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RB, BB AND ME (names have been changed to protect the guilty)

It was a warm September evening in 1958 when three young teenagers (or almost teenagers) left the Teen Center at Catonsville Elementary School around 10 pm to walk home. RB, BB and I had our pockets loaded with Zinchers, Hammerheads, and a couple of cherry bombs. The streets of Catonsville were still.

These fireworks were made available by way of a recent family trip to visit my grandparents in Florida. Coming through Georgia I was able to convince my father, against his better judgement, that I needed fireworks to sell to my friends for some spending money. Anyway, that night BB thought it would be a neat idea to toss a cherry bomb into an open window at the Knights of Columbus Hall (later made infamous by the actions of the pacifist Berrigan brothers).

Well, after the explosion we split from BB. RB and I slinked through neighborhood yards knowing if we got on the streets, we would be apprehended by the inevitable police dragnet. Then tried and summarily executed.

Then, it happened. We saw the headlights behind us. We turned off Summit Avenue onto Wyndcrest. I quickly jettisoned my arsenal into a hedgerow knowing full well the headlights belonged to the police, and they were out to nab us hardened criminals. I figured we were okay though because the turn off at Summit afforded me the opportunity to toss the goods before the car saw me. The headlights followed us on to Wyndcrest and the



flashers came on. At that point cardiac arrest was not far around the corner for me.

The officer stopped and said, "Where are you boys going?"

We honestly told him, "Home."

"Where do you live?"

"Birdwood," said RB.

I told him, "Rosewood."

Unfortunately, we were walking in the opposite direction to either of those destinations.

"Where are you coming from?"

asked the armed civil servant.

"Teen Center," we chimed.

"Did you walk down Beaumont?" he queried.

"Yes," we mumbled.

"Hear any noise?"

"Not a sound," we fibbed.

He pulled out his flashlight and began beaming it into the hedgerow. My heart was bouncing around my left shoulder and I thought it was beginning to fail. RB was catatonic. I wondered

Continued

why he was looking in the hedges, he couldn't have seen me throw those cherry bombs in there. After a few minutes he said, "Get into the car."

I knew that minute I was going to die and go to hell and rot eternally. I prayed. RB made strange noises.

In another moment he came to the car with a pack of matches in his hand.

"Do these belong to you?"

"Yes," said RB. (He had thrown the matches in the bushes with the police car headlights on us).

"What are you doing with these matches?"

"Oh, we had a couple of cigarettes on the way home from Teen Center," I told him.

"I see," he said.

I wanted to kill RB right then because I knew I wasn't going to live much longer.

We sat in the car for what seemed like the entirety of the Iron Age when the cop reappeared with his flashlight shining on a cherry bomb and said, "How long you boys been smoking these?"

"God, we're dead," was my thought.

"Do you have any more of these?" he asked.

"No! That's it," I clamored.

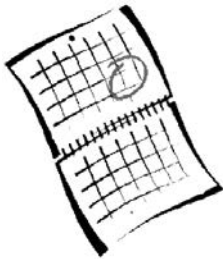
He drove us to our houses and said, "You boys better hope there are no more fireworks going off anywhere in this town because I know where you live!"

This twelve-year-old dodged a bullet and my shoe box filled with "bombs" was safe for now.

I went into my house and worked on the 500 sentences that were due on Monday.

BB got off scot-free! ■

by Tom Nelson, 119 Rosewood



SAVE THE DATES!

OCNA COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Saturday, April 2
(Rain Date: Sunday, April 3)
8am - 12 Noon

If you plan to participate in the yard sale, please email Kim at fftiger18@yahoo.com and we'll create a list to add to the promotions we do about the sale.

OCNA CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, April 9
Rain or Shine
8am - 12 Noon

See full page flyer for more details.

