Kepler is an old woman when she is accused, by the wife of the town's third-rate glazier, of being a witch. She laughs at the accusation. She has three grown children and a cow named Chamomile. She has a life to live. The

accusation, unfortunately, seems to stick, with townspeople emerging, as it were, from the woodwork: A young girl once felt a pain in her arm as Katharina walked by; the schoolmaster once felt a pain in his leg. What one character calls "the destructive power of rumor" gathers momentum—gradually, and then all at once. Galchen's latest book, which is by turns witty, sly, moving and sharp, is a marvel to behold. Set in the early 1600s and based on real events—Katharina Kepler was Johannes Kepler's mother, who really was tried as a witch—the novel also speaks to our own time in its hints at the apparent malleability of truth. "If only I had understood earlier what was really true," someone says. "It can be so difficult to tell, the way people talk." There is so much in this novel to consider—the degree to which we make monsters of one another, the way that old age can make of femininity an apparently terrifying, otherworldly thing—but it is also, at every step along the way, an entirely delicious book. Dazzling in its humor, intelligence and the richness of its created world.

The Other Black Girl by Zakiya Dalila Harris (also available on CD and in Overdrive/Libby as both an eBook and an eAudio). In Harris' slyly brilliant debut, a young editorial assistant is thrilled when her glaringly White employer hires another Black woman—but it soon becomes clear there's something sinister about the new girl, who isn't what she seems. Young, literary and ambitious, Nella Rogers has spent the last two years as an editorial assistant at Wagner Books, a premier New York City publishing house where, for the entirety of her (somewhat stalled) tenure, she's been the only Black person in the room. How she feels about this depends on the day—for all her frustrations, she can't help but be a little proud of her outsider status—but still, she's excited when she detects another Black girl on

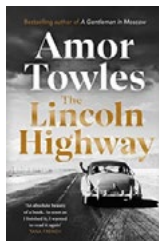


BOOK NOOK

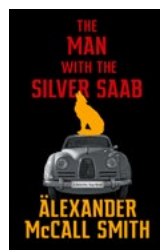
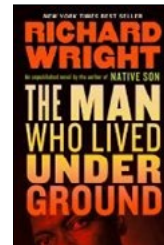
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

her floor: finally, someone else who gets it. And she does, at first. Wagner's newest editorial assistant, Hazel-May McCall, cool and self-possessed, is quick to befriend Nella, echoing her frustrations with the never-spoken racial politics of their office, encouraging her to speak up. But it doesn't take long for Nella to realize there's something off about Hazel, even if she can't quite put her finger on it. There's something weird about how easily she fits in among the higher-ups at Wagner, about the way she's instantly and universally beloved by top editors, the way her story—born in Harlem, daughter of civil rights activists, a grandfather who died protesting—exactly matches their ideas about Blackness in a way that Nella's middle-class suburban childhood never will. And then, shortly after Hazel's arrival, the first anonymous note arrives on Nella's desk: "Leave Wagner Now." Hazel? And if not Hazel, then who? Nella begins searching for answers—and in the process, finds herself at the center of a dangerous conspiracy that runs far deeper than she ever could have known. If it sounds like a moralistic sledgehammer of a novel—well, it would be if Harris were any less good. In her hands, though, it's a nuanced page-turner, as sharp as it is fun. A biting social satire-cum-thriller; dark, playful, and brimming with life.

