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Inbox
Get the latest on the people who make things go in community businesses and read about important events in Wellesley and Weston.

Forum
Readers speak out on issues of importance to them. In this issue, Phyllis Theermann discusses the connection between air pollution, climate change, and our health.

Family Matters
Get advice on what to do if your child or someone you know is the victim of cyber bullying.

Education
Wellesley elementary school students explore nature and learn about the environment with a variety of outdoor educational opportunities.

Artist Profile
Three artists with ties to Dana Hall School showcase their work at the Clever Hand Gallery in Wellesley.

Business
Wellesley resident Pam Kubbins explores the world through scarves as the owner of Pam’s Paahminas.

Local Cuisine
Loyalists pack Bernard’s in Chestnut Hill for a contemporary take on Chinese cuisine.

Food & Wine
Learn to cook like the pros at one of the many cooking classes taught by local chefs.

Excursions
Jamaica Plain, one of Boston’s trendiest neighborhoods, has something for everyone.

About Town
Wellesley and Weston residents attending noteworthy events throughout Greater Boston.

Last But Not Least
This page gives our readers the opportunity to express themselves creatively with writing, art, and photography. In this issue, Patty Lenz Bovie shares the story of how her mom broke out of her staid role to pursue a fulfilling career.

Books
2017 Year End Real Estate Market Review

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Spring is the season of inspiration. After a freezing cold winter, much of it spent indoors, we now feel rejuvenated and motivated to get organized, get in shape, and get outdoors. Even though I like to walk along the Brook Path and ride my bike all year long, it’s much more pleasant and more fun to do so on a beautiful spring day. The people I met on the pages of this issue are truly inspirational, and they motivate me like good weather to try something new, be adventurous, and enjoy fresh air and nature like never before.

Cycling is one of my favorite things to do, and a cross-country trip has always been on my bucket list. After reading about Glen, Earl, and Tucker and their journey along Route 66 from Boston to San Diego, a major bike trip has moved up to the top of my list. I can’t think of a better way to see the country, meet interesting people, get into top physical shape, achieve an ambitious goal, and raise money for a worthwhile cause. If nothing else, the article inspires me to start training for some amazing rides this spring and summer.

One doesn’t need to travel far, however, to have an adventure. I visited Jamaica Plain years ago, but I never really spent any time there until about a month ago when I visited to take photos for our “Excursions” article. The day I spent there was like a mini vacation: visiting historic landmarks, trying new restaurants, shopping at trendy shops, and experiencing great people watching. It was a quick but rewarding getaway, and I hope to get back to JP this spring and summer when the weather is warmer and more conducive to being outdoors. There are so many restaurants to try and shops to visit.

For many, getting back into the garden is another favorite springtime activity, and the green thumbs you’ll meet in our “Master Gardeners” article undoubtedly spend a lot of time with their hands in dirt and have gorgeous gardens at their homes. But they also assist the rest of us by volunteering at horticultural sites, staffing gardening help lines, and providing educational talks to enlighten those of us who could use help in making our gardens grow. In our “Education” article, you’ll learn how our young people are also learning about the environment and nature through a revamped environmental education initiative in the public schools.

Whether it’s improving your gardening skills, trying a new sport, achieving a lofty goal, or simply enjoying the nice weather, I know you’ll find plenty of inspiration on the pages of our spring issue.

Happy Spring!

Beth

Wellesley Weston 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 and Inbox section. Post a comment by going directly to wwmblog.com or visit our website at www.wellesleywestonmagazine.com and click on About Town or wwmblog.
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ROLEX & OYSTER PERPETUAL AND DATEJUST ARE TRADEMARKS.
change is always hard, and moving to a new town can be one of the biggest changes we make in our lives. Many years ago, with a toddler and a preschooler in tow, my husband and I moved to Wellesley from the Midwest. While I thought I was prepared to embrace the change, I never anticipated how difficult it would be and how alone and helpless I would feel when the moving truck pulled away and my mom left to return home to Ohio.

A few people made a tremendous difference with simple acts of kindness, and they probably never realized how much their efforts meant to a young mom who had never lived so far away from family and longtime friends. There was the knock on the door from a neighbor with a freshly baked loaf of banana bread and a list of local resources like pediatricians, dentists, and neighborhood play groups. There was a visit from an associate minister at the local church who noticed the moving trucks on one of her daily walks and stopped by just to say “hello,” and “welcome.” And there was the mom who found me standing alone on the preschool playground and, noting that our daughters had become fast friends, invited our family to dinner. Our husbands hit it off, our daughters are still best friends, and I hope my dear friend reads this and knows how much that day meant to me then and now.

Day by day, month by month, our family felt more and more welcome. And it was a very good feeling.

The word “welcome” appears in two articles in this issue, and, while both deal with the topic of immigration, they are very different articles. “Welcome Home” is the first in a series of articles where we meet international families who now call Wellesley and Weston “home.” The men and women we meet are proud of their immigration stories, and, as they share their fascinating journeys, we learn why they chose to stay and raise their families here. I know you’ll enjoy meeting these neighbors who add much to make our towns culturally rich, diverse, and interesting places to live.

“Welcome the Stranger” also deals with immigration but in a very different way. Here we meet a group of concerned citizens from Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley who decided to do something locally to help families who were forced to flee their homes in war-ravaged Syria. More than 100 members of the synagogue joined an interfaith humanitarian effort to raise money and resources to resettle Syrian refugees in our area. Thanks largely to the generosity and welcoming spirit of these volunteers, there are currently eight Syrian families who now call Greater Boston home.

As we welcome spring, I hope you’ll take the time to welcome a new neighbor. You’ll be glad you did.
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164 FOREST ST, WELLESLEY
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10 RIDGEHURST CIR, WESTON
$2,825,000

134 EDMUNDS RD, WELLESLEY
$2,675,000

10 TAYLOR RD, WELLESLEY
$2,595,000

18 ORDWAY RD, WELLESLEY
$2,499,000

49 FISKE RD, WELLESLEY
$2,395,000

30 CORNELI RD, WELLESLEY
$2,395,000

21 CHESTNUT ST, WESTON
$2,395,000

118 HUNDREDS RD, WELLESLEY
$2,250,000

15 FALMOUTH CIR, WELLESLEY
$2,100,000

245 WINTER ST, WESTON
$2,075,000

30 OLD FARM RD, WELLESLEY
$1,999,000

55 PINE ST, WESTON
$1,950,000

27 COLLEGE RD, WELLESLEY
$1,895,000

43 OAKHURST CIR, NEEDHAM*
$1,885,000

12 WEBSTER RD, WAYLAND
$1,885,000

4 CUTTERS BLUFF, WESTON
$1,849,000

7 LAWRENCE RD, WESTON
$1,815,000

29 PINE ST, NEEDHAM*
$1,799,000
much anticipated, always welcome, spring is the season of unfurlings, uncurlings, and green tips poking forth from a warming earth. “Ahhh, at last,” we say. There are many signs of spring’s arrival. I love the surprise of a crocus clump suddenly bursting forth in a sea of color on a sunny day when all around is bare. More demurely, my early season favorite announcing “spring is here” is the beloved pussy willow. What is more charming, really?

Who would have thought that flowers without petals could be so enticing? Yet that is precisely what willow catkins are, resting over winter encased in a hard sheath, hugging the stem. As spring unrolls, the catkins cast off their winter capes and downy silvery flowers emerge turning golden as they ripen. Pick some early on to bring indoors, and in a few days the golden pollen falls like fairy dust. Children delight in seeing these furry-looking flowers, feeling their softness, and watching them turn yellow. The catkin epithet derives from their resemblance to the pads on a cat’s paw.
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Here in New England the harbinger of spring found growing in the wild is our native willow, *Salix discolor*, the pussy willow, with pearly gray catkins heavily studding its stems. As soon as the golden stamens appear, the first native bees swarm around them in the sunshine gathering nectar and pollen, an important early food source. Willows are dioecious (male and female flowers occur on separate plants), and, of course, it is the males that have showier flowers. Although the early bees are out and about gathering food, the female catkins are generally unattractive to them so willows are not really insect pollinated, but rather it is left to the wind to do the job. When you go to purchase a willow make sure it is a male, so best to look for one when the plants are blooming in early spring.

Closely related but not native is *S. caprea*, the florist’s pussy willow, which has larger catkins; however, they are more sparsely distributed along the stems, and our native pussy willow has a daintier look. There is a weeping form suitable for smaller spaces—*S. caprea* ‘PENDULA,’ also known as the Kilmarnock willow with silvery white catkins that really stand out along pendulous branches. Its diminutive form, six to eight feet, suits many landscapes.

A willow with foliage more striking than its catkins is the dappled willow, *S. integra* 'Hakuro Nishiki,’ with new leaves that are a froth of pink, white, and light green, all blended so that from a distance it looks covered
Jacob Lilley Architects, Inc.
in flowers from late spring to early summer. The foliage eventually turns green, but if sheared it forces new growth that is variegated. If you prefer large, showy catkins, look for the giant pussy willow, *S. chaenomeloides* ‘Mt. Aso,’ which has silky reddish pink flowers that shimmer in the spring sunlight. For drama there is the black pussy willow, *S. gracilistyla* ‘Melanostachys,’ with large black catkins.

Willows are quite adaptable to many soil conditions but prefer a moisture retentive soil; they are easy to grow and a great addition to any garden. Fast growing, the shrubs can be kept to a desirable size with a hard annual pruning to just inches above the ground as this encourages more stems with a display of catkins to welcome in spring. Of course, a collection would make a major statement in your landscape.

You can also make a statement and add spring to your doorstep or patio by cutting some fuzzy catkins to help fill your outdoor containers. And don’t forget to bring some indoors to display in a vase on your kitchen counter. Willows have an optimistic charm while the catkins will make you smile. What better way to get out into the garden then with a smile and a spring in your step. Happy gardening!
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Sometimes it feels like we are floating in a sea of vulnerability: A friend is diagnosed with cancer. A child dies. A country appears to be on the brink of war. A nest empties. A marriage dissolves. Despite our best efforts, it seems we can’t always protect ourselves and the people and things that matter most to us, and that is a tough place to live. Follow our tips to help manage the stress that comes from simply being human.

**one**  **Balance Your Input**

What you expose yourself to shapes you. What are you taking in—through each of your senses—and how is it affecting you? Are you also looking for the goodness around you—what is working in your life? How might your sense of vulnerability change if you were intentional about capturing three to five good things that happened every day in a note or sketchbook?

**two**  **Seek Out Beauty**

Humans are hungry for beauty in a variety of forms: music, art, architecture, landscapes, gardening, love, companionship, religion, and many more. Beauty takes our breath away, brings tears to our eyes, and ignites our sense of being alive; it touches us in a way that makes us feel understood, connected, and at home in the world. Where is there beauty in your life? How can you augment the beauty around you?

**three**  **Get Outdoors**

The healing and restorative power of nature is well documented. It can alleviate stress and anxiety, restore our ability to think and pay attention, and promote our creativity. How can you spend more of your time outdoors? What might happen if you allow yourself to get curious about what you see, hear, touch, and smell? What does a gentle breeze feel like on your skin? How many sounds can you detect?

**four**  **Create Something**

Using our imagination minimizes negative mood and anxiety. How might you catalyze your creative juices? Designing a garden? Writing a song? Coloring in a coloring book? Remember, the transformation is in the doing, the act of creating itself, not in the outcome.

**five**  **Pause**

Let’s be honest. How often do you run from one thing to the next, without a moment to catch your breath in between? Imagine a bit of transition time between engagements. How might that change your stress level? How might it reduce the stress you evoke in others?
six Play
Solving puzzles. Dancing. Completing scavenger hunts. Singing at the top of your lungs. Exploring new places. When was the last time you engaged in an activity simply for enjoyment, not for a serious or practical purpose? If it’s hard to recall, it has been far too long.

seven Stay Hydrated
Studies have shown that dehydration leads to a higher level of stress hormones, which makes functioning that much harder. Your heart rate goes up, your breathing becomes shorter and faster, and you lose fluids. Generally speaking, we need between one-half to one ounce of fluid daily for each pound of our body weight, adjusted for heat, altitude, and exercise. How much are you sipping?

eight Be a Change Agent
Wishing for more kindness, peace, or generosity in the world? What if you make it happen? Place a few books in a neighborhood Little Free Library. Make a pot of soup for someone who could benefit from a little TLC. Offer a granola bar or pair of socks to someone on the streets. How do these little acts change your experience of the world over time?

nine Check in with Yourself
Imagine a five-point scale with one end designated as “calm and centered” and the other “frantic and off kilter.” Now imagine using this internal barometer at any moment to judge how you feel. Might you be able to head off a melt down with a few moments of recalibration?

ten Breathe Deeply
When we are feeling vulnerable we often breathe quickly and shallowly. Unfortunately, when we do so, we rob ourselves of the single most important tool for restoring our balance: deep breaths. When you inhale deeply, down through your chest into your belly, and then exhale slowly, you balance your nervous system. In as few as three breaths, you can find your footing.
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recent news briefs covering wellesley and weston people, places, and businesses

 Angie O’Donnell and Wellesley resident Sue Williamson, executive coaches and founders of 3D Leadership Group, a Boston-based leadership development firm, recently commemorated their firm’s 10th anniversary by taking their executive coaching team to New York City to participate in a two-day workshop facilitated by Leaders’ Quest, a social enterprise with a charitable foundation that works with leaders from business, government, and civil society to catalyze change by developing wise, compassionate, and adept leaders. For more information, please visit www.3dleadershipgroup.com and www.leadersquest.org.

