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SOLD
WESTON | $2,400,000
SOLD
WESTON | $2,399,000
SOLD
WESTON | $2,300,000
SOLD
WELLESLEY | $2,200,000

SOLD
WELLESLEY | $1,590,000
SOLD
WESTON | $1,560,000
SOLD
WESTON | $1,550,000
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WELLESLEY | $1,315,000

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We sit down for a face-to-face interview with Dusty Rhodes, founder and CEO of Conventures, New England’s largest event planning firm.

Choosing a More Sustainable Lifestyle
Many locals are committed to reducing their carbon footprint. Find out how you can join them.

A Trip to 2025
Peer into our crystal ball for a look at Wellesley’s and Weston’s future.

An Unexpected Journey
Lisa Henderson shares her very personal story of breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Wellesley and Weston “Get Real” About Sex Education
Planned Parenthood’s nationally recognized program is being implemented in local schools… and it’s working.

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Learn about the many ways Wellesley Friendly Aid has been assisting local families since 1909.
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This page gives our readers the opportunity to express themselves creatively with writing, art, and photography. In this issue, Wellesley resident Maribeth Sanabria shares her memories of walking her children to school.
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WellesleyWeston Magazine is published quarterly by Elm Bank Media, LLC, 5 Vane St., Wellesley, MA, 02482. WellesleyWeston Magazine is printed in the United States of America.

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Subscriptions: WellesleyWeston Magazine is mailed free to all Wellesley and Weston residents. Out-of-town annual subscription price for one year, four issues, is twenty five dollars ($25.00) and includes first class postage. Send subscription information and check to Elm Bank Media, 5 Vane St, Wellesley, MA 02482.

Editorial Office: Contact Editor, WellesleyWeston Magazine, 5 Vane Street, Wellesley, MA 02482. Phone: 781.235.6980 or Fax: 781.772.1462, Email: editor@wellesleywestonmagazine.com

Deadline for manuscripts is 12 weeks prior to the first of the month of a publication date. The opinions expressed by authors of articles published by WellesleyWeston Magazine are not necessarily those of the magazine.

Advertising Office: Contact Elm Bank Media, LLC, 5 Vane St, Wellesley, MA 02482. Phone: 781.235.6980, Fax: 781.772.1462, Email: sales@wellesleywestonmagazine.com

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the talented and accomplished people who live in our towns never cease to amaze me. When I read about amazing neighbors, I am always struck by their ambition and tenacity in working toward achieving their goals — whether in business, philanthropy, or education. When they share their perspectives and philosophies, I always pay attention to what they have to say.

In this issue, Dusty Rhodes’ words really hit home for me. She says, “A successful event starts with vision, then you make the frame, and then you fill in the picture.” I’ve found Dusty’s comments on the creative process applicable in experiences as diverse as a drawing class that I took this past summer and starting this magazine ten years ago. The drawing class taught me how to first conceptualize what I wanted to draw, then create a frame on the blank page, and finally construct the image within the frame.

On a much larger scale, starting this magazine ten years ago followed a similar process. I began with a vision based on another magazine that I admired. The frame was getting the structure in place to make my vision come to life: a sales team, an editorial team, a production team, and the advertising and editorial content to get things started. Over the last decade, the picture has been filled in time and time again with fresh, exciting articles, photography, and new advertisers to join those who have been with us from the very beginning.

This issue is filled with people who had passion and a great idea that they ran with to create something meaningful in their lives and the lives of others. Dusty Rhodes had a big idea as a young woman at a time when female entrepreneurs were virtually nonexistent. Today she runs New England’s largest event planning firm. We also meet three Weston women who discovered what they loved to do later in life and created successful businesses from those interests. And we talk with a couple of Wellesley moms who, unsatisfied with the computer programming options for their young children, decided to create their own coding academy. On the philanthropy side, Weston businessman Jeff Feingold found the time in his busy life to create Hope and Comfort, an organization that provides homeless and needy adults with personal care products.

As the fall season gets underway, I hope you can take the opportunity to think about your vision, make the frame, and fill in the picture. Happy fall!

Beth
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raise your hand if you’ve ever been guilty of uttering the following words to your children or other young people: “When I was your age …” My kids would grimace when I would say things like, “When I was your age, I typed a 200-page term paper on a manual typewriter!” Or, “When I was your age and I wanted to talk to someone, I picked up the telephone and dialed their number.” And how about this one: “When I was your age, I was paid 50 cents an hour to babysit.” My kids would patiently listen, nod their heads, and then one of them would inevitably say, “Okay, Mom, and why was that a good thing?”

Many of us, regardless of our age, like to reminisce and wistfully think back to a time when life seemed to be less complicated and our relationships with others were more personal. With technology changing almost daily and life moving forward at a frantic pace, it’s difficult to think about what the future may bring and it’s sometimes easier to hold onto the past.

In this issue, as part of our celebration of Wellesley-Weston Magazine’s ten-year anniversary, we decided that instead of looking back in time, we’d look ahead. In the article, “A Trip to 2025,” writer Steve Maas peers into his crystal ball and attempts to predict the future of life in our towns ten years from now. He talks with local experts about trends and their predictions for education, housing, shopping, transportation, and recreation. I think you’ll find this article especially interesting, and, to keep the conversation going, we would love to hear from you about your predictions for the future. Please email them to me at jill@wellesleywestonmagazine.com.

Another topic that we may not like to think about but, unfortunately, affects way too many of us, is breast cancer. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and the subject will be in the news with pink ribbons displayed, information disseminated, and fundraisers held. But it’s a rare opportunity that one gets to read an in-depth, descriptive account of the breast cancer journey from diagnosis through treatment and recovery. Our longtime writer Lisa Henderson shares her very personal story with us and I know you’ll find her words meaningful and helpful.

There’s nothing like a crisp, fall day in New England, and many of the articles in this issue will inspire you to make the most out of this special season. Our Ten Tips will help you and your family prepare for the school year ahead. And if college is on the horizon for someone in your family, you’ll want to read our Forum article by Weston resident Terry Greene Clarke, who shares some steps to take the stress out of the college application and admissions process.

Enjoy!
Sometimes the best things are simple.
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the bittersweet  season is upon us — and I don’t mean the horrid invasive plant that is smothering our native plants — but rather the time when summer concedes her boldness to autumn’s more sedate pace. We say farewell to all the pretty annuals planted during the freshness of spring and carefully nurtured over the summer. The perennials too are looking weary and ready for bed. Also, the last of the vegetables are being harvested, and many trees and shrubs are donning their autumnal mantles.

But before we put all our tools away there is still time to instill fall interest or fill in gaps from last winter’s destruction. The cooler weather is inviting for outdoor work and it’s definitely not too late to plant. The air temperatures are falling but the soil retains its warmth longer than the air.

Almost anything can be planted now but there are some fall planting hazards to avoid such as arborvitae (*Thuja* sp.), leylands (*Cupressocyparis leylandii*), and eastern red cedars
(Juniperus virginiana), as well as broad-leaved evergreens and conifers. Also best left for spring planting are birches, cherries, oaks, and grasses.

Of prime importance when planting is to prevent the roots from drying out, so try to choose a cloudy day and water the plant well prior to planting. Dig a hole two to three times wider than, but only as deep as, the root ball or pot. If you already have similar plants growing successfully in your garden there is no need to amend the excavated soil, but it wouldn’t hurt to mix in some compost. Remove the wire basket if the tree or shrub is balled and burlapped and fold the burlap down to make sure it is well buried where it will eventually rot away. If burlap is left above the soil level it will draw moisture up and away from the roots. Water the plant in well and cover with two to three inches of mulch and please do not mulch up against the bark. Basically think of making a “donut” around the plant.

Last spring the Federal government set aside some seven million acres of land to plant with native species to support bees and other pollinators. Why not help with this effort and choose a native or two that will provide a pop of fall color? The fothergillas are outstanding
plants and a great choice as their fall foliage turns intense shades of red, yellow, and orange. The dwarf form, *Fothergilla gardenii*, reaches about six feet high and wide, while its larger cousin, *Fothergilla major* gets to ten feet; Virginia sweet spire, *Itea virginica*, is another wonderful choice offering an autumn palette of purple, orange, red, and yellow. Any of these will thrive in sun or shade and produce scented flowers in the spring, providing another season of interest.

The Franklin tree, *Franklinia alatama*, which also can be a shrub, is a native with an open airy habit up to 20 feet and half as wide. It blooms in late summer then almost immediately the foliage turns fiery red and orange and is long lasting.

For native perennials the echinaceas, which begin blooming late summer, will continue until frost. There are many new cultivars in luscious colors to set your fall garden ablaze. Look for ‘Hot Papaya,’ Sombrero ‘Salsa Red,’ or the golden yellow Sombrero ‘Sandy Yellow.’ If you haven’t a permanent spot, any of these would be temporarily content in a container and then planted before season’s end.

Don’t throw in your trowel quite yet. Get out and dig the fall! 

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In May 2011, *SmartMoney* named Raymond James the best full-service broker in its 2011 Annual Broker Survey, for the third time in four years.

In April 2011, seven Raymond James analysts ranked in the top five for their coverage industries in *The Wall Street Journal’s* 19th annual Best on the Street survey, with the firm tying for second overall among 196 research firms qualifying for the study.

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**Ruth Furman** is a Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist (MCH). She trained in horticulture in England and spent many happy years working and gardening there. To reach Ms. Furman, email her at: Ruth@wellesleywestonmagazine.com.
one Get familiar
If it’s your child’s first time in a new school — whether transitioning to middle or high school or starting preschool for the first time — make sure he knows where he’s going before the first day. Take a walk around the school grounds. Plan your route and test out the commute. Attend teacher and principal get-togethers. Show your kids where they’ll get the bus or meet you for pick-up. And for preschoolers, be sure to arrange a play date with a classmate ahead of time so they’ll see a friendly face on their first day, instead of a room full of strangers.

two Restore a regular sleep schedule
With the long summer days, our children tend to stay up later and sleep in longer than they normally do during the school year. A couple of weeks before school starts, try beginning the bedtime ritual ten to fifteen minutes earlier every few nights so when that first day comes, your kids will be well rested and used to getting up early instead of dragging on that first day. It’s also important to establish a consistent bedtime routine that will help your child relax and prepare for a good night’s sleep. That means no computer, video games, or television right before bed.

three Get a jump on school supplies
We’ve all been there — in lines 20 people deep, our arms and carts overflowing with binders, pencil cases, and index cards. But buying school supplies doesn’t have to
“Before Labor Day be sure to make the most of those last few moments of summer vacation.”

be a last minute rush. Instead, get what you need as soon as the school supply lists are published and then put them away and forget about them until the night before the first day of school. You won’t want to be elbowing crowds the day before school starts and if done ahead, the shopping experience might be more enjoyable.

four Reassess responsibilities
While your kindergartener may not help out with the laundry yet, kids are much more capable of lending a hand than many of us realize. Assign age-appropriate chores now — bed-making, dishwasher emptying, lunch-making — to help foster independence and take a load off of your shoulders when school starts. Kids who have responsibilities early on grow up to be much more self-sufficient than those who don’t.

five Set a reading routine
If you have reluctant readers, getting them back into a reading habit can be tricky. If you’re lucky, your children have been reading all summer long. But if they’ve had that common summer slide, limit the technology time and start reading together 20 to 30 minutes a day before school starts — in the hammock, on the beach, or on the porch swing. And for those little ones? Go to the library and pick out some special books about starting school to help calm back-to-school jitters.
six Book appointments
Schedule checkups — doctor, dentist, eye doctor, even haircuts now — since it becomes nearly impossible to schedule appointments at convenient times once fall is in full swing. And don’t forget to sign up early for fall sports, lessons, and activities so you can establish your carpool/pick-up schedule. What’s more, many of the more popular activities fill up fast so you’ll want to keep an eye on deadlines and sign up before school starts to avoid being put on a waiting list or having your kids miss out altogether.

seven Make checklists
Have your kids help make a checklist of all the things they will need to do to get ready in the morning on school days — make lunch, pack backpack, get themselves out the door. If they are involved in making the checklist they’ll be much more likely to participate and it will lead to a smoother transition on those busy school mornings.
eight Power shop
The last thing you’ll want to do when school starts is run back and forth to the store. Instead, take advantage of the back-to-school sales for backpacks, lunch bags, new sneakers, and clothing—you’ll be amazed how much your kids have grown in the past few months. And stock up on healthful snacks—individually packaged applesauce, cheese sticks, granola bars, and portable lunch items—so you’ll have them when you need them.

nine Point out the positive
Rather than dwell on potential negatives, talk about all of the positive things heading back to school brings, such as seeing friends again, starting fall sports, and meeting new teachers. Focusing on the downside makes kids nervous and fearful of the looming threat of homework and tests. So instead of looking at summer as the end of something good, position it as the beginning of something great.

ten Savor the last days of summer
Before Labor Day be sure to make the most of those last few moments of summer vacation. Wear white. Take long walks on the beach. Fire up the barbecue. And do something fun as a family to celebrate those last precious days of summer. And if you don’t? You and your kids will most likely adjust anyway.
Dr. Jeannie Chung and her staff are celebrating three years at their Wellesley office location. Dr. Chung is a double board certified facial plastic surgeon, specializing in cosmetic surgery for the face, head, and neck regions; body liposuction; and skin rejuvenation. New anti-aging therapies and technologies are now available at Dr. Chung’s office including Ultherapy® (non-surgical face/neck lift using ultrasound technology), PRP with micro-needling, and Coolsculpting® (non-surgical fat reduction using cold energy). For more information, please visit www.drjeanniechung.com or call 781.235.3223.

Winterfell, located at 1940 Mountain Road in Stowe, Vermont, reopens for the season in November and welcomes you into its retail oasis to chat, relax, unwind, and shop for remarkable winter fashions by Bogner, Colmar, Parajumpers, M. Miller, Heli is for Heroes, and local artisans. Shop online anytime at www.winterfellvt.com and join them in Weston for their Fall Trunk Show in late October. For more detail, email discoverfabulous@winterfellvt.com.

Wellesley-based CycleBar is celebrating 10 years in operation this year, making it the oldest indoor cycling studio in New England. In January of 2015, CycleBar began offering turnkey cycling studio franchises across the US. According to owners Bill Pryor and Alex Klemmer, more than 100 new CycleBar premium indoor cycling studios will be opened by the end of 2016 in 28 states. CycleBar studios typically offer a variety of class styles in a dedicated studio environment. Visit www.wellesley.cyclebar.com.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Town and Country Real Estate continues to add talented sales agents to its current team. The Wellesley office welcomed Terri Gamble, Grace Peng, Erica Penny, Aglika Georgieva, Petar Petrov and Jaqueline Green. All these agents benefited from the in-depth, real estate training, which the brokerage is currently conducting for all agents joining their offices.

Frances Hogan, a Wellesley resident for more than 20 years, also joined the brokerage earlier this year and attributes her success to superior training through BHHS Town and Country Real Estate.

Wellesley’s Fells Market was awarded the “Retailer of the Year” award by the Wellesley Chamber of Commerce and won Wicked Local’s Readers Choice Awards for “Best Wine Shop” and “Best Butcher Shop.” Now in its 34th year of business, this popular local store has long been known for its quality meats, specialty products, and friendly service. Fells Market now carries beer and many fine wines including popular labels Opus, Jordan, and Cakebread. Stop by the convenient location at 326 Weston Road near the Weston/Wellesley border or have your wine delivered.

Celebrating 38 years in business, brother and sister duo Pam and George now have three Pageo boutiques: Beacon Street in Newton, Newbury Street in Boston, and Main Street on Nantucket. The winner of numerous awards, Pageo searches the globe for pieces never seen before in the US and showcases multiple artists whose styles range from traditional, to modern, to one-of-a-kind and custom pieces. Stop in and see the new fall and holiday jewelry and check out their ad on page 19. For more information, please visit www.pageo.com.

Newton Wellesley Dental Partners is pleased to announce that Dr. Christine Ambrose will be joining the Wellesley office at 332 Washington Street as a comprehensive, family-practice dentist. She was awarded the IBM TJ Watson Memorial Scholarship and NYS Higher Education Scholarship and attended Cornell University where she graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in Biological and Environmental Engineering. Christine received her doctorate in dental medicine from Boston University in 2008 and completed a year-long residency training program.

This year Bella Santé Spa celebrated its 20th anniversary. President and Co-Founder Tiffany Amorosino leads over 170 of the spa’s (Wellesley, Lexington, and Boston) beauty and health professionals specializing in skin, body, and hair care (Wellesley only). The luxury day and med spa announced that double Board Certified Facial Plastic surgeon Dr. William Numa will oversee Med spa services as Medical Director. The innovative and advanced Vectus Laser Hair Removal system is now available at Bella Santé Spa. Visit www.bellasante.com and see their ad on page 103.
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**Forever Young Laser & Skin Center**, located on Route 9 in Wellesley, welcomes **Julie Nicoletta, MD** as Medical Director. A graduate of Syracuse College of Medicine, Dr. Nicoletta completed her residency at the University of Buffalo with advanced training at Boston University and the University of Rochester and is currently an Assistant Professor at Tufts Medical Center. Dr. Nicoletta oversees all clinical activities at Forever Young and is trained in the latest cosmetic injectable treatments, laser application, and skin rejuvenation treatments. Visit www.ftimeveryoung.com or call 781.431.2110.

**Wellesley Dental Group** is excited to welcome onboard a new member of the team: **Dr. Zarah Ali**. Dr. Ali, daughter of Drs. Ejaz and Femina Ali, attended Tufts University School of Dental Medicine and graduated Magna Cum Laude. She brings an enthusiastic, high-energy attitude and will be a great addition to the WDG family.

**Quadrum**, located at The Mall at Chestnut Hill, is thrilled to announce a Todd Pownell Trunk Show and personal appearance on Saturday, September 12. Meet Todd Pownell in person and discover the rich, aesthetic experience of his handmade designs. Entice your senses with invert set diamonds and the interaction of dark and light precious metals. Mark your calendar for this very special event. Visit www.QuadrumGallery.com or call 617.965.5555 for more information.

A version of **Wellesley Bank’s** website is now available in Simplified Chinese, giving the Internet and mobile users who use Chinese as their primary language direct access to trusted resources and Chinese banking professionals. The website offers translation of banking and lending content not available at any other local community banking institution. Users will select the Chinese flag at the top of their homepage at www.wellesleybank.com or go directly to the site through www.wellesleybank.com/chinese.

**Noble and Greenough School** offers an exceptional academic, athletic, and creative experience with an emphasis on service-learning and community. The school supports intellectual, social, and personal growth to encourage a lifetime mission of leadership for the public good. Located in Dedham, Nobles is a coed day and five-day boarding school for students in grades 7–12. Come visit one of their upcoming open houses on Saturday, October 17 or Tuesday, December 8. Visit www.nobles.edu/admission.

**Twelve Points** is excited to welcome two new team members: **Jared Bilodeau**, Associate Wealth Advisor, is a recent graduate of Bentley College’s MSFP program. The second Eagle Scout to join the firm, Jared enjoys helping people through financial planning and performing community service. **Terri Defina**, Director of Client Experience, is responsible for managing programs outside of wealth management that provide the firm’s clients with added value and exceptional service. Visit www.twelvepointswealth.com.
Inbox

Wellesley Books will be hosting readings with New York Times’ bestselling authors Elin Hilderbrand (The Rumor) on October 16, Wellesley College alumnae Susan Elia MacNeal (Maggie Hope mystery series) on October 27, and Barbara Shapiro (The Art Forger) on November 2. Visit www.wellesleybooks.com for a complete listing of all upcoming events, tickets, and other information.

Meet local jewelry designer Talia Don on Wednesday, September 30 at IMPULSE by Adamas Fine Jewelry, located at 180 Linden Street in Wellesley. Enjoy a preview of her fall collection and shop her of one-of-a-kind jewelry handcrafted using sterling silver, semi-precious stones, and Swarovski crystals. Receive 20 percent off all trunk show purchases. For more information, visit www.trustyourimpulse.com.

CrossFit Marauder, located at 12a Mica Lane in the Lower Falls, opened its doors in April 2015. Offering three individualized programs and luxury amenities, clients can explore the foundational movements of CrossFit in a safe supervised environment. Try a boxing conditioning class or experience the body transforming WellFit small group training. Personal training tailored to meet individual goals is also offered. Call 781.235.2212 to book an intro class. CrossFit Kids is coming soon. Visit www.cfftm2.com and see their ad on page 33.

Have you heard? The beautiful senior living community voted best in Needham has a new name. Now known as the Wingate Residences, the community still delivers the same luxury, first-rate amenities, and compassionate staff you’ve come to expect. This fall, there are fantastic events planned for the public, including Alzheimer’s speakers, a continuation of their Tech Series for Seniors, and social events to meet members.

Sertac Cakim, the Framingham showroom manager for Landry & Arcari Rugs and Carpeting, is pleased to announce that he will be hosting the American Society of Interior Designers New England chapter “Excellence in Design Awards” and Annual Meeting on September 24. ASID New England elevates members’ professionalism and success, upholds a strict code of ethics, promotes the value of interior design, provides value to its members through its programs and dynamic chapter management, promotes an active design community, and strengthens professional alliances.

Dedham Country Day School’s Fall Open House will be held on Sunday, November 1 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Please visit the school’s website at www.dedhamcountryday.org for Classroom Observation Days scheduled for the fall and winter.

Jesamondo Salon & Spa proudly introduces master stylist Morgan McDonald as the newest addition to its team. A graduate of TONI&GUY Hairdressing Academy and just returning from Miami, Florida, Morgan brings her extraordinary talent for hair and styling services. She specializes in the newest techniques for color, cuts, blow outs, wedding styles, and keratin treatments, to name a few. Her head massages are simply out of this world. Join Jesamondo in welcoming Morgan back to the community.

Celebrating 35 years in business, ZEN Associates’ team members have been making a name for themselves in the Boston and DC markets by turning indoor and outdoor living spaces into deeply memorable and enduring environments through sophisticated landscape architecture and interior design. They are not only known for their world class technical expertise but also for working closely with clients to turn their dreams into reality from design through construction. To learn more about ZEN visit www.zenassociates.com.

Hammond Residential Real Estate, with offices at 506 Boston Post Road in Weston and 40 Grove Street in Wellesley, recently sponsored the Foundation for MetroWest’s 2015 Spring Inspiration breakfast. Gail Bogle, manager of Hammond’s Weston and Wellesley offices, along with sales associate Nicole Malec, attended the event. Bogle said, “Hammond is committed to strengthening
philanthropic bonds within the community, and it supports the Foundation for MetroWest’s mission to connect donors and nonprofit organizations throughout the area."

