

Bolton Hill

Community Association

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Bolton Hill couple donates six sculptures for neighborhood green spots

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/sculpture-donation/>



Stanley Mazaroff and Nancy Dorman have lived on Park Avenue for more than half a century and during that time have become important figures in the art world as collectors, critics and scholars. Now in their 80s, they are downsizing -- to the benefit of Bolton Hill and the city.

They have offered, and BHCA has accepted, a gift of six outdoor sculptures by nationally and internationally known artists. With city government and MICA collaboration the sculptures will be installed and preserved in parks and green spaces throughout Bolton Hill and Madison Park. Added to the 28 art pieces already adorning the neighborhood, the contributions will make Bolton Hill a unique draw for those who cherish sculpture.

“This is an act of huge generosity which will make the neighborhood we all love even more special,” said Amy Sheridan, BHCA’s president. The association board voted unanimously to accept the gift and to embark on a fundraising campaign to cover movement, installation, signage and other expenses associated with the getting them exhibited.

The couple already has given 100 works of art to the Baltimore Museum of Art and contributed \$5 million to BMA for the [Nancy Dorman and Stanley Marazoff Center for the Study of Prints, Drawings and Photographs](#). The center is dedicated to the presentation, study, and preservation of the BMA’s works on paper collection: more than 57,000 prints, 4,000 drawings, and 4,000 photographs from the 15th century through the present.

The donation to Bolton Hill includes Emerald, by John Ferguson; The Prodigious Building, by Jon Isherwood, Split Rock, by Jon Ruppert; Wolf Reclamation Project, by Leonard Streckfus; Crouching Movement by Kristen Campbell and Heat Exchanger, by David Hess.

Under the agreement with Mazaroff and Dorman, BHCA will receive the gifts and transfer them to the city's Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of Housing and Community Development and MICA. BHCA's Greening Committee and its park stewards will oversee the project. The committee has set up a group led by Lee Tawney and Linda Stirling to consult with those artists who are living and to work out placement details.

The parties agreed to expedite the transfer in the hopes of having all the works in place during 2024.

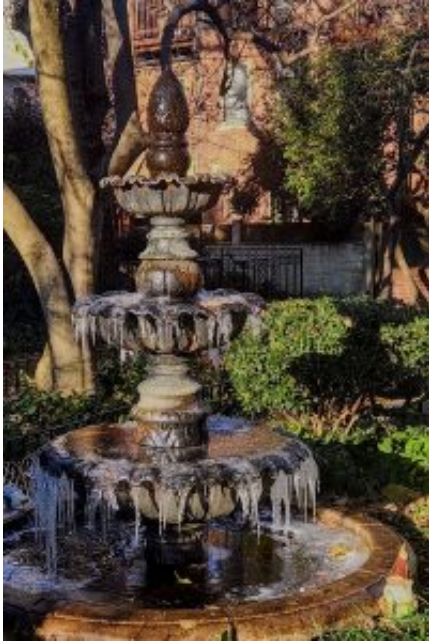
To learn more about the sculptures and their creators, [click here](#). See a full sized gallery at the bottom of the article.

Stanley Mazaroff is a Baltimore native and successful lawyer who served in the Peace Corps, in the U.S. Army, and as a U.S. Senate staff member. He was a senior partner at the Venable law firm, retiring in 2001 after 30 years to return to school and become an art historian. He has written books on employment law and two books and numerable articles for art publications. He served on the Walters Art Museum Board of Trustees

Nancy Dorman served on President Carter's Domestic Policy Staff in the White House in the 1970s. In Baltimore she became a Vice President and member of the board of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Maryland SPCA.

'Tis the Season for Thanks and Giving

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/tis-the-season-for-thanks-giving/>



May gratitude and generosity flow like a fountain; John Street

(11/29/23)

As we celebrate the passing of the old, and the birth of new, take time to reflect on our good fortune in Bolton Hill. We live in a real community that provides a web of friendship and support to its residents. This is rare.

As I updated the BHCA [Volunteer and Giving Guide](#), I was heartened by all the amazing work happening right in our own backyard. We hope that reading about these creative and engaging projects inspires all Bolton Hill neighbors to get involved. With everyone's participation we can create the safe and healthy community we all desire, and in which everyone thrives.