 Bonsoir Fine Linens has launched a new website: www.bonsoirfinelinens.com. Visit Bonsoir online or in the new showroom at 873 Worcester Street (Route 9 West), Suite #1, where you’ll find an exquisite collection of luxury home linens with a personalized touch. Bonsoir draws upon 25 years of experience to create bespoke bed, bath, and table linens that are uniquely yours. You’ll find embroidery, jacquard, and print patterns from around the world in the highest quality fabrics including Egyptian Giza cotton, modal, silk, linen, wool, and cashmere.

 Wellesley resident and architect Patrick Ahearn FAIA was awarded a Citation Award for “Excellence in Architecture” at the 2017 AIA New England Awards. Senior Associate Michael Tartamella received the award on the firm’s behalf at the award ceremony. Visit www.patrickahearn.com for more information.

 Construction continues on Charles River School’s (CRS) new middle school building, with occupancy expected for the 2018−2019 academic year. This new building will support the school’s progressive, innovative curriculum. To learn more about CRS, an independent school for Grades Pre-K−8, contact Director of Admissions Kat Whitten at 508.785.8213 or kwhitten@charlesriverschool.org. You can also visit www.charlesriverschool.org. New transportation options will be available for the 2018-2019 academic year.

 Family owned and operated since 1977, A.J. Rose Carpets & Flooring continues its local outreach as a proud sponsor of Kate’s Voice. Kate’s Voice is a local nonprofit that provides music therapy services to students with special needs. Through interactive sessions, music therapy offers students the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills in social, self-expression, communication, and gross/fine motor functions. For more information, visit www.katesvoice.org and www.ajrosecarpets.com.
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**Jan Gleysteen Architects of Wellesley** is honored to be named “Best Traditional Architect – Boston” 2018 by *Best of Boston HOME Magazine*. This achievement marks the first “best of” honor for the firm. *Boston HOME* publishes the home industry’s “best of” every year in their winter issue, recognizing companies they see as exceptional in their respective field. Jan Gleysteen Architects builds homes of grace and distinction in its hallmark New Traditional architectural style, adding a modern flair. For more information, call 781.431.0090 or visit www.jangleysteeninc.com.

**The Wellesley Bank Charitable Foundation** recently announced a ten-year $50,000 commitment to the Wellesley Council on Aging, Tolles Parson Center. “We are thrilled to invest in the Tolles Parson Center, which we believe will add great value to the quality of life for the seniors in our community,” said *Maureen Sullivan*, president of the Wellesley Bank Charitable Foundation. In honor of the pledge, the art room in the Center will be named after the Wellesley Bank Charitable Foundation. For more information, visit www.wellesleybank.com.

**Drs. Ali of Wellesley Dental Group** celebrated their 10th Annual Candy Drive! Every year, the drive has grown in size and scope. What started as a small Halloween candy buy-back with a handful of local children has morphed into an endeavor that spans the Metrowest. This year, 41 schools participated, along with numerous businesses and organizations. Best of all, they collected more candy than ever before: just over 10,000 pounds.

**Benoit Mizner Simon & Co.** recently hired eight new associates to its growing group of quality real estate agents. Three of these eight associates have been hired specifically to the Wellesley office and four to the Weston office. *Christine Tin, Claudia Perkins, and Susan M. Sullivan* are the new Wellesley office agents and *Danielle Meade, Francesca Mills Purcell, Jeanne Racioppi, and Laura Bennos* are the new Weston office agents. *Beth Klencheski* is the one new Needham office hire.

**Brimmer and May**, an independent, co-educational school serving Pre-K to 12th grade students in Chestnut Hill, has opened the Hastings Center, a two-story addition to one of their existing buildings. The Center is named after the Hastings family.
members of whom are Wellesley residents and supporters of the Brimmer community. The new addition will house state-of-the-art innovation, STEAM, media, and Maker Labs where students will innovate and experiment with creative ideas in order to develop their problem-solving skills.

Save the date! The 2018 Wellesley Kitchen and Home Tour will be on Saturday, May 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The doors to six gorgeous homes will be open, caterers will serve gourmet bites, pop-up boutiques will offer Mother’s Day gifts, and design experts will answer all of your questions. Last year’s tour was the most successful in the event’s history—more than $65,000 was raised for scholarships and grants for local nonprofits.

Jane Gladitsch has joined Berkshire Hathaway Town and Country Real Estate. Jane is an award-winning interior designer offering a unique skill to showcase a home’s vision and value. With a background in corporate management and expertise in contract negotiation, relationship development, and sales, she prides herself on making all her clients feel like they are the only clients. For more information, visit www.bhhstownandcountry.com.

FLX Training is celebrating a decade of connecting, inspiring, and improving lives in our Wellesley
community. Their newest addition, Community CORE, is a group training class offered the first Saturday of every month that gives back to a local charity in need. FLX Training is located at 443 Worcester Street in Wellesley. For more information, call 781.235.2733 or visit www.flxtraining.com.

Dr. William LoVerme at Accurate Aesthetics Plastic Surgery, P.C., is ushering in a new era in women’s intimate health with the BTL Ultra Femme 360 machine, the first of its kind. This brand new feminine rejuvenation machine tightens and raises the labia, decreases the vaginal opening width and canal, and improves natural lubrication, urinary stress incontinence, menopausal dryness, and satisfaction. The procedure is done in their office with no pain/downtime and is non-invasive. For more information, call 781.263.0011 or visit www.AccurateAesthetics.com.

Citizens Bank is pleased to announce that Jeff Page (NMLS# 697300) has recently joined the Home Mortgage Division as a Sales Manager. Jeff was previously a mortgage loan officer and sales manager at Citizens for 15 years. Jeff is available for mortgage consultations at the Wellesley branch at 182 Linden Street. For questions about mortgage financing, please reach out to Jeff at 617.910.8238 or by email at jeffrey.page@citizensbank.com.

Cutting Edge Homes Architects + Builders participated in the Junior League of Boston 2017 Designer Show House. In-house designers Anu Shah and Laura Custodie presented their stunning transformation of the Grand Foyer to thousands of visitors during the month of October. They were among 20 of the area’s top designers selected to make over rooms at the 1853 William Flagg Homer House. Proceeds raised from the Show House support the Junior League of Boston’s mission. For more information, call 508.435.1280 or visit www.ThinkCuttingEdge.com.

Coldwell Banker Wellesley office Sales Associate Ellen Walsh is celebrating 30 years in the real estate business with $400 million in sales. Ellen’s extensive experience and dedication to customer service have
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Ellen Walsh

helped earn her position among the company’s top real estate professionals. Having lived in Wellesley for over 40 years, Ellen has extensive knowledge of Wellesley and surrounding communities, she has also been recognized by WellesleyWeston Magazine for her interior staging and flower expertise.

There is new leadership at the Dana Hall School of Music in Wellesley. Executive Director Michelle Kiehl brings an extensive background in business management and a strong commitment to the growth and advancement of students through music education. She is joined by Artistic Coordinator Genevieve Marino. In addition to her new responsibilities, Marino teaches classical voice, acoustic guitar and beginner piano. The School of Music provides high-quality music instruction to students of all ages and backgrounds. For more information, visit www.danahall.org/som.

ViVIDS Hair Color Dyes are now at Jesamondo Salon & Spa. A galaxy of color options including Fireball, Mermaid, Cupid, Lemon, Absinthe, Lilac, and numerous others can be streaked or balay-aged to create an array of looks to suit any modern fantasy. Donning the crowns of celebs and locals alike, they’re ideal for any season. Go for a simple splash of color to amp up your style or full-on unicorn. Call 508. 907.7171 for details and visit www.Jesamondo.com.

Weston resident Tiina Smith recently opened Tiina Smith Studios, offering a collection of fine jewelry to the discriminating buyer. Tiina fell in love with jewelry more than two decades ago and began assembling her collection. After receiving inquiries from admirers about her pieces, she decided to help others acquire unique and elegant jewelry. Please view a sample of the collection at TiinaSmithStudios.com and email her at tiina@tiinabsmith.com.

Darby Road HOME (DRH) is expanding its design services beyond Boston, the Cape, and New Hampshire to Quechee and Woodstock, Vermont. DRH owner and operator Michelle Coppolo owns a vacation home in Quechee so it is only natural to include her design services there as many of the second homeowners are from the Boston area. Because she is in Quechee so frequently, she can offer the same design services on site throughout the year that she offers her other clients. For more information, call 781.899.6900.

While seniors were home for Thanksgiving break, Needham Bank recognized the Wellesley
High School girls’ golf team’s achievement of winning the state championship last June by presenting jackets to the team. The entire team was in attendance in the school’s atrium along with Coach Ken Bateman; Needham Bank’s Wellesley Branch Manager Stephen Walls; and the bank’s president and CEO, Wellesley resident Joe Campanelli. “We are very appreciative of Needham Bank for going above and beyond to celebrate the team’s victory,” commented Coach Bateman.

Trove, located at 542 Boston Post Road in Weston, recently held a trunk show for Ray Griffiths, one of the world’s most gifted jewelry designers. Griffiths creates exquisite gold crownwork settings that reflect his early training fabricating the intricate substrata of tiaras and crowns. Based in New York City, the Australian-born designer has been creating timelessly elegant jewelry for more than 30 years, and his technical skills can be seen in his signature collections as well as custom pieces. For more information, visit www.raygriffiths.com.

ARID Newton-Wellesley Dental Specialty Group recently hosted a group of cardiologists, infectious disease specialists, and primary care physicians for their second lecture series on the
etiological association between poor oral health and overall health. Dr. Touradj Ameli, a leading prosthodontist in implant dentistry, discussed the interrelation between dental implants and idiopathic cardiomyopathy; a legitimate concern for infective endocarditis. To attend the upcoming lecture series on poor oral health and respiratory diseases, contact ARID at info@aridnw.com.

On December 13, the Wellesley Sonja Selami Law Offices hosted a holiday celebration of their new location at 40 Grove Street in Wellesley. The event benefitted the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and featured food by celebrity Chef Ming Tsai of Blue Dragon, a silent auction, and live music with Almost Owen. More than $10,000 was raised, totaling over $20,000 for the firm’s 2017 commitment to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Dean Poritzky, Principal and License Partner at Engel & Völkers Wellesley, is delighted to announce the addition of six new advisors to the shop including: Sari Coduri, Jen Cubell, Jennifer Lozada, Rob MacLeod, Keith Magnus, and Paige McVay. Engel & Völkers is the leading international real estate firm based in Hamburg, Germany and nationally in New York City. Further expanding its rapidly growing footprint in New England, the new shop is located at One Abbott Street in Wellesley Square.

Laurie Gorelick, principal at Laurie Gorelick Interiors in Natick, is pleased to announce that she is the recipient of the Design Excellence and Achievement (DEA) award from Inmod and has been named by Modenus as one of Design Hound’s Top 100 Influencers. The 2017 Inmod
Design Excellence and Achievement award recognizes designers of the highest level of professionalism whose commitment to the field of interior design and to modern design in particular is exemplary. For more information, visit www.lauriegorelickinteriors.com or call 508.651.8330.

New England’s award-winning shop and design studio Casabella Interiors is launching an online boutique this spring. A go-to destination for all things home, you’ll soon be able to shop their sophisticated East Coast aesthetic 24/7. Get ready for a high-style mix of one-of-a-kind global furnishings, accessories, lighting, rugs, and art—all curated by company founder and principal designer Michele Chagnon-Holbrook. Visit www.casabellainteriors.com.

Chris Norcross, Jon Lynch, and Wendy Beaulieu of William Reavis Real Estate proudly supported the research and treatment advances being made at the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers at Dana-Farber during the “Beyond Boston Luncheon” at Wellesley Country Club. It’s estimated the event raised over $200,000 to benefit the women’s organization.

The MacDowell Company, a Weston-based landscape architecture and construction company, has received the Best of Boston Home award for Landscape Design/Build, West for 2018. The MacDowell Company is honored to receive this award and for the recognition of their dedication to the highest quality in design, construction, and client experience. Please visit www.themacdowellcompany.com or call 781.899.9393. For more information on the Boston Home award pick up the Winter 2018 issue.

The Gardens at Elm Bank 2018 Calendar has arrived! This beautiful calendar features images of The Gardens at Elm Bank and the Elm Bank Reservation taken by Wellesley photographer John Harmon. Each month contains advice from Elm Bank horticulturists intended for growers in our region—tips for gardens, lawns, houseplants, and more. Order yours at www.masshort.org.