Montrose School in Medfield will host Open Houses at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 8 and at 2:00 pm on Sunday, November 1. Prospective families will hear from Head of School, author, and senior scholar at BU’s Center for Character and Social Responsibility, Dr. Karen Bohlin. Also tour the new Arts & Athletics Center and learn more about the Montrose difference. Montrose students are called to greatness as thinkers and scholars, as individuals and citizens, and as principled, self-directed women. To learn more visit www.montroseschool.org.

Greg Bilowz, President of Bilowz Associates Inc., an award-winning Massachusetts landscape design firm, was one of five design professionals judging the sixth annual 2015 “5 under 40” awards for New England Home magazine. The committee represented diverse facets of the New England design community. The winners were announced in April at a private Landry & Arcari gathering. A celebratory awards party is scheduled for Thursday, September 10 in Boston. Call 978.422.5040 or visit www.bilowzassociates.com.

After 35 years in business, Bob and Phyllis Totaro, founders of J. Todd Galleries, announced
that their Wellesley branch has been acquired by Mona Kumar of Boston. The Totaros have owned four Massachusetts galleries (in Wellesley, Lexington, and Chatham). They have retained their Chatham gallery, renamed Chatham Fine Art, and a substantial inventory of original paintings. Bob said, “We intend to build another strong regional art brand.” Chatham Fine Art is now in its third year. For details, visit www.ChathamArt.com.

The Wellesley Historical Society was awarded a grant from the Wellesley Hills Junior Women’s Club to support its “Winter Wednesdays” program for winter 2016. “Winter Wednesdays” are weekly programs for families that feature different historical topics. History is taught through hands-on activities, such as games and crafts. This generous grant will allow the Society to buy supplies and other necessary materials. The Wellesley Historical Society thanks the Wellesley Hills Junior Women’s Club for its support.

Pine Straw owner Tracy Cranley announced that Pine Straw will open a second store this month in Waban. The Waban location will carry much of the same merchandise as the Wellesley store, in a more modified version. Joining Pine Straw this fall are many new vendors including Nuthatch, G1, Tracey Reese, and Hartford. Tracy and her staff will be hosting a slew of Girls Nights Out with Vermont Farmhouse Pottery, The Captured Garden, Knit Collage, and Good Charma. Visit www.pinestrawshopwellesley.com.

Dr. Touradj Ameli and Lincoln M. Richards of the Wellesley Lodge of Masons attended the Wellesley High School Class of 2015 Senior Awards Ceremony on May 28 to present an award to graduating senior Chris Womack. The scholarship award is based on sustained community service to Wellesley, strong academic endeavors, and financial need. For more information, please contact Dr. Ameli at 781.237.1190.

Designs in Blinds and Drapes has been serving MetroWest Boston for the last thirty-five years. In that time it has received the Angie’s List Super Service Award for Customer Service on multiple occasions, including the most recent 2014 Award. The company offers a full line of custom window treatments, custom upholstery, and wallpaper. All custom work is meticulously done in its own workroom. For a free in-home consultation, please call 781.899.1811 or visit www.designsinblinds.com.

Tenacre School announces the opening of its new science center, with two state-of-the-art classrooms, a greenhouse, and a tide pool to complement a hands-on curriculum that encourages discovery and exploration from pre-kindergarten through grade six. Science lessons, which integrate STEM throughout the curriculum, progress from life cycles and raising chicks in pre-k and kindergarten to building balloon-powered vehicles, hot air balloons, and writing lab reports in later grades. For more information, call 781.235.2282.

Daisy and Frances are celebrating their second year as lead colorists at The Parlor Salon and Apothecary in Wellesley. They provide beautiful color
and hair painting, all while continuing their education to keep up to date on the very latest techniques in hair coloring. Their specialty is hair painting: a freestyle way of highlighting hair that creates a seam-less, natural, and low maintenance effect. Visit the Parlor Salon at 398 Washington Street in Wellesley and online at www.theparlorsalonandapothecary.com.

Patrick Ahearn FAIA recently received two awards. The firm was voted Best Residential and/or Architectural Design Company in the “Best of the Vineyard” competition for the second year in a row. In addition, Patrick Ahearn’s “Chatham Gambrel” project won Exceptional Merit for the Marvin Architects Challenge 2015 based on his innovative use of windows and exceptional design. Visit www.patrickahearn.com for more information and links to social media.

Gary Sullivan, owner of Gary R. Sullivan Antiques is celebrating his 40th year of business with a new 4,000 square foot gallery just off route 95 in Canton. “Finally designers and collectors in suburban Boston have access to a large inventory of traditional early American furniture,” said Sullivan, an appraiser on Antiques Roadshow. He offers premier examples of formal 18th and early 19th century furniture and clocks. Visit weekdays by chance or by appointment. Call 781.828.1650 and visit www.garysullivanantiques.com.

COME MEET THE ARTIST!
“PETER Rolfe” - Friday, September 18th

A solo exhibition of famed New England impressionist Peter Rolfe. Featuring over 60 new paintings depicting Boston, Maine, Italy, France, and many other locations. Peter will be in attendance from 5 - 9pm to talk about his travelling and painting experiences around the world.

“NEW COLLECTORS” - Friday, October 16th

Meet Elizabeth Hunter. An art consultant and former executive director of the Cape Cod Museum of Art. She will offer advice for new collectors and will be showing paintings by Robert Douglas Hunter and his former students and friends; John Terelak, Marie Fischer & Marieluise Hutchinson

J.TODD GALLERIES
572 Washington St. Wellesley, MA 02482
RSVP @ jtoddevents.com fineart@jtodd.com 781-237-3434
The Beth Urdang Gallery left Newbury Street after 25 years last winter and is now open four days a week in its Wellesley location at 16 Grove Street (Wednesday through Saturday, 10:30 am to 5:30 pm and by appointment). The gallery will also reopen this fall in Boston in the vibrant SoWa gallery district in the South End at 460 Harrison Avenue. To inaugurate the new Boston space, the gallery will mount a one-person exhibition of paintings and prints by Alex Katz, one of America’s leading contemporary artists.

Elite Media Solutions of Wellesley was pleased to once again be named to the CE Pro 100, a list of the top home integration companies in the United States. Elite Media is an award-winning smart home technology company based at 9 Forest Street. CE Pro is the leading publication for the consumer electronics industry and this award reflects Elite Media Solutions’ continued excellence in providing the best in technology and service in designing customized solutions for residents of Wellesley and Weston.

On Wednesday, May 20, 2015 the Wellesley community came out to support St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital at Runway to Miracles. Held at Wellesley Country Club, the event featured a fabulous fashion show featuring 11 adult and 25 child models, with clothing by Neiman Marcus Natick and Village Kids. Chaired by Dalia Nuwayhid of Wellesley and Kristie Zaccagnino of Weston, Runway to Miracles was enjoyed by 275 guests and raised more than $210,000 for the kids of St. Jude.

Donna Scott, a real estate professional affiliated with the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Wellesley, was recently honored for her top sales accomplishments at an awards celebration hosted by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New England at the State Room in Boston.

A 19th century lakefront retreat designed by Meyer & Meyer, Inc., with landscape design by Pressley Associates, was featured in World Landscape Architecture magazine. The home, set prominently on Lake Skaneateles in New York, reflects a period when stately mansions graced the waterfront. The landscape was designed with “rooms” for both entertaining and outdoor living. The property boasts formal English gardens complete with a rope swing, pergola, and gazebo, as well as an underground tunnel with a wine grotto.

A Hingham, Massachusetts home designed by Elizabeth Swartz, ASID graces the pages of two recent publications, Seaside Style and South Shore Living. Seaside Style’s “Semi Formal” illustrates the home’s traditional and modern pairings. The water-
front family retreat, utilized as a primary residence, is a thoughtful collaboration of color, pattern, and style. South Shore Living’s, “All Things Bright and Beautiful,” exemplifies the home’s blending of metropolitan style with rustic elements, and its infusion of vibrant color and coastal sophistication.

On October 1 through 8, Darby Road HOME owner Michelle Coppolo will host a weeklong trunk show to support Homestart, a charity aimed at ending homelessness in Massachusetts. More than ten local vendors will feature their product with ten percent of all proceeds being donated to Homestart. Located at 1395 Main Street in Waltham, the store carries a wide assortment of thoughtfully selected home decor, case goods, and original artwork and is a resource for interior designers as well as do-it-yourself home decor enthusiasts. Visit www.darbyroad.com.

J. Todd Galleries is hosting a number of exciting events this fall. The first event is a one-man show and artist reception for famed New England impressionist Peter Rolfe. Stop by to meet the artist on September 18. You can sign up for their email newsletter at www.jtoddgalleries.com for invites to all of J. Todd Galleries’ events this fall and in the future. Visit J. Todd Galleries at 572 Washington Street in Wellesley and call 781.237.3434.

Sean Cutting, President of Cutting Edge Homes, is honored to accept his renewed position on the Better Business Bureau Board of Directors. Sean was also recently appointed to the membership committee for the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (EMNARI). These and other board appointments allow the Cutting Edge team to continuously raise the standards of best practice within the construction industry. For more information, please visit www.ThinkCuttingEdge.com or call 508.435.1280.

The Trustees of the Wellesley Free Library are pleased to announce the appointment of Jamie Jurgensen to the position of Library Director. Jurgensen was the Board’s unanimous choice from a field of 26 applicants, from 13 states. She has considerable experience across the spectrum of library service and operations areas during her career, all of which make her a valuable addition to the Wellesley Free Library. Jamie looks forward to sharing her experience as she learns from and leads the library staff.

Haberdashery is now carrying Bogner Golf, the global market leader in high-quality, fashionable golfwear for men and women. Stop by the store at 22 Church Street in Wellesley for a new golf outfit and see their ad on page 221 for an example.
Needham Bank’s Board of Directors announced the election of Mark Whalen as Chief Executive Officer, Paul Totino as President, and Barry Whittaker as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the $1.7 billion community bank headquartered in Needham. Jack McGeorge, the former Chief Executive Officer, has retired from that role but remains as Chairman of the Needham Bank Board of Directors. For more information, please visit www.NeedhamBank.com. Needham Bank is a member of FDIC and SIF.

Congratulations to Christine Norcross and her team on receiving the distinguished award of #6 William Raveis Team for 2014, as well as the 2014 Top Producing Team in Sales Volume in the Wellesley Office. Chris received her awards from Bill Raveis at the Annual 2015 William Raveis Convention. Visit www.raveis.com.

The international home furnishings brand Roche Bobois has relocated its Natick store. Offering greater visibility and accessibility in a free-standing showroom less than a mile from its former location, the new store is at 395 Worcester Street/Route 9. Fashioned after their flagship stores in Paris and New York, the new building will provide an even better shopping experience with a larger showroom footprint along with a design studio. Visit www.roche-boboisis.com.

The Boston Estate Planning Council last week selected Weston resident William F. Leisman for its 2015 BEPC Excellence Award, the organization’s highest honor awarded annually. Leisman’s accomplishments span a 42-year career. As an independent insurance advisor for more than 1,000 individuals, families, and businesses, Leisman has had a long-lasting impact on his clients. To date, he has helped create 800 life insurance trusts funded with over $5 billion of life insurance, providing critical funds for clients’ business and estate planning.

One2One Bodyscapes now has three expert instructors teaching Pilates. Debbie Levy has been teaching Pilates for several years at One2One, bringing with her fifteen years of prior experience. Mary Guarante, the former owner of Wellesley’s Body in Motion, joined One2One recently, bringing a high level of professionalism and more than ten years of experience. Ellen Bloom-Fields is the latest addition to the staff. Ellen takes pride in preserving the classical Pilates method and tailors programs to meet each of her client’s individual needs. Visit www.one2onebodyscapes.com/wellesley.

Joakim Wahlstrom is the new Chief Operating Officer of Roomscapes Luxury Design Center. Born in Sweden and educated in Europe and the United States, he has worked on three continents. A creative decision maker with more than 20 years of demonstrated professional achievements and a global perspective, Joakim is focused on ensuring the continuous delivery of the premier design-build firm’s top quality services while overseeing the company’s 22 employees. Visit www.roomscapesinc.com or call 781.616.6400.

Tony Coutlis, owner and operator of Aerobic Dog, is a first class pet care provider serving Wellesley and Weston families since 2004. Aerobic Dog specializes in play groups, pet and house sitting, dog walking, private in-home puppy training, and cat visits. Aerobic Dog is veterinary recommended, certified in Pet First Aid by the American Red Cross, proud member of Pet Sitters International, and fully bonded and insured. Tony can be reached at 508.380.3380 or visit www.aerobicdog.com.

On a beautiful summer night, the merchants and restaurants of Wellesley came together to support the Joey Perdoni Family Trust at the Lyn Evans store on 8 Church Street. Joe Perdoni, Sr., Joey’s father, came to personally thank Lyn Evans, Candy McLaughlin, Georgia Jenkins, Jenn Shotkus, and Alexis Van Tilburg for their efforts in organizing the event. The support from Wellesley merchants, restaurants, and residents was overwhelming. Food, wine, music, and raffle and auction items were all donated to raise money for the Perdoni Family Trust.

Please send your interesting news items to jill@wellesleywestonmagazine.com. E-mail submissions only please; jpeg photos are welcome at 300dpi.
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$7,795,000

6 MILLER HILL RD, DOVER
$5,500,000

58 RIDGE HILL FARM, WELLESLEY
$5,295,000

56 WINDSOR RD, WELLESLEY
$3,495,000

32 HUNTING LN, SHERBORN
$3,495,000

328 CLAPBOARDTREE, WESTWOOD
$3,175,000

85 NEWTON ST, WESTON
$2,995,000

16 FALMOUTH RD, WELLESLEY
$2,975,000

60 MONADNOCK RD, WELLESLEY
$2,750,000

103 LIVINGSTON RD, WELLESLEY
$2,550,000

44 PEREGRINE RD, NEWTON
$2,495,000

50 TEMPLE RD, WELLESLEY
$2,495,000

16 OLD COLONY DR, DOVER
$2,150,000

181 SOUTH AVE, WESTON
$1,995,000

535 & 537 WORCESTER, WELLESLEY
$1,995,000

6 BAY STATE RD, WELLESLEY
$1,895,000

159 MEADOWBROOK RD, DEDHAM
$1,695,000

69 ROYALSTON RD, WELLESLEY
$1,675,000

109 BEAVER RD, WESTON
$1,650,000

35 HOLLY CIR, WESTON
$1,595,000

16 INDIAN SPRINGS, WELLESLEY
$1,495,000

43 FOX HILL RD, WELLESLEY
$1,385,000

6 VANE ST, WELLESLEY
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12 RUSSELL RD, WELLESLEY
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24 KENDRA DR, SUDBURY
$2,098,000

82 SUDBURY RD, WESTON
$2,080,000

38 BLACK BURNIAN RD, WESTON
$1,895,000

75 TYLER RD, WESTON
$1,799,000

221 COUNTRY DR, WESTON
$1,745,000

121 TOWER RD, LINCOLN
$1,679,000

206 WESTERLY RD, WESTON
$1,589,000

25 GLEN RD, WAYLAND
$1,349,000

24 CLAYPIT HILL RD, WAYLAND
$1,195,000

15 OLD COACH RD, WESTON
$899,000

22 SEARS RD, WESTON
$3,598,000 PENDING
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Teenagers + College = STRESS
Steps to Help Reduce the Power of this Equation

just thinking about the college process for your high school student can cause pangs of anxiety. The countless pieces of the college puzzle can be overwhelming to say the least. Unless you have been living in denial or under a rock, you have heard chatter from friends, family, acquaintances, and maybe even your own high school students about ED, EA, RD, The Common App, SATs, the new SATs, ACTs, EFC, merit grants, and athletic scholarships. Whether you have a freshman in high school or a rising senior, you are not the only person who isn’t in the know about the extensive scope of higher education. As I stumbled my way through the early stages of the college application process with my oldest daughter, I kept asking myself, “Why am I struggling so much?”

I have deduced that this difficulty stemmed from two main facts. First, I have been there and done this before. As a matter of fact, I did it all by myself with little help from any high school advisor or my parents. As a child of an Irish immigrant, I was the first in my immediate family to attend and graduate from college. Why does it seem so different this time? My second reason is an extension of the first. I am an educated woman who has a BS and an MBA. I have worked in corporate America and played a role in a family business. Why don’t I get this?

When I hear many anxiety-ridden parents ask the question, “Where do I begin?” I think about my experience as a parent launching three teens in the last five years. Whether this is your first or fifth child to send off to college, take a step back and look at the big picture. Recognize that applying to college has changed in the last 25-plus years since you applied and accept the fact that there are countless facets to the college process with which you will need to become acquainted. At any phase during this stressful time, the following practical suggestions can be implemented to reduce the power of the college equation.

**Step #1 Breathe. Just breathe!**
Breathing deeply is the most important piece of advice anyone can give you. Take it slowly and try to remain calm even though, I can assure you, going through this process will be very difficult, especially in the beginning. The good news is, it does get easier.

**Step #2 Look at this process as a marathon, not a sprint.**
If done well, the college matriculation process will take time, energy, and effort to successfully maneuver, both on your part and your teen. In order to cross the finish line with confidence, you and your student will have to plan for the long haul and establish a comfortable pace.
Step #3  Recognize that finding the right college will be work for both the parent and the student.

The majority of 17-year-olds cannot handle all of the pieces of the college matriculation puzzle alone. They will need the help and guidance of parents, teachers, coaches, and advisors. (When a friend with child psychology credentials offered me this advice, it made me feel so much better about my child and myself because I thought I had the only 17-year-old who couldn’t figure this out.)

Step #4  Remember that where you start is not where you finish.

Even if the first schools your students look at wind up being the right fit, having them explore more options helps them grow and learn to make their own decisions. This process is not just about choosing a college: it is a life lesson about making important choices.

Step #5  Do not compare your teen to anyone else.

Do not discuss your student’s college search with any friends or acquaintances that have teens also applying to college unless you are strong enough not to draw comparisons. (Remember, you will probably only hear about the good part of any story and never the problems.) This includes information regarding your student’s GPA, course selection, athletic ability, contacts, college visits, interviews, common application, independent work, and college selection.

Every parent wants his or her young adults to find a university where they can grow, be well-adjusted, academically challenged, and happy. Our goal in this college process should be to help our teens find the institutions that are best suited to their interests and strengths. Recognize that there will and should be more than one college that is a good fit for them. Do not pressure your students into choosing a particular university that suits you more than it does them.
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there comes a certain point in the life of young families. Perhaps you’re in the process of arriving there yourself. Having just emerged from the whirlwind of the early childhood years you’re discovering your kids are old enough to graduate from sandboxes to the intricacies of jungle gyms and swings.

Common practice says some day soon you’ll be buying a backyard “play set”—an enticing combination of swings and slides, perhaps accompanied by monkey bars or even a tree house. One school of thought says to buy a modular unit — something pre-packaged that you can assemble in a weekend.

You’ll want a setup that’s robust enough to withstand the rigors of New England winters while giving your youngsters varied play opportunities to ensure they grow strong and well coordinated.

But consider for a moment the time and attention you’ve devoted to the design of your home and grounds. Certainly the idea of harmonizing your home décor, interior design, and architecture have been part of your thinking in creating a quality of life for you and your family that’s attractive, enjoyable, and sustainable.
A Broad Swatch of Lawn

But what about your children and the outdoor setting in which they will play through much of their childhood? Situating a play area on a broad swatch of lawn within easy sight of your kitchen or family room means you’ll be able to keep an eye on them while preparing meals, pursuing a hobby, or working at home. But as they get older and begin the inexorable process of finding their own way in the world they may want a bit of distance from Mom and Dad.

They also may seek more imaginative play opportunities than those offered by swings, a slide, and monkey bars. Perhaps a tree house set at a slight elevation would be fun, but anything above five or six feet presents the risk of a fall for smaller children. After the age of 12, when eye-hand coordination and the muscular strength that accompanies adolescence renders trees and climbing walls objects for conquest, the desire for independence may trump your cautionary instructions.

Often the school or municipal playground offers new experiences, both physical and social, as your children mature. But home still has its attractions. For play dates or simply as a place for your brood to entertain neighborhood kids after school in the fall or spring, an inviting play area can add something special to an otherwise quiet afternoon.

A sheltered grove of trees or a high-growing stand of rhododendron may create a play space within easy reach of your back door or sun-room slider. That, in combination with an announcement that your refrigerator is always open for business, will add some assurance your children and their playmates remain within in close proximity and the sound of your voice.

Careful Supervision

Then, between putting loads of wash into the laundry, shuttling kids off to school, and getting meals on the table there may just be time for your little ones to romp about the backyard, to swing, climb, and play—all under careful supervision, of course.

Dr. Mark Blumenthal, a pediatrician in practice in Weston makes note of the need for adult supervision — that and careful play area site preparation similar in many ways to the construction of municipal playgrounds. “It’s impossible to sanitize childhood; one can only make it safer,” he says. Falls from monkey bars are a common cause of injury, and I worry about incidents in which children hit their heads and as a result have a concussion.”

The doctor, who estimates he sees one or two play-related injuries every few weeks, suggests a layer of soft bark mulch (rubberized materi-
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Which raises an interesting question: For if we all agree that children’s play is a vital means to physical development, for acquiring a vibrant imagination and the social skills that accrue from sandbox collaboration, then perhaps we need to think longer and harder about the active-play experiences we make for them and the role they play in physical development, socialization, and the whole realm of imagination and the social skills that arise from sandbox collaboration. Play is a vital means to physical development, for acquiring a vibrant imagination and the social skills that arise from sandbox collaboration. Play is a vital means to physical development, for acquiring a vibrant imagination and the social skills that arise from sandbox collaboration.

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Jenzi Reed, a pre-Kindergarten teacher at Tenacre Country Day School in Wellesley and a 25-year classroom veteran raises another issue when it comes to free play, “I think that this notion of defining a line between protection and healthy opportunities for outdoor, active free play is an ongoing conversation. Children want opportunities to interact with each other and their environment that are engaging and stimulate their imaginations. But they’re increasingly faced with planned activities. Being outside on a playground means freedom and independence and ownership.”

So what are the implications of what these two, highly-experienced educators have to say? Consider this: Might the backyard play area and local playground operate as part of a larger whole and in turn be connected to a wider world, including woods, trails, hills and even townscapes? It might take some time to connect all those dots, to create opportunities for your child to gain the skills and maturity to enter into those different places. But isn’t that part of growing up?

And here’s another factor: Some developmental psychologists place a child’s “experience of place” in the same rank as that of active play. In combining the two one can
discern an enriched approach to nurturing that goes beyond notions of swings and slides and enters the world of values and appreciation—even to the extent of developing an awareness of the natural environment and sociability.