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles (also available in Overdrive/Libby as an eBook). Newly released from a work farm in 1950s Kansas, where he served 18 months for involuntary manslaughter, 18-year-old Emmett Watson hits the road with his little brother, Billy, following the death of their father and the foreclosure of their Nebraska farm. They leave to escape angry townspeople who believe Emmett got off easy, having caused the fatal fall of a taunting local boy by punching him in the nose. The whip-smart Billy, who exhibits OCD-like symptoms, convinces Emmett to drive them to San Francisco to reunite with their mother, who left town eight years ago. He insists she's there, based on postcards she sent before completely disappearing from their lives. But when Emmett's prized red Studebaker is "borrowed" by two rambunctious, New York-bound escapees from the juvenile facility he just left, Emmett takes after them via freight train with Billy in tow. Billy befriends a Black veteran named Ulysses who's been riding the rails nonstop since returning home from World War II to find his wife and baby boy gone. A modern picaresque with a host of characters, competing points of view, wandering narratives and teasing chapter endings, Towles' third novel is even more entertaining than his much-acclaimed *A Gentleman in Moscow*. You can quibble with one or two plot turns, but there's no resisting moments such as Billy's encounter, high up in the Empire State Building in the middle of the night, with professor Abacus Abernathie, whose *Compendium of Heroes, Adventurers, and Other Intrepid Travelers* he's read 24 times. A remarkable blend of sweetness and doom, Towles' novel is packed with revelations about the American myth, the art of storytelling and the unrelenting pull of history. An exhilarating ride through Americana.



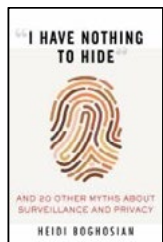
The Man Who Lived Underground by Richard Wright (also available on CD and as an eBook in Overdrive/Libby). A falsely accused Black man goes into hiding in this masterful novella by Wright, finally published in full. Written in 1941 and '42, between Wright's classics *Native Son* and *Black Boy*, this short novel concerns Fred Daniels, a modest laborer who's arrested by police officers and bullied into signing a false confession that he killed the residents of a house near where he was working. In a brief unsupervised moment, he escapes through a manhole and goes into hiding in a sewer. A series of allegorical, surrealistic set pieces ensues as Fred explores the nether reaches of a church, a real estate firm and a jewelry store. Each stop is an opportunity for Wright to explore themes of hope, greed and exploitation; the real estate firm, Wright notes, "collected hundreds of thousands of dollars in rent from poor colored folks." But Fred's deepening existential crisis and growing distance from society keep the scenes from feeling like potted commentaries. As he wallpapers his underground warren with cash, mocking and invalidating the currency, he registers a surrealistic but engrossing protest against divisive social norms. The novel, rejected by Wright's publisher, has only appeared as a substantially truncated short story until now, without the opening setup and with a different ending. Wright's take on racial injustice seems to have unsettled his publisher: A note reveals that an editor found reading about Fred's treatment by the police "unbearable." That may explain why Wright, in an essay included in the book, says its focus on race is "rather muted," emphasizing broader existential themes. Regardless, as an afterword by Wright's grandson Malcolm attests, the story now serves as an allegory both of Wright (he moved to France, an "exile beyond the reach of Jim Crow and American bigotry") and American life. Today, it resonates deeply as a story about race and the struggle to envision a different, better world. A welcome literary resurrection that deserves a place alongside Wright's best-known work.



The Man with the Silver Saab: A Detective Varg Novel by Alexander McCall Smith (also available as an eBook in Overdrive/Libby). Detective Ulf Varg works for a branch of the Swedish Police based in Malmö and dedicated to the investigation of highly unusual crimes—ones that may seem miniscule, even comic, except to the victims. Varg is a delight to follow as he muses on a wide range of topics, including his own conflicted, self-critical character. The "sensitive crime" in this third installment involves a noted art historian who consults Varg after a series of attacks, starting with someone stuffing fish in his car's vents and escalating to a serious assault on his reputation. McCall Smith guides readers through the sometimes treacherous world of academia and auction houses, with Varg finding an ever-expanding list of people who may have it in for the suffering art historian. What appears, at first, to be a "nothing" series

of crimes expands into an incisive character analysis with a “wow” of a resolution, all while sustaining its comic bent.