Whether you resonate more with seniors, youths, or everyone in between, there are local community organizations that would welcome your participation. These chaotic times can make us feel hopeless, like nothing can be done. Volunteering provides the antidote. It energizes our spirit while we actively improve our own neighborhood. Plus, working together is the best way to break down the social barriers that separate us.

Of course, these times are also difficult financially for non-profits, with many still recovering from the hardships imposed by COVID. Please consider giving generously to as many organizations as possible. Money as well as in-kind donations are needed – see listings for details.

Our gratitude and generosity can melt hatred and heal the sordid history of injustice that has plagued our city. See the association's Social Action Task Force [Volunteer and Giving Guide here](#).

--Peter Van Buren

Tom Hasler, Evening Sun reporter and Holocaust survivor, dies at 82

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/tom-hasler-dies-at-82/>



Tom Hasler in front of a monument honoring his father, in Prague.

Thomas Martine Hasler, a longtime resident of Bolton Hill and a survivor of the Holocaust, died on Nov. 30 at University of Maryland Medical Center from complications following a stroke three weeks earlier. He had just turned 82.

A native of what is now the Czech Republic, for 16 years he was a reporter for the old *Evening Sun*. In recent years he helped produce a TV documentary in that country and was working to make a feature film in English about the father he never knew.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. at Memorial Episcopal Church's Farnham Hall, which faces Lafayette Ave. In lieu of flowers the organizers suggest contributions to the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (www.ncsml.org) based in Cedar Rapids, IA.

Tom Hasler was a member of BHCA's board. He was born in Prague Nov. 16, 1941, during the Nazi occupation and annexation by Hitler of the Sudetenland, which the Germans folded into what was called the [Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia](#). Hasler's father, Karel Hašler, was a popular Czech songwriter, actor, director, and playwright who, before his son's birth, was arrested by the Gestapo because of the patriotic nature of his songs. Karel Hašler was killed at Mauthausen concentration camp one month after Tom was born, a non-Jewish victim of the Holocaust.

His mother, Charlotte Jurdová, was a linguist with a doctorate from Charles University in Prague. According to a history posted by The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, his mother was able to secure exit visas in 1949 when the department she worked for at the Dutch embassy came under scrutiny after her supervisor was named as a spy. Tom and his mother moved to Australia, where he learned English with an Aussie accent while attending North Sydney high school.

In 1958, Tom and his mother were sponsored by an acquaintance to come to America. They arrived in Santa Barbara, CA, then moved to Connecticut. Tom began college at age 16, studying political science at Hobart College in Geneva, NY. He studied European history and journalism at the University of

Michigan at Ann Arbor, then moved to Lebanon for an international internship at *The Daily Star*, an English-language newspaper in Beirut.

It was there he met and married Hallie Sether, better known as Bonnie, a New Yorker who was pursuing an MA in Middle East Studies at the American University of Beirut. They had no children. When they returned to the U.S., Hasler took a job with *The Evening Sun*, where he worked for 16 years covering government and city affairs. He gained U.S. citizenship in 1975. The couple bought a house in Bolton Hill in the 1990s and he lived there until his demise with a cat named Bud.

He co-founded a company, Press Net, that developed a network of correspondents in key states and state capitals to provide pre-Internet daily electronic summaries of news articles and political activities for organizations involved in public affairs. More recently he invested in several enterprises and called himself a social entrepreneur.

Hasler made several trips to Prague to learn more about his father and to support the production of a documentary about him, *The Immortal Balladeer of Prague*, which has been broadcast on Czech television. On returning to Baltimore, he wrote a script for a screenplay that he hoped to produce about his father, entitled *The Balladeer of Liberty*.

He was a member of the Bolton Hill Swim and Tennis Club and for years was an avid tennis player. He was a frequent participant in First Friday happy hours held in Rutter's Mill Park, a tradition founded by members of Memorial Episcopal Church decades ago.

He had a close friendship with a woman who lives in Havre de Grace, Christina Moore. Hasler also is survived by two cousins in Germany and another in London.