Liz Darling, a veteran of the real estate sector, recently joined LEVATUS, a newly-launched wealth services company. Darling is part of the founding team and will serve as senior client advisor to LEVATUS’ clients. The LEVATUS founding team has almost 100 years of combined experience that they use to pursue positive change, offering a simplified, direct approach to investing. LEVATUS LLC is a registered investment advisor with offices at 129 Newbury Street, Boston. For more information, visit www.LEVATUSWEALTH.com.

Charlene Nigohsian Fallon, president of Nigohsian Carpet & Rug (www.nigohsiancarpet.com), is in her tenth volunteer year as a ski instructor at Loon Mountain for New England Disabled Sports, a nationally-recognized program that provides year-round adaptive sport instruction to adults and children with physical and cognitive disabilities. Programs allow individuals with disabilities to enjoy a boundary-free environment, outdoor recreation with friends and family, and access to equipment and instruction. Nigohsian Carpet & Rug is located at 55 Crawford Street in Needham.

Pam Kubbins, owner of Pam’s Pashminas, just returned from working with her creative team in India on some beautiful and unique textile designs. She will be featuring her new pieces in her online boutique at www.pamspashminas.com and at the World Trade Center for her tenth anniversary at the Boston Flower and Garden Show in March.
Elaine Bannigan, owner of Pinnacle Residential Properties, announced that Teri Adler is the company’s top agent for the tenth consecutive year and continues to be among the top agents in the state. Teri, a local native, received her MBA from Babson College, and she and her family currently live in Wellesley. For more information, visit www.pinnaclehouses.com or call 781.237.5000.

Temple Beth Elohim of Wellesley welcomed Shanna Zell as the new assistant cantor. Shanna is a singer/songwriter turned cantor who believes in creating a warm, uplifting community of song open to all seekers and lovers of Judaism. She graduated from the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College in June and was also a cantorial intern for Congregation Beth Elohim in Brooklyn. Cantor Jodi Sufrin notes that she is delighted to welcome Shanna as a partner in making sacred music.

Theo & Isabella Design Group owners Susan Schaub and Scott Bell created “Wunderkammer, Cabinet of Curiosities,” a room in the 2017 Junior League Designer Show House in Belmont. The firm also received the Junior League of Boston’s Pineapple Award for their work in the community. Based in Sudbury, Theo & Isabella designs homes throughout the MetroWest area and all along the Atlantic coast. The firm’s client base also extends into New Hampshire and Florida. For more information, call 978.505.1616 or visit www.theoandisabella.com.

Weston resident and local artist Anna Thurber specializes in creating unique ice compositions and photographing the results. The frozen compositions feature colorful flowers, plants, and other items found in nature. Anna is excited to now offer custom artwork using flowers from events including weddings, anniversaries, and...
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other special occasions to create a lasting memory in a framed piece of art to suit your style. For more information please visit www.annathurber.com.

Precision Built, Inc. is celebrating its 11-year anniversary. Kris Kolligian started his business with a referral, and can proudly say 100 percent of the business has been earned thanks to satisfied customers who have spread the word. The company’s attention to detail is unparalleled, ensuring everything has been completed exactly as they dreamed. From historic renovations to island estates, Precision Built brings their clients’ visions to life. For more information, visit www.precisionblt.com or call 508.655.0778.

Getti Gear, a women’s active wear boutique, is celebrating five years in Wellesley and recently moved to a new location at 85 Central Street. At Getti Gear, you’ll find fashionable and functional apparel for all of your activities including yoga, Pilates, running, workout, tennis, barre, and more. Featured brands include Nancy Rose Performance, NUX, Terez, Prana, Handful bras, OOfos footwear, and ToPo Athletic shoes, to name just a few. For additional information, visit www.gettigear.com.

Lovelane Special Needs Horseback Riding Program was awarded $30,000 from the Weston Reunion Fund, Inc. Founded in Weston in 1988, and now located in Lincoln, Lovelane is recognized by the Boston pediatric medical community for its innovative approach in providing therapeutic horseback riding to 130 children with disabilities each week. Lovelane is one of several nonprofits selected by members of Weston High School’s Class of 1971 who initiated a fundraising campaign to not only benefit others in the community, but to make their 50th reunion impactful.

Wellesley-based F.L.Putnam Investment Management Company announced that Weston resident Abby Psyhogeos has joined the firm as senior vice president and private client advisor. She will be based in Portland, Maine, expanding the firm’s local presence. Psyhogeos joins F.L.Putnam from Bainco International Investors, a registered investment advisor based in Boston, where she spent nearly 30 years working with high-net-worth clients. F.L.Putnam provides investment management and financial planning advice and services to high-net-worth clients, endowments, and foundations. For more information, visit www.flputnam.com.

Margolis & Bloom, an estate, special needs, and long-term care planning law firm, recently expanded its office locations in the MetroWest area, opening in the Wellesley Office Park and moving its Boston location to the Boston Marathon finish line on Boylston Street. Over the past 25 years, Margolis & Bloom has worked with its clients to find the best estate planning or elder law solution for each client. The firm’s nationally recognized attorneys make sure that each client’s unique needs are met. To learn more, visit www.margolis.com.

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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9 FRANCIS ST, DOVER
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Climate Change and Our Health

Residents in Wellesley and Weston can agree that health is a priority for our families, our community, and the world at large. Dr. Regina LaRocque, a Wellesley resident and an infectious disease specialist at Massachusetts General Hospital, is on a mission to educate the public about the direct connection between air pollution, climate change, and our health.

Lately, we have seen how climate change is claiming human lives with more extreme natural disasters, but we don’t necessarily notice the more immediate threat from air pollutants like volatile organic compounds, ozone, and particulate matter. This fossil fuel-related air pollution, as well as chemical pollution, is causing a worldwide health crisis. In October 2017, an international group of scientists reported in *The Lancet* that pollution caused an estimated nine million premature deaths in 2015—16 percent of all deaths worldwide. This amounted to three times more deaths than from AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined, and 15 times more deaths than from all wars and other forms of violence.

Unfortunately, President Obama’s Clean Power Plan is being legally challenged. If it were fully implemented, this plan would prevent 90,000 pediatric asthma attacks, as much as 3,600 premature deaths, and 300,000 missed school and work days each year. Moreover, the Environmental Protection Agency asserts it would lower electric bills and create jobs.

Fossil fuel-related air pollution is a problem right here in Massachusetts. The 2017 “State of the Air” report by the American Lung Association gave five of Massachusetts’ 14 counties (including Norfolk County) a “D” or an “F” grade for air quality on high ozone days. Air pollutants are associated with respiratory and cardiac diseases, asthma, heart attacks, bronchitis, and lung cancer, as well as increased hospitalization rates and premature death. People with respiratory diseases, pregnant women, young children, and the elderly are especially vulnerable.

Dr. LaRocque, like many physicians and public health professionals, knows that improving air quality by shifting to clean energy sources will not only help stall the coming threat of a warming planet, but will also bring health benefits. As an infectious disease specialist, Dr. LaRocque also sees a clear line between climate change and infectious diseases, as severe weather events and expanding habitats for mosquitoes bring more insect and water-borne infections. This fall, Dr. LaRocque testified at the State House about these health concerns on behalf of Partners HealthCare, arguing in support of legislation that would require utilities to increase their renewable energy investments and speed the state’s transition to a clean energy future.

What does she suggest residents do to improve the situation? Move quickly toward clean energy sources and away from fossil fuels.

As *WellesleyWeston Magazine* has reported in the past, many local residents are doing
Can we be your banker?

It’s very likely—in fact, more than likely—that you already have a bank.

So why would you even think about using Needham Bank?

We’re smaller. We have fewer customers. We almost certainly have fewer branch offices. We have very little (zero, to be precise) Wall St. clout.

Our headquarters—the building where most of us work—isn’t in a major city or financial capital, it’s here in Needham, Massachusetts.

And yet, we wouldn’t even ask to be your banker if we didn’t think there was the possibility of you saying:

“Maybe you’ve got something there. A smaller, more personal bank might actually be a good thing.”

That’s the entire premise upon which we base this advertisement and, for that matter, everything else we do.

How big or how good?

The usual thing for a bank such as ours (or any more relationship-oriented business) is to trot out comparisons to other smaller, more person-to-person businesses: the artisanal cheese-maker, the bespoke clothier, the craft brewer. At some level those David v. Goliath comparisons ring true. Smaller definitely means less stodgy. More creative. A greater sense that you, your family and the values you hold dear...matter.

But smaller in the world of banking can also set off alarm bells. What if I need a whopper loan? What if I’m in California and I need an ATM? Aren’t big banks safer?

To answer the first concern, we have almost $2 billion in assets. Rather small by big bank standards, but very big by human standards.

To answer the second concern, we rely on technology. If you have a Needham Bank checking account, your Needham Bank debit card works at any bank, anywhere in the world, and you don’t pay a nickel for transaction fees. (Ironically, we may have more free ATMs than any bank, of any size, anywhere.)

“Hi, is that your banker?”

As for the concern you might have that big banks are safer...well, there’s evidence to suggest otherwise. Small bank operations tend to be simpler than those of larger banks. When it comes to financial institutions, simplicity generally means greater transparency.

So there.

You don’t have to be big to be good.

Two other very important questions:

The first question is this one: Do you care to do business with a large bank?

Some people do. There’s a kind of cocktail-party validation that comes from being able to say “I’m with Chase.” Or “My guy at Bank of America.”

Small banks such as ours, on the other hand, throw off a vibe of provincialism. Saying you have an account with Needham Bank will either be seen as perfectly dull or incredibly shrewd. (We think typically higher interest rates on deposits and generally lower rates on loans, suggest the latter.)

The real test—and the even more important question—is this one: Do they care to do business with you?

Have they ever even asked to be your banker?

Can we be your banker?
Residents can encourage action at the state level by letting policy makers know about the connection between energy sources and our health.

Dr. LaRocque is just one of many local citizens who are making their voices heard at the state level on the need for clean energy in Massachusetts. This past fall, she and more than a dozen Wellesley residents took part in two months of daily “stand-ins” at Governor Charlie Baker’s office, asking the governor to withhold support for additional fossil fuel (natural gas) infrastructure in Massachusetts. Mass Power Forward, a coalition of more than 200 community groups including the non-profit Sustainable Wellesley, supported these stand-ins. Stand-in participants made it clear that climate change threatens our physical and mental health, and highlighted Attorney General Maura Healey’s 2015 report that the state does not need increased gas capacity to meet our electricity needs.

Bottom line: Consider reaching out to your local utility companies and your elected officials to encourage them to do everything in their power to refuse large fossil fuel infrastructure and to commit to use of clean energy sources for Massachusetts for the sake of our health, our environment, and our economy.

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one day a woman walks into a cubby-hole office at The Gardens of Elm Bank with a little terrarium. Inside, wrapped around a stick, is a two-inch weevil-like worm. She suspects that the jointed, ivory-colored creature has something to do with the sawdust at the base of her rhododendron.

Just another case for the botanical Sherlock Holmes of the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, which operates a help line based at the headquarters of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in Wellesley, among many other activities.

“It was the most disgusting worm I’ve ever seen,” said Dianna Kanter of Wellesley, who became a certified Master Gardener two years ago. But that didn’t stop Kanter from pursuing the case.

After consulting with her fellow Master Gardeners, Kanter learned that the worm was a rhododendron stem borer. “This creature basically tunnels through the roots or lower branches of your rhododendron, sawdust falling out as they munch through,” she said.

“You have to have good tolerance for ick,” said fellow Wellesley resident Melinda Rayburn Smith about being a master gardener.

And you also need the tenacious curiosity of a detective. “I think it’s like a murder mystery,” said Kathie Skinner, another hotline volunteer. “I’m a murder mystery person. I like figuring things out.”
Besides running help lines—for phone, email, and walk-ins—at Elm Bank and Tower Hill Botanic Garden, the Master Gardeners volunteer at horticultural sites, help establish school and community gardens, staff booths at fairs and farmers’ markets, and give lectures and symposiums.

The Master Gardeners program exists nationwide, sort of a suburban counterpart to the rural agricultural farm agent. In most states, the groups are attached to a university; the local association is independent, although affiliated with Mass Hort, Tower Hill, the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, and the New England Wildflower Society.

The fatalities Skinner and her fellow Master Gardeners investigate tend to be of the botanical, rather than the homicidal variety. But the plant world does have its share of lethal characters. Take the daffodil, a flora fatale if there ever was one. Don’t place them in a vase with mixed flowers or intersperse their bulbs with other types in a garden bed.

But since daffodils are toxic to animals as well, they serve as a natural barrier to keep hungry deer, chipmunks, and other critters out of your garden.

That’s just one piece of gardening advice I picked up as I sat in at the Elm Bank hotline last fall.

I also learned that tulips like a splash a vodka and that if you want to stagger when your bulbs emerge, plant some of them with the roots to the side rather than straight down.

Now that it’s spring, you may be wondering why squirrels are frantically scratching about your garden. They’re looking for the acorns they hid last fall. “They have no idea where they buried them,” said Skinner, who works professionally as an educational consultant while volunteering as coordinator of the Master Gardeners’ continuing education program.