Nonfiction



“I Have Nothing to Hide” and 20 Other Myths About Surveillance and Privacy by Heidi Boghosian. Attorney Boghosian (*Spying on Democracy*) refutes common misconceptions that lead to public apathy about surveillance technology in this alarming yet clear headed account. Without appropriate oversight by policymakers and independent government agencies, Boghosian argues, tech products

such as Google Nest and Amazon-owned Ring can be compromised by hackers or appropriated by police, and used to circumvent due process. She contends that surveillance initiatives launched as part of the “war on terror” have been “abject failures,” and notes that one NSA program continues to collect metadata from hundreds of millions of phone calls annually, despite an oversight board’s finding that between 2001 and 2014, such bulk collection programs failed to make a “concrete difference” in any counterterrorism investigation. Boghosian also describes how the East German secret police and today’s Chinese Communist Party use surveillance technology to stifle political dissent and control citizen behavior, and notes that the U.S. National Guard has used drones to track Black Lives Matter protests. In addition to calling for Congress to update digital privacy laws, Boghosian offers advice for how individuals can “stave off the surveillance state” by using encryption technologies and switching to a search engine that “doesn’t track you the way Google does.” The result is an accessible and informative introduction to the issues surrounding the rise in surveillance technology.



Fulfillment: Winning and Losing in One-Click America by Alec MacGillis. ProPublica reporter MacGillis, a biographer of Mitch McConnell in *The Cynic* (2014), offers a probing, panoramic view of the socioeconomic state of the U.S. through the lens of its most ubiquitous company. Rather than a history of Amazon, though, this is MacGillis’ effort “to take a closer look at the

America that fell in the company’s lengthening shadow.” Encompassing histories of labor, manufacturing, lobbying and technology, and addressing the country’s growing inequalities in wealth and housing, MacGillis’ guide to this America is heavily detailed and filled with staggering stories and figures. Across the country, he ties cities to the places they used to be—both Amazon’s Seattle, where median home prices recently doubled in a five-year period, and places like Sparrows Point, a former Baltimore County steel town that’s now home to two Amazon warehouses. Always returning to that “shadow,” MacGillis shares the stories of individuals in each place. His sprawling, fascinating account presses pause on the continuously unfurling effects of a monolithic company on not only our consumption, but also our livelihoods, communities and government.

Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law by Mary Roach (also available as an eBook in Overdrive/Libby). Roach entertainingly investigates “the intractable nature of human-wildlife conflict.” (Think Amy Schumer narrating *Nature* on PBS.) About 2,000 species regularly perpetrate actions that disturb or harm human beings. Some offenses are quite serious (manslaughter, assault, home invasion), others less heinous (vandalizing, robbery, littering). But Roach observes that animals are following their instincts, not committing crimes. Featured creatures include California mountain lions, bears, wild elephants, leopards, white-tailed deer, thieving birds, macaques, mice and rats. Roach accompanies investigators on the human-animal beat all over the world, and explains their use of forensic science, DNA testing and GPS collars, scat examination, and humane methods of trapping and exterminating. She also reviews various remedies for problematic animals and notes that killing wildlife doesn’t work as damage control—nature finds a way to compensate. Roach writes splendidly about the often-surprising challenges inherent in coexisting with other animals in their natural habitats. □



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KidLit Picks: What Would Rona Give?

By Rona Sue London

Here are some of my favorite new books, any of which would make a great holiday gift for the child in your life. Happy holidays!

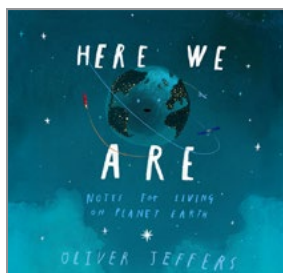
Babies (ages up to 3)

ABCs of Kindness by Samantha Berger, illustrated by Ekaterina Trukhan

B is for Baby by Atinuke, illustrated by Angela Brooksbank

Bedtime with Art by Sabrina Hahn

Everyone's Sleepy But the Baby by Tracy C. Gold, illustrated by Adèle Dafflon



Here We Are: Book of Animals by Oliver Jeffers

Jungle Night (with Yo-Yo Ma) by Sandra Boynton (includes audio downloads)

Little Genius World Atlas by Joe Rhatigan, illustrated by Anna Jones

Our Skin: A First Conversation

About Race by Jessica Ralli, Megan Madison, et al.