A church within walking distance... Payne Memorial AME fosters practical community engagement

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/a-church-within-walking-distance/>



Just a few blocks west from Bolton Hill, at 1714 Madison Street, Payne Memorial AME Church stands as an example of the intersection of faith, community service and change under the leadership of Rev. Melech E.M. Thomas. Growing up in the church he now leads, Rev. Thomas's story is one of personal transformation and a higher calling.

As a teenager he dreamed of becoming a rapper, not unlike many young children growing up in the city. "My first rap was in church," he said, with no dreams of "Rev-ing". His father, a minister assigned to Payne Memorial AME when Melech was 13, influenced his spiritual grounding.

Rev. Thomas said his early life was not without its challenges. Struggling with ADHD and anxiety, he faced numerous hurdles as a troubled young man. These experiences, though difficult, shaped his approach to ministry. He openly shares these struggles, fostering an environment where congregants feel comfortable seeking help and acknowledging their challenges.

His dedication to community activism started during his time in Chicago. Approaching 2024, Rev. Thomas is committed to making Payne a leader in Baltimore's fight against gun violence. He says this goal is beyond ambition; it is a clarion call for action, aligning with his belief in the church's role in leading meaningful societal change. "The church is in the perfect position to guide these changes," Thomas said.

His approach to community engagement is practical. Rev. Thomas has fostered initiatives to employ local community members and ensure they receive a livable wage. As he sees it, this effort supports the local economy and strengthens the bond between the church and the community.

A strong advocate for mental health, Rev. Thomas is in the process of creating a mental health ministry at Payne Memorial AME. This initiative aligns with his belief that the church should be a vessel for guiding individuals to the resources they need, be it spiritual, emotional, or practical support. "When people come for the altar call and lay down their burdens, I want to have professionals immediately available," he said.

Rev. Thomas lives in Bolton Hill. His proximity to the church allows him to be deeply involved in the community, fostering a personal connection with the congregation and the neighborhood.

Payne Memorial AME Church is set to host two holiday events. On Dec. 22, the church will open its doors for a festive holiday party at 6 pm, inviting everyone to join. Additionally, on Dec. 30th, a day-long Kwanzaa event will be held, embracing cultural heritage and community unity.

The AME denomination was founded in 1816, by African American members of five Methodist Episcopal congregations, with the hope of escaping [discrimination](#) that was commonplace in churches. Baltimore was at the center of that movement.

Payne Memorial traces its roots to the erection of the first Payne AME church, an 18×25-foot structure erected in 1895 near Jessup by its members and named for Bishop Daniel Payne. The current building in Madison Park reflects continuous expansion and modernization from 1954 forward to 2010.

The AME church has advocated for the civil and human rights of African Americans through social improvement, religious autonomy, and political engagement while always being open to people of all racial backgrounds.

--Lisa Savage

Eutaw Place salon offers range of massages

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/eutaw-place-massage/>



Damany Vinson, RMP

There's another newish business in the neighborhood, and for Bolton Hill, made up mostly of grand old residences and apartments, that is news.

[Primal Massage at 1704 Eutaw Place](#) offers a range of massage and related health and relaxation services in sessions that can be short (a 30-minute medical massage); a longer Swedish massage with oils to facilitate smooth, gliding strokes and a mix of firm and gentle pressure for lymphatic drainage, detoxification, and relaxation; to a 150-minute "ultimate experience." That includes a hot shower, a 60-minute body scrub, a 60-minute massage and a pot of tea and signature cookies. Add-ons can include hot stones, exfoliation, a pre-massage Soak or pre- or post-massage shower.

The studio offers lymphatic massage sessions for patients of cosmetic or other muscle-related surgery, with a medical recommendation. Damany Vinson, 44, the owner, is a licensed massage therapist. By law, any massage practitioner working for compensation in Maryland is required to be licensed by the state's Board of Chiropractic & Massage Therapy Examiners. An east Baltimore native, Vinson lived in London and traveled extensively before he studied and graduated from the Holistic Massage Training Institute in 2017.