And if you'd like to volunteer to help make it a success, check out the Volunteer Opportunities article! ■

by Kim Marshall

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

by Kim Marshall

Volunteer opportunities of all kinds are all around us. If you are looking for ways to get involved and give back, here are some ideas (courtesy of your OCNA neighbors) to check out:

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

What	Where: Right Here in Catonsville	How
<p>Cats on the Grove</p> <p>Volunteer to help manage the large colony of feral cats on the campus at Spring Grove Hospital Center by volunteering to feed and help with the TNR (trap, neuter, release) program.</p>	Catonsville, MD	Get in touch via the group’s Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/593898201095919/
<p>Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland</p> <p>There are a variety of volunteer opportunities to help homebound individuals including delivering meals, packing meals and grocery shopping.</p> <p>Meal delivery takes place Monday-Friday, at 10:30am for approximately an hour. Deliver to individuals on a weekly basis or as needed at sites located in Catonsville, Columbia and West Baltimore (Bolton Hill area). Currently the Catonsville site is looking for volunteers to fill in when needed.</p> <p>Other volunteer needs include grocery shopping for a client (can be done during the evening or weekends) or packing meals in Highlandtown, Baltimore City (various times Monday-Saturday).</p>	Catonsville, MD (plus Columbia and Baltimore, MD)	Complete a volunteer application and attend a virtual volunteer orientation to get started. More information can be found at https://www.mealsonwheelsmd.org/volunteer/ or email volunteer@mowcm.org
<p>OCNA Clean Up Day</p> <p>Volunteer to help manage OCNA’s annual clean up day on Saturday, April 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greet and help neighbors unload their unwanted items into dumpsters and the “trash to treasures” area • Pick up and transport items to the dumpsters for neighbors that need assistance (need a pick up truck, van, or SUV) 	Catonsville, MD	Contact Kim at fftiger18@yahoo.com to volunteer
<p>OCNA Median Maintenance</p> <p>Volunteer to help keep the medians along Edmondson Ave weed free</p> <p>Option 1: Volunteer to adopt a median on Edmondson Ave between Smithwood Ave and Winters Lane (1-3 hours per month, April-August)</p> <p>Option 2: Volunteer for weeding events at the unadopted Edmondson medians (1 hour on specified Saturday and Sunday mornings April-August)</p>	Catonsville, MD	Contact julia_alexander@comcast.net to volunteer

Continued on the next page

We'd like to congratulate the Old Catonsville Neighborhood Association for their valuable contribution to our community!



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We care more.

Volunteer Opportunities continued

What	Where: In the Greater Baltimore Area	How
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Moveable Feast

Baltimore, MD

Visit <https://www.mfeast.org/volunteer/>

Improve the health of Marylanders experiencing food insecurity and chronic illness by preparing and delivering medically tailored meals and providing nutrition education, thereby achieving racial, social, and health equity.

Volunteer in person as an individual or as part of a group.

Thread

Baltimore, MD

Visit <https://www.thread.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Thread harnesses the power of relationships to create a new social fabric of diverse individuals deeply engaged with young people facing the most significant opportunity and achievement gaps. Our community is committed to ending social isolation and building a more equitable culture in which everyone thrives.

First Fruits Farm

Freeland, MD
(Northern Baltimore County)

Visit <https://www.firstfruitsfarm.org/volunteer>

Help pick crops that are being grown specifically for the purpose of providing fresh, nutritious produce to those experiencing hunger in the Mid-Atlantic region

Families with young children and teens may volunteer together!

What	Where: Beyond Baltimore	How
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National Cherry Blossom Festival

Washington, DC

Visit <https://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/volunteers/>

Volunteer for the nation's greatest springtime celebration!

The Festival seeks volunteers to help with Signature events like the Blossom Kite Festival, Petalpalooza, the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade, and more.

Festival volunteers are critical to support the Festival's cultural experiences that are largely free and open to the public.

Do you have a volunteer opportunity you'd like to share with your neighbors in the next newsletter? Send suggestions to Kim at fftiger18@yahoo.com. ■



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A PANDEMIC GOOD DEED

The pandemic was young, and working at home was still a novelty. Our adult children had moved home, our cleaning lady had temporarily resigned, and we spent hours on the weekend looking for toilet paper. With the time I didn't spend on my commute to Washington DC, I began taking daily, even twice daily, neighborhood walks. On one such walk I noticed a flyer on a telephone pole. Obviously handmade by a grade-school child, who I perhaps wrongly assumed to be a girl based on the bright pastel color choices, the flyer provided a strip of small tear-off pieces of paper that said "you can do this!!" I was touched by the effort and felt that I could always use some encouragement, so I tore off one fuchsia-colored strip and headed home.



look into what was happening and ultimately to write a report about it.