A New Park

Such values are in part behind an effort on the part of Weston residents to create a new park in an area adjacent to Town Hall. Recently appointed Recreation Director Chris Fitzgerald, explains the various considerations behind an effort on the part of a volunteer committee: “We’re still in the planning stages but we are taking note of the intricacies of a project that when completed next year will include a beautifully landscaped parkland designed to create a multi-generational setting set around a small playground.”

“We’re thinking in terms of toddlers,” Fitzgerald adds, “and a protected environment for five- to twelve-year-olds, who tend to be bigger risk takers. That means we’ll need to pay special attention to ground surfaces to counteract the possibility of falls.”

Currently under consideration are a variety of imagination-stimulating apparatuses, including a “spider’s web” climbing-array and “pirate or fort” constructions. “The finished park will include woodland to tie the site into the history and tradition of the town,” Fitzgerald adds, along with one other observation, “playgrounds and parks are relatively
low-cost undertakings, so they pay a high dividend in pleasure for a modest investment.”

Laura d’Angosse Perlman, the Director of Teddy Bear Preschool, with locations in Newton and Lincoln, echoes Fitzgerald’s sentiments regarding independent play opportunities for children in the out of doors. “We encourage our children to go out every day, even in inclement weather. We do this because they thrive in nature and learn so much, both about themselves and the environment they inhabit. In playing the games they love, like “find the treasure” and “red light-green light,” along with games of their own devising, imagination and social interaction are fostered.”

Whether engaging in free play inside or on the playground, Teddy Bear students benefit in an additional, very special way: teaching in French is given equal billing with English. In this way cognitive and physical skills achieve parity, with both fostered by play.

A Lesson

Once a very wise person said, “Play is the work of early childhood,” and in that regard we can all learn a lesson. In nurturing the impulses of our children to test themselves against the circumstances they encounter in their play we reinvigorate our own humanity.

Child’s play is not something we leave behind in adolescence. It is a boundless source of creativity that when recognized and given free rein allows us to enter into an act of self invention that leads to a mature identity and the resilience we surely need to forge a path through life.

Come to think of it, isn’t now the perfect time to go outside and play? VW
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After a successful career start in football operations, Dusty Rhodes came to Boston with an idea: she could help organizations get their message to the right people by capitalizing on the universal desire to gather and celebrate. Almost four decades later, her firm, Conventures, Inc., has reshaped marketing and fundraising with enduring events like the Tufts Health Plan 10K Run for Women. She established Boston’s international stature with three successful harbor-rocking Tall Ship festivals and deepened the sense of community with the Boston Athletic Association’s Tribute to mark the first anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombing. What began with a young woman’s vision has become New England’s largest special event planning firm with 5,000 events to its credit. The tall, athletic girl who came to Boston found a welcoming playing field in her happily adopted New England home. We spoke to her in a recent interview.

Making Things Happen

Face to Face with Dusty Rhodes, Founder and CEO of Conventures, Inc.,
an interview with dusty rhodes
WellesleyWeston Magazine: Describe the company you founded as a twenty-something newcomer to Boston.

Dusty Rhodes: ConvVentures special events range from conferences and product launches to festivals and regattas, execution of marketing strategies, and lots of sporting events. The beauty of the business is that you are never bored. You wake up in the morning and there’s a call that there’s a new president at the University of Massachusetts and you need to scramble to put together inaugural plans. Or an association is having its centennial and you have three months to put the celebration together with all the keynote speakers.

WWM: Did special events exist before you opened your office on Newbury Street in 1977? Was this doubly difficult given that you were a woman?

DR: The industry of special event planning did not exist in the late 1970s. A female entrepreneur was practically unheard of. People would say, “You’re going to be in the PR business.” Or, “You’re going into advertising, right?” Now there are conferences, trade publications and industry gatherings for professionals in the event business. And today hundreds of qualified young women are on the business scene.

WWM: Where did you get the confidence to handle high-stakes events and massive crowds?

DR: After college I started out in football operations for the then Boston Patriots. Later I worked in the league office and ended up being a general manager in the World Football League. At a very young age, I was managing a large payroll and developing the ability to read talent. My league experience also taught me it’s not whether you win or lose, it’s whether you win. In school I played field hockey, baseball, tennis and basketball. I was lucky to be very tall and a natural athlete so I was often tapped for leadership positions.

We like to hire people who will do anything it takes to get over that goal line.
“I’ve never been to a First Republic office, and I haven’t needed to – they bring the Bank to me.”

Skip Bennett
Founder and Owner, Island Creek Oysters
WWM: You guide young women and men to become successful professionals at Conventures. Are you in some ways their coach?

DR: We bring the very best out of young people by giving them responsibility and having confidence in them. We like to hire people who will do anything it takes to get over that goal line. You’re only as good as the weakest member of your team.

WWM: You began the Tufts Health Plan 10K Run for Women as the Bonne Bell Mini Marathon in 1977. What’s your source for new concepts?

DR: Concepts develop from looking at the marketplace and asking, “What’s emerging?” In the late ’70s we saw fitness starting to kick up. I thought, “There are races for men but none for women, so why don’t we do that?” I contacted Jesse Bell with Bonne Bell Cosmetics about doing a race in Boston for women. I thought we might get 200 participants, but 2,200 women ran or walked the course! Bonne Bell Mini Marathon was the start of a new age for women’s fitness. By 1983 this was the largest women’s sporting event in the world. In 1985 Tufts Health Plan assumed sponsorship. Today we have 37 women who have participated every year and the event is a favorite with elite and Olympic runners.

WWM: How do you bring all parties, private and public sector, to share your vision?

DR: It takes drive and charisma. Take the Tall Ships. Back in 1988, the head of Massport said to me, “Wouldn’t it be great to get a whole lot of tall ships here? If anybody can do it, you can.” Since then we’ve coordinated three tall ship festivals, Sail Boston 1992, 2000, and 2009 with over six million people at each event. These were the largest public celebrations in New England history and they brought almost $1 billion of economic impact to Massachusetts.

A successful event starts with vision, then you make the frame, and then you fill in the picture.
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You’ve got to know the fabric of your town, the leadership. An event is a marketing vehicle, so if you’re going to do an event that will engage children, you look for potential sponsors that are keen on childhood education or youth health. A successful event starts with vision, then you make the frame, and then you fill in the picture.

WWM: What brought you to Weston?

DR: When I was about to have our sixth child, my late husband Tom Skenderian and I agreed we needed a big back yard. We both believed in public education, and in Weston we found a wonderful house. Our backyard often had 20 kids hanging around, playing baseball or volleyball. Our sons T. K., Tucker, and Tyler and daughters Taylor, Turner, and Tanner were high school athletes and class leaders; they all had a great experience in Weston.

WWM: You led the planning for the fabulous Weston 300 celebration in 2013. How lucky we were that you were willing to orchestrate a year of seasonal celebrations and community building.

DR: I love working with the people of Weston! With the Weston 300 Committee we found skill sets in fresh air painting, music, logistics, and even ice. It felt great to empower so many wonderful volunteers and see the community come together for the Tercentennial Commemoration on January 12 and the parade, concerts, sporting events and parties throughout the year. We are pleased to have endowed the Legacy Trail as a permanent amenity to the Town.

WWM: People everywhere love to gather and celebrate. Do you see any disruptors on the horizon?

DR: A growing hurdle is the ability to pay for the layers of security that some events are demanding. With town and city budgets squeezed, communities are looking to the private sector to pay for security costs. We’re planning the Tall Ships for 2017, and the tradition in New England is that tall ship festivals are free. They will be, but you have to be creative. For 2017 there will be 65 agencies involved in planning and production for that event.

WWM: In the special event business, what’s the greatest dilemma?

DR: Special events are by nature a one-time happening. In any given January, you don’t know where 40 percent of your business is coming from. If you’re doing a national conference that’s coming to Boston but will go to another city the following year, you may do that business very well but it’s over once the thank-you notes are written. How do you keep a stable of professionals happy, employed, and tuned? You don’t do it with sub-contractors, volunteers, or pick-up people; you need trained staff.

Another challenge is the unforeseen third-party impact. Your road race with 14,000 runners has closed some streets, and an ambulance with a critically ill patient has to detour. Or you have 2,000 people in a room for a tribute dinner, and there’s a medical emergency. Your staff has to react as quickly and appropriately as possible.

WWM: When you’re not at the office or an event, where are we likely to find you?

DR: I love construction. I have three chainsaws and a small tractor, and when I’m not at work I’m in my backyard, chainsaw in hand. My children were all trained to take care of the land and take care of a house. They grew up knowing how to use a hammer and how to sheet-rock, weed whack, and plant. And to cook.

There’s a lot of satisfaction. There’s a lot of stress, too. But that’s appropriate because you have so much at risk.
WWM: Is a special event essentially a construction project?

DR: There is a parallel. Each event has a beginning, middle, and end. You conceive it and then create and pull together the brand, the look, the constituency, the plans, and permits. The pieces come together, the event happens, and people are joyous. There’s a lot of satisfaction. There’s a lot of stress, too. But that’s appropriate because you have so much at risk.

WWM: What trends will dominate special events in the coming years?

DR: There’s an ongoing rise in sophistication. Young people especially want technology to be perfect. They want registration, conference materials, and recycling to be environmentally sustainable. People will not tolerate abuse of their time. You have to start and end on time, and speakers have to be succinct.

WWM: Has Conventures become the company you envisioned?

DR: Conventures is much larger with greater reach than a scared 27-year-old who was eating mustard sandwiches could imagine. We’re fortunate to have a very strong wingspan: biotech, finance, religious, nonprofit, academic, corporate—a wide cross-section of contacts. We’re proud members of the Boston community, and we always look to be supportive in any way we can.
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it’s clear. Sustainable living has achieved mainstream status. How else can you explain the fact that “going green” at Fenway Park not only refers to the “Green Monster,” but also to “Fenway Farms,” the rooftop garden behind Gate A? Once the way of life for tree huggers and vegans only, many people today are committed to reducing their carbon footprint and drain on the Earth’s natural resources. For good reason.

Global Warming Affects Us All

A new study published in the April 2015 issue of the journal *Nature Climate Change* links weather extremes to global warming and predicts the dangerous impact of continued global warming. The authors report that failure to bring greenhouse gases under control could lead to a 62-fold increase in heat blasts and a doubling of heavy precipitation.

Citing examples, including the 2003 heat wave in Europe and the 2015 drought in California, the authors dispel any myths that climate change isn’t everyone’s problem or that it isn’t real. They explain how weather
Choosing a More Sustainable Lifestyle

extremes take a toll on food supply and prices, employment, and health. The lead scientist, Erich M. Fischer, commented to the *The New York Times*, “People can argue that we had these kinds of extremes well before human influence on the climate—we had them centuries ago. And that’s correct. But the odds have changed and we get more of them.”

Fortunately, going green is not an all or nothing proposition. And there are many ways, including simple ones, that can work for you and your family to protect our planet—and humanity—for generations to come.

Stop Idling Your Car

Did you know that Massachusetts’s law prohibits idling your car for more than five minutes to reduce health and environmental hazards? If you have children in the Wellesley Public Schools, you may have received an Anti-Idling Campaign card from a Green School team member. Wellesley Police Officer Evan Rosenberg explains the very successful joint initiative between the police and the schools, “Our goal is to bring positive attention to the issue and reward voluntary compliance with *Thank You for Not Idling* cards. The cards start a conversation with people not in compliance who ask—‘Why didn’t I get a card?’ They give us a chance to explain the law in a positive fashion.”

Grow Your Own Vegetables, in the Fall or Winter

As summer gardens’ bounty and daylight hours wane, don’t give up on growing your own vegetables. Weston Road Garden Club President John Spencer extends the outdoor growing season using raised beds with cold-frame plastic sheeting in his yard. Jeremy Dick, Superintendent of the Boston Management Unit for The Trustees of the Reservation, recommends building raised beds from rot-resistant cedar with walls slightly below waist level so you can sit on the edges to work the soil, or choosing pots made from materials that won’t freeze or crack.

In the coldest winter months Spencer grows his salad greens indoors. “Choose non-flowering loose-leaf lettuces, arugula, and mustard greens. Recycle clementine boxes, fill them with soil, plant the seeds, and place them under four-foot fluorescent lights on a timer. That’s how I grow my lunch in the coldest months of the year.”

Meet Weston resident Nina Danforth, former environmental educator for the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative. She and her husband, Henry Stone, adapted their 1910 farmhouse facing Land’s Sake Farm in order to “save a little piece of history” and “transform it into a more eco-friendly property.”

On their roof, they added a solar hot water system as well as installed a five-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system that eliminates their electric bills seven months of the year. To cut down on winter heat loss, they use a wood stove, several thermal windows, and insulated curtains. Outdoors, they collect rain in barrels to water their flowerbeds of perennials. A small flock of sheep mows their lawn while enriching the soil, and they raise chickens for the eggs. But in the end, the green initiative that the Danforth/Stone family is most proud of is how they “increased their home’s shade in the summer, reducing the need for air conditioning by training one enormous grape vine over the porch and transforming it into an edible green roof.”
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Buy Locally Cultivated Food

Not into gardening? Then opt for locally grown and raised food. The Wellesley Farmers’ Market and Weston’s Land’s Sake Farm offer two great options.

On Saturdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm through October 17th, walk, bike, or carpool over to the Wellesley Farmer’s Market, located at 309 Washington Street in the parking lot of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills. The market is hosted by the church, sponsored by Balanced Rock Investment Advisors, Needham Bank, and Wellesley Bank, and supported by Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts.

You’ll find 40 to 50 varieties of fresh and stored vegetables, milk, butter, cheese, beef, bacon, and flour—all grown using organic methods and non-GMO farming practices by
family-owned Brookford Farm and Tangerini’s Farm. Try several varieties of apples and other fruits grown by Hackleboro Orchards. Sample Town Farm Garden’s pickles, jams, salsas, and mustards crafted from ingredients grown on their own and neighboring farms. Looking for a treat? Pick up Golden Rule honey or “The Queen of Chocolate,” a cocoa mix free of dairy products and sweetened with their honey. Select a variety of plant-based bakery products from family and locally owned and operated Ancient Bakers. All are egg, dairy, cholesterol, and trans fat free. And don’t forget to buy a few treats for your dog made with natural ingredients and without preservatives by 2 Dog Treats.

Land’s Sake Farm in Weston offers two fall Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farm Shares: The Back to School Share starts early September and runs through the late fall with distributions in November and
Choosing a More Sustainable Lifestyle

December. The Late Season Share supplies cool-weather crops that store well: carrots, onions, shallots, turnips, beets, kale, squashes, and other ingredients perfect for Thanksgiving feasts.

Use Less and Alternative Energy

Using less energy is a gift to the planet and there are many painless ways to reduce. Local environmentalist Elizabeth May shares several of her favorites:

- **INSTALL LED LIGHT BULBS** and turn off lights when not in use.
- **WASH LAUNDRY** on warm or cold settings instead of hot.
- **USE THE “DELAYED START” feature on your dishwasher to draw power and water at off-peak times.**
- **WHEN THE SUN SHINES**, hang clothes outdoors rather than throwing them in the dryer.
- **UNPLUG** “vampire” power users, such as clocks in guest rooms and computers when they are not in use.

In addition to conserving traditional energy, Ellen Korp, Chair of the Town of Wellesley Sustainable Energy Committee, encourages homeowners to investigate alternate energy sources. The nonprofit Mass Energy Consumer Alliance offers two Green Power Programs for NSTAR customers: The New England Wind, which adds 3.8 cents/kWh to your NSTAR bill, and New England GreenStart (using a combination of wind, solar and digester gas and low-impact hydro power) that adds 2.4 cents/kWh.

Wellesley’s Municipal Light Plant (MLP) offers the option to purchase 10, 25, 50, or 100 percent of your electricity from renewable sources, primarily a wind farm in Maine. For the median-sized home in Wellesley, the extra monthly cost to participate at 10 percent costs about the same as a gallon of gas. About 11 percent of all MLP customers cur-
Korpi, a solar energy advocate, advises, “Not all homes are ‘solar suitable’ but if your home is, solar could be a good investment.” She elaborates on the value of harnessing the sun’s energy, “Payback is often five to eight years on a system that will last at least 20 to 25 years. Usually the least expensive way to finance solar is through a home equity loan, but many of the larger solar companies offer financing packages. Since pricing is quite variable, it is advisable to get quotes from several reputable companies. Lease deals are not legal in Wellesley.”

Earn Returns on Sustainable Investments

As you embrace a sustainable lifestyle, think about Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) methods and Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) factors. Dan Flannery, founder of Balanced Rock Investment Advisors — a sponsor of the Wellesley Farmers’ Market — points to a 2012 study by Deutsche Bank Climate Advisors that explains the financial benefits of sustainable investing, “100 percent of the academic studies agree that companies with high ratings for CSR and ESG factors have a lower cost of capital in terms of debt (loans and bonds) and equity. In effect, the market realizes that these companies are lower risk than other companies and rewards them accordingly. And most
important to investors, 89 percent of the studies we examined showed that companies with high ratings for ESG factors exhibit market-based outperformance, while 85 percent of the studies show these types of companies exhibit accounting-based outperformance.

David Zwick of Progressive Asset Management Group in Wellesley, the socially responsible investment division of Financial West Group, estimates that one of every six dollars of professionally managed investments in the United States is in a values-based vehicle. Zwick notes two strong areas of interest: community impact investing in nonprofits, small business development, sustainable farming, and clean energy; and climate change/fossil fuel divestment-reinvestment, an area he sees “growing by leaps and bounds since Bill McKibben’s 350.org Do the Math tour urged universities and municipalities to divest from fossil fuel companies.”

Try a Little Humor

Still not convinced that you are ready to embrace a more sustainable lifestyle? Maybe humor will sway your thinking. Read Andy Borowitz’s May 12, 2015 article in The New Yorker magazine titled, “Scientists: Earth Endangered by New Strain of Fact-Resistant Humans.” The satirist holds out hope that even people uninterested in protecting the planet will come around, writing, “Our research is very preliminary, but it’s possible that they will become more receptive to facts once they are in an environment without food, water, or oxygen.”
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what will Wellesley and Weston be like in the year 2025?

That’s the question I put to educators, merchants, real estate agents, and state and town officials. I loaded their answers into the Wellesley-Weston Magazine crystal ball and peered in. I can offer you only one assurance: Nothing about this exercise is scientific—or encyclopedic.

Well, I will make one exception to that: the Massachusetts Area Planning Council projects the average age to rise in both towns, and there will be at best 2 percent growth in Weston and no growth in Wellesley. In Weston, the over-65 age group accounts for 20 percent of residents today; it’s projected to be 25 percent in 2025. In Wellesley, the percentage is expected to increase from 15 percent now to 20 percent in 2025.

Okay, so we can expect to see more gray hair. Now let’s see what the future might hold for our schools, housing, shopping, transportation, and recreation. Yes, that leaves out a lot, but there was only so much room in our crystal ball.

**SCHOOLS:**

You won’t fall asleep in class

It’s 10:00 am on a weekday morning in September 2025. Walk into the local high school and you’ll be struck by how few students there are. It’s not that enrollment is down — although projections do suggest a dip — but rather that many of the students are still at home, sleeping late (in synch with a teen’s biological clock) or out in the community on a work-study project. Others might be slapping a puck around an ice rink, a FitBit bracelet recording their movements for physical education credits.

You won’t see backpacks weighted down with textbooks and notebooks. Students will use their tablet computers to look up information and tap in their notes and reports. They will have prepared for class at home by watching short video lectures or listening to podcasts. That way they can spend more time in school applying and testing their knowledge, collaborating in small groups or consulting with their teachers.
The faculty will include more teachers who are on their second or third careers. A civics teacher may be a lawyer who at 40 decided to study for a teaching certificate. A veteran of Silicon Valley may be teaching computer coding classes.

School district curriculums will be supplemented by an array of Web-based courses that offer advanced courses or highly specialized subjects, be it Urdu or econometrics. Meanwhile, Weston teachers are already developing online courses for high school students worldwide.

The Web has its downside, for students at least. With virtual classrooms at home, the “snow day” may become history.

Expect the lines to be blurred among subject areas, as cross-disciplinary team teaching and experiential projects become the norm. Students, for instance, may be assigned to draw up a proposal for a skate board park. That would require math and physics skills to design the ramps; communication and political skills to rally town support; and civic skills to navigate the red tape.

“We tend to think about math discretely, science discretely—different teachers, different rooms,” says Wellesley Superintendent David Lussier, “yet life presents itself in a series of problems in which you’re going to have access three or four of those [subjects] around a problem. It’s really the problem that drives the need.”

A foretaste of things to come is Evolutions, a yearlong program of project-based learning that Wellesley High School plans to launch next year. “It’s not so important what you know, because with technology you can access information so quickly,” says Lussier. “What’s most important is what you can do with it.”

Education will take place as much, if not more, outside the classroom. The library may become more of a “learning common,” where students team up on projects while tapping into the latest technology, perhaps Skyping with their counterparts at other schools. Or they may be conducting lab experiments, building furniture, or inventing their own high tech gizmos in “makerspaces,” as education pioneers call the school equivalent of Steve Jobs’ legendary garage. And then there’s that vast learning space Mother Nature has already constructed outdoors.

If you happen to be visiting a grade school, you may find first and second graders in the same class. Some may spend two years; others just one. You won’t see students fidgeting at desks. Instead, they’ll be sitting in groups of comfortable modular furniture or on ball chairs or sprawled on the floor. Kids tend to be more engaged in a comfortable environment.
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It’s difficult to imagine grades and tests will disappear. But through technology and greater face time, teachers will be able to track a student’s progress with greater precision. They will also be able to better tailor instruction to individual learning styles. Indeed, all teachers may be required to undergo special education training.

Beyond strengthening minds and bodies, schools will broaden their mission to include emotional development — equipping students with skills to cope with stress, resolve conflicts, and rebound from setbacks. In Weston, students already learn breathing exercises to help them calm down before a public presentation or a difficult conversation with a teacher or a classmate.

Responding to the increasingly global economy, more students will graduate fluent
in a second language. Wellesley, for example, has already plans to start language training in kindergarten.

It’s 8:00 pm; do you know where your student is? Having slept late, he or she may be online with a teacher or maybe at school. Like everything else about education, the boundary between the school day and the rest of life will become more blurred.

“There’s going to be more blending of the school day into extracurricular activities,” says Weston Superintendent Cheryl Maloney. “There will be more community folks routinely involved in our schools.”

Expectations about college will change. “Our goal is not to presume any one pathway is right for students,” says Lussier. “We’re most successful when we prepare kids to have options. The Wellesley superintendent expects
more students to take a year off to travel or sample careers through
internships—and “come back a bit more mature, a bit more worldly.”