No calls came in that mid-November morning, but emails did. A Cape Cod resident wondered why two of the eight Emerald Green arborvitae lining a stockade fence had died. The homeowner had been assured by the landscaper who planted the bushes that they’d fine so long as they didn’t touch the fence.

Joan Parker, the help line coordinator and a Master Gardener from Medford, pounced on the holes in the mystery: “They don’t tell us about the exposure, sun or shade; how they maintain shrubs; whether they’re
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mulched; how they’re watered, when they were planted.” Showing their best Master Gardener manners, Parker and Skinner composed a polite email with a dozen questions, including—most importantly—can you send us a photo?

The Master Gardener computer files are packed with photos of diseased trees, creepy insects, overgrown bushes, and unidentified plants. Besides spring questions about planting and fall questions about harvesting, inquiries about mysterious flora are among the most common questions.

If they don’t know the answer, the volunteers comb the Internet—sticking to noncommercial sites (.edu and .gov) that specialize in the New England region—or send email blasts to their 600 fellow Master Gardeners.

The queries come from all over the world, such as questions from Zanzibar about jacaranda trees. “We figured out where jacaranda trees grow and sent them to Master Gardeners in Florida,” said Parker, who owns a landscape business but honed her interrogation skills during a previous career investigating workplace injuries and child labor violations out of the state attorney general’s office.

Sometimes the questioners are beyond help. Skinner recalled one woman who sought confirmation that pruning rhododendrons was hazardous to their health. Her mother lived in an assisted living facility, which needed to trim the bushes back to repaint the building.

“She went on and on about how fabulous these rhododendrons were and how everybody knows you can’t prune them,” Skinner said. Despite the help line’s staff’s assurance that pruning was not only safe but healthy for the plant, the woman apparently wasn’t satisfied.

Two weeks later, Skinner overheard another help line staffer answering the exact same question—and it turned out from the same woman. To that woman’s disappointment, she got the same answer.

“We were being used,” Skinner said, adding that it became clear that the woman’s concern was less about the rhododendrons than about the paint color the home had chosen.

*K * * * Kanter admits to having had doubts about the Master Gardener program when she looked at the first page of the curriculum for certification.

“Oh my gosh, soil for an entire day,” she recalled thinking, “Could I listen to six-plus hours of a college professor?”

The answer was a resounding “yes.”

“I’ve never looked at dirt the same again,” Kanter said. “It was fascinating how she could make a boring topic so interesting.”
I will be the gladdest thing
Under the sun!
I will touch a hundred flowers
And not pick one.

I will look at cliffs and clouds
With quiet eyes,
Watch the wind bow down the grass,
And the grass rise.

— Edna St. Vincent Millay
Master Gardeners

Asked about her favorite classes, Smith singled out one on propagation—“Yes, I’m talking plant sex.” The professor sliced through a flower to show the elements of its reproductive system. “It’s just amazing how life continues—the true story of the birds and the bees,” she said.

Both Kanter and Smith raved about the pruning class, where they watched their teacher take what appeared to be a perfectly fine rhododendron, clip out decayed and wayward branches, and finish up with a pile of trimmings as big as the bush itself. “At first glance you would never have imagined there was that much to prune out of there,” said Kanter.

Students spend an entire day learning about weeds and how to handle them. “A weed is a plant that you don’t want in a certain location,” said Smith. “A wildflower can be viewed as a wildflower or as a weed.”

Other courses include botany, entomology, plant pathology, and ecology—the last focusing on the plants most suited for the area’s soil and climate. They are taught by specialists from universities and the gardening profession.

Finishing the program, though, is just one step in the education of a Master Gardener. “We had a graduation ceremony,” Kanter said. “It’s just a moment when you realize all that you don’t know.”
In her home garden, she aerated her soil with the help of worms that she ordered online. “You can buy 100, 500… and put them right out into the garden,” she said, adding that the critters come well sealed, so you don’t need to worry about them “crawling all over your house.”

The only hazard was to her reputation. “My kids have a lot of fun teasing me about being the crazy garden lady,” she said.

Note to Reader: Nearly everyone interviewed expressed a similar concern about how people viewed their passion.

* * *

To maintain Master Gardener status, members must volunteer at least 30 hours a year.

Kanter recalled how she dreaded the thought of making a long drive out to Marshfield for one event, only to find it to have been one of her favorite experiences. “I got there, and I’m literally on the edge of the water. A sea breeze, live band. It was a magical three hours—we stood there giving out advice,” she said. “No matter what you’re doing as a volunteer, every day has a little surprise.”

Kanter also works occasionally in Seed to Table vegetable gardens at Elm Bank. The gardens double as an outdoor classroom and the source of a bounty of food for the Wellesley Food Pantry.

Master Gardeners also support—through grants and their time—vegetable farms at schools and homes for seniors and people with disabilities. As an example, Kanter cited the Charles River Center in Needham, which provides housing for adults who can’t live on their own. Residents grow lettuce and flowers for sale to restaurants, inspiring their counterparts in more than a dozen other residential programs to start similar gardens.

Smith prefers digging, shaping, and pruning among the flowers, shrubs, and trees. “After all those years of being in an office, to be outside during a work day is just bliss,” said the former financial planner.

Asked if plants have character, she said, “When you see some of the plants turn their heads toward the sun, they do look like they’ve got personalities.”
Last fall, the program graduated its latest class, 25 from its program at Tower Hill and 40 from Elm Bank. Each of them had attended a once-a-week, all-day session for seven weeks in the spring and the same for seven weeks in the fall—complete with written homework assignments. They were also required to perform 60 hours of volunteer work under the supervision of a veteran Master Gardener.

Students pay a $700 fee to cover instruction and supplies. “We’re one of the least expensive courses around horticulture that you can find in the area,” said Steve Shaw, a retired Weston elementary school principal who has overseen the Elm Bank classes since 2014 and been a Master Gardener since 2012.

Shaw said that while most of the students are women, men do make up a large share. Because of the program’s time demands, participants tend to be retired or semi-retired. They come from a variety of backgrounds, with a surprising number of physicians, Shaw said. Most, but not all, have been amateur or professional gardeners.

“Anybody can learn this,” he said. “If they have the time and the passion to do the work, then I guarantee that they will do well as a Master Gardener.”

We asked Sonja Johanson, president of the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, to address common misconceptions about gardening.

**Misconception**
I should add lime to my soil every year.

**Fact**
Soil enhancements, whether lime or fertilizers, should be added based on need. Excess lime can cause your soil to be too alkaline, and nutrient buildup can actually harm plants. The University of Massachusetts provides inexpensive and accurate soil tests with specific recommendations for your garden or lawn.
Visit ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory/ordering-information-forms

**Misconception**
Leaving clippings on my lawn will cause thatch.

**Fact**
Lawn clippings quickly decompose and will return nutrients to the soil. Leaving them in place can significantly improve soil health.

**Misconception**
It’s sunny in my yard in the morning, so I have “full sun.”

**Fact**
Many plants, especially those that are edible, require full sun to do well, but not all hours of sunlight are equal. Early morning and late afternoon sun is weaker and does not allow plants to produce as much sugars for energy as midday sun. If you are growing a plant which requires full sun, you need at least six hours between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

**Misconception**
I should prune my rhododendron bushes in the spring/fall.

**Fact**
Flowering shrubs generally set flower buds for the next year after they finish flowering. Pruning too early or too late can remove these buds, preventing flowering the following year. Generally, it is best to prune immediately after flowering. If you would like help finding the best pruning time for a specific flowering shrub, put in a call to the help line.

**Misconception**
Ants eat the waxy coating off peony buds, allowing them to bloom.

**Fact**
Ants are attracted to small openings on the buds called “nectaries.” The plants provide ants with nectar, and in return they keep other insects away. But while ants benefit the peonies, they aren’t necessary for the blossoms to open.

**Misconception**
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A Powerful Voice
In 2017, Johnson was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the nation’s oldest academic societies and independent policy research centers. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, the country’s leading advisory organization on biomedical science, medicine, and health-related issues. She has received numerous awards for her contributions to women’s health and public health.

Her 2013 TED Talk, “His and hers...healthcare,” which has had more than one million views, was recently named by TED as one of the “top 10 TED Talks by women that everyone should watch.”

While Johnson’s ever-growing list of tributes is impressive, she humbly considers being named the 14th president of Wellesley College her greatest honor of all. It certainly provides Johnson with another platform from which to lead and advocate for women. Wellesley College’s long-standing mission is to educate young women in Wellesley’s long tradition of the liberal arts and in so doing help them make their personal difference in the world. She is the very embodiment of that mission and the consummate role model to steer the college into the future.

Johnson appreciates the serious responsibility that the college has to its students as well as to society as a whole. “We are very much concerned about the tone that is being set with regards to issues of gender, specifically for women. We are focused on empowering young women
here and beyond, and we hold that mission dear. It is a critical time for Wellesley College to use its powerful voice to keep the focus on gender equity,” avows Johnson.

In November of 2016, Johnson and fellow presidents of the historically all-female colleges penned an open letter to Stephen Bannon, then President-elect Trump’s senior counselor. They chastised Bannon for his disparaging remarks toward lesbians, feminists, and alumnae of the Seven Sister Colleges (Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Smith, Vassar, and Wellesley College). They also called him out on other forms of bias, including racism and anti-Semitism. The college presidents challenged Bannon to “take a more expansive, informed, and tolerant world view in your leadership role … Now more than ever, we look to those who would lead the United States of America for a message of inclusion, respect, and unity.”

Johnson also joined with more than 90 college presidents in a second open letter, this time urging the continuation and expansion of the program that enables undocumented immigrant students raised and educated in the United States to remain in the country.

Also in November, and just a few months after assuming leadership of Wellesley College, Johnson wrote her own letter to the editor of The New York Times.
The New York Times titled “What Wellesley Stands For.” She called attention to multiple incidents of hostility toward minorities after Trump’s election at universities—including at Wellesley College—high schools, and public spaces. She called for then President-elect Trump to “forcefully condemn episodes of bias.”

In this same letter to the editor, Johnson challenged the newspaper’s assessment that Wellesley College was founded as a “safe space.” Johnson clarified the school’s history, asserting, “Wellesley’s founding was a revolutionary act inspired by a vision for democracy and equal opportunity for women across all socioeconomic backgrounds, and for more than 100 years, we have fought for women...Far from playing it safe, Wellesley’s plan is to remain vigilant and redouble our efforts on behalf of women.”

Johnson recognizes the school’s weighty responsibility to help young women get the most out of their college experience in order to realize their potential. “We call it inclusive excellence,” explains Johnson. She continues, “Some students come to Wellesley because they want an all-women’s school, others because of our reputation as a leading liberal
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“A liberal arts education prepares students for the complex world in which we live. It develops the critical thinking required to solve the grand challenges of our times.”

Johnson speaks about several initiatives underway designed to deliver on the school’s mission. The first is Wellesley College’s career education program, which is shifting the discussion from “What do you want to do?” to “Who do you want to be?” Johnson understands that the college not only has a responsibility to motivate and prepare students to think about how they want to make their mark on the world, but also to provide guidance, tools, and support from their very first days on campus to graduation and beyond.

And while some question the value of a liberal arts education in readying students for arts college. By the time our students graduate, they understand the transformative power of a women’s college.”
life after college, Johnson believes it is a perfect foundation. “A liberal arts education prepares students for the complex world in which we live. It develops the critical thinking required to solve the grand challenges of our times.” Fostering interdisciplinary education and collaboration are trademarks of Johnson’s pioneering accomplishments in the field of health, so she clearly understands the benefits of an interdisciplinary education in preparing women to work successfully across complex issues and systems.

Another priority near and dear to Johnson’s heart is promoting health and wellness, an area in which Johnson feels that Wellesley’s innovation and leadership are much needed. “We are working to expand our focus on health and wellness, actively cultivating resilience, resolve, and emotional balance in our students to fulfill their potential,” explains Johnson, who is a board member of the newly formed Mary Christie Foundation, a non-profit with a mission to impact policy focused on the health and wellness of students globally. She is a former Board member of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, an organization committed to women’s empowerment.

While not a new initiative, Johnson is also fully committed to the college’s longstanding need-blind admissions policy that delivers on the school’s core value of accessibility for students based on achievement, not on their families’ ability to pay. She proudly points to
the fact that 12 percent of the Wellesley College student body are first-generation college students and 17 percent under-represented minorities. She is also proud of the fact that Wellesley College is one of the top 10 colleges in the country for students graduating with the least amount of debt, having replaced all loans with financial aid grants for low-income families.

“I consider the town and the college to be porous communities.”
To enhance college accessibility even further, Wellesley College recently introduced “MyinTuition,” an online app developed by a Wellesley College economics professor to help applicants understand financial aid eligibility. “This tool, available on our website, empowers high school students with the data they need to know upfront if our school is in reach for them. It takes away assumptions that state schools are always more affordable options,” explains Johnson.

