

Neverending Stories

"I remember clearly standing at the counter just inside the door of the library in 1942, aged 8, very carefully signing my name in order to receive a library card. In a time well before TV, the library was the place that would open up the lives and experiences of people I would never know, but who became companions in my life. I would become partial to biographies and historical novels, preferring real life to fantasy!

My companions included Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women," the Bronte heroines of "Jane Eyre" and Wuthering Heights," Pearl Buck's strong Chinese women, and Willa Cather's "My Antonia." There was time for fiction, though, with "The Secret Garden" a great favorite, and,

of course, those Jane Austen women.

I have recently visited the Village Learning Place for the first time in decades and it was like going home to the room that hadn't changed very much at all (except for the computers, of course.) I am so impressed by the scope of the programs and activities you are providing for the children and adults in that community. I look forward to being supportive of the wonderful work you are doing."

— Eleanor Packard, formerly of 24th Street.



The Village Learning Place when it was the Enoch Pratt Charles Village branch, in the mid-1900s. Image taken from Baltimore Heritage online.