Little did I know that day that over 200 people would die from the power outages, including children. The project would come to consume my life—I'd end up working 20 hour days, 7 days a week for long stretches. There were many times when I wanted to give up before we finally completed our 300-plus-page report just before Thanksgiving. But two things helped me to hang in there, and one of them was that I had attached the "you can do this" sticker to my laptop, where it was always within my peripheral vision. Whenever I had a particularly bad day, I'd say to myself, "I can't let down my little friend," and somehow that would help.

Fast-forward to February, 2021. I was still working at home and very tired of it. I no longer could take my walks due to planar fasciitis and was frustrated with seeing the same four walls every day. On February 16, 2021, Texas was in the middle of a deep freeze and millions of electricity customers were without power. I got a call asking me to be the co-lead of a project to

So to my little friend, if you still live in the neighborhood, thank you! You never know when a seemingly small gesture might have a big effect in someone's life. ■

by Heather Polzin

CATONSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN/ HILLCREST WOODLANDS NEWS

Spring is almost upon us and the Presbyterian/Hillcrest Woodlands will be welcoming Spring flowers and the return of the native grasses to the meadow areas.


The Creation Care Team of Catonsville Presbyterian will begin cleanup of the winter plant debris as soon as the weather allows, followed by scheduled work sessions on Saturday mornings in April and May.

Stay tuned to the church's FaceBook page for more details as dates draw closer and the weather forecasts predict good conditions for garden projects.

This will be the sixth season of our significant reclamation and restoration projects on the church grounds, including our woodlands and adjoining meadows.

Interested in helping out with the maintenance and development of the woodlands/garden area? Please contact Ron Gunderson, cinron.md@gmail.com ■

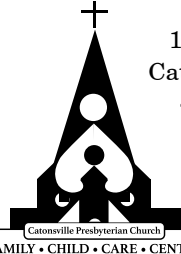
by Ron Gunderson



**Catonsville
Presbyterian
Church**

*We seek to find and share God's calling
for this community of faith through
worship, fellowship and service.*

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EXERCISING CREATIVITY

When you're tired of exercising at the gym in a mask or taking freezing walks outside, it's time to exercise in a different way. Get your creative muscles in shape. Plugging away at your desk all day leads to tired thinking. Breaks and variety can help improve creativity. Here are some creative exercises to inspire you:

Drawing Exercises

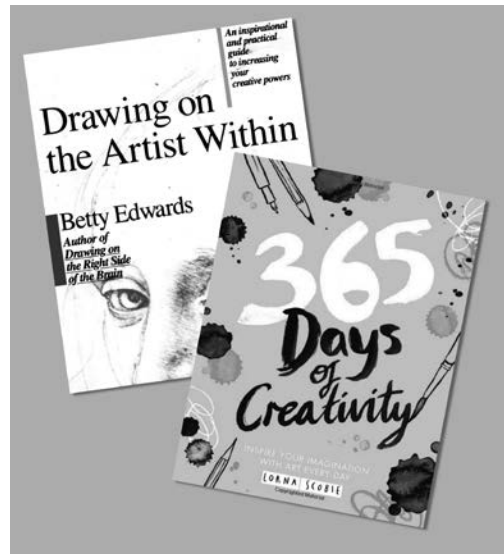
There are many different drawing exercises you can do to improve your visual acuity and spark your creativity. The book *Drawing on the Artist Within* by Betty Edwards is a great source for exercises.

Blind Contour Continuous-Line Drawing

Get out some paper and pencil and choose an object. Keep your eyes on the object and begin drawing the outline of the shapes you see. Don't look at the paper or lift your pencil, until you're done.

Timed Sketches

Set a timer and draw your subject for a minute or two. The goal is to loosen up and draw more freely with an expressive line. This works best standing with your paper on an easel and drawing using vine charcoal so you can get more freedom of



Book images from Amazon.com

movement and speed.

Do Something Else

Instead of sitting at your desk and staring at your work, try getting up and doing something else. Many creatives I've worked with swear by getting away from their work as the best way to get new ideas to surface. Move on to a different project, sleep on it, play a game or solve a puzzle.

Keep Learning

Have you thought about learning a skill but been intimidated by not having enough time? If you want to learn to play the guitar or sew or practice yoga, don't worry about how long it will take. Just dabble, you don't have to become an expert. Variety is the spice of life.