Even while still in high school, Maloney suggests, students might
take online courses to qualify for credentials in particular fields, such
as computer coding. That could give them a jump on their careers or a
work/study experience like that offered by Northeastern.

One fundamental of education won’t change. “Teachers are going to
continue to be the heart of education, but they’re going to redefine
their roles,” says Maloney, who is retiring in June after 30 years in the
school district. “They are going to be more like coaches guiding stu-
dents in a range of activities including online courses, project-based
learning, interdisciplinary studies, and community work.”

WHAT DO YOU SEE?
Do you have any predictions for Wellesley and Weston’s future?
If so, we’d love to hear from you. Please email Jill Nilsen at:
jill@wellesleywestonmagazine.com.

Housing: Super Size Me

Thanks to teardowns, the three-bedroom starter house will practically
be extinct in 2025—unless the region is blindsided by depression or
heating costs rocket upward.

Newly constructed house are averaging around 6,000 square feet,
with some larger than 20,000 square feet. That means that by 2025,
the average house in the Wellesley-Weston area could be 4,000 square
feet and well out of reach of the middle-class family.

While the over-65 population of both Wellesley and Weston will
be significantly higher, those who decide to downsize may be forced
to move out of town. Demand for senior-friendly housing far
exceeds supply—and real estate agents don’t see where much more
can be built.

Wellesley will likely close at least one elementary school, which
could be converted into housing or torn down to make way for new
homes. There’s been talk of converting Weston’s old library into
affordable housing and/or senior housing. For the most part, expect to see new housing in pockets like that, not in large tracts.

An increasingly popular alternative for seniors is aging in place, thanks to support services provided by the local councils on aging and community networks like Wellesley Neighbors. That trend will likely be bolstered by the wonders of high tech. Doctors will be able to make virtual house calls, for example. And there’s no telling to what extent robotic devices will help with the daily tasks of living.

SHOPPING:
There’s still a future for bricks and mortar

While shop windows in Wellesley may go high tech with flashy 2-D, and perhaps even 3-D electronic displays, it’s the human touch that will prevail inside. After all, no online dialogue box can substitute for the help of a salesperson you’ve known for years.

If anything, expect stores to place even greater emphasis on getting to know their customers. And, recognizing that we do shop online, merchants will be more knowledgeable about their product lines and competitors’ prices. Some might be willing to bargain when confronted with your iPhone (or whatever is the gizmo of the day).

“We have to be diligent to make sure our prices are correct,” said Demian Wendrow, owner of London Harness and president of the Wellesley Square Merchants’ Association. “I think the majority of our customers would make the effort to support the local stores.”

Stores will employ high tech both to speed transactions and to better display merchandise. Wonder how many shirts will fit into that suitcase? Check the computer simulation.

Already thanks to a change in liquor regulations, Wellesley has seen a growth spurt in restaurants. Expect that to continue, along with more diverse fare.

Shops that entice the senses will have a particular advantage, as where else will customers enjoy the aroma of fresh-baked bread, sharp cheeses, and exotic perfumes?

With more people working remotely, they’ll still want companionship—even if it’s just for the presence of other warm bodies. That should keep the coffee and tea shops thriving. Already, so many people use the library as an office-away-from-home
that by midday patrons are circling for parking, according to Assistant Director Elise MacLennan. Some local futurists predict more service-oriented business, while others question how many nail salons and hairdressers the area can support. But the Internet poses no threat to businesses that pamper or pump up the body.

Wellesley merchants have already seen the benefits of joint promotions. Expect more outdoor events featuring entertainment and refreshments. Expect, too, to find more information kiosks to help you find what you want—or discover what you hadn’t realized you wanted.

What about new stores? Men’s clothing came up in several conversations. Perhaps, too, a store packed with electronics to equip your man (or woman) cave.

### GETTING AROUND:

#### You can ditch the car

**BIKE TO BOSTON:** It’s a beautiful Monday morning in May 2025, and you’re dreading that drive downtown to work. You can skip the traffic—and get a fitness workout, too—by biking the Wayside rail trail. It’s about a nine-mile trip to the Alewife T station on the Red Line, from where you have a choice of rail trails into Cambridge and Somerville or more directly to downtown Boston.

On the weekend, you and the family can cycle west as far as Northampton (if you’re really ambitious, you could then head south to New Haven). The Wayside trail is part of the Mass Central Rail Trail, which runs along the old Boston and Albany Railroad. Expect an asphalt or crushed stone surface that is 10 to 12 feet in width.

The Weston section snakes along a path just north of Route 20. It takes you from Jericho Town Forest on the west side of town to the Weston-Waltham Corporate Center on the east. Along the way, you’ll pass through conservation land; along a pond; and across a classic stone bridge (over Stony Brook) and

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an iron-trestle bridge (over the Fitchburg commuter rail line).

Reality check: The state, which is overseeing the rail trail project, still has to work out agreements with municipalities along the route and come up with the funds. But thanks to the success of the Lexington-Bedford bike trail, fears about declining home values have evaporated. In fact, home sellers now advertise accessibility to a rail trail.

**BUSES:** Mass transit will have arrived in Weston, with the expansion of regular service by the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority. Our crystal ball doesn’t show what the exact route will be, though it will include the Woodland stop on the Green Line. Another change by 2025 is the addition of weekend and evening service. And the bus will come more often—at least every half hour, instead of hourly, on the Wellesley route, which runs along Routes 135 and 16. Stops will be added at Mass Bay Community College and Babson.

Standing at a stop and wondering where the bus is? Your smartphone will show you the status of not only the transit authority buses, but also those run by area colleges. That way you’ll be able to figure out the best connections throughout MetroWest. Just hope the winter of 2025 isn’t like that of 2015.

**HIGHWAYS:** By 2025, the add-a-lane project on Route 128 will be complete. The highway will be four lanes in each direction until a point just about a mile north of the Route 9
interchange. Beyond that, the highway runs out of median space in which to expand.

Unlike Route 128, the Wellesley stretch of Route 9 can’t get any wider—short of divine intervention. Traffic signals may be better synchronized. Some intersections, such as Kingsbury, may be reconfigured.

**IN-TOWN TRAFFIC:** Downtown streets will be more bike- and pedestrian-friendly. Parking meters may become a thing of the past. Instead, you may have a device in your car that uses GPS to register your time at a particular location.

Perhaps of greater concern is finding a place to park. There’s talk that the Cameron Street lot next to the Wellesley library will be decked over for an additional level. Similarly, the town-owned Tailby Lot next to the Wellesley Square Commuter Station could be expanded. A more remote possibility is a multistory garage, if a site opens up on the edge of downtown.

**HIGH-TECH HELP:** The state will have installed more electronic signs warning of upcoming congestion. Already, cars are coming equipped with computer devices that provide real-time recommendations about alternative routes. Chances are, you’ll still have to be at the wheel; it’s unlikely that self-driving cars will be ready for prime time.

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**THANK YOU, FUTURISTS**

The following brave people gazed into the future for this story, but please don’t hold any of them accountable for the accuracy of its predictions:

- **ALFRED L. AYDELOTT**, chairman of Weston Planning board
- **ELAINE BANNIGAN**, owner, Pinnacle Residential Properties of Wellesley
- **EILEEN BOGLE**, executive director of Weston Council on Aging
- **ERIC BOURASSA**, transportation director, Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- **DIANA CHAPLIN**, real estate agent, Coldwell Banker, Weston
- **EDWARD H. COBURN**, Weston selectman
- **DR. CAROLINE DANIELS**, senior lecturer in entrepreneurship, Babson College
- **DR. ELIZABETH R. DESOMBRE**, professor of environmental studies, Wellesley College
- **DR. M. J. DOHERTY**, special assistant to the president, Regis College
- **DAVE HUTCHESON**, volunteer steward, Weston rail trail
- **HANS LARSEN**, Wellesley executive director
- **DAVID LOUTZENHEISER**, transportation planner, MAPC
- **DR. DAVID LUSSIER**, Wellesley school superintendent
- **DR. CHERYL MALONEY**, Weston school superintendent
- **MAURA M. O’BRIEN**, president of Wellesley Chamber of Commerce
- **TIMOTHY G. REARDON**, assistant director of data services, MAPC
- **ELIZABETH WARE**, Weston town planner
- **DEMIAN WENDROW**, owner of London Harness and president of Wellesley Square Merchants’ Association
- **ANDREW WROBEL**, Wellesley Recreation Commission
- **SARA WHITE**, director of marketing and communications, MetroWest Regional Transit Authority
- **MICHAEL ZEHNER**, Wellesley town planner
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PLAY TIME:
The ice rink cometh

SPORTS TOWN: Wellesley’s future NHL stars will no longer have to trek out of town to practice and play “home games.” The site of the former St. James Church on Route 9 is expected to be home to an athletic complex that will include an indoor skating facility. The site could accommodate fitness studios, an indoor pool and a bubble-topped athletic area for soccer and basketball. But that would be a tight fit, so the all-weather fields and courts could wind up on the “North 40” parcel, which the town just agreed to buy from Wellesley College.

HIT THE BEACH: At Morses Pond, you’ll find the beach area more manicured and the pond itself more swimmer friendly. As you wade in, the bottom will slope down more gradually. Weeds on the beach’s seabed might finally be tamed by placing a fabric lining on the pond bottom, covered by a layer of sand. Facilities in the beach house will be expanded to include indoor showers and lockers. Picnic lunches could be supplemented with hot dogs, sandwiches and ice cream from a new concession stand. The current success of movie nights at the pond could lead to regular nightly programming in the summer. With the addition of a boating club, the pond’s season could be extended into fall. Imagine kayaking or sailing as you take in the autumn color and a “parade at the pond” with decorated sea vessels.

TURF’S UP: Football games at Wellesley High School will have more of “that championship feeling” after the gridiron undergoes a major overhaul. To accommodate other sports like soccer and lacrosse, the field will be widened. Artificial turf will replace the grass, so foul weather no longer will play havoc with schedules. A new building by the field will house restrooms for fans; concession stands; a changing room for the players; and equipment storage. Enhancing the field’s stadium-like feel—and shielding neighbors from the commotion—will be a brick wall, new trees, wrought iron fencing and/or a grass berm. While the crystal ball is fuzzy on this, night games may be a possibility—especially if neighbors could be assured that lights won’t shine into their windows. Advanced technology already is leading to more energy efficient and better focused illumination. Well before 2025, such lighting should be in place at the tennis and multipurpose fields next to Washington Street.

MEANWHILE IN WESTON: A decade from now, where that rusting hulk of the old Field School stands, students will be playing soccer and baseball. For a less vigorous workout, you can walk a trail looping around the entire Case campus, which consists of the library, community center, the new Field School and the central administrative office. That last building used to be the summer home of the Case family, who in the 19th century owned the entire property. Imagine how the Cases would react had they been able to jump into a time machine.
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I wasn’t thinking about Breast Cancer Awareness month when I scheduled my last mammogram. I took the next available appointment and forgot about it until the day came in early October. By then Breast Cancer Awareness month was in full swing. There were pink pumpkins among the apples at the grocery store and pink ribbon adorned exercise clothes on the shelves at the gym. I didn’t need all this pink to convince me to get a mammogram. A faithful adherent to the breast cancer screening guidelines, I had been getting stretched, twisted, and compressed every year since I turned 40. I was not going to let any cancer cells infiltrate my breasts without me knowing about it.

On the day of my appointment, I brought my laptop with me to the hospital, prepared to settle in for the afternoon. Mammograms only take about 20 minutes, but when you add in registration, changing into something less comfortable, and the possibility of needing additional images — 10 percent of women do — it can be significantly longer. Ever since I’d been flagged for a “benign abnormality” in a previous mammogram, I’d opted to stick around for same-day results.

Sticking around turned out to be a good choice. The radiologist reading my images ended up ordering additional views. After viewing them, she recommended a biopsy to assess a suspicious cluster of microcalcifications in my right breast. I wasn’t too worried; I knew that 80 percent of biopsies are benign. I had been one of the 80 percent just two years before.

When my radiologist called me two days after the biopsy to let me know that I had early stage breast cancer, I was shocked. I wrote down
everything she said because, although I could hear her calm and reassuring voice, I wasn’t taking in what she was saying.

_I had cancer. How was this possible? I didn’t have a family history of breast cancer or the BRCA gene. I’d nursed my kids, got regular exercise, didn’t drink much alcohol, was not terribly overweight, and maintained a healthy diet. Besides, this was not a good time for cancer. I had just started a new job, my husband was changing careers, and each of our daughters was transitioning. But this cancer is curable. Hear that? I’ll be fine. The treatment was likely to include surgery, radiation, and hormone therapy — no chemo unless the cancer had spread. This doesn’t have to be a big deal. We just have to get through it._

***

Things move fast when it comes to a cancer diagnosis. During the next few days I had chosen and met with my surgeon, in whom I had full confidence. My brother had nicknamed my cancer “Isis,” and we had all adopted it. I was scheduled for an MRI to determine whether Isis had spread and for a mammogram to locate the pink-ribbon marker that identified the cancer site — it was hidden behind a lime-sized hematoma in my breast, a byproduct of the spring-loaded needle used in the biopsy. We also had a tentative date for the surgery and appointments with the rest of my oncology team — who knew it would take a small army to get rid of a little cancer? Thankfully, the hospital scheduled all of these appointments for me. I just had to rearrange my life and find time for what was quickly becoming a part time job.

Although everything was going according to protocol, things were not going according to my plan. In my mind, this Isis thing wasn’t supposed to be a big deal, but I already felt overwhelmed. The week before, I had been healthy, enjoying a new job, and managing my daily life.
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Two cancer survivors put me at ease. One shared that in her experience, “Cancer gets easier once you make peace with it.” The other, a friend who had survived breast cancer, three times, gently said, “Lisa, you were diagnosed with cancer. That’s enough. Besides, people are not here for the cancer, they want to be here for you.”

When you have your presurgery MRI, you hope that the contrast dye injected into your body doesn’t reveal additional cancer sites.

This week I had cancer, was cancelling business trips for doctor visits, and was flummoxed by the decisions in front of me. Mastectomy or lumpectomy? Four or six weeks of radiation? And what about hormone therapy? What would it be like to have the estrogen sucked out of my system all at once? On top of it all, it was Breast Cancer Awareness month; pink-ribbons reminding me of my diagnosis were everywhere.

My plan also didn’t include the incredible outpouring of support and concern from friends and family. Somehow I imagined that since this was no big deal, we’d just handle Isis on our own. When beautiful flowers, homemade meals, and favorite books began arriving at our door, we were deeply comforted, knowing that we were not traveling this journey alone. However, this kindness also made my cancer very real. While we had met with multiple doctors, at that point I didn’t feel sick and hadn’t started treatment. I didn’t fully appreciate what was in front of us. New to cancer, I also wasn’t sure if I had “enough cancer” to warrant this attention.

This October
Think Before You Pink

Where does the money go for pink-ribbon products? To determine if a given initiative is really pink, Think Before You Pink® (thinkbeforeyoupink.org), a project of Breast Cancer Action, offers the following questions:

- Does any money from this purchase go to support breast cancer programs? How much?
- What organization will get the money? What will they do with the funds, and how do these programs turn the tide of the breast cancer epidemic?
- Is there a “cap” on the amount the company will donate? Has this maximum donation already been met? Can you tell?
- Does this purchase put you or someone you love at risk for exposure to toxins linked to breast cancer? What is the company doing to ensure that its products are not contributing to the breast cancer epidemic?

You can also investigate cancer organizations/programs on Charity Navigator, which rates charities on their financial health and organizational efficiency.
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Fortunately for me, it didn’t. As a result, a lumpectomy was in order; the following week we’d remove Isis from my right breast and leave some of me intact. Our family celebrated with a weekend in New York where we toasted the upcoming surgery with Shakespeare’s Lady Macbeth’s highly apropos phrase, “Out, damned spot!”

The last things I remember before going under was laughing with my surgeon and kissing my husband goodbye. A week later we would learn that the surgery had been a success—my cancer was gone. I would have a month to heal after which time our focus would shift to cancer prevention. One of my favorite days during that month was when our 16-year-old daughter’s girlfriends visited. They were wonderfully genuine and curious, wanting to know how I was

An Unexpected Journey

What to Say—and Not Say—to a Friend who has Cancer

It can often be awkward to be around someone going through cancer treatment. What should you say and not say? While everyone has his or her particular sensitivities, here’s what I found to be helpful rules of thumb:

Focus on the present.
While we are all insanely curious about people’s prognosis, instead, ask them how they are feeling today. For some cancer patients, inquiring about what stage cancer they have or if they are cured can be very upsetting.

Keep it real.
Don’t feel like you have to reassure people with adages like, “It will be okay” or “Everything happens for a reason.” Instead just care for people in whatever situation they find themselves.

Lighten the load.
Cancer patients work hard during their treatment. Ask people what is helping them get through their journey. Consider that comments like “Attitude is everything” or “It could be worse,” may add to patients’ burden, suggesting that they are not being upbeat or grateful enough.

Support their choices.
There are many treatment paths to choose from. I chose to supplement the traditional cancer protocol with acupuncture and a cleansing diet. Other people make different choices. Whatever the case may be, try to support the choices that people have made for themselves.

Just do it.
Don’t wait to be asked to help out. I was too tired to plan during most of my treatment. It was lovely to receive a spontaneous call from friends who were going to the grocery or mall asking if they could pick up anything for us.

Allow for quiet.
My cancer journey began during Breast Cancer Awareness Month and continued on through Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. I needed quiet moments where I could just replenish. If you can make those possible for a cancer patient, you will give him or her a gift they will long remember.
feeling and “what was left of me.” I told them that I felt great, albeit a bit tender and showed them the bandages that would keep the “new me” under wrap for a bit. The “real” talk we had was a balm.

***

While I had had surgery several times in my life, I had no idea what to expect from radiation. My treatments took place in a linear accelerator, which delivered high-energy X-ray beams to my chest, destroying any remaining cancer cells. For five weeks, I spent six minutes a day, five days a week, in this large piece of equipment, which was located in the basement in a room with walls a foot thick.

Radiation is a very precise undertaking. To facilitate radiation treatments, I had five permanent dots tattooed onto my chest that would enable the technologists to adjust my body to the exact right location. Once perfectly configured, I was told not to move. Invariably some part of me would begin to itch. Next, the technologists would leave the room, not wanting to be exposed to radiation. Immediately after the door shut behind them, red lights would flash, clicking noises would commence, and the arms of the machine would start to move around my body, nailing “the spot” with radiation from several angles.

My first day of radiation, I decided I would be “fully present” during the treatment, taking in everything that was going on around me. Rather than being lost in blissful meditation,
however, I panicked. My mind filled with images of Chernobyl and flashbacks of atomic bomb drills in fifth grade when we made our way to the “radiation-free space” under our desks. What was I doing choosing to be radiated, when my cancer was gone and my gut was saying, “This is not a good idea?”

The next day I tried reframing radiation in a more positive light. I focused on how grateful I was that this treatment was decreasing my chance of getting breast cancer again. I tried to envision the radiation beams as healing light. That strategy worked until the machine started moving and the radiation became audible and I went on high terror alert again.

By day three I decided that the way for me to handle radiation was to completely anesthetize myself to it. This time I closed my eyes
before the technicians left the room and had them blast country music. And by blast I mean, in-the-pit-in-front-of-the-speakers loud. It worked. Three songs and the treatment was over. I’d found my strategy.

While the beginning of radiation was tough psychologically, the final few weeks were tough physically. Every afternoon I needed to sleep. Several times a day I liberally applied thick cream to my chest to maintain moisture on my increasingly discolored skin. By week four I was burned, blistered, itchy, and exhausted. By the last week, I just wanted to ring the bell that signified that my radiation was done, and go home.

Ironically, some of the most potent healing moments came outside the linear accelerator room. My weekly checkups with my radiation oncologist always left me feeling cared for and understood; we had helpful talks about managing work, family, friends,
and cancer. In the waiting room on my first day, I ran into an old friend who was also starting radiation. We had the good fortune of going through this portion of our cancer journeys together. I learned much from being with her, and from others who showed up around the same time as we did every day, who were working overtime to find the bravery, energy, and positivity to get through their treatments and embrace whatever life held on the other side. I’ll never forget the notes that former patients left for us that read like liturgy: “I just finished seven long months of treatment and you will be here one day, too.” “Be strong.” “How big is your brave?” “I have plenty of hope. I just need a cure.” And a personal favorite, “Cancer, I hate you more than the Yankees.”

***

It’s almost Breast Cancer Awareness Month again. Radiation is now behind me and I have just completed the first six months of a five-year run with an estrogen-suppressing drug. The cancer I had feeds on estrogen, so we are cutting off its food supply. While about half of women undertaking this hormone therapy tolerate their rapid reduction in estrogen well, the other half are often brought to their knees. I am one of the latter. Just when I was ready to give up on it, a friend of mine cautioned me that she wished she had stuck with it; her breast cancer came back four years later. So I’m still pill popping and actively finding ways to reduce the symptoms.

This unexpected journey has been a bigger deal that I ever imagined. We are still managing the effects of the treatment—and benefitting from the gifts — almost a year later. For starters, I am cancer-free! We’ve also tasted the energy that is unleashed in acceptance, the strength that comes in community, and the comfort that comes from a highly competent medical team that really cares.

These benefits continue to infuse us with newfound resources that will accompany us into the future, wherever it takes us.
there is no subject riper for misinformation, hyperbole, and just plain hogwash than sex. There is also no other subject more important to get right when teaching young people. So when the Weston and Wellesley school systems began dusting off their sexuality curriculums over the past few years, they both came to the same conclusion: It was time for a total overhaul.

“Some of it was outdated; there were missing pieces,” says Wellesley Middle School health teacher, Kari Sciera. Weston’s Director of Wellness Education, Mitch Finnegan, agrees: “The curriculum we had been using was about ten years old, and we knew it needed updating.” Their search for an age-appropriate and medically-accurate program meant looking no further than their proverbial backyards. The Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts (PPLM) had a nationally-recognized program in place called “Get Real,” which emphasized all of the critical components important to Weston and Wellesley educators. “We like that it’s thorough, it’s comprehensive,” says Joanne Grant, Director of Fitness and Health, in Wellesley. “It is spiraled and sequenced through the grades.” Get Real offers school districts a lifeline when it comes to the tricky business of teaching preteens and teens about their bodies, their sexuality, relationships, and wellness. “We felt it was a good fit for Weston because it taught the topic of human sexuality from a comprehensive perspective,” says Finnegan. “It places sexuality in the context of emotional and social health and grounds it in personal values. And it’s evidence based.”