Surprise! Slide and Play Shapes by Elsa Fouquier

You're My Little Bookworm by Nicola Edwards, illustrated by Natalie Marshall

Picture Books (ages 3-6)

Bear Is a Bear by Jonathan Stutzman, illustrated by Dan Santat

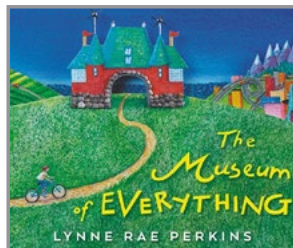
Change Sings: A Children's Anthem by Amanda Gorman, illustrated by Loren Long

The Couch Potato by Jory John, illustrated by Pete Oswald

How to Find a Bird by Jennifer Ward, illustrated by Diana Sudyka

If the World Were 100 People: A Visual Guide to Our Global Village by Jackie McCann, illustrated by Aaron Cushley

Is Was by Deborah Freedman



The Museum of Everything by Lynne Rae Perkins

On Account of the Gum by Adam Rex

Three Little Engines by Bob McKinnon, Lou Fancher, et al.

The Wordy Book by Julie Paschke

Lower Middle Reader (ages 6-9)

Billy Miller Makes a Wish by Kevin Henkes

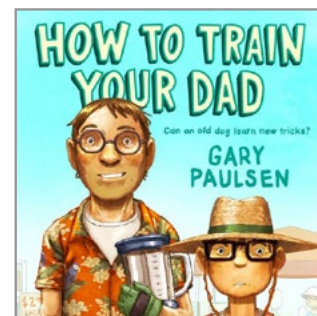
The Book No One Wants to Read by Beth Bacon

Frankie & Bug by Gayle Forman

Harry Versus the First 100 Days of School by Emily Jenkins, illustrated by Pete Oswald

How to Train Your Dad by Gary Paulsen

The One Thing You'd Save by Linda Sue Park, illustrated by Robert Sae-Heng



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You can never have too many.”

Gary Paulsen

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Skunk and Badger by Amy Timberlake, illustrated by Jon Klassen

Ways to Grow Love by Renée Watson, illustrated by Nina Mata

Wildflowers: Toon Level 2 by Liniers

Willodeen by Katherine Applegate

Upper Middle Reader (ages 10-13)

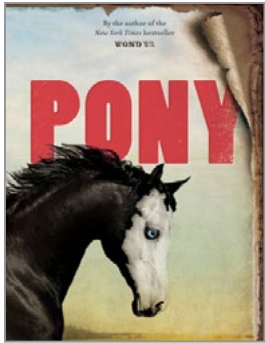
Amber & Clay by Laura Amy Schlitz, illustrated by Julia Iredale

The Beatryce Prophecy by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Sophie Blackall

The Canyon's Edge by Dusti Bowling

Echo Mountain by Lauren Wolk

Houdini and Me by Dan Gutman



Pony by R.J. Palacio

The Renegade Reporters by Elissa Brent Weissman

The Silver Arrow by Lev Grossman

A Whale of the Wild by Roseanne Parry, illustrated by Lindsay Moore

What Lane? by Torrey Maldonado

Young Adult (ages 14-18)

The Box in the Woods by Maureen Johnson

Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas

Descent by Roland Smith

Game Changer by Neal Shusterman

Instructions for Dancing by Nicola Yoon

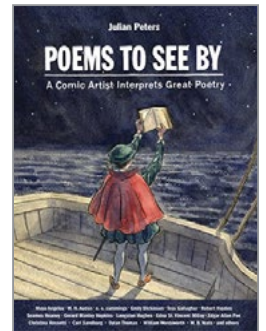
Poems to See By: A Comic Artist Interprets Great Poetry by Julian Peters

Run: Book One by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, et al.