With a full agenda in her first year as president of the college, Johnson admits that she hasn’t had as much time as she would have liked to explore the town, even though downtown Wellesley is just steps off Wellesley College’s campus. But, she values living on the beautiful college grounds in the splendid President’s House, complete with a view of Lake Waban, around which you are more likely to catch her and her daughter walking their two Havanese dogs—Buddy and Hope—than to catch her eating breakfast at Captain Marden’s.

Accessibility is also a theme for Johnson as it relates to town residents feeling welcome on campus. “I consider the town and the college to be porous communities,” explains Johnson. She and Wellesley’s Chief of Police, Jack Pilecki, met for breakfast at Captain Marden’s to discuss ways to collaborate and are following up on ideas discussed, such as joint training for police officers from the college and the town.
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from the iconic line in the Broadway hit *Hamilton*, “Immigrants, we get the job done!” to roiling politics in our nation’s capital, the issue of immigration is a hot topic. While the United States faces many other challenges at home and abroad, the immigration debate is here to stay.

Rational, balanced portraits of émigrés to the United States aren’t often found in mainstream media. Rather, popular outlets tend to portray three stereotypes—destitute refugees fleeing persecution; poor migrant workers who arrive under tenuous circumstances; and outright illegal aliens who enter unlawfully via the Texas, Arizona, or California borders.

But much closer to home, there are families in Wellesley, Weston, and our greater community who are proud of their immigration stories, and their tales are not nearly as fraught. They’re our friends, our neighbors, and our colleagues. And they’re here to stay.
Two years later, the couple graduated simultaneously from Boston University. Maria was at the top of her class, earning an award of excellence to accompany her Doctorate of Dental Medicine. As a result of her hard work and merit, she was offered a full scholarship at BU to continue her dental education for three more years. “It was impossible to turn down this opportunity,” she enthuses. “I had always wanted to work with patients in restorative dentistry.”

Upon her finish in 2004, she became a dentist with a license to practice in New England in her specialty and immediately received an offer at a private practice. This entitled Maria to an H-1B visa, which is reserved for foreigners with specialty expertise.

Meanwhile, José and Maria had started a family in Boston, welcoming their daughter the same year as Maria’s entry into American dentistry. Despite the happy times — by now, José had a work permit and was employed with MasterCard’s mergers and acquisition unit in...
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“We love that the schools are small compared to other towns, properties keep their value, and you live among highly educated people.”

– Dr. Maria Cardenas

New York—greater circumstances continued to dictate the family’s future. Hugo Chávez had been the president of Venezuela since the year the couple moved to Boston, and they were none too pleased with developments back home.

José says Venezuela is in the worst shape it’s ever been in since it became a democracy in 1958. “The Venezuela we grew up in doesn’t exist any longer,” he emphasizes. “Since 1999, Venezuela has been on a death spiral away from democracy. The leftist government of Chávez is responsible for the eroding of citizens’ personal safety, the quality of healthcare, and the economy. The government has destroyed every single institution, and our country’s currency is devalued.”

Because of this, José and Maria decided to apply for full U.S. citizenship. “Venezuela was not an option at this point — there was no option to go back,” José states. By now, they had a growing family and had already purchased a home in Weston.

For José and Maria, becoming full-fledged citizens was an easy process. “If you’ve been a
lawful citizen and have paid taxes, it isn’t difficult,” he says. “We didn’t even need an attorney.” The couple simply completed U.S. Citizenship Application Form N-400 online, waited three months, and then received correspondence about taking biometric fingerprint tests to ensure a clean record.

Today, the couple’s three children attend Weston schools, while Maria maintains a well-known general and cosmetic dentistry practice on Washington Street in Wellesley.

Both José and Maria miss seeing their Venezuelan-based friends and family, and they miss the Venezuela they left behind—mountains, beaches, and temperate weather. “In Caracas, it’s between 60 and 80 degrees every day year-round, and it’s only 45 minutes to the beach,” says José fondly.

But they find Weston has its strong points, too. “We love that the schools are small compared to other towns, properties keep their value, and you live among highly educated people,” says Maria. “We couldn’t be happier—we’re immigrants and we continue to work really hard. If you’re given an opportunity, don’t take it for granted.”

The Li Family of Wellesley
You might already know Shengli and Ying Li of Wellesley. Shengli is the president of the Wellesley Chinese American Network, and their three children are in the Wellesley schools (their eldest son recently graduated and attends New York University).
The couple has been in the United States for 20 years, and their immigration story is as relevant as ever.

Shengli is originally from Beijing, while Ying was born north of Beijing. They met in the city, fell in love, and were married in China. But, they felt there was something more for them out there.

“We were students at one of the top research institutes in China, but we were like many young people,” says Ying. “Young adults always want to see what things look like in another part of the world and to explore better opportunities.”

To realize their dream, the young couple had to temporarily say goodbye to each other. Ying arrived in Massachusetts first on an F-1 student visa, attending the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Not long after, Shengli reunited with her. Today, Shengli is a software engineer in the IT industry, while his wife is a scientist at a pharmaceutical company.

Upon graduation, the couple realized that they wanted to remain in Massachusetts, rather than look for employment elsewhere. “We really liked Boston — it’s very beautiful, with lots of history, and the best colleges and universities here,” Shengli says. “So when we looked for jobs, we looked for local companies.”

They both immediately found work, and their respective employers sponsored them for the H-1B work visa. Not long after, their first son was born. “Our eldest son is partially the reason why we stayed here,” states Ying. Two more children came. “We were establishing our roots here,” she continues.

For that reason, Ying and Shengli decided to apply for lawful permanent residency, under the so-called Green Card (a Permanent Resident Card, technically). “The card isn’t even green, just the print on it,” Shengli points out. A few years ago there was a funny moment: “My son saw the card in passing, and said, ‘Oh look, a green card!’” Ying laughs.
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With a growing family, the couple settled on Wellesley for a variety of reasons. “We first visited Wellesley as tourists, walking around the campus of Wellesley College,” says Ying. “The area is so beautiful, especially the downtown Central Street area with small shops and people walking around.” Her husband adds, “The town isn’t overly commercialized; it’s residential. The school system is terrific, and people are very polite.”

Business as Usual

Five years ago, Shengli decided to apply for U.S. citizenship. “I sent in an application, and then I was contacted with a time to submit my fingerprints in person,” he says. “When I arrived, I was also given a booklet about U.S. history to study.”

Several months later, Shengli went to the JFK Federal Building in Boston to take a paper exam. After about a four-month wait, he received

“This area reminds us of our hometown in China, with the four seasons.”
– Shengli Li

Anna Thurber  Frozen Botanical Images

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a letter in the mail, dictating the date that he could take the oath of U.S. citizenship.

When the big day arrived, there was little fanfare at home. Shengli went to a federal courthouse in Boston to take the oath—alone. “I went by myself, as it was a business day, and my family was busy,” he laughs. “My wife had work obligations, and my children were in school.”

“I feel very bad about that scheduling conflict,” Ying states. “After he became a citizen, I called him to congratulate him, and we celebrated afterwards.”

While all of their extended family remains in China, Ying and Shengli say that Wellesley has become home. “This area reminds us of our hometown in China, with the four seasons,” Shengli says. “Summer and fall here are so pleasant,” Ying adds. “We feel the connection.”

Shengli points out that the couple had learned English before they emigrated to America, and thought they were well-prepared. “But after we landed in the U.S., I thought, ‘Oh no, the English we learned is totally different from how people actually speak here!’” He chuckles. “So one of the best parts of this community is that although we have accents, people are very patient with us—listening to us and encouraging us. That is really nice.”

Speaking of language, the China-Wellesley connection lives on through the three Li children, who were all born in the U.S. Ying and Shengli took the kids to visit China last summer, and were happy they appreciated the bonding between China and the U.S. that they have.

Perhaps the best endorsement of the couple’s decision to move to America is the way their children are blending the two cultures. The couple’s 12-year-old daughter communicates with her mother with a Chinese communications app on her iPhone. “Even though we’re both in Wellesley, she writes in Chinese to communicate with me,” Ying marvels.

Two immigration success stories in our midst (among many others), for sure.  

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please put aside any political beliefs about the United States' refugee resettlement policies for just a few minutes and focus, instead, on the human side of the issue—the overwhelming sense of desperation that pushes people to flee their country seeking safety for their children and themselves. For most, it is hardly a choice. It is purely about survival.

Driven out by the horrors of war, violence, famine, or persecution, refugees leave behind every single thing they know—their home, community, job, culture, extended family, and friends—often with little money and few belongings. It is a bold and courageous act, beyond comprehension for most of us.

During the Yom Kippur service in the fall of 2016, Rabbi Joel Sisenwine of Temple Beth Elohim (TBE) of Wellesley announced the formation of a Syrian Refugee Resettlement Team at the synagogue and drew a connection for congregants between the Holocaust and the plight of the Syrian families. “Welcome the stranger.” “Never again.” “The St. Louis.”

These three phrases captured the Biblical, moral, and historical calls to action.

Michael Gilman, a past president of TBE, led the team, drawing in more than 100 congregants to “welcome the stranger.” They worked diligently advocating for refugee rights and to raise money for Syrian families resettling in Canada, since, at that time, the United States government was admitting only a few Syrian refugees into the country.

*The St. Louis was a German ocean liner carrying more than 900 European Jewish passengers fleeing the Third Reich who had applied for U.S. visas that wasn’t allowed to dock in Cuba or the U.S. and was forced to return the passengers to Europe.*
Another member of TBE, Ed Shapiro, was also deeply moved by the plight of refugees. Ed was pursuing what he calls “an audacious idea”—to mobilize the Greater Boston Jewish community to lead an effort to bring Syrian refugee families right here to Boston. “The community had never done anything like this before. The State Department had said no. The economics made no sense. The politics were too controversial. The needs of the families too great,” explains Ed of the hurdles he knew he had to clear.

Nonetheless, Ed pushed forward working closely with the national resettlement agency, HIAS; Jewish Family Services (JFS) of MetroWest; and the State Department to be ready for the day when the U.S. would start admitting Syrian refugees. “I realized we would need to raise a lot of money and mobilize a network of very committed volunteers. When I explained my vision to Michael’s team, they replied unanimously, ‘We can do this. We must do this.’” Just a few days later on August 11, 2016, Ed received a text from JFS CEO Marc Jacobs, exclaiming, “We did it! Syrian refugee families are coming to Boston.”

Today, eight brave Syrian families who fled war in Syria three to five years ago and waited in Jordan, Lebanon, or Turkey for a country to offer them refuge, are living right here in Greater Boston. Six live in Framingham, one in Needham, and one in Boston. Thanks to the dedication of HIAS, JFS, local churches, mosques, temples, and countless community volunteers—18 children and 16 adults now have a chance for a healthy, productive, peaceful life.

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Refugee Facts

**Definitions:**

**Refugee**
Someone who has been forced to flee his or her country due to war, violence, or persecution.

**Internally Displaced Person**
Someone who has had to leave home for the same reasons, but remains in his/her country.

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**In 2017, there were more than 65 million refugees and displaced people around the world.**

**Roughly one percent of the world’s refugees today have an opportunity to be resettled.**

**Recent studies have found that resettling refugees in a community often has a positive effect on the local economy and wages; some cities have even found that resettled refugees play a critical role in their revitalization.**

**Famous refugees include**
Albert Einstein, Madeleine Albright, Marc Chagall, and the current Dalai Lama.

**Sources:** [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org) / [www.keysforrefugees.org](http://www.keysforrefugees.org) / [The Washington Post](http://www.thewashingtonpost.com) / [PBS](http://www.pbs.org)
Welcome the Stranger

“This humanitarian effort is interfaith collaboration at its best,” explains Marc. “Standing up for immigrants and people in need when the rest of the world looks the other way is engrained in our Jewish identity, and other faiths have their own reasons for participating.” Marc also points to the kindness and generosity of public officials, including Congresswoman Katherine Clark, Congressman Joe Kennedy III and his wife Lauren, and Congressman Mike Capuano who met with the families to reinforce that the local government is made up of people who care about them.

Under the direction of the JFS Director of Immigration and Youth Services, Lucia Panichella, the TBE Syrian Refugee Resettlement team supports two of the eight families settled in the area. The congregation committed to covering rent for the two families for a year, providing a longer runway than the government provision refugees typically receive. A core group of TBE members trained with JFS to be hands-on volunteers in one of six pathways—housing and household setup, medical support, employment, education, accessing services, and family

JFS Syrian Refugee Humanitarian Project

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Temple Beth Shalom, Needham
Temple Beth Sholom, Framingham
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Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants
MetroWest Medical Center
MetroWest YMCA
Adidas (Reebok)
Shapiro Foundation
State Representative Offices and Representatives Lewis and Walsh
State Senate Office and Senator Spilka
Syrian American Medical Society
TripAdvisor
Tufts Hillel and Tisch College at Tufts University
William James College

Two Syrian families enjoy their first Thanksgiving in the U.S. at the home of Temple Beth Elohim members Jessica and Tom Rosenbloom
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integration. One of the families TBE supports, with four children under the age of eleven, arrived a day before Donald Trump was inaugurated as president. The second, a family with three children under the age of five, followed in March—just as the doors to the U.S. were closing under the Trump Administration.