Both districts were impressed that a Wellesley Centers for Women study determined that middle school students who took three years of Get Real were 15 percent more likely to delay sexual activity than their peers who received another type of sexual education program, which is
a statistically meaningful result. “It’s really hard to change behavior,” says Dr. Jennifer Grossman, a researcher who co-led the study, “and Get Real demonstrates that its curriculum can change behavior.” Wellesley uses Get Real in its sixth, seventh, eighth and tenth grade health and wellness units. Weston uses it in its ninth grade health education unit.

Get Real is an abstinence-based program that puts parents at the center of the curriculum. “We have a firm belief that parents are the primary educators of their children around issues of sexuality. What we provide is support and materials that can enable parents to play that primary role,” says Susan Kaufman, interim CEO of PPLM. The curriculum is designed with the expectation that parents or another caring adult will be the first and most important teacher when it comes to questions about sexuality. “Parents may not feel this way, but teens report that parents are the main influencers on their making healthy decisions regarding their sexual health. It is critical that educators are turning students back to their parents to talk about family values and beliefs about sexuality,” reports Jen Slonaker, Vice President of Education and Training at PPLM.

An abstinence-based program emphasizes that abstaining from sex (as it is defined in the curriculum) is always the healthiest choice and the only fail-safe way to prevent pregnancy. However, the program also acknowledges that some students will become sexually active and provides the knowledge to understand the implications and possible repercussions of that decision in a non-judgmental environment. “We take guilt and shame and leave it outside the door,” says Sciera. “Guilt and shame only discourage effective birth control, silence conversations, and discourage healthy relationships.”

One of the hallmarks of Get Real is its emphasis on putting sexuality in the context of positive social and emotional relationships. “If a young person is able to negotiate a relationship, any relationship, then they are going to be that much better able to negotiate a sexual relationship,” says Slonaker. “It just makes sense.” The curriculum encourages students to safely role play different scenarios that they might encounter in the
coming years. “The scenarios are very realistic,” says John Mulryan, a health teacher at Wellesley High School. “For example, what happens if my partner is ready to engage in sex and I’m not? How do they feel about that? They can really relate to that and because they have practiced it before, they have the language to use should they need it.” This component also resonated with the Weston Public Schools. “Any effective human sexuality program needs to be grounded in a relational context,” observes Finnegan. Some students wish that the scenarios were even more intense: “I would like to role play even more important, high stress situations,” says a Wellesley tenth grade girl, referring to her eighth grade class. “It would be helpful to actually practice what to say when you are put on the spot.”

The idea that students can imagine being immersed in very difficult circumstances reiterates the challenge for teachers. “The kids are ready for this curriculum; they can handle it. They aren’t shocked by it. They are hungry for information,” says Mulryan. Given that the dark, underside of every variant of sexuality is only a few clicks away gives urgency to educators who do daily battle with misinformation. “After a certain age, you can’t control what they see on the Web,” says Sciera. “You have to balance it somewhere with information that is factual and current and accurate.”

Both Wellesley and Weston use anonymous question boxes where students can submit
their most pressing and mortifying questions. Questions are combined with other sections and tackled the next day. “We have an atmosphere of trust so kids know that it is a confidential space,” she continues. “They know we’re all in this together and that we just need to keep talking.”

Indeed, the curriculum is designed to keep the conversation going well beyond school hours. In fact, PPLM considers the parental component to be the most critical in the entire unit. In order to foster further conversation, Get Real has family activities attached to each lesson at all levels of the curriculum. “It might be as simple as a word search,” says Slonaker, “or a favorite activity is to watch a TV show and talk about how relationships are portrayed in the show.” The idea is to get rid of the red faces and start talking. The activities are just a spark; the hope is some discussion can catch fire. “I am huge fan of it,” says a Wellesley mother of a sixth grade girl. “The program emphasizes that you don’t need to sit down and have conversation with a capital C. It doesn’t have to be a formal meeting.” The mother continues, “What I appreciated was that some of the activities required her to interview her father so it opened up the conversation with him too.”

However, WellesleyWeston Magazine contacted many Wellesley parents for their reactions to Get Real and most parents had never heard of it nor were they aware that their child was taking a sexuality course. “I asked...
around at a dinner party recently, there were parents of seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth graders and, like me, they had not seen any materials come home nor had any discussions with their kids about the curriculum,” said one parent who wanted to remain anonymous. Another mother of a sixth grader lamented a missed opportunity saying, “It’s unfortunate because it would have been so helpful to me as a parent to know what was being covered so we could have more dialogue about the subject matter.” Joanne Grant provided WellesleyWeston Magazine with an outline of outreach to parents that includes a letter that is sent home with students. “At the beginning of the sixth grade “Working on Wellness” (W.O.W.) course, the students receive an outline that they have to take home to their parents or guardians,” she says. “On this outline, the three modules are explained, and parents have to sign this outline before the W.O.W. course begins.”

There are other ways to learn about the curriculum like on “Back to School” nights. Note that every parent receives a letter in the mail giving him or her the option under Massachusetts State law to opt out. It is evident that many students are skipping potentially embarrassing sex education homework and are missing out on opportunities to connect with parents. “We had a lot of discussions about this; it wasn’t an easy decision,” says Sciera, “but not every kid has what I would call an ‘askable’ parent or guardian.”

So what’s a parent to do? Children may jam their sex education homework in the bottom of a backpack, be too focused on their mobile device, pay more attention to friends and the media than parents, or just be hard to talk to. “Parenting is hard. It’s worth the struggle to get the conversation started, because our kids benefit,” acknowledges Grossman. The experts say start early and often. It should be a series of short, small conversations, not one big planned sit down with charts and graphs. “Yes, it’s mortifying,” Grossman continues. “Kids are awkward and embarrassed but parents and kids can learn together.” Grant thinks that the Get Real message is important for kids to hear. “Ultimately, we are trying to give our kids the skills they need to be productive citizens in the world. Sexuality and health education are components of that,” she says. “It’s not an ‘extra;’ it’s not a ‘special;’ it is something necessary and important to educate the whole child.”
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THE BOSTON JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
"view life through a different lens." This call-to-action tagline of the Boston Jewish Film Festival (BJFF) captures the experience 250,000 festival-goers have enjoyed — broadening their perspective on humanity through films showcasing the Jewish experience around the world.

**FILMS TO BUILD BRIDGES**

"My favorite thing about the Jewish Film Festival is that it introduces Jewish values and culture to people of all faiths, and that's a great way to build bridges. I always invite friends of different religions to join me," explains Joyce Pastor, past president of the board of directors to the BJFF and a dedicated multicultural connector. Joyce cofounded the Weston Interfaith Action Group and she started Neighbor-to-Neighbor, a program that brings together women from Temple Shir Tikva of Wayland and the neighboring Islamic Center of Boston to learn about their respective customs.

The BJFF, launched in 1989 by local filmmaker Michal Goldman, is now the largest Jewish-themed cultural event in New England, premiering "Jewish films" in the Greater Boston area. What's a Jewish film, you may be thinking. This question is a subject of endless debate in the halls of the BJFF offices. For a film to be accepted into the BJFF, it must include Jewish content or a Jewish character. The background of the filmmaker and the actors is irrelevant. In fact, the Festival hosts many non-Jewish filmmakers who have made films with Jewish themes. "In the end, our number one selection criteria is quality," explains the Festival's artistic director Ariana Cohen-Halberstam.
FILMS FROM MANY NATIONS

Each year the BJFF staff reviews more than 250 films and chooses approximately 50 from about 15 countries, including Israel, which over the past decade has joined the ranks of the leading filmmaking nations in the world. In fact, there are more film schools than law schools in Israel, and Israeli films are often nominated for Academy Awards. “Our hit films at the festival are generally the Israeli films vying for coveted awards,” explains the BJFF Executive Director, Jaymie Saks.

In 2014, the festival screened the Academy Award nominated Israeli film *Zero Motivation*, considered the Israeli *M*A*S*H*. A cynical comedy about a unit of young, female Israeli soldiers, the film was nominated for 12 Ophir (Israeli Academy) Awards and won the Best Narrative Feature Award and the Nora Ephron Prize at the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival.

Denise Widman Lauer, current president of the board of directors of the BJFF, compares the festival to a trip around the world. “Our viewers experience stories and confront issues from many countries—all without leaving Boston!”

FILMS WITH UNIVERSAL THEMES

The festival’s dramas, comedies, documentaries, and short films showcase the diverse and vibrant Jewish experience. Did you know that American football thrives in Israel? The 2014 premiere of *TouchDown Israel* features the Kraft Family Israeli Football League, 11 teams composed of a cross-section of Israeli society, including Arabs, Christians, and religious settlers whose love of the game forges unexpected friendships.

*East Jerusalem/West Jerusalem* (2014)
Beyond the unifying power of sports, BJFF films explore a wide array of timeless themes, such as childrearing, women's empowerment, intermarriage, courage in the face of adversity, and self-acceptance. Lauer echoes Pastor’s enthusiasm for how the BJFF combats prejudice by sharing universal values and issues through a Jewish lens. A self-proclaimed film lover, Lauer comments, “I believe that film touches people and changes attitudes by exposing audiences to the multifaceted aspects of other cultures and societies.”

A sampling of films from the 2014 Festival illustrates the broad appeal of the selections:

**112 WEDDINGS** ★ “A strikingly honest take on the institution of marriage, both heartwarming and heartbreaking.” The filmmaker revisits 9 of the 112 couples whose weddings he captured to see what happens when the fairy tale ceremony and celebration are over and everyday life settles in.
24 DAYS ★ A French film based on the 2006 kidnapping of Ilan Halimi, a Parisian Jew, by a suburban gang demanding a huge ransom, explores modern-day anti-Semitism. The Hollywood Reporter calls this thriller, “A white-knuckled investigation…with twists and turns coming at you from every direction.”

JON IMBER’S LEFT HAND ★ A documentary capturing the last year in the life of the renowned Somerville-based artist who suffered from ALS as he reinvests his artistic style and maintains what some call “Jewish humor” even as his body fails him. The film’s director comments, “Imber’s example will help anyone live a full, joyous life, even in the face of their own mortality.”

DOVE’S CRY ★ An Israeli documentary featuring the true story of Hadeel, a religious Muslim teaching Arabic at a Jewish elementary school near Tel Aviv. The film explores one woman’s quest to balance conflicting demands — her career as a teacher, her role as a principled Arab citizen of Israel and her family’s expectations of marriage and family.

FILMS TO EXPLORE JEWISH IDENTITY

For 10 percent of festival attendees who call themselves Jews, the BJFF is the only Jewish activity they engage in all year. The Pew Research Center’s 2013 study, “A Portrait of Jewish Americans,” reveals that while 94 percent of American Jews are proud to be...
Jewish, 64 percent consider their Judaism to be a matter of ancestry and culture. The festival films play an important role in connecting unaffiliated Jews with their heritage, such as the 2014 selections:

- **DELI MAN** ★ A fun behind-the-scenes look at the beloved American delicatessen. The film takes viewers from New York to Chicago to San Francisco and even Texas to meet the obsessed deli proprietors and learn how they make all-time favorites, including matzo ball soup, corned beef, and brisket.

- **MAGIC MEN** ★ A feature film about a 78-year-old Greek-born atheist and his estranged Hasidic rapper son as they reconnect during their travels from Israel to Greece searching for a magician who saved the father’s life during World War II.

- **WATCHERS OF THE SKY** ★ A documentary juxtaposing stories of courage and humanity from Nuremberg to Bosnia to Rwanda.
to The Hague chronicles the life of Raphael Lemkin, the Polish Jew who created the word “genocide.”

**Films for Many Age Groups**

Each year the festival includes a family-friendly film and event. Last year it was *Havana Curveball*, the story of 13-year-old Mica Jarmel-Schneider who takes to heart his rabbi’s encouragement to help heal the world by sending baseballs to Cuban youth. Mica knows that Cubans have few resources, love baseball, and provided his grandfather refuge during the Holocaust. Currently a college student at Tufts, Mica joined the screening to talk to middle-schoolers and their parents about starting their own social justice projects.

To attract the 20 to 40-year-old audience, each year the festival hosts a mini-festival of films and events called “FRESHFLIX” that draws about 1,000 young adults. An annual FRESHFLIX favorite—the Short Film Competition—showcases four contenders selected by a young adult jury, with viewers voting on their favorite via text.
FILMS WITH INTERACTIVE PROGRAMMING

Filmmakers and subject-matter experts join the festival each year to host discussions with the audience after most screenings. Last fall, for example, Alex Karposky, a star of the hit HBO series, Girls, and a successful independent filmmaker, joined to speak about his film, The Hole Story.

Boston-based musician Al Kooper of Blood, Sweat & Tears honored his friend and fellow rock-'n'-roller Mike Bloomfield at the screening of Sweet Blues: A Film About Mike Bloomfield, a documentary about the life of the Jewish guitarist. And as part of the annual series, “Favorite Films From the Famous,” Anita Diamant, best-selling author of The Red Tent, presented Hester Street, the comedy starring Carol Kane, whose performance earned her an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress in 1975.

FILMS NEVER BEFORE SEEN IN BOSTON

Check out the 2015 Boston Jewish Film Festival selections of films at www.bjff.org. (As of this writing, the 2015 festival film titles had not yet been announced.) All festival films are making their debut either in

“You don’t have to be Jewish to love the BJFF’s Jewish films.”

★★★★★
The Boston Jewish Film Festival

Boston, Massachusetts, New England, the United States, or even the world, so you can be sure you will not have seen many, if any, of the selections.

The November 4, 2015 Opening Night film will be shown at the Coolidge Corner Theatre, followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker and a post-screening party for the pass-holders of the entire festival. The November 11 Midfest event, also held at the Coolidge Corner Theatre, will include something extra after the movie. The Closing Night film will be screened at a location in Boston.

Last year, approximately half of the premieres sold out, so purchase tickets in advance if you want to avoid waiting in the “rush line,” even though generally everyone in the rush line gets a seat. Can’t attend in November? Fortunately, the BJFF hosts screenings throughout the year of the most popular films from November as well as new films that are released during the year.

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The Boston Jewish Film Festival

To paraphrase an iconic advertising campaign headline that ran from 1961 through the 1970s—“You don’t have to be Jewish to love Levy’s Real Jewish Rye”—the success of the Boston Jewish Film Festival makes it clear: “You don’t have to be Jewish to love the BJFF’s Jewish films.”
driving around many parts of Wellesley, it is easy to make the assumption that Wellesley is a town where everyone lives big. The houses are big, the vehicles are big, and the families are big. But to make that assumption is to overlook the reality that Wellesley is an economically diverse town where people of all income levels reside. Some residents do not have houses, they do not have vehicles, and they do not have families. But luckily, they do have Wellesley Friendly Aid, a privately-funded nonprofit organization that does everything from providing emergency and hardship assistance to people undergoing transition, to offering financial aid for children to attend summer camp, to hosting social luncheons for elderly women, to distributing food vouchers over the holidays, to providing meeting space for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, to lending medical equipment such as walkers, wheelchairs, and shower chairs to people in need.

“When you think of Wellesley, you think of affluence,” says Karen Mondell, Program Administrator for Wellesley Friendly Aid. “You don’t think of people who are in need of support from the community to get by day-to-day. But the town of Wellesley also has public housing, which includes three sites for disabled and elderly residents, and two sites for families. Wellesley Friendly Aid doesn’t exclusively focus on low-income residents, because we have programs for everyone, but a lot of our resources do go into providing for people who live in those facilities.”
The roots of Wellesley Friendly Aid go back to 1881 when, at a meeting of the newly incorporated town of Wellesley, a vote was taken to appropriate funds for the poor. It was a time of great change for the young town that had a population of roughly 2,500 residents. Wealthy businessmen were being drawn to the area because of its reputation for clean air and beautiful scenery, but so were immigrants, transients, and farmers. Over the next twenty years, the town’s population would double, with some residents coming to face such extreme economic hardship that the town voted to open a “poor farm” on the current grounds of the Wellesley Country Club to provide shelter to those in need. As the town’s population continued to grow, so did the need for assistance and an informal committee of residents operating under the name “Friendly Aid Committee” was formed. This group did everything from helping a family

Whatever the situation, Wellesley Friendly Aid fills a vital gap in the lives of hundreds of people in the community.
devastated by a house fire, to starting a sewing school so that a “maternity trunk” for impoverished mothers and children would always be fully stocked, to establishing a free bed at the Newton Cottage Hospital (now Newton-Wellesley Hospital), to opening an employment bureau. By 1909, the Friendly Aid Committee was so crucial to the community that it was incorporated into the Wellesley Friendly Aid Association, a private, nonprofit organization with the purpose of “promoting the welfare of the poor, suffering or friendless in Wellesley.”

Today, Wellesley Friendly Aid operates under the motto of “neighbors helping neighbors,” but its approach to service is just as fluid as it was one hundred years ago and the organization often acts as a catch-all or place of last resort for residents who have nowhere else to go. For example, imagine you are new to town with limited resources and no furniture. There are places in Massachusetts that provide free donated furniture, but first you need a referral from a service organization. Then you need to find your way to the warehouse to choose the furniture. And then you also need to transport the furniture back to Wellesley. Something as simple as finding a crib for your newborn baby becomes a logistical nightmare. That’s where Wellesley Friendly Aid steps in. Maybe they know of someone in town with a crib to donate? Maybe they can find a moving service willing to lend a hand? Maybe they can also help secure clothing and other necessities? Or maybe they are just a friendly voice to point you in the right direction for future services? Whatever the situation, Wellesley Friendly Aid fills a vital gap in the lives of hundreds of people in the community.

In addition to helping in times of need, Wellesley Friendly Aid also operates many programs that residents rely on regularly. One of its longest running programs, Friendship Circle, began in 1949 under the original name Circle of Golden Age Group. Run in conjunction with the Wellesley Service League, Friendship Circle is a weekly luncheon meeting (held October through May) of elderly women, many of whom have no family or other social opportunities. For some attendees, it’s the only day they leave their homes all week. But what a day it is. Members of Friendship Circle are picked up from their homes by volunteers from the Wellesley Service League and driven to Wellesley Friendly Aid, where they gather in a lovely wood paneled dining room

Wellesley Friendly Aid operates many programs that residents rely on regularly.
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to enjoy presentations by local gardening clubs, musicians, authors, magicians, environmentalists, experts on brain fitness, and many others. “The presenters are phenomenal,” says Aileen Capozzi, one of the Friendship Circle organizers along with Alison Bedenkop. “No one we’ve asked to participate has ever said no.” Afterwards the ladies enjoy a formal lunch of finger sandwiches, salads, and, of course, amazing desserts. Sometimes they go on field trips to local areas of interest like museums and schools.

“The ladies love it!” says Capozzi. “They look forward to it and absolutely love it. It’s an excellent mix of women and they’re all incredibly supportive of each other. They always come in smiling and are so interested in learning more. They’re very appreciate of this weekly event and it’s never, ever dull.” In fact, the group of ladies has such a tight emotional bond that, for their first meeting next year, they’ve decided that instead of inviting an outside presenter, they would like to give each other the opportunity to share their own personal life stories. “They’re an inspiration,” says Capozzi.

Another important program regularly occurring at Wellesley Friendly Aid is English as a Second Language classes, which are held

“The ladies love it! It’s an excellent mix of women and they’re all incredibly supportive of each other.”

Aileen Capozzi • Friendship Circle organizer
JACQUELINE FITZPATRICK

Jacqueline has had a lifelong passion for real estate. She participates in several local investment groups and is well connected with investors and real estate trends. Jacqueline is the co-founder of Fitz Property LLC, a real estate investment company. Jacqueline is “addicted to rehab” and her passion for renovation and eye for design is an asset for her clients. She also has experience with first time home buyers, investment properties and 1031 exchanges. With over ten years combined experience in real estate and customer service, Jacqueline will be committed to your needs throughout the process of buying or selling your home.

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in a bright and sunny room on the main floor of the building. While these classes are sponsored by the Wellesley Free Library, they would not be possible without the assistance of Wellesley Friendly Aid, which provides not only the meeting space, but also textbooks and other necessary resources. With attendees ranging from newly transferred international professors, to political refugees, to first generation English speakers, the classes are lively and animated, uniting people from many different cultures through a common goal. “It’s not just a matter of learning English, it’s also about learning about life here,” explains Philippa Biggers, who runs the ESL program and is a Wellesley Friendly Aid board member. “It can be isolating when you move to Wellesley, but through these classes we’ve developed a real sense of community. Some wonderful friendships have developed.”

Of course, it’s not just adults who struggle when faced with financial challenges and other stresses. Children can sometimes have an even harder time, especially when they attend Wellesley Public Schools with classmates who return from school vacations and summer break with tales of exciting adventures. This is where the Wellesley Friendly Aid Summer Camp Fund comes in, providing money to send anywhere from 40 to 65 children to camp every summer. The program is a particular favorite for Peter Johannsen, who has been president of the Wellesley Friendly Aid board for over 30 years. “Summer camp for children who are in financial need can perhaps be more important than for a child who is well off,” says Johansen. “The poor family and the children don’t have the opportunity to have the life experiences that broaden them and help them grow.”

At the end of the day, Wellesley Friendly Aid is a place for residents to turn when they need help. “Wellesley is a caring town,” says Johannsen. “And we are one of many organizations that help people live a better life.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION on ways to support Wellesley Friendly Aid, please visit its website at www.wellesleyfriendlyaid.org.
TRICIA PARMELE
With over 20 years of proven sales experience, Tricia Parmele has joined Benoit Mizner Simon. Partnering with Kelly First from Weston, The First-Parmelee Real Estate Team is the only Wellesley-Weston based Team. Each actively involved in their respective towns, schools & philanthropic organizations, The First-Parmelee Team provides a powerful & valuable network of people within Wellesley, Weston and surrounding communities. Unparalleled selling and negotiating skills, market knowledge and customized client-specific strategies set this team apart providing an experience you will not find in a single agent.
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– Helen Keller

thank goodness for those who decide it’s time to soar. Sometimes following the passionate path is what spawns new ideas, happy lives and successful businesses. Even if the road isn’t discovered until later in life, and you didn’t know you were looking for it. We profile three local women who have found a calling and went for it to achieve their dream.

“Gaining a new perspective is something that finds you. You don’t go searching for it,” says Weston’s Debra Bendetson of her own new direction. “It just all came to me. I didn’t plan it.”

Equipped with her signature put-together style and the inward grace of yoga practice, this former stay-at-home-mom of three is now all about the quest for inner and outer beauty. She followed her passion and is assisting others in finding theirs through her styling business and teaching at YogaPower studio in Waltham.

“I have always had a passion for style and for years was everyone’s ‘go-to’ person for help in selecting everything from a mother-of-the-bride dress to great fitting jeans,” she remembers.