Although his signage is new, he has, he says, conducted business from Eutaw Place for two years. He still lives in east Baltimore with a three-year-old daughter. In addition to on-site appointments, he now has contracts with local nursing homes to provide therapeutic services for people with disabilities. Studio clients come from all over the city, although the new sign has attracted business from Bolton Hill and Madison Park. "I haven't done much marketing except for social media," he said. "Mostly it's word of mouth referrals." Two other practitioners are also on site.

He offers what is known as lomi lomi massage and thinks he may be its sole provider in the city. This technique originated in Hawaii and treats the body holistically and spiritually as much as physically. A lomi lomi provider will leverage their hands, forearms and elbows to create sweeping motions across the body from head to toe. Using rhythmic movements, the massage can feel like a dance as the provider kneads your muscles.

“Touch is a universal language in all cultures. From shaking hands to embracing hugs, from who you can touch to who you can’t, and why,” he said.

Prior to opening Primal, Vinson was part of the professional staff at the Ivy Hotel and Spa in Mt. Vernon, and still does work there each week. Earlier he was an entertainer. Primal Massage is open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. for appointments. Some services can be covered by medical insurance.

Graffiti artists v. the mayor. Who is winning?

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/graffiti-artists-v-the-mayor/>



Artwork on a building at 1700 Eutaw Place and behind Walgreens on McMechen Street

The mayor's 90-day all-out attack on potholes and graffiti, announced in April, has come and gone. Was it a success?

Potholes, like politicians, come and go with the seasons. They are caused by the expansion and contraction of ground water under pavement. When water freezes, it expands. Then when ice melts, the pavement contracts and leaves gaps or voids in the surface under the pavement, where more water can get in and be trapped. Over time the pavement will weaken and crack. Pothole patching Baltimore-style, which is simply shoveling new asphalt into the pothole, temporarily improves the situation. Lately parts of Bolton Avenue seem to have benefited.

Similarly, graffiti is fixed most often by covering the offending "art" with a coat of paint, which in turn becomes a new canvass for another or the same "artist's" work. Here's our mayor hard at work erasing graffiti:



Mayor Scott and DPW staff covering graffiti

Alas, the *graffitistas* don't agree with the mayor. Just look at the stretches between Eutaw Place and the I-83 on-ramp along North Avenue for what seems to be a permanent exhibition of their ugly work. And Palestinian partisans again have taken over the plinth on Mt. Royal Avenue's west bank, where once a Confederate monument stood.



If you spot ugly or offensive vandalism posing as art report it to 311, then take the report number you will be given and share it and your complaint with your [city council member](#). Then watch for DPW to come paint it clean.

Sav-A-Lot strip mall to add new laundromat and a daytime food outlet

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/strip-mall-facelift/>



Strip mall is getting a facelift.

The company that owns the Sav-A-Lot grocery on McMechen Street has acquired the strip mall and has leased out the two long-vacant shops to new businesses that will open in 2024.

Harold Black, general manager of Sav-A-Lot, confirmed that the Pakistan-American family enterprise, that has operated the store and others like it in Maryland for about a year now, owns the real estate. The company is based in the DC Maryland suburbs.

He said the former laundromat, once fully remodeled and newly equipped, will re-open under new ownership. The space that for 44 years housed family-run Belle Hardware will become a café and carryout, possibly Halal-themed. Halal food products are produced according to Islamic standards, similar to Kosher products that follow Jewish food guidelines.

Black said he especially welcomed another food outlet, given limited choices for lunch-time meals nearby. He said he expected both stores to open in the first or second quarter of the new year.

Bolton Hill Notes

<https://boltonhillmd.org/bulletin/bolton-hill-notes-dec23/>

BHCA January meeting moves to Tuesday, Jan. 9, in person

The first board and membership meeting of BHCA in 2024 will be an in-person held on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at Memorial Episcopal Church's Farnham Hall.

Normally held the first Tuesday of each month, the meeting was pushed back because of its proximity to New Year's Day. The meeting also will be streamed on Zoom for those who cannot make the trip, but only in-person attendees can actively participate.

Part of the agenda will focus on planning and polishing BHCA's mission going forward.