Journaling

Keep a journal of your thoughts, sketches and ideas. You can refer back to this and it will help feed your next creative thoughts. Get more ideas for creative pursuits from this book, *365 Days of Creativity: Inspire Your Imagination with Art Every Day* by Lorna Scobie. ■

by Christina Drews-Leonard

BALTIMORE COUNTY RAIN BARREL & COMPOST BIN SALE

Online rain barrel and compost bin sale through Mar 31 for county & city residents, reduced cost and dropped-off at your house this spring:

Compost bins are available for \$55 each, and rain barrels are available for \$65 each. There is an additional \$25 flat rate delivery charge. Prices include tax. This sale is limited to residents of Baltimore County and City only.

Products can be ordered at [baltimore.enviroworld.us](https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/enviroworld.us). Pre-orders are open until Thursday, March 31.

COMPOST BIN \$55 (sales tax included)

RAIN BARREL \$65 (sales tax included)

\$25 DELIVERY FEE
One delivery fee per address/order

PRE-ORDER SALE RUNS FROM
FEBRUARY 1 - MARCH 31, 2022

ORDERS WILL BE DELIVERED
BETWEEN MARCH 15 - APRIL 30
BALTIMORE COUNTY AND CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

ORDER TODAY:
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Baltimore County residents are now able to
include some food scraps in their backyard compost!

Visit www.baltimorecountymd.gov/compost for more information.
Baltimore County Executive Johnny Dismuke, Jr. and the Baltimore County Council

CLEAN GREEN

All orders will be delivered directly to residents' homes between March 15 and April 30, 2022. The delivery agents will follow social distancing protocols, and orders will be delivered to each resident's driveway or front door.

Learn more at this website: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/county-news/2022/02/01/baltimore-county-hosting-online-compost-bin-and-rain-barrel-sale-1> ■

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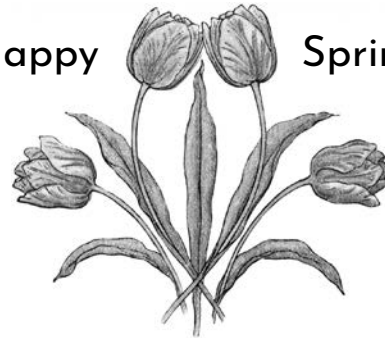
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Happy Spring!



PAY YOUR OCNA DUES WITH PAYPAL

OCNA now accepts Paypal! Eager to pay your dues as part of this great community but unused to writing checks?

Send your \$20 with the click of a button to oldcatonsville@gmail.com

Cash and checks still gladly accepted—payable to OCNA Membership, 16 Osborne Ave., Catonsville MD 21228 with 2021 on the memo line

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Space available in the next issue.
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Space Available in the Next Issue at Only \$150 Per Year (4 Issues)

- Review this issue to see the types of ads that we run for local businesses.
- Choose ad size.
- Supply artwork in black and white. Please supply high resolution artwork for your ad. If you need help creating your ad contact us. Ads have to be reviewed before they're approved.
- You must have permission to use any images in your ads.
- Proofread your ad for errors.
- Payment accepted via check or Paypal. Ad must be paid in full before it can run.
- You can start advertising at any time of the year. Updated artwork can be provided for current ads by the next issue deadline.

Contact Christina Drews Leonard at drewsleonard@gmail.com with ad questions or to volunteer to be our new advertising rep.

Deadlines to submit newsletter articles and ads to get into the next issue (usually flexible):

- Spring issue - Feb 15
- Summer issue - May 15
- Fall Issue - August 15
- Winter - Nov 15

Archived copies of the OCNA Newsletter are now available on <https://www.oldcatonsville.org/connect>

Do you want free advertising?

Volunteer to write for the newsletter regularly and live in Old Catonsville, get a free 1/8 page ad in each issue.

1/8 page ad size:
3.75" wide x 2.375" high
\$150 / year, 4 issues

1/4 page ad size:
3.75" wide x 4.75" high
\$200 / year, 4 issues

1/3 page ad
(not shown)
\$200 / year
7.5" wide x 3.25" high

SAVE THE DATES



OCNA Yard Sale: April 2nd
OCNA Spring Cleanup: April 9th

