

Neverending Stories

"In 1937, my parents left the South to escape the poverty of the Great Depression. Eventually, we moved to a row-house on 24th Street in Baltimore, and my sisters and I attended elementary school at Margaret Brent, PS 53. We quickly discovered the Enoch Pratt Free Library only half a block from school, and our lives were changed immeasurably.

It was the early forties, the world was at war, and times continued to be financially stressful at our house. My sisters and I found asylum in the pages of the free books we hauled home from the library. I can still picture the three of us lined up in front of the bookshelves on the right, choosing our weekly treasures.

I had extremely poor eyesight and was not a particularly bright student. But I was blessed with two gifts, thanks to the library: a love of reading and a passion for language.

I recently completed a novel, *The War Brides of 24th Street*, about growing up in Baltimore during World War II. I fully credit the library with providing the inspiration to imagine such an undertaking. Please do whatever is necessary to keep this library available to children."

— Frances Munn
Roberts,
formerly of
24th Street.