“My friends started getting attention for the looks I created for them.” Deciding to take it to the next level, Bendetson took on her first client as a test—a friend of friend. “She was thrilled, and when people noticed her transformation, my business was launched.”
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Today her clients vary greatly in style, budget and lifestyle. “Often they just want to freshen their look, but sometimes a dramatic change in weight or relationship status is the catalyst for a style makeover,” she explains. Regardless of whether it’s a one-time event or a seasonal wardrobe overhaul, Bendetson channels her love of style and fit to help.

“When I dress clients, they’re learning something new about themselves. There are moments in dressing rooms that they look in the mirror and their eyes light up. They are just beaming. They didn’t know that their body could look like that or they could portray a certain image,” she says.

It’s the same when Bendetson teaches yoga. A certified personal trainer at Gold’s Gym in Needham, she discovered yoga ten years ago when a friend encouraged her to try out a class. She was inspired by the grace, flexibility, and strength that practice provided. After completing training two years ago, she now teaches power yoga, holds private sessions, and runs clinics on inversions and arm balances.

“In yoga when students reach a new level, they weren’t searching for it, but it gives them perspective that there’s more to themselves that they thought.”

“Whether as a stylist or a yoga teacher, I want people to know that at any age they can look and feel their best on the inside, as well as the outside,” she continues. “That’s where I get my thrill. The first time someone comes into a crow pose or wears a flattering dress and they’re thrilled.”

A Blooming Business

You typically hear “stop and smell the roses” as a warning to relax and enjoy life. When Wendy Teplow made that motto her actual business plan, her new direction bloomed with promise.

With four grown children and a career path that went from finance to commercial real estate, this Weston resident began searching for life’s somewhat daunting next stage. After a visit to the Flower Market with a dear friend, it hit her. “The moment I walked in those doors and smelled the fresh flowers, I immediately knew what I wanted to do,” this self-taught florist remembers.

Izabelle’s Floral Design was born in 2008, an ode to her grandmother, Isabel, a North Shore floral designer who owned Quality Flowers from 1968 to 1975. The passion Teplow feels when discussing her own business is similar to her grandmother’s years ago.

“She was a crusty, old blueblood raised in an upper-middle-class family, but she was always shy,” she remembers. “In the flower market she came alive. She was much more herself and seemed to let her guard down. I loved watching her negotiate and banter with the vendors. It was like she was a different person to me in those early morning hours we spent together.”
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Izabelle’s fills homes with gorgeous everyday blossoms, while also celebrating weddings and events through breathtaking arrangements. And Teplow’s succulent platters and terrariums are anything but ordinary.

“I can be a little rebellious and tend to stray away from the traditional style of flower arranging,” she says of her creations. “Putting an unexpected flower, herb, or succulent in an arrangement to create that ‘wow!’ factor is very satisfying.”

As her unique touch gained more attention, soon everything was quite literally coming up roses. “I would come home from the flower market and process buckets of flowers, and it would take over my kitchen,” she remembers. “It smelled great, but the kids were always bummed because they knew dinner that night would be frozen or YO-YO (you’re on your own).” She outgrew her small space and moved to a Belmont shop, via a brief stint in her garage. Three years ago, Teplow relocated to her new home’s large walkout basement.

“My studio is earthy and fragrant in soothing colors with a great view of the pond,” she says. “It’s an easy environment to work in and I especially enjoy hosting flower design classes there.
It’s a time for women to get together, maybe drink a little wine, laugh, learn and create.”

Although Isabel passed away long before her granddaughter discovered her floral passion, that doesn’t mean this respected matriarch isn’t somehow connected. “I know she would be proud of me and what I have accomplished,” Teplow says. “Sometimes when I’m really stuck on something or nervous about an upcoming event, I try and channel her and ask for help. It usually works out, so in a sense she’s a part of this business too.”

An Overseas Adventure

When Dianne Williams’ husband’s career moved the couple and their two young boys to outside of London in 1999, she was bitten by the travel bug.

During those four years abroad, wanderlust took over as Williams began to take advantage of the proximity to many different cultures and countries. “I loved researching places and was passionate to blend family travel with adventure and educational value in hopes of creating authentic experiences,” she explains. At the end of their time in England, the Williamses had over 20 trips in the books—some weekends, some long weekends, always as a family. “I will never forget our boys’ first safari and the looks on their faces when they saw leopards in trees, cheetahs race through the grass, and a pride of lionesses with their cubs,” she says.

Many trips even included a humanitarian aspect, from cooking for children at an
When you step out of your element, it can really stir your soul about the world and the people you meet,” she explains. “It leaves you with such an amazing feeling inside to witness other cultures, learn about their lives, and be so warmly received.”

When she moved to Weston, Williams wanted to continue it all—the eye-opening travel, cultural exposure, and joy she felt in creating the trips.

“Given our extensive family travel, I soon became a resource for travel advice helping friends with their own trips. Upon returning to the U.S., I continued to travel, including more safaris to Africa, and to help others,” she explains.

Williams started Africa Direct USA in spring 2014, customizing trips to Africa for different interests, styles, and budgets. Forgoing preset itineraries, she puts together special trips for everyone from families with young children to honeymooners, groups of couples to multi-generational families.

Some trips have cultural exposure, while others are simply luxury tents in the bush that allow Mother Nature to do her thing. “I find a safari to be a very moving experience,” she says. “There’s something very pure about being in the bush. In contrast to this serenity, there’s so much excitement when you watch animals in the wild. It’s a rush to see a leopard walk by your jeep or to witness thousands of wildebeest cross the Mara River.”

Williams and her extended South African team arrange it all—internal flights, transfers, accommodations, special activities, private guides, and more. She’ll even share her own stories.

“I love to share our different family experiences and inspire more people to go there,” she says. “It feels great when a client returns and says their trip changed the way they feel or has made them see things differently. It’s incredibly satisfying and it’s simply why I do it.”

“I really don’t see this as a job at all,” she continues. “It’s simply a passion of mine.”
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from the day most kids are born, they get swept up into a whirlwind of organized activities—from one-hour “mommy-and-me yoga” to family music classes. As soon as they can walk they are shuffled from ice hockey to soccer and back. And throughout elementary school their activities double in duration and frequency. But in middle school the dynamics change.

Sports teams become more competitive and students need to find a place for themselves. Wellesley Middle School (WMS) offers a range of after-school activities—from structured programs such as floor hockey, soccer, team handball, and dance classes, to unstructured “open gym” time for pick-up basketball, ping-pong, and badminton, as well as use of the Fitness Center. And there are a variety of clubs based on student interests. But there is always room for more opportunities to engage in after-school play and socialization.

In 2014, Wellesley resident, Joe Roberts, channeled his experience running summer and vacation sports camps into Community Investors, a new nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting Wellesley’s adolescents with after-school, noncompetitive sports programs. Community Investors launched its first pilot program—the Sports Club—last fall in partnership with Wellesley Middle School. “As a parent with kids in the Wellesley public school system, I thought it would be beneficial to introduce programs combining active play and socialization to complement WMS’ after-school offerings,” explains Roberts.
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Chris Cavallerano, Wellesley resident and Roberts’ philanthropy advisor, is equally passionate about the Sports Club. “For adolescents, the time immediately after-school is vital for being active and socializing. Community Investors strives to create programs for kids that give them additional supportive experiences.” Based on the success of the pilot, the Wellesley School Department and Community Investors are continuing to discuss additional opportunities to partner.

Another need that Community Investors is trying to address is the loss of recess in middle school. Elementary students typically have both morning and afternoon recess, where kids can get outside, run around and have fun. But in Wellesley, as in most school districts, that goes away in middle school.

“Kids get out of school at 2:30 p.m. and the Sports Club gives them a positive outlet to disconnect from technology, have fun, blow off steam, socialize in person and get some fresh air,” says Cavallerano. “If kids have nothing to do, they sometimes get mixed up in things that are not so healthy.” Wellesley Police Chief, Terry Cunningham, is an advocate for programs like this. “The Sports Club appeals to a broad spectrum of youth in our community,” he says. “Really good things happen when you give kids a chance to expend some energy in a productive manner, especially for the disenfranchised kids on the fringe.”

The Sports Club also gives Wellesley High School students an opportunity to participate through its Coaching & Leadership Development Program. “Those teen years can be tough,” says Roberts. “Our program gives them valuable experience as mentors and helps them develop leadership skills. It also empowers kids by giving them..."
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an opportunity to earn their own money, which we consider another benefit of our program.”

As parents of three children each, both Roberts and Cavallerano agree that kids today have more academic and athletic pressure than ever before. And too much technology isn’t a healthy outlet. “It’s fostering inactivity in our kids and making them cognitively and emotionally deficient with the guise of making them seem connected,” explains Cavallerano. Roberts agrees. “Community Investors was created to take on these problems, one kid at a time. We support our kids with activities that holistically strengthen them, both mentally and physically, during an otherwise challenging time in their life. It’s like the sandlot with guardrails.”

All Middle School students are welcome to participate in the Sports Club. “Even if kids don’t have interest in the athletics, there’s always a place for them here,” explains Cavallerano. There are student DJ, announcer and social media correspondent positions available. The program includes less-traditional sports like flag football and dodgeball (with foam balls) to encourage inclusion. Loud, upbeat music enhances the fun factor. And to avoid the dreaded feeling of being picked last, teams are pre-assigned and balanced. Just like the kids would do themselves.

Last year, more than 70 students participated in the Sports Club’s coed flag football league, and another 30 in coed soccer. While only 10 percent of participants were girls, Roberts and Cavallerano are hoping to change that.

Community Investors works with Wellesley Public Schools’ faculty, administration, and parents, along with local businesses. Wellesley Public Schools’ Superintendent David Lussier sees the potential of the program: “We are always looking for new ways to expand opportunities for our students with as many experiences as possible, and we think that by partnering with Community Investors we may be able to offer an additional after-school athletic outlet for our students.” Adds Wellesley Middle School Principal, Mark Ito, “While we offer multiple opportunities for student athletic activity after school, we are happy to explore expanding those offerings as a collaborative community partner. Social play can reinforce the values of camaraderie, collaboration, perseverance, and participation.”

Another mission of Community Investors is to lead and support initiatives to expand and improve recreational resources. “Wellesley has a critical shortage in both playing fields and indoor recreational facilities,” says Roberts.

As part of a cross-community effort to raise funds for a new Track and Field project at Wellesley High School, Community Investors is serving as fiscal agent for the private capital campaign. “This project

“My son absolutely loves it. We are thrilled as it provides exercise, time with friends, and time away from video games. We consider the Sports Club just as important for his all-around growth as his academic studies.”
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will substantially increase opportunities and utilization,” Roberts continues. “We are proud to be a part of a great team effort and look forward to supporting additional opportunities to expand our community resources.”

As a nonprofit, Community Investors is supported by local businesses and private donors. John Pastore, Senior Vice President of Integrated Financial Partners, was a founding donor, “My son and many of his friends in Wellesley have enjoyed Joe’s Terriers baseball programs for years. Our firm has also collaborated with Joe in the financial services field and know he is capable of great things. We saw this as a unique opportunity to fund a proven leader to launch an impactful program for our community. We are proud to support Community Investors.”

Roberts sees yet another benefit of Community Investors. “Over the years we’ve been fortunate to see graduates of our other programs go on to do great things including becoming a Major League Baseball player, a college varsity football coach, and two NFL assistant coaches. But the graduate we are most proud of founded his own nonprofit to support Wellesley students in need, and is now on the Community Investors’ Board helping us get started,” recalls Roberts. “So while the kids may view our program simply as a great way to have fun, we are working to teach them the importance and value of community and hope they will be inspired to support their town someday. Every city and town could benefit from a program like this. And we believe we can create a blueprint that can be replicated for many other communities.”
Shampoo and Soap with a Whole Lot of Hope

CHERYL BALIAN SCAPARROTTA writer

more than a few families in Weston and Wellesley have been startled to receive children’s birthday invitations that specify: No gifts—please bring a supply of soap, shampoo, and toothpaste instead.

If you’ve been invited to a “Hope and Comfort” party, then you already know what’s afoot.

Five years ago, Jeff and Loren Feingold of Weston wanted to not only celebrate their daughter’s second birthday, but share the importance of giving back with both their children. So, rather than asking for gifts for Grace, the Feingolds requested that party guests bring items to be donated to a children’s charitable organization.

“This was started as a way to show my kids how lucky they are,” says Jeff. “The big idea is paying it forward with random acts of kindness.”

But when the Feingold family delivered the toys and clothing, they learned that one of the largest unmet needs for both needy youngsters and adults are simple toiletries.

“When we brought over that first crate of stuff, the social worker enlightened us about the shortage of basic personal care items,” Feingold recalls.

Understanding the extent of this need and having a strong desire to help the community, the Feingolds created Hope and Comfort, Inc., now cemented as a viable nonprofit since it received 501(c)(3) status.
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We seek to help homeless and needy adults and children look, feel, and stay healthy by providing them with basic and essential personal hygiene products and toiletries, such as soap, shampoo, and toothpaste,” Feingold says. “It’s also critical for one’s health and self-esteem.”

While Feingold humbly refers to Hope and Comfort as “our little engine that could,” the momentum gained in the past five years is undeniable—and impressive. “While we started with a simple model, we now have a full-time employee,” he says.

“The biggest issue I’ve been focusing on is program development,” says Julie Williams, managing director, who has been on board for a year. “We have built two terrific programs — Stock the Shelves and Soap for Hope.”

From hands-on experience, Hope and Comfort has learned that the top five needed items are soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant.

The Stock the Shelves program is designed to get those five critical personal care products on food pantry shelves. “We met with The Greater Boston Hunger Network, which is composed of three dozen pantries in 20 towns,” Williams says. “They said there’s a huge need for those five essentials.” Trucks hired by the pantries arrive once a month at Hope and Comfort’s warehouse in Newton to pick up bulk supplies for their clients.

Similarly, Williams describes the new Soap for Hope initiative as “super-exciting.” She explains, “We distribute toiletry kits to youth organizations in Boston like the Boys & Girls Clubs.”
The kits are given to youngsters at health education sessions to support what they’ve just learned. “For example, kids are taught the importance of brushing their teeth and washing their hands, and then they receive packs of toothbrushes, paste, soap, and shampoo,” Williams states. “It really encourages their long-term health and well-being.”

Williams relates a story about a low-income school in New York that was recently aided by Hope and Comfort generosity. “A teacher reached out to us to say that her student was having a tough time; she was really struggling and she has a single father who wasn’t providing his daughter with the basics,” she says. “The girl wasn’t really put together and she had an odor. She isolated herself from her class and teachers, and her schoolwork was failing.”

The perceptive teacher formed a weekly lunch group for this student, and other girls in a similar situation. “The group is called ‘Girl Talk,’ and the teacher handed out toiletry kits. The original girl who the teacher was concerned with now comes to school without an odor anymore, and her schoolwork is improved,” Williams enthuses. When the teacher wrote her original letter of request to Hope and Comfort, she penned: “Will these students skip the prom and drop out of school because they’re embarrassed?”

“So, it’s great to hear that you can positively affect someone by an item as simple as the bar of soap we donated,” pronounces Williams.

A Clean Scrub

While Hope and Comfort operates at a grassroots level in the MetroWest community, the need for toiletries extends far beyond the area. And while many of the requests the organization receives are unexpected, Hope and Comfort has risen to the occasion.

“About 99 percent of the unsolicited requests we get are from people finding us online,” Feingold says. “We receive about five unique requests a week.” At the end of each month, he and Williams review the incoming appeals and choose one for contributions. The impact of the hygiene kits has been felt far and wide.

“A veterans’ association in Florida was helping homeless vets find permanent housing, and they held a workshop,” says Williams. “That was an opportunity for us to contribute toiletry packages to them.” Hope and Comfort also recently donated toiletry bundles, by request, to a school in Georgia that educates low-income students with special needs.

The team behind Hope and Comfort also plans to expand volunteer opportunities for local families who wish to help. “We recently had a sorting and packing day at our warehouse in Newton, where we took items out of boxes, and organized them into hygiene kits,” Feingold says. “These are truly satisfying, hands-on events for kids and adults alike.” The team of volunteers packed a whopping 350 kits for delivery to the Boys & Girls Club and the Boston Public Schools, each containing the mainstays of soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, and deodorant.

Corporate and community groups have whole-heartedly embraced the cause. Ernst & Young, Wellesley and Weston real estate firm Benoit
Mizner Simon & Co., and Temple Shir Tikva in Wayland have all conducted drives. Similarly, the Weston PTO enthusiastically conducted a donation campaign earlier this year in the elementary schools.

The organization is also grateful to Costco, which annually donates a cash card that Hope and Comfort uses to buy thousands of bars of soap. “Dollar Tree is also a big supporter by helping us with bulk products and shipments,” Feingold says.

And of course, there are those birthday parties. One Weston mother reveals, “It took a little bit of convincing to forego gifts and accept donations, but in the end, my children understood this was about helping kids with a greater need than their own,” she says. “It turned out to be a terrific giving opportunity for their friends as well, who chose toiletries at the drugstore and packed them up for the party.”

Even with all of this growth, the Feingolds continue to get assistance from his two star volunteers, daughter Gracie and son Kenny, who eagerly help with sorting, packing, and distributing. “We call them Employee #1 and Employee #2,” says their proud father.

The organization’s vision is to help anyone who needs products, regardless of geography. “The reality is that we have become a national organization, since we’re fulfilling requests each month around the country,” Feingold says. “I think the sky’s the limit.”

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“I think everybody in this country should learn how to program a computer … because it teaches you how to think.”
– Steve Jobs

when we read this quote, it seems obvious that we should be teaching computer programming skills to our children but, ironically, it’s not easy to find classes that teach these skills locally for younger kids. That’s where Wellesley-based jrCode Academy comes in. In early 2015, the Academy, which was founded by two area families, started offering much needed coding—or computer programming—classes to local children from kindergarten through eighth grade. And it’s clearly meeting a need: Last winter jrCode Academy offered one class; now, due to increased demand, it offers eight.

The brainchild of Wellesley-resident Marko Zajec, who works in business development for Oracle, jrCode Academy got its start when Marko tried to find an after-school coding class for his fifth grade daughter, Mia, last fall. There were plenty of sports and music offerings, even

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Russian math, available locally, but the only computer programming class he could find that was age appropriate was online at code.org. It taught a simplified visual coding program called Scratch, which was developed by MIT for kids.

The online class was a beginning. “My daughter was hooked. However, within two weeks Mia got stuck,” Marko says. “She wanted more instruction than she could get online. It became apparent that a child could reach capacity very quickly online. For the next level, you would need an instructor,” he notes.

Marko got in touch with his good friend, Chris Keyes, who also works in the technology industry, to discuss a business idea of offering coding classes to kids. It turned out that Chris and his wife Ruth, also of Wellesley, had been interested in computer programming training for their 11-year-old daughter, Ainsley, who was close friends with Mia. Chris was instantly interested and he knew Ruth—who had once put together her own after-school Spanish classes in their basement when the need arose—would be a strong advocate of launching this new educational opportunity.

What happened next was a combination of the best efforts of all the parents: Chris and Ruth Keyes plus Marko and his wife, Nicole. Marko and Chris put together a business plan and reached out to local professors at Wellesley College and Needham-based engineering school Olin to see if they could find students to teach the coding classes. When it became apparent that they could get great computer science undergraduates as teachers and that this idea really could work, Marko and Chris buttered up their wives and asked them for their help.

“I wish I could do it every day for two hours. It’s so fun, but you’re actually learning something.”

– jrCode Academy student, nine-year-old Andy Matarese

family matters “all four parents brought different skills to the table”
“It was two families working together, and all four parents brought different skills to the table,” says Ruth. The guys had the technological skills, while Nicole was the marketing guru, and Ruth knew how to put together class curriculums.

To get the ball rolling, Ruth and Nicole sent out an email to their local contacts to see if there was interest in an introductory coding class for younger kids. They thought maybe six families would respond and that they could hold the classes in Ruth’s basement, but one day and 25 email responses later, they realized this was a much bigger than they had originally thought. Now, the basement was out. Luckily, the Wellesley Community Center let them use their space. The group started offering a beginners’ course in winter of 2015, just a few months after Marko had his “aha” moment.

“I’m happy there is so much parental interest in programming,” says Dr. Robert Cohen, a math and computer science teacher at Wellesley High School. He says he appreciates what jrCode is trying to do. Cohen notes that currently, there are three coding programs available at Wellesley High School: Exploring Computer Science, AP Computer Science Course 1, and Building Android Apps.

Dr. Dean Blase, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction for the Wellesley Public Schools, says more coding programs should be in the offering for younger students going forward. She notes that right now robotics courses held in the middle school use a lot of computer programming skills. Blase says that currently the school system is reviewing its math curriculum from kindergarten through eighth grade to look for ways to fold in computer programming and make it accessible to all students.

In terms of jrCode, says Marko, “Ruth and Nicole are the ones who did all the heavy lifting. Chris and I shaped the idea and asked Ruth and Nicole to run with it. They developed the kid-friendly curriculums and did the community outreach. They also brought a woman’s perspective, as mothers of young kids.”

Ruth and Nicole, who have six kids from first to seventh grade between them, are both very involved in the school system in Wellesley. As a substitute teacher, Ruth has extensive experience teaching younger kids. Nicole also is extremely active in the local school system and the community. Ruth and Nicole have lived in town for eight and twelve years, respectively.

As co-presidents of jrCode Academy, Ruth and Nicole oversee the day-to-day operations, teacher management, course development, and finances. Ruth even teaches a kindergarten Scratch class.

The cost of classes—which is $275 to $350 for an eight-week session this fall—covers jrCode Academy’s expenses as well as liability insurance and other business-related costs. “We even had enough money to
buy Chromebook PCs for kids who don’t have iPads or laptops to use during some of our classes,” says Nicole.

This fall, JrCode Academy is offering the following courses at its new location at the Wellesley Recreation Department:

- Early Coders (grades K-1)*
- Early Coders Lab (grades K-1)
- Scratch Intro (grades 2-3)
- Scratch Intro Lab (grades 2-3)
- Scratch Intermediate (grades 4-5)
- Scratch Intermediate Lab (grades 4-5)
- JavaScript Intro (grades 6-8)
- JavaScript Intro Lab (grades 6-8)

*Grade levels for all classes are approximate. For example, students in grade two or three who do not feel comfortable starting with the Scratch Intro class may enroll in Early Coders. Programming classes range from Scratch, a simplified program, to Java, a more advanced and word-based computer program.

This fall semester the academy has nine teachers from Wellesley College, Olin College, and Boston College. Two public school teachers have also joined the team. In addition, five Wellesley High School students are available to help with after-school programs.

Andy Matarese, who is nine years old and took the beginning coding class this past winter, says the teachers are good and funny and that they helped him with his imagination. According to Andy, “I wish I could do it every day for two hours. It’s so fun, but you’re actually learning something.”

