

# Neverending Stories

“For two years I served as an AmeriCorps member in Baltimore and had the luck of being placed at the Village Learning Place as the LINK Program Assistant. I worked in the LINK after school classrooms, helped plan fundraisers and communications, and spent time in the library with patrons, board members, and friends. Although I ended up there by chance, living and working in Charles Village ended up one of the most meaningful periods of my life.



Laura at the Village Learning Place in 2010.

So much so that, when Andy and I started planning our wedding, we immediately thought of the VLP garden. When we met, we both lived in Charles Village, and Andy would often swing by the VLP after work to visit me. We were excited about being married in a place that meant so much to us, and at the same time, being able to support a community organization we believe in.

On a rainy Saturday in April, we had a cozy ceremony in the VLP garden, which was always a neighborhood refuge for me. Inspired by the garden's herb beds, we included rosemary and lavender in our wedding flowers.



Laura and Andy on their wedding day in 2017.



*The wedding party in the garden during the ceremony.*

After the ceremony, our guests enjoyed a cocktail hour in the library. It was so fun to have family and friends from all over celebrating us in the library, the place where I organized Spooky Harvest Halloween dance parties and spent hours talking with patrons and community members. Our guests loved being surrounded by the books, and some of the younger guests were able to enjoy reading while their parents mingled.

For dinner and dancing, our wedding party and guests walked up the street to the 2640 Space, where many a Spaghetti Disco has been held. Hugs and blessings from Ms. D., longtime VLP librarian, extra sprucing by the garden committee, and the help from the next generation of VLP staff made the event even more special. Thank you to the entire VLP community for helping make our wedding so special!"

— *Laura Grossman, formerly of the 2700 Block of Maryland Avenue.*



*Laura and Andy in the garden during the ceremony.*