Take Me Home Tonight by Morgan Matson

This is My America by Kim Johnson

You Have a Match by Emma Lord ❖



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Calendar Highlights

Holiday Services 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	redeemberaltimore.org
Congregation Beit Tikvah , 5802 Roland Ave	410-464-9402	beittikvah.org
First Christian Church , 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-1506	rolandparkcc.org
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Baltimore , 102 W. University Pkwy.	410-467-7974	christiansciencebaltimore.org
The Gathering of Baltimore , 5802 Roland Ave.	410-252-7816	thegatheringbaltimore.org
Grace United Methodist Church , 5407 N. Charles St.	410-433-6650	graceunitedmethodist.org
Mt. Olivet Christian Church , 5802 Roland Ave.	410-435-1506	rolandparkcc.org
North Baltimore Mennonite Church , 615 Roland Ave.	410-467-8947	enbmc.org
Roland Park Presbyterian Church , 4801 Roland Ave.	410-889-2000	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	stdavidsrolandpark.com
Stony Run Friends , 5116 N. Charles St.	443-703-2590	stonyrunfriends.org

Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Cylburn's hours change seasonally. It is closed on Mondays and Federal holidays. Through February, the grounds and gardens are open Tuesday through Sunday, 8 am-5 pm. The Vollmer

Visitor Center and Cylburn Mansion are currently closed. Please call 410-396-0180 or visit cylburn.org for the most current information on programs and to register.

- First Thursday of the month, 5:30 pm. **Cylburn Garden Club**. Free for CAF members. Register by emailing cylburnfriends@cylburn.org.
- Dec. 1st, 6 pm, and Dec. 2nd, 11:30 am and 6 pm, **Boxwood Wreath-Making Workshop**. Bring your own snips, gloves and ribbon for your completed wreath. Fresh boxwood and a soft-touch frame will be provided. \$45 plus \$3.30 fee. Register online.
- Dec. 4th, 9 am, **Holiday Greens Sale**. Wreath-making kits will also be available.

Eddie's of Roland Park, 5113 Roland Ave. 410-323-3656, eddiesofrolandpark.com.

- Dec. 4th, 11th and 18th, 12 pm, **Live In-Store Music**. Local guitarist Zachariah Lambert and bassist Lawrence Hutfles will perform a live, seasonal shopping soundtrack of jazz instrumental standards. Presented in partnership with Towson University College of Fine Arts and Communication.
- Dec. 10th, 5 pm, **Hot Sauce Signing**. Meet Food Network's *Chopped* grand champion David Thomas and purchase a signed box set of the H3 Artisanal Hot Sauce Trio (\$35.99) while supplies last.
- Dec. 17th, 5 pm, **Wine Bottle Engraving**. Receive complimentary on-site bottle engraving (up to five words) by Baltimore calligrapher/type designer Laura Condouris with your purchase of RouteStock Pinot Noir or Cabernet Sauvignon (\$25). Can't attend in person? Place a prepaid order for pickup following the event. Visit Roland Avenue wine department for details.

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- Dec. 18th, 2 pm, **DIY Bouquet Workshop**. Inspired by the work of local papercut artist Annie Howe, create a hand-wrapped floral bouquet with Eddie's holiday grocery bag, and learn about other upcycling ideas. Space is limited. The \$15 online registration will be returned at the event in the form of a \$15 Eddie's gift card.

Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301 York Rd., Lutherville-Timonium. The museum is open Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm, with social distancing and mask use enforced. Visit the shop and pick up lots of great gifts for family and friends. Family memberships are \$7. Contact Amy at alandsman@firemuseummd.org for information. 410-321-7500, firemuseummd.org.