His mom, Brooke Matarese, adds, “I highly recommend this program. It’s a great opportunity for children to start computer programming at a young age. It’s a very accessible and kid-friendly way to expose kids to coding.” Jack Madden, a Wellesley high school student who works as an assistant teacher for JrCode Academy, agrees. He says, “These kids are doing projects in third and fourth grades that I did in the high school introductory programming class. It’s exciting.”

Dr. Cohen, who joined Wellesley High School four years ago, has seen yearly enrollment in computer programming classes jump from 11 kids to 150 kids in that time. “There’s a new feeling that everyone can be involved in coding. Now over 50 percent of our students are female, and we’ve seen a marked increase in minority involvement. Coding used to be the last boys’ club. Not anymore,” he says.

As for Ruth and Nicole, they ultimately plan to provide a curriculum that teaches the basics to kids in kindergarten all the way to advanced level instruction for high school kids who want additional classes to prepare them for the AP computer science exam. “Our long-term goal at JrCode Academy is to open up in other similar locations, like Concord and Dover,” says Nicole. “That’s why we want the curriculum buttoned up. We wanted to make it as user-friendly and mobile as possible.”
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Wellesley Scholarship Foundation
A Community that Makes College Possible

JANET MENDELSOHN writer

**it may surprise** some to learn that more than 3,300 students from Wellesley have received over $4.9 million in need-based financial assistance for college since 1951 when the Wellesley Scholarship Foundation (WSF) was created. The community-based scholarships provide recipients with approximately 20 to 25 percent of what’s needed to close the gap between what they and their families can afford and financial aid packages offered by the colleges or universities where they enroll. Moreover, for this academic year, applicants still have more than $800,400 in unmet scholarship needs. Despite successful fundraising campaigns and a healthy permanent endowment, WSF cannot help every student or fulfill every need.

Paul Vasko is among the many who are grateful.

“Receiving scholarships for four years of college meant a tremendous amount to my family and me,” he said. “It meant I didn’t have to work multiple jobs on campus, jumping from one to another constantly, so it allowed me to participate in various clubs and have more time to...
put into my studies. Second, it allowed me to attend a private school that I otherwise could not have afforded, Lehigh, which has a great engineering program. I didn’t know what I wanted to do when I started as a history major. If I hadn’t gone to Lehigh, I wouldn’t have ended up where I am now.

“Third, it showed us all that we live in a town that cares about us and about education,” says the Wellesley High 2011 graduate. “Just as [they did] when my father passed away a number of years ago, the town gathered around us. That’s so meaningful.” In June, Vasco graduated from Lehigh University with a BS in electrical engineering and this summer began officer training and four years of service in the Air Force.

The Wellesley Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt organization driven by volunteers. Scholarship recipients need not have attended the Wellesley Public Schools but they must be residents of the town. Applicants submit financial information, including copies of the aid packages offered them by the two- or four-year college or university, or technical program, they will attend in the fall. Recipients are required to reapply annually to demonstrate eligibility and ongoing need.

For their first year of college, 50 local high school seniors submitted applications to the community-based WSF in 2015, twice as many as in 2011.

In addition to its own need-based scholarships, WSF each year awards two merit scholarships to a graduating high school female and male. The merit scholarships are separately endowed and given in memory of Margaret E. Daniels and Donald P. Babson, business leaders from Wellesley who championed education. The organization also administers scholarships granted by the Kiwanis Club, Newcomers’ Club of Wellesley, Town of Wellesley Scholars Award for Babson College and Wesleyan University, Town of Wellesley War Memorial, Wellesley Cancer Prevention Project, Wellesley Cooperative Clothing Exchange, Wellesley Hills Women’s Club, Wellesley Historical Society, Wellesley Patrolmen’s Association and the Wellesley Square Merchants Association, and coordinates its awards with the Wellesley Hills Junior Women’s Club. Many of the civic groups add eligibility criteria that reflects their mission.

Forty-one volunteers with roots in Wellesley serve on the WSF Board of Trustees or in advisory roles. However, students’ financial information is confidential, seen only by a four-member Scholarship Committee currently composed of attorneys and financial services professionals. The committee reviews and coordinates applications to ensure that students’ needs are met fairly and equitably across the town.

Recent recipients attend community colleges, public and private four-year undergraduate colleges and universities, or enroll in specialized programs such carpentry or software programming.

“This a community that values education and is willing to invest in it,” said Sarah Pedersen, WSF president from 2012 to 2015. She noted that in 1940 nationwide, one in twenty Americans went to college; in 2000, one in four enrolled. Forty-four years ago, WSF’s first recipients were awarded $100 each, which covered their full tuition at the Katherine Gibbs School and Framingham State College.

Contrast that with the more than $60,000 for tuition, room, board, and general fees at the nation’s most expensive institutions this year.
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“What hasn’t changed is that parents want to provide their children with educational opportunities that will offer them a promising future,” said Pedersen. “The reasons for need are always complex. Some students come from single-parent households. Some families are struggling with job loss or bankruptcy, or both. Others are coping with serious ongoing medical conditions or are caregivers for loved ones.”

One of the big misconceptions about Wellesley is that there isn’t a lot of financial need, said Liz Weaver, chair of the Scholarship Committee. One third of the scholarship recipients in 2014 had an average family income of $38,500. There are students who work 20 hours a week at jobs to help out, and families who are not necessarily doing poorly but need to be cost conscious. “They’re looking for value,” she noted. “We have students at the top of the class who choose to go to UMass or to state schools across the country, as well as those who go to the Ivy League. Many institutions offer generous financial aid packages.”

For example, at Williams College, which costs $61,070 this year, more than half the students receive financial aid, with packages averaging $46,714 per year. Still, it may not be enough.

“Wellesley High School classes are growing,” added Beverly Donovan who succeeded Pedersen as president this summer. “Last fall, there were 341 students in the senior class and 418 in ninth grade. [In recent years] 90 percent of our graduating class goes on to higher education. We in the community raise expectations high while the costs of education keep increasing.”

WSF scholarships are funded by an annual campaign and income from the permanent endowment that now exceeds $5 million thanks to its recently ended Campaign for the Future, which raised $240,000. Administrative expenses total 6 percent of the budget, according to Pedersen, which means 94 percent of donations goes directly to the scholarships that are paid directly to the recipients’ schools.

Approximately 30 percent of donors make gifts either in memory or to honor someone, sometimes establishing named grants. New this year were the Wellesley Toyota Scholarship for $5,000 for a graduating senior, and memorial donations recognizing John Hanlon’s 32-year-career in the Wellesley Public Schools. In 2012, the Wellesley Bank
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In 2014, the Wellesley Bank Charitable Foundation made a pledge to WSF of $50,000 over 10 years. Featured in this picture are (left to right) Bob Lakin, Chair of WSF Campaign for the Future; Tom Fontaine, President of Wellesley Bank; and Sarah Pedersen, President of Wellesley Scholarship Foundation.

Charitable Foundation doubled its 2011 pledge to $50,000 over 10 years, funding a permanently named award.

At Wellesley High, Carissa Love Lucien had a goal that seemed beyond her reach. “I’m first generation in this country,” she told me recently. “My mother is from Haiti. She always put education first and I came to Wellesley for a better school system. I knew the next step was college but I didn’t know how that would be possible financially. When I applied to the Wellesley Scholarship Foundation, they gave me the opportunity.” Even then, she worried.

“Every summer I didn’t know how I’d come up with the money for the next year,” says Lucien, who worked part-time for the town’s Youth Commission camps program. “But I reapplied and got renewed.” Imagine how proud her Mom was at Quinnipiac University graduation in June when she received a degree in biology and Spanish. She now plans a career in genetics.

“When I’m established, I want to give back so other students can have an opportunity to go to college one day like I did. It is possible and I’m proof of that,” says Lucien. “WSF made this possible.”

Applications for scholarships for the 2016-2017 academic year are due by February 1, 2016. Donations can be made online at www.wellesleyscholarshipfoundation.org.
susan logue and Candace Redding started Search & Rescue Furniture in 2013 for two reasons. Their main goal was to come up with an environmentally-friendly way to repurpose old and worn-out furniture. But they also had a less lofty goal: the “shabby chic” furniture they had already created was taking up all the space in their homes, basements, and garages. Simply stated — they needed more room.

Logue and Redding, close friends since they taught in the Stoughton school system together over 40 years ago, and another friend, Pat Perry, who now works as a consigner with the business, had been working together to repair and beautify old furniture for years. After looking into several different ways to sell their furniture, they came up with the idea of holding weekend “pop-up” sales in Narragansett, Rhode Island, where they could sell some of their creations. They offered customers hutches, end tables, bureaus, and other pieces, and people loved their products. Search & Rescue Furniture was born.
“Our goal at Search & Rescue Furniture,” says Logue, who has lived in Wellesley for 25 years and raised four children here, is to “offer our customers a creative and environmentally-friendly alternative to buying new furniture. We sell gently-used and refinished furniture and unique accessories for the home and garden at affordable prices.”

To create this cottage-style furniture, they look for wood furniture with “good bones,” says Redding. Both comb through yard and estate sales, flea markets, and thrift shops. They also look for cast-offs on the side of the road, go to the Wellesley Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF), and take donations from people downsizing their homes.

Both women say they love the thrill of the hunt. “We enjoy the potential of finding something worn-out or damaged and making it beautiful again. We prefer to find second-hand treasures—especially those in mahogany, walnut, oak, and pine. The pedigree of the piece is not as important as its character,” says Logue.

According to Redding, “We ask: how can we repair the item and make it useful and beautiful once again? We don’t want to let it go to the dumpster.”
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“Swanview”  
69 Strong Island Road, Chatham  
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“Old Village”  
38 Mill Pond Road, Chatham  
$1,895,000

“In Town & To Beach”  
25 Sunset Lane, Chatham  
$1,850,000

“Frank Lloyd Wright Inspired”  
44 Sears Road, Chatham  
$1,879,000

“Estate Setting”  
51 Moonpenny Lane, Chatham  
$1,725,000

“Quintessential Chatham”  
64 Silverleaf Avenue, Chatham  
$1,650,000
Redding, who lives in Cranston, Rhode Island, says working with furniture has taught both of them that new furniture is often not as well made as pieces made 50 years ago. “First, with older furniture, it’s the quality of the wood — it is wood not pressed board. Then it’s the details — dove tailing, turned legs, and beveled mirrors.”

Both Logue and Redding are clear that they are working with older furniture, but usually not antiques, to make their shabby chic furniture. For one thing, antiques are much more valuable if you do not refinish them. And Search & Rescue Furniture offers items in a reasonable price range: from, for example, $15 for a shelf to $200 for a bureau.

According to Brenda Kane of Narragansett, Rhode Island, “At Search & Rescue, their products are wonderful. With quality like this you expect high prices, but their furniture is so fair and reasonable.”

The process for what Logue says is “finding the beauty within each piece” is fairly lengthy. (See sidebar on page 186.) Essentially, it involves finding the right pieces of furniture, sanding or stripping each piece, painting with chalk or latex paint, and sanding again “judiciously” to create the shabby-chic or “distressed” look, then applying wax to seal the paint.

Logue, a former art teacher in Stoughton, has a degree from Mass College of Art in Boston and a background in oil and acrylic landscape painting, so she comes to refinishing with plenty of experience. Redding, who tends to downplay her artistic side and calls herself a “good mimic” does not have a background in art. In fact, she was a special education teacher when she met Logue in the 1970s. However, Logue is fast to correct Redding. “I think our creative, artistic flair is in synch,” says Logue.

Most of the skills both Logue and Redding use in their furniture business are self-taught, developed while designing, remodeling, and refinishing furniture in their own homes.
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Currently, Search & Rescue Furniture sells its goods at Vintage Thymes at WinSmith Mill Market in Norwood. Similar to their original pop-up sales in Rhode Island, Vintage Thymes is a three-day, once-a-month market held the second weekend of every month. It features over 20 different dealers selling vintage collectibles, antiques, recycled furniture, and home accessories. Each month has a different theme. For example March was “Weekend in Paris.” The challenging thing about this market is that each month, Logue and Redding have to come up with completely different furniture to showcase because many of the same customers shop these sales. They have a warehouse

Step-by-Step Process to Create Shabby Chic Furniture

1. **CHOOSE ITEM OF FURNITURE** to be painted and assess the level of repairs needed.
2. **ASSEMBLE A WIDE VARIETY OF NECESSARY SUPPLIES**, like paint, sandpaper, and brushes.
3. **PREPARE WORKSPACE**. Working at room temperature indoors allows better temperature control and less chance of insects or dust landing on piece while paint is drying.
4. **CLEAN FURNITURE PIECE** with mild soap and water, make necessary repairs, and prep item; for example, remove hardware and take out shelves and drawers.
5. **SAND ROUGH SURFACES**, getting rid of chipped paint, or old, flaky finishes, and filled scratches and holes; minimal sanding is needed if using chalk paint, even if piece is stained and varnished. Start with coarse sandpaper and progress to finer grit sandpaper as surface is prepped.
6. **LIGHTLY WASH PIECE** one more time with warm soapy water, allowing the piece to dry before applying the first coat of paint. Lightly sand the entire piece with fine grit sandpaper.
7. **USE TACK CLOTH** to remove all evidence of sanding.
8. **PAINT PIECE** with water base primer to seal dark wood finishes or previously-painted furniture to prepare for painting. If using chalk paint, or if you wish to have wood surface show through paint, priming is not always necessary.
9. **APPLY FIRST COAT** of chalk or latex paint, slowly working section by section. Depending on finish, several coats of latex paint may be needed after priming. Lightly sand piece and use tack cloth between coats.
10. **PAINT FINISH COAT**. Let latex paint dry overnight (chalk paint takes less time to “cure” and is sometimes ready in under an hour).
11. **APPLY SECOND COAT** of latex or chalk paint. Two coats are usually enough for most furniture; dark finishes may require a third coat. Sand judiciously to create a shabby chic look. Use a medium-grit sandpaper to “distress” surfaces at edges, corners of tables, wooden knobs on drawers, and turned details around legs and spindles of chairs and tables, wherever natural wear might occur.
12. **DUST OFF SANDING** with a brush or damp cloth before applying clear or dark wax.
13. **APPLY WAX** to seal the paint. Use a soft cloth or brush to apply wax one section at a time; let dry for several hours or overnight and buff to a soft shine. For a soft finish, leave as is, but if a glossier finish is desired, use a clean, soft cloth and buff to bring out the shine.
14. **INSTALL** new or original hardware.
15. **SIT BACK** and admire the refurbished piece!
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in Norwood, where they store furniture in waiting, while their homes handle the overflow.

“There are a lot of customers waiting for us when the doors open,” says Logue. “There are young people just starting out, older people looking to downsize, or people looking to furnish second homes. Many of them, especially younger customers, like the idea of environmentally-friendly furniture.”

Customer Shirley Nicholson of Pembroke says she loves shopping these monthly markets. “Every time you go there you find something different. Search & Rescue Furniture has really unique, hand-painted furniture.”

Both women say they love what they do and tend to be collectors who want to put all the pieces they refinish in their own houses. Search & Rescue is a family affair with a husband, a son, daughters, and brothers and sisters pitching in.

As for going forward, they are considering online sales (although, they say, the shipping can cost as much as the actual furniture) and custom work, where customers select a specific piece and finish.

No matter what, says Kane, “It’s obvious these girls love what they do.”
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What Are You Reading?

STEVE MAAS writer

for this issue’s book feature, we’re departing from our usual format of author interviews. Instead, we’ve asked local authors, librarians, book club members, and bookstore owners for their reading recommendations.

* * *

WILLIAM MARTIN of Weston has been putting American history on The New York Times Best Sellers list for nearly four decades, ranging from the novels Back Bay (1980) to The Lincoln Letter (2012). He is now delving into the California Gold Rush for The Mother Lode, tentatively due out fall of next year.


Every so often, I like to sink into a big, thick biography that reads like a novel. I’m also a fan of H.W. Brands, a serious historian who writes with clarity, purpose, and a fine sense of drama. So, when I saw that Brands (author of biographies on Franklin, Jackson, FDR, and Grant) had written “Reagan,” I started reading. Love him or hate him, you can’t deny it: Ronald Reagan was one of the most influential presidents of the 20th century. His ideas continue to frame the political debate, and his journey from Iowa to Hollywood to Washington makes for a fascinating American tale. H.W. Brands, even-handed and thorough but always interesting, tells it as well as it’s been told.

* * *

MADELEINE W. MULLIN is a reference librarian at Weston Public Library, where she leads its nonfiction book discussion group.

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Lynne Olson focuses on three extraordinary Americans who were in London from 1939 to 1945, Edward R. Morrow, the broadcast journalist, John Gilbert Winant, the American ambassador to Great Britain, and Averell Harriman, a confidante of both Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. Their relationships with each other and others, including Pamela Churchill, the prime minister’s daughter-in-law, and Tommy Hitchcock, a wealthy bon vivant who flew fighter planes, changed the course of history. This book was a great hit with the library’s nonfiction discussion group.


**Harry Potter series, by J. K. Rowling (Scholastic Paperbacks)**

When my kids were young, I read to them at bedtime. As they grew older, that nightly ritual somehow got lost. A few months ago, my nine-year-old daughter, Esmé, asked if I would read to her. Together, we decided on the Harry Potter books. I had never read any of these special books, thinking they were for children. And they are, but they’re so much more. The writing is beautiful, the characters well-drawn. There is intrigue and suspense, humor and sadness, and a hero as courageous as any hero I can remember. I would recommend Harry Potter to readers of any age — but especially those dads out there (moms too) who perhaps forgot, as I had, the simple pleasure of reading to your child before turning out the lights.

**GILLIAN KOHLI** has co-owned Wellesley Books with her husband, Bill, since 2010. Kohli, who used to practice construction law, is vice president of the New England Independent Booksellers Association.

**Did You Ever Have a Family, by Bill Clegg**

*(Gallery/Scout Press, 2015)*

This high-powered literary agent—who chronicled his struggle with drugs in the memoirs *Portrait of an Addict as a Young Man* and *Ninety Days*—sets his debut novel in a rural Connecticut town with an affluent summer community. The story begins with a tragic house fire the night before a wedding. That sounds grim, and it certainly is a sad premise, but the novel is less about the tragedy itself than about the complicated lives of all the people it touches. Each chapter is told from a different character’s perspective; through each we learn a little more about the events before and after the fire. We hear from the bride’s devastated mother, from the caterer no one remembered to pay, from the teenage boy in the house next door. The pages turn quickly as we unravel the details of the fire’s origin, all the while savoring the elegantly intertwined stories of a community and all the human connections it contains.
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**One girl gets the chance to go on to high school, while the privilege is denied to the other: the truly brilliant and original thinker. As their paths (and prospects) diverge, the girls struggle with their complicated feelings for each other. The themes of identity, class, and friendship are treated with keen insight, and the prose is beautiful. I could not put it down!**

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**JOEL SISENWINE**, who is marking his 15th year as the Rabbi of Temple Beth Elohim (TBE) in Wellesley, finds a book by an author who grew up in Wellesley and attended TBE, that combines science and spirituality.


As a rabbi in our community, I always felt that a spiritual surrounding enhanced one’s well being. And now a product of Wellesley, psychologist Dr. Lisa Miller has synthesized the growing scientific research in the field of neurology and psychology to describe why this is so. In her highly readable book, Dr. Miller compellingly describes the positive correlation found between leading an active spiritual life and restraining from substance abuse and unprotected sex, as well as resisting depression. This book makes for an interesting read for parents, grandparents, spiritual seekers and anyone who cares for the psychological health of our children.

---

**JANET MANNHEIM** of Wellesley is “the keeper of the records” of a book group that has met in area homes for a quarter of a century. Written 126 years ago, her selection has been reissued in paperback and is posted free online at www.gutenberg.org.

**Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog), by Jerome K. Jerome**

Our book group reads a mixture of the usual best-selling literature and old classics. After learning that John Cleese credited Three Men in
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*a Boat* with influencing his comedy, one of our members knew this book was for us. Published in 1889, this tongue-in-cheek travel guide follows these adventurers along the Thames from Kingston to Oxford, England. Even though it was written years ago, the dry humor holds up to today. It seems we all have experienced taking a vacation where everything that can go wrong does indeed go wrong. Just consider this passage: “Rainwater is the chief article of diet at supper. The bread is two-thirds rainwater, the beefsteak-pie is exceedingly rich in it, and the jam, and the butter, and the salt, and the coffee have all combined with it to make soup.”

*JAMIE JURGENSEN*, who became director of Wellesley Free Library in March, shares picture books she has read to her three-year-old.

**Paul Meets Bernadette**, by Rosy Lamb (Candlewick, 2013)

Paul is not a particularly happy goldfish. He swims around and around, without much else to do all day… until Bernadette, another goldfish, drops in. Bernadette shows Paul how to see the world from a fishbowl, in a whole new way. Filled with art and humor, this is a book that both adults and children will appreciate.

**Hooray for Hat!** by Brian Won (HMH Books, 2014)

Sometimes animals wake up grumpy. As it turns out, a fancy hat can make any animal feel better. Fun pictures, sparse text, and a great message about the power of friendship make this a favorite read-aloud at bedtime.

**The Farmer’s Away! Baa! Neigh!**, by Anne Vittur Kennedy (Candlewick, 2014)

When the farmer leaves to plow the fields, the animals get to play. From water-skiing to roller coasters to a formal ball, the animals have a great time, until the farmer returns. The animals manage to (mostly) keep their secret. The book is cleverly written so that the reader sings the story using only animal sounds.

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Nantucket has always been a favorite summer destination for many local families. What’s not to love? Gorgeous beaches. Cobblestone streets. Breathtaking scenery. World-class restaurants. Great shopping. Loads of charm. But now that the beach chairs are stowed away, the coolers unpacked, and the faded bathing suits tossed aside to be replaced by next year’s styles, Nantucket is just a distant memory. But don’t put away that ferry schedule just yet: Nantucket in the fall is beautiful, peaceful, less crowded, and still very special. And once fall gets into full swing here, and all of us are slightly crazed with overbooked schedules, perhaps a weekend in September or October is the best time to escape for a little regrouping and rejuvenation.

Wellesley resident Gwenn Snider, who owns the Nantucket Hotel & Resort with her husband, Mark, sums it up fall on Nantucket nicely: “Nantucket is magical at all times of the year but fall offers the lingering warmth of summer without the crowds. The beach may still beckon,
and yet evenings may call for a sweater for a stroll on Main Street. Everything is still open but the island slows down a bit making it easy to appreciate the beauty of the extraordinary landscape."

Nantucket is ideal for relaxing and doing things on your own time. But for those of us who enjoy a bit more structure or are looking for an excuse to get away, there are plenty of organized events and activities for all ages. Let’s take a look at a few of them.