The TBE team worked with JFS to find housing for the two families, and they outfitted the homes with furniture, appliances, toys, and other essentials—much of it new and donated by local businesses, including all the beds from Bob’s Discount Furniture. They gathered stacks of gift cards purchased by other houses of worship, stocked the refrigerators and pantries, including a welcome pineapple beside a bowl overflowing with fresh fruit, left operating instructions in Arabic by each appliance, lined up doctors and dentists to provide long overdue medical services pro bono, coordinated volunteer visitors, drivers, and more.

The morning after the first family’s maiden night in America, a trained volunteer, Rachel Rock, drove the family and JFS case worker to the Social Security Office in Framingham. She was honored to launch them on their journey of liberation, a concept close to her heart as Rachel’s father had served as head of the displaced persons camp in Berlin at the end of WWII. Rachel brought along LEGO’s, markers, and paper to entertain the children while the parents and social worker completed paperwork. She waited patiently for the
children to engage, which to her surprise they did quickly and enthusiastically as she wrote each of their names in English.

Lina Musayev is another hands-on TBE volunteer. A refugee herself, she jumped at the chance to “pay it forward.” In 1992, when Lina was nine years old, her family fled Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, a majority Muslim country squeezed between Russia’s North Caucasus and Iran. After the Russian Revolution in the 1920s, nobody was
allowed to practice religion. As a child, Lina didn’t realize that having the word “JEW” printed in her family’s passports had negative consequences, but persecution intensified with Perestroika in the 1990s. “Azerbaijan became ardently nationalistic. Leaflets were distributed stating, ‘Armenians first. Jews second.’ That’s when my parents decided we had to leave,” explains Lina.

With both a BA and a master’s degree in Public Administration under her belt from George Washington University and as the managing director of a non-profit, Lina is a great role model. “I use my personal experience to provide advice and reassurance that while adjustment to life in the U.S. will not always be easy, in time they will fit in.” Lina continues, “Some of the volunteers who helped me and my family are still in my life, and I hope to continue being this family’s friend and mentor for many years, opening their eyes to the countless opportunities America has to offer.”

Bonnie Rosenberg leads the employment pathway. She worked closely with the Arabic-speaking JFS staff member responsible for employment and English as a Second Language (ESL) to help find a tailoring job for one of the Syrian dads who has honed his craft since he was nine years old. Soon after his arrival, the dad received a job offer as a tailor in a men’s clothing manufacturer in Haverhill, but after much deliberation, declined. Without a car or a U.S. driver’s license, the job was too far from Framingham to commute by bicycle and he didn’t want to uproot his family from their new wonderful home in Framingham, close to other Syrian refugee families and the TBE support network. Months later, after much angst that he should have accepted the first offer, he received another offer for a tailoring job, this time close to home in Framingham. In just a week on the job, the parent company recognized his talent and strong work ethic, and promoted him to their upscale clothing store, where he still works.

Although the dad is employed, Bonnie’s work is not done. She continues to explore ways for the father to earn additional money to support his family of six beyond the private tailoring for TBE members and friends that she coordinates. Bonnie facilitated a connection between the dad and a Harvard Business School student who speaks Arabic who has agreed to be a mentor. Together they are drafting a long-term plan to use the tailor’s talents to best support his family.

Former TBE preschool teacher Laura Gilman leads the education pathway. “When I left teaching, a job I loved,” she says, “I never thought I would have an opportunity to feel as grateful and as happy as I do now.”
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I consider the Syrian families my extended family and would do anything for them.” Laura and a few other TBE volunteers accompanied their new families on their first Halloween trick-or-treating excursion. Laura describes the scene: “All the kids were clad in costumes and had glow lights and buckets. Even one of the moms donned bunny ears! At each door, the kids loved saying ‘Trick or Treat! Thank you! Happy Halloween!’ Toward the end of the outing, the children begged to visit more houses, so we left the decision to the moms… who agreed to ‘two more’ houses. I am sure the children will be looking forward to their next Halloween—probably starting in July!”

Laura and all the TBE volunteers communicate adeptly with the Syrian families using hand gestures, pointing to pictures, and with the Google Translate app. They can also call upon team member, Stephanie Juma, who joined to interpret when needed. Stephanie, a Christian married to a Muslim, is the daughter of a Swiss mother and Lebanese father. She grew up in Jordan, and originally came to the U.S. to attend Wellesley College. A mother of two boys in the Wellesley Public Schools, she comments, “I feel blessed to be able to help out as part of the ‘TBE dream team.’ Despite our very different circumstances, all parents want the same things for their kids—a happy, safe, healthy life, and a good education.”

Stephanie and the many hands-on volunteers are thrilled at how far the family has come in less than a year in the United States. She relays a story to make the point. “On a recent visit, I asked the little girl in English about her morning in nursery school. When she didn’t answer, her mom translated into Arabic for her daughter—perfectly! My jaw dropped. ‘Do you realize how well you just translated? How far you’ve come in 10 months?’ I asked her,” exclaimed Stephanie.

The volunteers also express admiration for the warmth, resilience, determination, and strong work ethic of the Syrian refugees. “They don’t want free handouts. They qualify for free lunch, but the moms pack the kids’ lunches to be certain that their children eat healthy food,” states one
volunteer. “Whenever a volunteer stops by, they pull up a chair and insist we enjoy some of their homemade food. And it is delicious, I might add. There is always another spot at their tables,” explains another.

One year after Rabbi Sisenwine announced the creation of the Syrian Refugee Resettlement initiative, he welcomed the Syrian families into the TBE sanctuary after Yom Kippur services to join in joyful song and prayer. It didn’t take long for TBE song leader, Noah Aronson, and one of the Syrian dads to learn that they shared a bond—both their families are refugees from Aleppo, Syria.

Through an interpreter, the rabbi kicked off a Q&A, asking, “What was your biggest surprise about the U.S.?” One dad replied, “That the volunteers who met us at the airport were Jews. I thought they would want to deport us because we are Muslims. And that Jews continued to help us. But now, if we don’t see a TBE volunteer in a day or so, I worry,” he said with a twinkle in his eye and a smile of deep appreciation across his face.

Another dad spoke about his surprise to learn about the parallels between Islam and Judaism. “My entire perception of Jews has changed. The Koran and the Torah are similar; I didn’t learn that until I came to the U.S.” He continued, “We never would have imagined having to leave our country and start our life over in the United States. We are deeply grateful for all you have done to help us. We wish you all peace and mercy from God.”
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18 WILDFLOWER LN., WESTON $3,968,000

85 BUCKSKIN RD., WESTON $3,899,000
3 SUNDAY WOODS RD., WESTON $3,699,000
77 AUTUMN RD., WESTON $3,595,000
58 WEBSTER RD., WESTON $3,200,000

27 CHESTNUT ST., WESTON $2,995,000
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caring for another gives life meaning and joy—whether the partners are people or pets. Americans own around 78 million dogs and 86 million cats. Most come from shelters or rescues, are taken in as strays, or are acquired from friends and relatives. Unfortunately, even in loving households people’s circumstances change. Families move or pets need more medical care or training than the family can provide, and, as a result, pets are left homeless.

For 150 years, humane societies in the U. S. have given animals a second chance. Shelters take them in, provide needed care, and work hard to find new homes. Some like Animal Rescue League of Boston are long-time members of the humane society movement. Others, like Shultz’s Guest House and Stray Pets in Need are more recent champions for homeless dogs and cats.

Shelter pets, stray or surrendered, can be a joy. They can be a project as well, as each comes with an uncertain history. It’s a special feeling when you find the pet that makes your heart sing, and you know you’ve saved the animal from suffering and possible death. There’s camaraderie among rescue pet owners who know that special feeling.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals estimates that 3.3 million dogs and 3.2 million cats enter animal shelters in the U. S. every year. More than 700,000 of the animals that enter shelters as strays are returned to their owners, and more than 1.5 million dogs and 1.5 million cats are adopted. That leaves between 1.5 and three million shelter animals that are euthanized because untreatable medical conditions or aggressive behavior make them unsuitable for
Rescued Me
adoption, or they are the victims of the realities of shelter overcrowding and overpopulation. These numbers fuel the pet rescue movement.

Rates of euthanasia in the U.S. have declined dramatically over the past 40 years while pet ownership has grown. However, attitudes toward companion animals and pet-owner practices vary across the U.S. MetroWest Boston is fortunate to have many no-kill shelters, and a lower kitten and puppy birth rate than many other areas. Rescuing one pet saves two: the one who is adopted and the one who takes its place in the shelter.

Are you ready to give a dog or cat a new home and a happy, healthy life? Online is one great way to start. Searchable databases like Petfinder and Adopt-A-Pet post profiles of adoptable animals and adoption agencies throughout the U.S. Petfinder, for example, posts 280,000 adoptable pets from 11,000 participating groups. On a typical day there are 450 dogs posted as available within 25 miles of Wellesley and Weston. Reviewing photos and profiles can give a sense of breed, size, and case history. Match this with what you have to offer: an active, sporty lifestyle versus lots of quiet time; a small condominium versus a large home and yard; time home versus long hours away. Some animals offered by local groups will need transport from faraway states like Tennessee or Texas.

With each pet’s biography and photo, there’s a link to the offering agency. An online application asks the basics: the adopter’s age, residence, family and household members, and other pets in the home. Local shelters like Animal Rescue League of Boston, MSPCA (Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), Buddy Dog Humane Society, and Baypath Humane Society are included. Rescue groups for purebreds such as Poodles, Boxers, German Shepherds, and Cavaliers participate. There are also local rescue agencies for cats, rabbits, birds, and reptiles.

It’s worthwhile to browse websites for local rescues like Shultz’s Guest House in Dedham, Stray Pets in Need, Inc. of Wellesley, Guardian Angels...
Many rescue pets fit easily into their new homes. However, some show the effects of previous abuse or neglect or weren’t socialized as puppies or kittens.

“A rescue dog can turn your life around,” says Dr. Liz Hartman of Wellesley Animal Hospital, by enriching a child’s life, filling a void for someone divorced or widowed, giving purpose to older people, or providing companionship when the last child goes off to college. Many rescue pets fit easily into their new homes. However, some show the effects of previous abuse or neglect or weren’t socialized as puppies or kittens. Coming from a rural environment, it may take several months to adapt to the bustle of suburbia or to being indoors after roaming free or living in a kennel. “Be prepared to stand with your dog at the end of the driveway with a pocketful of treats and watch the traffic go by,” Hartman notes. “As you would with a shy child, be patient; give these animals the benefit of the doubt.”

One can go in person to local shelters to find an adoptable animal. Animal Rescue League (ARL) of Boston has facilities in Boston, Cape Cod, and Dedham. Founded in 1899 by Anna Harris Smith, ARL’s Dedham center is located on 27 acres that were Smith’s summer retreat.
ARL takes in strays, pets relinquished by owners or left behind when an owner dies, and animals retrieved by animal control officers.

ARL offers veterinary services for shelter and community (or feral) pets; farm, kennel, and pet shop inspections; law enforcement related to animal cruelty; and advocacy for animal-friendly state and local legislation. In 2016 at ARL 17,884 animals were served in total, 2,600 animals were adopted into permanent homes (including 160 puppies from southern states), and 4,696 community pet surgeries were performed. ARL also rescued 1,600 wildlife animals.

Shelters aim to keep the numbers of dogs in residence and their length-of-stay short, so there are a limited number of pets to view on any given day. You may have to visit more than once or more than one shelter. At ARL, the application process begins with a conversation. An adoption counselor might ask: Is having a pet okay with your landlord? Does your house have a fenced-in yard? Does anyone have allergies? If you want a puppy, do you understand the care needed? Questions aren’t intended to be barriers to adoption but rather to help families bring the right pet into their home. Even Dr. Hartman, a veterinarian, has had a home visit and her references checked.

Beyond the practicalities, there’s the “click” factor. Barbara Keller of Weston found a dog on Petfinder and went to meet him at an adoption day held at Petco. She didn’t feel a connection to that dog, but across the room a
A Shelter Dog Rescued Me

long-legged, beige and white hound-mix caught Keller’s eye. He was an out-of-state rescue, transported to Massachusetts for placement. Brady was fostered when he arrived, spending time in a volunteer’s home for acclimation and evaluation. Keller and Brady looked at each other, and there was the click that began a 14-year love affair.

Keller became a trained foster dog specialist with All Dog Rescue, Inc. of Natick, and she and Brady fostered several dogs, guiding them to appropriate homes in the MetroWest area. “Even the best shelters are stressful,” she says. “Time in a foster home lets each animal’s temperament and behavior come through.”

Adoption fees typically range from $200 to $500. Fees cover medical care and vaccinations, spaying or neutering, and a microchip for lost pet identification. Massachusetts requires out-of-state pets to have a 48-hour quarantine in a qualified facility to protect the health of in-state animals, so transport and quarantine fees may be included.