BHCA members can get discounts on BSO tickets and season subscriptions

BHCA has become a Business Partner with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, which means that all BHCA members can get a 15 percent discount on ticket purchases. And if you already are a season subscriber, when you re-subscribe you can get the same break. Although BSO is right down the street at Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, the discount applies to their performances elsewhere, as well.

When you buy tickets online or in person, use the code **15Bpp24** at checkout. Keep it handy.

BHCA likely will organize a member night concert program in the spring, as it did last year, perhaps with cocktails before the performance. Stay tuned.

New benches brighten westside median strips on Mt. Royal Avenue

Five residents of the 1400 block of West Mt. Royal Avenue, concerned about rotting and unsightly old benches facing the street, set out earlier this year to replace a dozen of them. The project is just about complete.

Dr. Thom Shipley and his husband Chris Taylor bought lumber and set up a shop in their backyard and basement to clean and repaint the iron frames, and to replace the rotted wood with new weatherproofed lumber. "Now we have two 'permanent residents' sleeping on them, a man and a woman," Shipley said.

Operating on the theory that it is more efficient to initiate a project rather than wait for permission, the two men recruited three neighbors, Robert Zimmer, David King and Keith Bennett, to help tear out the old benches and install the new ones. It cost about \$400 per bench, with some funds provided by BHCA and the Midtown District. Shipley, a longtime resident of Bolton Hill, will turn 90 in February. He was instrumental in nagging the city to replace crumbled sidewalks in the neighborhood in the past.

Want to be an election judge in 2024?

With city and national elections looming in the coming year, the Baltimore city board of elections is recruiting new and former election judges to assist in conducting the May 14 primary and November 5 general elections.

Although technically volunteer positions, election judges will be paid \$250 for the extended day or days they work. Polls in Maryland open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on election days. A few positions also are available for early voting days. For further information or to apply, [click here](#).

Garden club greening grant cycle opens Jan. 1

After distributing a record \$7,500 in grants for nine planting projects in 2023, the Bolton Hill Garden Club is now accepting 2024 grant proposals through March 1

The grants are designed to create and improve publicly accessible green spaces to beautify the Bolton Hill community. Garden Club grants fund the planting and maintenance of neighborhood parks, public green space, and tree wells. Priority projects focus on the planting of perennial flowers and native plants, shrubbery and trees, and related gardening materials. Hardscape or labor costs to enlarge or prepare gardening spaces, as in the case of tree wells, will be considered. All public greening projects are eligible at apply. Grant awards have ranged from \$75 to \$2,000.

Applications must be submitted by March 1; grants will be announced by April. More information can be found at <https://boltonhillgardenclub.org/greening-grants/>

Artscape 2024 will be held in August, not July or September.

The political journey that moved Artscape from its traditional haunts in July to swampy September has taken a new turn. Artscape 2024 will be held on the neighborhood's edge, as before, but in August.

The used-to-be annual free arts festival will take place Aug. 2-4, according to Barbara Hauck, communications manager of Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts. BOPA apparently concluded that summer heat is preferable to the experience this past September, when poor planning and tumultuous rains made the renewed festival a loser.

For most of its 40-year tenure Artscape was held on what always seemed the hottest weekend of the year, the last weekend of July. After an extended hiatus because of COVID and tension between BOPA and city officials, the 2023 revival was put on the calendar for September. But planners failed to coordinate with the two universities (MICA and UofB) and venues (Meyerhoff and Lyric) which already had scheduled conflicting events. Then came the all-day rains that wiped out more than half of the planned activities.

Curiously, the new dates do not appear on the [Artscape website](#).

City hopes for renewed weekly recycling pickups by March

Baltimore city officials say they will resume weekly recycling pickups, perhaps by March, after a "temporary" hiatus of about two years.

Richard Luna, the interim DPW director, said “tremendous progress” has been made in restoring trash and recycling pickups weekly. He said 80 percent of crews have been hired, new trucks are on the way and private vendors are in place to supplement the 75 daily truck routes.

“The earliest we can resume weekly recycling for the entire city would be at the end of February,” said Luna, appearing before a city council panel. He said it was contingent upon the arrival of newly purchased trucks.

About The Bulletin....

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