Learn

Before becoming a favorite tourist destination, Nantucket was one of the most prosperous whaling capitals in the world. This rich heritage is being celebrated this year in full Hollywood style with the premier of Ron Howard’s movie, In the Heart of the Sea, based on Nathaniel Philbrick’s bestselling book. The book tells the story of the whaleship Essex and its unfortunate crew whose boat sank after being rammed by an angry whale. The tale that unfolds makes for compelling reading, and will undoubtedly make a splash as a movie starring Chris Hemsworth, Cillian Murphy, and Brendan Gleeson.

To learn more about the whaling industry and Nantucket’s role, visit the WHALING MUSEUM on 13 Broad Street. Sponsored by the Nantucket Historical Association (NHA), the exhibit “STOVE BY A WHALE: 20 MEN, 3 BOATS, 96 DAYS” follows the journey of the 1820 Essex crew, many of whom were residents of the island. Follow the journey of the 20 sailors as they attempt to sail thousands of miles across the Pacific in tiny lifeboats with limited resources.

Also at the museum, view “THE MIGHTY MISTY MONSTER” exhibit featuring embroidered narratives by artist Susan Boardman. Boardman adapts the techniques of 17th-century raised embroideries to create a visual history of the ocean, whaleboats, and their prey.

Another fabulous learning opportunity is found in the NHA’s IN THE HEART OF THE SEA WALKING TOUR. The 90-minute tour focuses on the Essex survivors and their lives on the island after the disaster. A NHA guide will teach you about the important role the whaling industry played on Nantucket and provide insight into the social structure of 19th-century Nantucket. See www.nha.org for a tour schedule.

Harvest

Have you ever witnessed the beauty of cranberries being harvested? Most likely not, but here’s your chance to do so and enjoy a day filled with interesting activities and lots of fun. Like whaling, cranberry harvesting was once an important part of Nantucket’s economy. The industry diminished just before the Second World War, and today the Nantucket Conservation Foundation owns the last two cranberry bogs on the island and hosts what is known as the CRANBERRY FESTIVAL. Held this year on October 10 from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm, rain or shine, this island favorite takes place at MILESTONE BOG, one of the oldest, continually-operating farms on Nantucket. With 195 acres under cultivation, the area is one of the most beautiful and peaceful places on the island and the autumn colors should be magnificent.

Take a self-guided or guided tour and watch the cranberries being harvested from several bogs throughout the day, or ride a bike down six miles of paths. Children will enjoy sack races, face painting, hayrides, and a petting zoo. There will also be live music by Four Easy Payments, a variety of food options including B-ACK Yard BBQ, and plenty of...
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cranberry confections. Be sure to bring home cranberries for your holiday feasts—they freeze well. There is no entrance fee for the Cranberry Festival. Visit www.nantucketconservation.org.

Run
If you’re a runner or have been considering trying a half marathon, this could be the race for you. According to the Nantucket Chamber of Commerce, the NANTUCKET HALF MARATHON, now in its fifth year, is quickly becoming one of the island’s most popular annual events. Described as the “most scenic on the East Coast,” the course features 13.1 miles of wooded dirt roads, tree-lined bike paths, lightly traveled streets, and, naturally, sweeping ocean views along much of the route. If hills aren’t your thing, you’ll be happy to know that the route is mostly flat. The race was sold out in 2014, so be sure to register early. This year’s race will be held on Sunday, October 11 at 8:00 am. Registration fees are $65 before September 15 and $75 after. Registration closes October 9 or when the race is full. Visit www.nantuckethalfmarathon.com.

Bike
Fall is the perfect season for a bike ride as the air is cool and the streets and bike trails are less traveled. With an extensive network of bike trails and very few hills, riders of all abilities can enjoy exploring the island on a bicycle. Bring your own bike or rent one from a bike shop in town. If you prefer a guided tour, check out NANTUCKET BIKE TOURS (www.nantucketbybike.com). A number of interesting and scenic rides are offered, but one of the most fun is the eight-mile ride to Cisco Brewery. Enjoy a cold one (or two) on the outdoor patio and listen to live music in a relaxed, casual atmosphere. The tour ends here so you don’t need to worry about riding your bike back to town: Your guides will help you find a cab.

Dine
If you’ve visited Nantucket in the summer, you know that there are many wonderful restaurants from which to choose. You also know that it can be impossible to get into some of the more popular spots unless you book reservations months in advance. NANTUCKET RESTAURANT WEEK is the perfect opportunity to sample the island’s fine cuisine at a variety of participating restaurants and at reasonable prices with three course dinners priced from $25 to $45. Held in the spring and the
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Stay
Recently purchased and completely renovated by Wellesley husband and wife team Gwenn and Mark Snider, the NANTUCKET HOTEL & RESORT is located at 77 Easton Street in the heart of Nantucket, and within walking distance to the ferry, shopping, restaurants, and town beaches. Billed as the island’s only “premier, all-season destination hotel and resort,” the building’s grand exterior may take you back to 1891 Nantucket, but the interior is 2015 with all of the modern conveniences that today’s travelers have come to expect. This could be one reason why the hotel was recently named #18 in the Top 25 Hotels in the United States by Trip Advisor Travelers’ Choice Awards.

A new wing of five luxury cottage guest suites just opened this past summer and each one exudes a glamorous, breezy, coastal living vibe. Think classic beach house with a twist. Nautical chic décor and furnishings in crisp blues and whites add to the casual elegance. The hotel also features a fitness center and spa, two heated swimming pools, a hot tub, and an outdoor sauna for cool autumn evenings. The resort’s Breeze restaurant is open year-round and new Executive Chef Josh Schoen is reportedly working magic in the kitchen.

The Sniders also own the Winnetu Oceanside Resort on Martha’s Vineyard, and guests at the Nantucket Hotel & Resort can opt for a special island hopping experience through October 18. Called the “Sea for Yourself” package, guests can explore both
Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard through a complimentary ferry service, plus complimentary pick-up and drop-off transfers via luxury vintage fire truck vehicles at both properties.

To take advantage of the movie excitement Nantucket Island Resorts is offering a “Heart of the Sea” package throughout the fall that includes two tickets to the Whaling Museum and two nights’ accommodations.

Step back into time at the WHITE ELEPHANT (www.whiteelephanthotel.com), one of the most iconic and well-known hotels on island. A Nantucket landmark since the 1920s, guests can choose from a variety of luxury accommodations at the 50 Easton Street location on the harbor. Or stay in one of two stand-alone lofts, one on Easy Street and one on Main Street. And don’t forget to watch the sailboats cruise by as you sip on the Brant Point Grill’s famous Lobster Bloody Mary.

Another Nantucket Island Resort, the JARED COFFIN HOUSE (www.jaredcoffinhouse.com), at 29 Broad Street is one of the oldest hotels on Nantucket and in New England. The hotel is appropriate for celebrating the “heart of the sea” as it embodies the true essence of the former whaling town with its history, décor, and prime location in the center of town. Originally built as a family residence by successful ship owner Jared Coffin, this brick mansion’s mahogany accents and navy blue and reddish hues give guests a taste of history and a feel for classic New England style.
The Toast of New England
Hard Apple Cider Makes a Comeback

CLARA SILVERSTEIN writer

after farmers established Lookout Farm in South Natick in 1651, they had good reason to plant apple trees. At the time, New Englanders drank about a pint of fermented cider per day, according to The Drunken Botanist, by Amy Stewart. By the middle of the 19th century, Sherborn had turned into a cider capital with the world-renowned Holbrook Cider Mill at its center.

Purer water, changing public tastes, and Prohibition in the 1920s put an end to the hard cider boom — but not forever. Now hard cider is making a comeback with two brewers, Lookout Farm Hard Cider Company and Stormalong American Hard Cider in Sherborn, leading the way locally. In Boston, The Boston Beer Company produces the Angry Orchard brand and Harpoon also brews its own hard cider.
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All of these companies tap into a growing national resurgence of hard cider. *The Cider Journal*, a trade publication, reports that in 2013, hard cider sales in the United States increased 89 percent. In New York City, the cider-focused restaurant Wassail recently opened with more than 90 ciders available on tap or by the bottle. In New England, cider drinkers like the connection to history and to local farming. Cider of all types (including unfermented sweet cider) pairs well with food and can be used as an ingredient in a surprising variety of dishes.

“This category [hard cider] has completely exploded,” says Mike O’Connell Jr., manager of Upper Falls Liquors in Newton, which is affiliated with Auburndale Wine & Spirits, Needham Wine & Spirits, and Post Road Liquors in Wayland. “There’s a new one popping up every day. At first, it was more of a beer crowd asking for cider but now there are more refined craft ciders that are converting wine drinkers.”

A fun place to taste hard cider is the new Taproom at Belkin Family Lookout Farm, which carries a rotating selection of hard ciders brewed by Aaron Mateychuk, formerly of Watch City Brewing Company in Waltham. The grill of an old tractor fronts the taps and weathered

### MIKE O’CONNELL’S HARD CIDER SAUCE

<table>
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<tr>
<td>2 Tbsp. butter</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 sprig fresh thyme</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 shallot, minced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salt and pepper to taste</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 (12 oz.) bottle of hard cider</td>
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- In a small saucepan, heat 1 Tbsp. of the butter. Sauté the shallot until soft and translucent.
- Add the cider and bring the heat to medium-high. Simmer until reduced down to about ½ cup.
- Add the thyme sprig and the remainder of the butter and increase the heat to high. Season with salt and pepper and shake the pot so that an emulsion forms (you can use a whisk, too). Serve with roasted pork, chicken, or duck; it’s also good with roasted root vegetables, such as turnips and beets.

**Makes about ½ cup**

### CATHARINE WALTHERS’ ROASTED PEARS WITH APPLE CIDER SAUCE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 pears, peeled, cut in half, core removed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olive or canola oil, as needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 cup apple cider</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dollop of yogurt, whipped cream or vanilla ice cream, if desired</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mint, for garnish</td>
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- Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Rub each pear with a little olive oil or canola oil on both sides. Place the pears on the baking sheet, cut side down, and bake for 15 to 20 minutes, until the bottom is a nicely colored golden brown. Flip the pears over and bake another 10 to 15 minutes until easily pierced with a fork.
- While the pears are cooking, place the apple cider in a medium saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium, and simmer 15 to 17 minutes, uncovered, until cider is slightly thickened into a syrup, about ¼ cup.
- Place the baked pears on dessert plates. Drizzle the warm reduced cider over the pears and around the plate. Garnish with yogurt, whipped cream, or vanilla ice cream, and mint, if desired.

**Serves 2 to 4**
food & wine  "an old, unique beverage"

wood from an old barn lines the walls. New England Charcuterie of Waltham provides a simple menu of flatbread pizzas, charcuterie and artisan cheeses. Sweet cider is also on the menu.

Mateychuk uses apples grown at Lookout Farm in each batch of cider, adding ingredients such as honey from Massachusetts-based Shelburne Honey Company, as well as more exotic green tea, hibiscus and lemongrass. Experiments are always in progress like with an early batch of added tongue-tingling habanero peppers grown on the farm.

“Cider is an old, unique beverage and we’re introducing freshness in the ideas about it. We like to see what complements the apple flavors,” says Jay Mofenson, who oversees Lookout Farm operations with his wife, Amy. Amy’s parents, Steve and Joan Belkin of Weston, own the farm. “It’s is a natural extension of the farm. We have a diverse selection of apples, and many are fantastic for cider making.”

The Taproom also extends Lookout Farm’s programs beyond the all-too-short New England growing season.

Sherborn-based Stormalong started earlier this year, and sells its bottled ciders at local stores including Wasik’s Cheese Shop and Roche Bros. in Wellesley. Heritage of Sherborn, a gastro-pub at the

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ELLIE DEANER’S HOT BERRY CIDER
(From Ellie’s Kitchen to Yours, by Ellie Deaneer)

1 quart apple cider
1 quart cranberry juice
2 Tbsp. brown sugar

Pour the cider and juice into a large saucepan. Add the brown sugar. Place cinnamon sticks and cloves in a piece of cheesecloth and tie together. Add to the saucepan.

Bring the mixture to a boil and then reduce the heat to simmer for 15 minutes. Remove cheesecloth. Serve hot.

Hint: This is delicious on a cold fall or winter day, especially after apple picking or sledding. You can pour it into a thermos and bring it to a tailgate picnic.

Makes 2 quarts

ELLIE DEANER’S APPLE RICE PILAF
(From So Easy, So Delicious by Ellie Deaneer)

1 to 2 Tbsp. olive oil or butter
1 1∕4 cup minced parsley
1 medium onion, chopped
2 1∕2 cups dried cranberries or raisins
Rind of 1 orange, grated

Heat the oil, butter or margarine in a saucepan. Add the onion, celery, and orange rind, and sauté until the vegetables are limp.

Add rice and continue cooking just until the rice is golden.

Add half the parsley, cider or apple juice and dried cranberries or raisins. Bring to a boil. Cover and reduce heat to a simmer.

Cook for 25 minutes for white rice and almost an hour for brown rice.

Add salt and pepper, to taste. Sprinkle remaining parsley on top just before serving.

Hint: This pilaf has a fruity taste and goes especially well with poultry, pork, or lamb.

Serves 4

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Sherborn Inn, serves the cider on tap and also pairs it with food. Stormalong founder Shannon Edgar, who moved with his family to Sherborn after living for several years in Los Angeles, has enjoyed tying the cider he makes into local history. “We’re trying to make it cider central here,” he says.

He planted many varieties of heirloom apples on land leased from Dowse Orchards and looks forward to creating different varieties of ciders. “You can use apples to ferment into remarkable beverages,” he says.

O’Connell says he sells a range of bottled ciders. Some are more like a champagne and can be served in flutes, while others that are just slightly carbonated. Some companies even age craft ciders in barrels originally used for whiskey.

No matter what the style, hard cider typically pairs well with pork, says O’Connell, who is also a food and wine consultant and accomplished home cook. He also likes hard cider with spicy food because it “cuts the heat on the palate.”

Though O’Connell has found a way to use hard cider in a recipe for a sauce, most cooks reach for sweet cider in the kitchen. This kind of cider is not carbonated and produces more predictable results.

Catherine Walthers, a cookbook author and private chef in the western suburbs, likes using sweet cider in a sauce that she drizzles over roasted pears. “It’s an easy and satisfying fall dessert, good enough for company,” she says. Anjou or Bartlett pears work well, but try whatever you have on hand.

The flavor of sweet cider gives a “real punch” to fall dishes, says Ellie Deaner, a cookbook author who gives demonstrations and classes at venues including the Weston Public Library. It’s also a healthy base for a variety of recipes. “I use it in rice pilaf because it gives a nice flavor and is lower in sodium than broth,” she says. She also makes baked French toast with apple cider for people who want to avoid milk.

No matter how it’s enjoyed, apple cider is the quintessential taste of New England. WW

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**RESOURCES**
- **BELKIN FAMILY LOOKOUT FARM**, 89 South Pleasant Street, South Natick, 508.651.1539, www.lookoutfarmcider.com
- **STORMALONG AMERICAN HARD CIDER**, www.stormalong.com
- **UPPER FALLS LIQUORS**, 150 Needham Street, Newton, 617.969.9200 www.upperfallsliquors.com
- **CATHERINE WALTHERS**, www.catherinewalthers.com
- **ELLIE DEANER**, www.elliedeaner.com
about town

About Town is the place to find Wellesley and Weston residents at noteworthy events throughout Greater Boston. For more information on the events shown and to view additional photos, visit wwmblog.com.

Wellesley Historical Society Spring Celebration

Wellesley Free Library Foundation’s Spring Soiree

Coldwell Banker Honors Top 50 Weston Sales Associates

**WellesleyWeston Magazine’s** blog is the talk of the towns with the latest event photos, calendar listings, and conversations for the people who make things happen in Wellesley and Weston. Log on today and you might see yourself in our expanded About Town section. Post a comment by going directly to wwmblog.com or visit our Web site at www.wellesleywestonmagazine.com and click on About Town or wwmblog.
about town (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 212)

For more information on these events and additional photos, visit wwmblog.com

Benoit Mizner Simon Million Dollar Listing Luncheon

1 Traci Shulkin, Ryan Serhant, and Christine Shechtman  
2 Sheryl Simon, Ryan Serhant, Amy Mizner, and Debi Benoit  
3 Christina Gavriellis, Kristine Beimford, and Carolynne D'Agostino  
4 Betsy Hargreaves, Sarah Patrick, and Jessica Allain

Newton-Wellesley Hospital Gala

1 Laurence Friedman, MD; Timothy Foster, MD; James L. Kaplan; and William R. Elfers  
2 John and Tracey Cannistraro

Pine Straw Good Charma Trunk Show

1 Pam Berutti, Noel Capillo, and Lisa Wesley  
2 Tracy Cranley, Pam Fink, Pam Berutti, and Ginny Keator  
3 Tracy Cranley

Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Opening Night

1 Mitchell Gold, Bob Williams, Steve Elbaz, and Andrew Terrat  
2 Greg Sweeney and Cathi Ianno  
3 Stuart Dale and Sarah Dale  
4 Sam Gray, Jill Nilsen, and Charlie Nilsen
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Kate Walsh Luncheon

1 Val Butler and Cecelia Brooks 2 Terry Wadsworth, Kate Walsh, and Debbie Krieg 3 Jane Bomes, Larry Hannawalt, and Theresa Levy 4 Debi Benoit, Lara O’Rourke, and Chelsea Robinson

Bella Sante Media Day

1 Sara Lahey, Dr. William Numa, and Tiffany Amorosino 2 Kendra Petrone and Field Yates

Art BeCAUSE Celebrity Fashion Show

Women of Means Spring Fundraiser at Sara Campbell

1 Michelle Smith, Alice Peisch, Susan Crossley, and Susan Kingsley 2 Jean Dwyer, Sandy Geddes, and Barbara James

For more information on these events and additional photos, visit wwmblog.com
Runway to Miracles for St. Jude Children’s Hospital

1 Carol Hudson, Rachel Gubbay, Donna Paglia, Kathy Lafave, Margaret McNeil, Michelle Arbeely, Jessica Broggi, Jessica Collins, and Cynthia Flynn
2 Kristy Zaccagnino, Susan Wornick, and Dalia Nawayhid
3 Jessica Broggi, Blake Maroon, and Lauren Theodakoras
4 Maria Chase, Shani Defina, Karla Pastore, Kristen Whitaker, and Mary Ellen Behrend
5 Alexandra Lazzarino, Malia Fink, Skylar Bemon, Ayya Nawayhid, Anna Lazzarino, and Sofia Fauza

Page Waterman Belclare Event

1 Jeb Bachman and Sturdy Waterman
2 Sturdy Waterman, Georgia Jenkins, Roger Pelissier, Brad Perry, and Lyn Evans
3 Ryan Black and Elizabeth Carroll
4 Lyn Evans, Georgia Jenkins, Candace Evans, and Mark Iwicki

J. Todd Galleries Opening Event

1 Jessica Case and Monica Tremblay
2 Lesley Muldowney, Jonae Barnes, and Mona Kumar
3 Barbara Zack, Lori Tavis, and Kathy Doyle
4 Ivna DeSouza and Brian Hart

Wellesley STARS at Special Olympics

front: Micah Abraham, Stephen Lucas, Colin Steinberg, and Aren Keomurjain; back: Charlie Nilsen

For more information on these events and additional photos, visit wwmblog.com
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For more information on these events and additional photos, visit wwmblog.com

Wellesley Education Foundation 30th Anniversary Party

1 Yolanda Tong, Phyllis Theerman, Becky Cole, Kimberly Costa, Julia de Peyster, Susan Morris, and Cynthia Westerman
2 Ken Rossano and Carol Morrow
3 Carol Morrow and Linds Chow
4 Kristen Toffler and Rama K. Ramaswamy
5 Marybeth Martello and Traci Battle

Emerald Necklace Conservancy’s Party in the Park

1 Lisa Pierpont and Nancy Joyce
2 Penelope Fireman and Ashley Berson

Roxbury Weston Programs 50th Anniversary Celebration

1 Alix Mackey, Mark Whitworth, Alex Mackey, and Kait Whitworth
2 Clyde Yarden, Jennifer and Kyle Betty
3 Arielle and Mike Nurczynski, Caroline and Bill Balz

Rotary Club of Weston and Wayland Pooch Parade

1 Jennifer Cunningham
2 Leslye Fligor

Visit the WellesleyWeston Magazine Blog
To post a comment or view expanded coverage of these events, calendar listings, and conversations for the people who make things happen in Wellesley and Weston, visit wwmblog.com.

Do You Have An Event You Want Us To Showcase?
Please send your photos and descriptions to: jill@wellesleywestonmagazine.com. Email submissions only please; jpeg photos are welcome at a minimum size of 3” x 4.5” at 300dpi.
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DESIGN IS AN EVER PATIENT SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE

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it wasn’t the graduation ceremony that made me cry; it was that last walk home alone from school. For fourteen years I had been walking with one of my three children to and from our local elementary school for each morning drop off and each afternoon pickup. Only the most extreme New England weather kept me from my ritual.

Wellesley’s unique configuration of local neighborhood schools, less than a mile (and often just blocks) away from most students’ homes, encourages walking as one of the easiest options for getting to and from school. In fact, my children and I would often wonder why parents bothered to drive, since we often passed them, walking faster than they got there waiting in the carline.

Walking to school let us test the weather to make sure we were dressed right for the day, give the dog some exercise, and catch up with neighbors. But what really made walking special was that uninterrupted time. No phones, no radio, no technology — nothing but our walk together. Questions asked about what lay ahead that day on the walk there, and then how it all went on the way home. Time to hear about struggles with math, the latest drama with friends, and to just listen about what was important. Time to just be present.

When my oldest daughter, now in college, had her last day of elementary school, my husband offered to walk her since he was home that morning. I quickly, and not so politely, declined. I cried on my solo return home because I knew it was the beginning of letting go, as she would be taking a bus to middle school. But I still had two left in the nest.

Today, I cried once more. Walking home alone after parting with my youngest on this, her last day of elementary school, I reflected on these fourteen years. I returned to work several years ago, but arranged for part-time hours so I could be home when my kids were. So I could continue to be there for every walk.

As I came through the door on that beautiful spring morning, my husband was there in the kitchen, looked up from reading the paper, and just let me cry on his shoulder for a minute. It was the end of an era. But one that has been so blessed for our family and for which I feel so very fortunate.

The school system released the bus routes for middle school and my daughter’s stop is around the corner. The dog really does need a morning walk, so maybe I’ll ask my daughter if we can join her on her way there — just that first day.

MARIBETH SANABRIA lives in Wellesley and works as both a freelance editor and a teacher in the Weston Public Schools.
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