Hurricanes ravaged Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico last fall, and Massachusetts has responded by accepting many shelter pets. This made room for storm-abandoned animals to be taken in and reunited with their owners. Homeless pets from other states are helping to meet the demand here, according to Dr. Anthony Cosimini, of The Cat’s Hospital in Wellesley Hills. Kittens are now routinely spayed here at eight weeks before going to new homes, dramatically reducing the birth rate. Dr. Cosimini says, “We advise people to adopt from a reputable source as other regions have diseases we don’t see here. Be wary of someone who wants to meet in a parking lot across the state line to deliver a cat or kitten.”

Training can be the key to success. Dogs may need to learn basic commands like sit, stay, and heel, and novice owners may need to learn dog “language” like the difference between a low-tail and high-tail wag. Cats don’t need to be taken for a walk, but they need companionship and a...
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stimulating environment so boredom doesn’t lead to mischief or despair. For rescues with behavioral issues like noise phobia or separation anxiety, seniors or someone who works from home can provide a quiet setting and companionship. “I never discourage someone from adopting a rescue,” says Dr. Michael Krawshuk of Weston Veterinary Clinic. “With time and some professional guidance, issues can be overcome.”

Behavioral therapy is available in Waltham at MSPCA-Angell West. The facility provides 24/7 emergency and critical care services as well as a broad range of veterinary care and physical therapy. The behavior team conducts reward-based training classes and consults individually with families. Sometimes DNA testing is recommended so training can be keyed to the type of breed.

Families that rescue pets come from different places and backgrounds. And they have different reasons to save a homeless pet, perhaps to discourage breeding, or to get a pet with a mixed gene pool to avoid genetic problems that can plague purebreds. Rescuing can also be a more affordable option. In any case, owners of rescued pets know the special bond that forms when we extend ourselves to help an animal whose needs are great.

With technology connecting people with pets from near and far, thousands of dogs and cats find new “forever” homes and in their own way rescue those who rescued them, one at a time. There was Nancy Monaghan’s Stella, a rescue from the MSPCA in Boston. Monaghan met Stella on the day she was released for adoption. “Shaking and shivering, Stella looked at me with her shy, serious eyes,” says Monaghan. “I brought her home. We went to training and she trained me.” No matter that her reported age, lineage, and estimated full-growth size were wrong, the bond between Monaghan and Stella transcended all. “No one can tell you how having a dog will enrich your life; you have to experience it for yourself. Just rescue!”
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Great American Road Trip immortalized in the writings of such authors as John Steinbeck, Jack Kerouac, and Bill Bryson has been lived in full—and in fits and starts—by adventure seekers of all ages. There are many motivations for such cross-country journeys: self-discovery, cultural curiosity, geographic awakenings, running from people or problems (or both), and the proverbial bucket list. And there are almost as many ways to move from one point in the country to the other: trains, planes, automobiles, feet, motorcycles, and bicycles.

Three men—two from Wellesley, one from California, two related by birth, all related by the love of cycling—took such a trip in the summer of 2017. Beginning in Charlestown, Massachusetts, on July 31, the men cycled for 61 days, 3,500-plus miles, through America’s heartland along Route 66. On September 29, they concluded their journey in Santa Monica, California.

California native Earl Magpiong, age 80, had done three such trips and wanted to give it one more try. His son, Glen, at 57, had traveled this way before with his father and was eager to accompany him again. And
Tucker Swan, at 65 (who turned 66 along Route 66 during the ride), was a cyclist familiar to the Magpions and embraced the “go while you can” attitude… though 60 days away from home (on a bicycle, no less) gave him pause.

Riding for the sake of riding—being pushed, punished, and praised for such an athletic feat—could be reason enough for making such a trek. However, the trio had loftier goals in mind. After losing a dear friend and colleague to ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease) several years ago, raising funds to help find a cure for that devastating disease has been Glen’s mission. Additional money raised was targeted for the Partakers College Behind Bars program.

All three men spoke of a shared motivation for this trip: the thrill of the experience paired with the test of one’s physical endurance. Surprises and blindsides were thrown into the mix,
reported in the spirited blog posts written by Glen who captured the highs and lows of the journey and other revelations of inner psychology and external geography that emerged through encounters with companions, total strangers, new friends in the making, and Mother Nature herself.

Their bodies were bruised along the way. The trip required an honest “listening to the body” by Earl—even if it meant a two-week hiatus from his planned itinerary. And in an unfortunate (but happy ending) run-in, Glen and his beloved touring bike met the hood of a pick-up truck, resulting in patching up his body parts and replacing his bicycle with a new model. Despite these setbacks, the mantra for the trip—“HTTP,” or “Hold to the Plan”—could be, by and large, honored thanks to carefully crafted and followed Route Slips from ADVENTURE CYCLE MAP MY RIDE (created over almost two years with fastidious advance planning by Earl). This precise route choreography was printed out in 10-point font and placed between the handlebars and the horizon of each rider.

Though this was a shared journey, Earl, Glen, and Tucker also knew this: It was a solo undertaking. Each rider was competing against only himself and that the most intriguing part of the 3,500-mile trip might be what he learned about himself in the process.

Affable and energetic, Glen jumped into each day with almost boyish enthusiasm. Every person he met along the road created an opportunity to make a new friend; every meal in every hamlet or metropolis served up the chance to feed both his body and his curiosity. His eclectic music playlist (described as country, love songs, reggae, R&B, soul, disco), accompanied him with the right songs matched to the mood for the long ride. Some were poignant tunes that reminded him of sacred memories.
BUILDING BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES SINCE 1976
and others were playful tunes that propelled him toward the end-of-day reward of a slice of ice cream cake and hanging out and watching a televised golf tournament from the comfort of a clean motel bed.

Photos posted on the bike trip blog capture Glen, the athlete-in-Lycra and the jokester. However, when asked to reflect on the take-aways from this ambitious adventure, he turned philosophical. Perhaps, he thought, it really is about the accidental nature of life that brings you into the company of strangers who, somehow, become part of the greater story of kindness and hospitality that pulses through the heart—and heartland—of this vast county.

Glen spoke of both the mindfulness needed (attention to the plan) and the mindlessness of hours on the road—removing oneself from the quotidien rhythms and competing distractions of home and work. His new “now” was the pulse of pushing through, noting only the careful instructions in front of him and the peripheral consideration of the landscape and those who shared the road with him. The chatter in his head changed as well—a form of road meditation that invited in self-dialogue.

Earl, the senior statesman of the trio—tan, lithe, and rugged as befits the seasoned, accomplished athlete and outdoorsman—reflected on the wisdom of the dynamic tension between being removed from the rhythms of home life and being fastidious to every little detail that
would go into each new day on the road. He spoke with reverence for the traveling blessings offered by his wife, whom he said, “gets it” even though she would still worry a bit about him while awaiting his safe return. Like son/like father, Earl too focused on “living in the moment” or what he called “every day moments of the journey.” Perhaps because of his age, Earl was resolute in his desire to resist the inner demon of giving up too easily. He quoted Vince Lombardi: “Fatigue makes cowards of us all.” He also crafted his own aphorisms: “Every brief moment of discouragement was easily eclipsed by an abundance of encouragement at the close of each day.” “Not why am I doing this again…but why NOT do it again?” “There’s joy and freedom on the open road.” “And four wheels move the body, two wheels move the soul.”

Though Earl relied on the reinforcement of traveling as a team, he also knew that this was going to be both a distinct mental and physical challenge for even the most carefully
paced rider. And it was his own attitude and attention to detail that would make the journey safe, smart, and inspirational.

Tucker, the introspective yin to Glen’s gregarious yang, was usually the first to launch the day’s ride. He spoke of his own approach to taking in the unknown America he would be passing through. While reticent to pry into the daily lives of others, he was also able to feed his gentle and intelligent curiosity about the folks who formed the fabric of each unique community. Late afternoons, or rest days, gave him time to walk the streets and stroll into the public places of gathering—where local politics, wild turkey visitations, best recipes, and town history were being discussed, solved, swapped, and preserved. Fierce community loyalty was as evident as curiosity for the stranger who had just walked in.

As Tucker explained, the sojourn into a new town opened his eyes to the larger world of people beyond the east and west sides of the U.S., who live lives of determination and noble intent. His perspective on his own life, led within the construct of relative privilege and centrist/blue state persuasions, was enhanced by those who live outside of the headlines and whose voices are rarely captured in the public media. People had stories to share, and Tucker was a thoughtful listener.
When summoning up what was for him a vivid memory, Tucker spoke of trains—commercial trains, transporting the products that power the U.S., from one side of the country to the other (i.e., food, feed, coal, machine parts). He learned that America runs on the rails, and every route he took, every which way he looked, he was most often accompanied by the iconic “iron rooster”—fast, and long as far as he could see. They were Tucker’s faithful companions during the day, and their distant whistles were soothing nighttime lullabies.

In the end, Earl, Glen, and Tucker’s narratives revealed this to be a trip of contrasts. The red/white/blue arc of unflagging patriotism and optimism juxtaposed with the grit of personal and physical discomfort. There were the stunning farmlands and the “hallowed out” towns where industry once thrived. Route 66, in its time an iconic thoroughfare for freedom, is past its heyday. While one rides, America whizzes past as a geographic and cultural blur; when one rests, people come into technicolor, with ready smiles and warm welcomes. One relies on the kindness of strangers, the trust in one’s intimate road companions, and an unspoken, blind faith in the road ahead.

For a couple of months in the summer of 2017, these three men fulfilled their dreams of wanderlust and found there were new neighbors to be met around every corner.
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Locals Make It in Hollywood

PATTY LENZ BOVIE writer
the road to Hollywood is paved with plenty of pitfalls, setbacks, rejections, and hard work. But that didn’t stop a handful of Wellesley folks from packing their bags and heading for the West Coast roughly two decades ago.

Today, Kevin Walsh, Jay Harrington, Dave Collard, Tim Dowling, and Erin Allin O’Reilly are just five of the Wellesley transplants leading successful careers in Hollywood as producers, writers, and actors. Though all officially Californians now, their Wellesley roots still run deep. Here are their stories.
THE OSCAR-NOMINATED producer of *Manchester by the Sea* went to St. John’s and Wellesley Middle School (WMS) and graduated from Belmont Hill School in 1993. As a kid, Kevin played pond hockey, football, and baseball with his older brother, Bobby, and his friends. At WMS, one of his teachers showed the class *Cool Hand Luke*. Afterwards, Kevin says, “we pulled the movie apart. I’d never studied a movie that way before, and it was the first time I realized people actually made movies for a job.”

Growing up, he loved James Bond films, *Jaws*, *The Goonies*, and the *Star Wars* films. But as his taste matured, he was drawn to movies with more realistic, flawed human characters, like in Kenneth Lonergan’s debut film, *You Can Count on Me*, nominated for an Academy Award for best screenplay in 2000. Little did he know that 15 years later he would have an opportunity to work with Lonergan as a producer on the film *Manchester by the Sea*.

After graduating from Lafayette College where he earned a B.A. in Economics & Business and Spanish, Kevin moved to New York where he got his first big break as an assistant to the Chairman and CEO of Sony Music Entertainment, Tommy Mottola. After being promoted to production coordinator, Kevin helped oversee the production of albums for Mottola’s key artists. “Tommy gave me great perspective on how a global entertainment company works, and it was a huge learning opportunity,” he says.

While working in New York, Kevin would use his vacation time to travel to Los Angeles to take any meetings he could get in the film business. On his trips, he reconnected with two Wellesley friends — Dave Collard, a screenwriter, and Jay Harrington, an actor — and slept on their couch in their Santa Monica apartment. After an executive at Sony recommended Kevin meet Academy Award winning producer Scott Rudin, Kevin’s career really took off. As an assistant to Rudin, he was able to learn the craft of producing first-hand, working on seven different films including *The Hours* and *The Royal Tenenbaums*. He also got a chance to work as an assistant director under Steven Spielberg on three different films including *War of the Worlds*, and achieved success as a screenwriter.

When the rights to the screenplay *The Way, Way Back* became available in 2012, Kevin took on the role of producer for the first time. He soon realized this was what he was meant to do, and he’s never looked back.

Today, as the newly recruited president of Scott Free Productions, Ridley Scott’s production company, Kevin finds movie ideas and works with writers to develop the scripts. “I’m involved in every phase of the movie-making process. I have to wear a lot of hats, but that’s one of the reasons I love doing this,” he says. “The most challenging thing is finding a good piece of material. When a screenplay makes me
sit up straight or laugh out loud or come close to bringing a tear to my eye, it’s something I want. My proudest moment as a producer is when I bet on something and it succeeds.”

*Thoroughbreds*, a psychological thriller that was just released by Focus Features, was one of those screenplays. “I read it the moment it landed in my inbox,” says Kevin. “It has some of the most whip-smart, cracking, humorous dialogue I’ve ever read. And our first-choice actors all said yes—the screenplay was that good.”

Kevin tries to get back to Boston as often as he can to visit his parents, who still live in Wellesley, and also to work. “There’s still a bit of a novelty there with movie making. People welcome you back. There are great crews there—people I trust and can call on.” When he was shooting *Manchester by the Sea*, Kevin called the headmaster at his alma mater, Belmont Hill, to see if he could “borrow” the hockey team for a day. “I put on my own skates and got out there on the rink with all the kids. I didn’t have to hire a bunch of actors who were going to screw around on the ice. They already knew how to work together,” he says.