- Saturdays in December and Dec. 27th to 30th, **Holiday Train Garden**.
- Mondays in January, 10 am to 12 pm. **Kids' Discovery Room** (and restroom only). Perfect for baby and toddler playtime. \$10 per adult, free for children.

Social Studio, 737 Deepdene Rd. Social Studio offers quality visual art opportunities for everyone from toddlers to adults. Register for classes and workshops at socialstudioart.com.

- Dec. 4th, 2-5pm. **Weave a Cowl**. Ages 8-adult.
- Dec. 11th, 2-5pm. **Indigo Dye & Silk Paint**. Ages 8-adult.
- Dec. 18th, 2-5pm. **Pastel Plants in a Frame**. Ages 8-adult.

Winter programs begin January 2nd and include:

- Sundays, 9 am, **Paint & Play** (ages 3-6); 10 am, **Weekend Art Activity I** (ages 5-8); 11:30 am, **Weekend Art Activity II** (ages 8-12); and 2 pm, **Pop-Up Class** (ages 10-16)

The Civic League meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in person at the Roland Park Presbyterian Church at the corner of Roland Avenue and Upland Road (4801 Roland Ave.).



The third event in the Civic League's new speaker series will feature Ethan Abbott, Project Manager for Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition (railstotrails.org). It will be held at the Roland Park branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library on Thursday, January 6th, at 6:30 pm.



- Tuesdays, 10 am, **Paint & Play Plus** (ages 4-7); 2:45 pm, **Studio Stitch** (ages 5-9, includes pick-up for RPEMS students); 4 pm, **Afterschool Art Activity** (ages 5-9); 5:15 pm, **Sketchbook: Explore & Express** (ages 12-adult)
- Wednesdays, 2:45 pm **Weaving Afterschool** (ages 6-12, includes pick-up for RPEMS students); 4 pm, **Advanced Art Series** (ages 9-13)
- Thursdays, 9:30 am, **Adult Open Studio**, 1 pm, **Paint & Play** (ages 3-6); 2:45 pm, **Studio Stitch** (ages 5-9, includes pick-up for RPEMS students); 4 pm, **Afterschool Art Activity** (ages 5-9); 5:15pm, **Online Drawing** (ages 8-14)
- Saturdays, 3 pm, **Flowers & Still Life** (ages 14-adult); 6pm, **Find Five pARTy** (ages 12-adult)

Please send calendar announcements to magazine@rolandpark.org.



Be courageous. It's okay to try; it's okay to fail; it's okay to mess up — because that's how you're going to learn.

I know this because I go to Park.

—Tyler, 7th Grade

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



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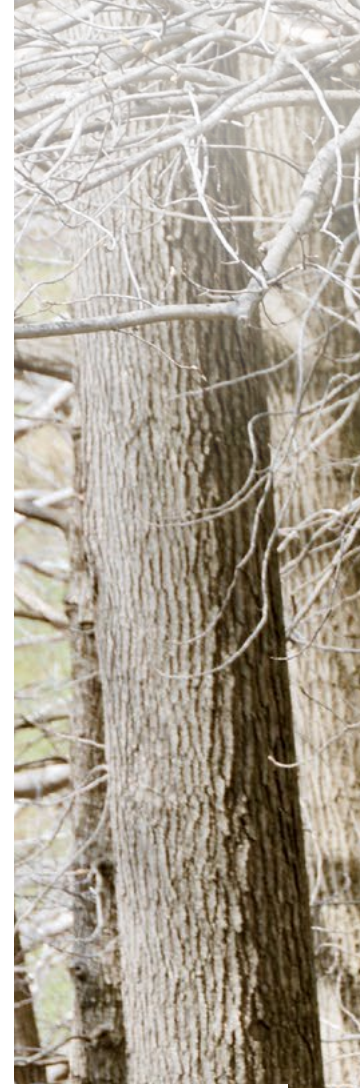


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