And sometimes being a producer requires making really tough decisions, like scrambling to reshoot Kevin Spacey’s scenes, after he was charged with multiple counts of sexual harassment, and replace him with Christopher Plummer as John Paul Getty for *All the Money in the World*. “The path to success here is really unorthodox. There’s not a ladder to climb. We’re swinging from limb to limb and that takes a lot of resilience and sheer will.”

**Jay Harrington’s** first acting role came in 1978 when he was a second grader at Hunnewell Elementary School. His music teacher asked the class, “Who would like to play the snowman?” and Jay’s hand shot up. His was the only one. That’s when he first got the acting bug, and today, after 40 years, he still has it, “Getting up in front of people was never something I shied away from,” he says.

In the summer, when his family went to Cape Cod, Jay attended the Harwich Junior Theater where he developed his acting skills alongside professionals. His first role was Little Bear in *The Arkansaw Bear*. He was only 11. “I love the camaraderie of acting. You’re in the trenches with these people and you become fast friends,” he says.

Jay tried out for all the plays at WMS and Wellesley High School (WHS) and acted in productions at the Wheelock Family Theater. After graduating from WHS in 1989, Jay attended Syracuse University, where he majored in theater. After graduating, he headed to New York City where some of his Syracuse friends were pursuing roles on Broadway. But Jay was more interested in the silver screen. “There weren’t the same opportunities for film and TV roles in New York in the early 90s as there were in LA,” says Jay. So in 1997, he visited his youngest brother, Adam, who was studying theater at UCLA, and is now best known for his work on the television show *Scrubs*.

Out of the blue, Jay’s high school friend, Dave Collard, called to ask if he knew anyone looking for a roommate in Santa Monica. His timing could not have been better. “Dave and I lived together for nine years in a rent-controlled apartment,” Jay says. “It wasn’t the nicest place, but it was centrally located and it served its purpose for some guys in their 20s.” (This included letting Kevin Walsh crash on their “dirty white couch.”)

Jay launched his Hollywood career with a role in the drama *Pacific Blue*. Since then, he’s had a relatively steady stream of work, including a recurring role on the *The Division*. He’s also been on *The Shield*, *Burn Notice*, and *Private Practice* where he reconnected with his friend and former
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college classmate, Taye Diggs. In 2006, Jay landed the role of Dr. Ron McCready on *Desperate Housewives.* Just three years later he headlined as Ted Crisp in *Better Off Ted,* followed by a lead role on *Benched.* Jay has also performed on stage, and he’s appeared in a handful of films including *American Reunion.*

Last fall, Jay took on the lead role of David “Deacon” Kay in a new drama series, *S.W.A.T.*, based on the 1975 TV show. “The last several years had been relatively dry in terms of work,” admits Jay, “and it was a godsend when *S.W.A.T.* came along.” During the premier last November, Jay got together with his longtime Wellesley friends, Dave Collard and Tim Dowling, to watch. “Tim was my understudy as the cowardly lion in our high school production of the *Wizard of Oz,*” Jay adds.

Jay’s youngest brother, Adam, is now a working actor in New York City, while Matt, the middle brother lives in LA. “Matt’s been in TV production for the past 15 years, and he’s my stand-in and sometimes stunt double for *S.W.A.T.*” says Jay. “This is the fourth show we’ve done together.”

When he’s not on set or learning lines, Jay helps out at an acting class in town. He’s also on the same softball team as Kevin Walsh and skates for an amateur hockey team.

“You’ve got to follow your own path. It’s not easy getting the work, but once you have it you’ve got to keep at it. [Acting] is not rocket science, but the pace of TV is much faster than film. We shoot one show in eight days so you have to be prepared. If you’re passionate about acting, it’s really fun. I love it.”

**DAVE COLLARD** didn’t always know he wanted to be a screenwriter.

He grew up in Wellesley Farms and attended Phillips and Fiske Elementary Schools and graduated from WHS in 1989. “I always loved reading and writing,” Dave says, “and I loved watching movies.” *Raiders of the Lost Ark, Body Heat* and *The Goonies* were some of his favorites, and still are. He devoured novels by Pat Conroy as well as thrillers, and he still reads for pleasure today.

As an economics major at Middlebury College, Dave’s career compass pointed toward Wall Street. But when he took a screenwriting class his senior year, everything changed. “That’s when I got the writing bug.” He says. “I
thought, maybe I can do this as a career.” So he decided to give it a shot.

In 1994, he moved to LA and got his first real job as a writer’s assistant on the drama NY News, starring Mary Tyler Moore. It aired opposite Seinfeld in the mid-90s. “That was a tough place to be—so it didn’t last long,” he says. His career skyrocketed when he was hired to work on Family Guy as a writer’s assistant in 2000. “A friend helped me out, but getting the job was mostly dumb luck. Luck plays such a big factor out here. Nobody cares where you went to school.”

Dave wrote for Family Guy for a couple of years with his writing partner Ken Goin. With a steady job and enough money to pay rent, Dave wrote his first original screenplay, Out of Time, which he sold to MGM. The 2003 thriller starred Denzel Washington. “It really launched my movie career,” Dave says. And he’s been writing screenplays ever since. “I was
very fortunate that the first two movies I wrote—Out of Time and Annapolis with James Franco—were my original scripts. That doesn’t happen very often.”

Since then Dave has been steadily working for different studios, including Disney. His friend Kevin Walsh describes him as “a seasoned old studio writer who’s very successful.” But Dave is driven by practicality as well as creativity. “I have four kids I have to feed,” he jokes.

As busy as he is, he still finds time to get together with his Wellesley pals who he’s known for more than 35 years. “With the amount of time we’ve all put into our careers, we could have been doctors,” Dave laughs. He’s looking forward to working with Kevin for the first time on a film for Scott Free Productions later this year.

“Writing is something I’m compelled to do,” Dave explains. “I love coming up with stories and discovering new worlds even though it drives me nuts sometimes. Life is a lot easier when you don’t want to be a writer. There are so many talented people who haven’t been able to launch their careers. I know I’m very fortunate.” And very humble.

WHEN TIM DOWLING was three years old his father took him to see Star Wars in the theater. Afterwards, Tim told his dad he “wanted to do that, too,” as he pointed to the screen. None of them knew then that his dream would come true.

Growing up in Wellesley Hills, Tim attended the Warren School. His first acting gig was in kindergarten where he played Peter Pan in the school play. But one of his most vivid grade school memories was field day. “I was in the sack race, and for some reason I just couldn’t do it. I kept falling down and getting back up again. Everyone was already done, but I just kept going until I finished,” Tim says.

The next day the principal gave him an award for “not giving up” which surprised him. “Looking back now, it never occurred to me to give up.” And he always had that same attitude toward his career.

During the summer Tim was on the swim team with Kevin Walsh and his older brother Bobby. But Tim’s interest in acting never wavered. He played the lead as an 8th grader in Once Upon a Mattress. And when Tim was a freshman and Jay Harrington was a senior, Tim was Jay’s understudy in The Wizard of Oz.

After graduating from Wellesley High School in 1992, Tim went to USC, where he majored in theater. “I wanted to be an actor, but I also took a lot of film and writing classes,” he says. In college he got his first agent, and then in 1997, after he graduated, he got his first paid acting job in The Beautician and the Beast, starring Fran Drescher and Timothy Dalton. “I worked for a few years as an actor and somehow paid the bills. But while I was waiting around for auditions I helped my friends with their scripts,” he explains.

In between acting gigs, Tim co-wrote a short film—George Lucas in Love—a spoof of Shakespeare in Love featuring George Lucas with writers block trying to write Star Wars. “I played Han
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Solo for about two seconds,” he says. “The movie sort of exploded with attention in the industry, and people asked me if I wanted to write.” His first full-length script didn’t sell, but it got him his writing agent. “I wrote five scripts and countless pitches. I felt like I met everybody and they all said ‘we love your writing,’ but no one was buying.”

Then in 2004, things changed. “I was reading about all these companies in small towns and how all the factories were getting outsourced during the Kerry/Bush election. That gave me an idea for a comedy called Outsourced,” Tim says. Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson were slated to play the lead roles, but it was around the same time as Wedding Crashers, so they had to drop out. Will Smith loved the script and Tim’s writing and later hired him to write This Means War, starring Chris Pine, Tom Hardy, and Reese Witherspoon.

Role Models, starring Paul Rudd and Seann William Scott, was the first full-length movie Tim wrote that actually got made. It came out in 2008. “It was a buddy comedy in the vein of Stripes where two guys are forced into the Big Brother program.” That was followed by Just Go With It, starring Adam Sandler, Jennifer Anniston, and Nicole Kidman, which came out in 2011.

Tim’s latest movie, Pixels, was directed by Chris Columbus and stars Adam Sandler, Peter Dinklage, Michelle Monaghan, and Josh Gad. “Chris wrote The Goonies and directed Home Alone and the Harry Potter films, so I was so excited to be working with him.” Tim is currently working on an ’80s-type script that he wants to be “his Goonies.”

Today, Tim is considered one of the top comedy writers in the business. He was named one of Variety’s Ten Writers to Watch and was listed in Fade In’s Top 100 People in Hollywood. “I want to keep making movies,” he says. “And hopefully movies that people enjoy.”

WHEN ERIN ALLIN O’REILLY was growing up, she didn’t dream of being an actress. “I wanted to be a catcher for the Red Sox,” she said. “I had a bit of a Tona Peña obsession.”

Erin attended Bates Elementary School and then Upham from grades two through five. “I always loved singing and dancing,” she says, but she discovered acting when she went to the Charles River Creative Arts Program in Dover one summer. “It was very creative and wacky. We’d perform shows every day at lunch time or volunteer to do improv. It was a life-changing experience for me.”

Sophomore year of high school Erin’s mom convinced her to forgo basketball and try out for the school musical, Cabaret, instead. “I had been such a disaster on my freshman team,” Erin admits. She was thrilled when she landed the role of Sally, opposite Adam Harrington as Cliff, Sally’s love interest. “That was the first time I performed in front of a big audience in Wellesley,” she says. “Our director was such a cool, artistic, intelligent guy who treated us all like adults. And I was hooked.”

Adam and Erin also starred opposite each other as the baker and his wife in Into the Woods the following year.

After graduating from WHS in 1997 where she was friends with Kate Walsh, Kevin’s younger sister, Erin studied theater and English at Boston College. In 2001, she moved to New York City. “I showed up without a clue and got my feet wet. I figured out where to get my headshots taken and where to take classes.”

She was working two jobs as a waitress and trying to get acting roles. “I checked the Backstage newspaper and sent out a bazillion headshots hoping someone would call. But 99 percent of the time they didn’t.”

Erin’s luck changed in 2005 when she landed the lead in a film called The Legacy of Walter Frumm. She played a desperate...
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actress who had to wear a pastrami sandwich costume for the entire movie. “It was sweltering hot, and kind of ridiculous, but being in the film gave me the confidence to make the move to the West Coast. I was ready for a change.”

In LA, Erin got an agent and started booking commercials right away. She had enough work so she didn’t need a side job. “I got really lucky. I was able to establish myself as a commercial actor, I got to know the casting directors, and I became part of the community.” She was cast on a few episodes of The Big Bang Theory, which she loved because she got to perform in front of a live audience again. She also landed roles on NCIS, Grey’s Anatomy, and American Horror Story, among others.

Erin was cast in a few films including Dumb and Dumber To and The Three Stooges, both written and produced by the Farrelly brothers. Last year, Bobby Farrelly called Erin to star in two commercials for Shields MRI featuring Tom Brady. “Tom was really lovely to work with. He let us try on all his rings,” Erin says. “And it’s hard not to laugh around the Farrellys. They have been so kind to me and so loyal. They hired me for that ad when I was still on maternity leave.”

But being an actress is not as glamorous as some people think. “There are days when they shoot my scenes in a few hours, and I eat way too much craft service food, and others when I’m there for 16-plus hours shooting outside overnight freezing half to death in a leotard with hand warmers taped to my thighs and stuffed down my back,” Erin says.

There are also lots of lulls between jobs. “Learning how to ride those waves and manage expectations as the weeks go by can be challenging.” But doing what she loves is worth the wait, and with two little ones at home, she is plenty busy.

**The Wellesley Connection**

Before the new WHS was built, Tim Dowling and Adam Harrington came home to host, “Turn Off the Lights”—a night of musical theater celebrating the plays they took part in while at the school and to relive some of the memories that shaped who they are today.

While Kevin, Jay, Dave, Tim, Erin and Adam weren’t all in school at the same time, their families remain friends. “They’re all great kids,” says Dave’s mother, Ann Collard. “And they’re still wonderful friends after all these years. Particularly out in LA, there’s nothing like old friends who stick together through thick and thin.” Adds Kevin, “I’m not sure what the common thread is between all of us. A level of curiosity? The gumption to try? I do know that we were all fortunate enough to have parents who enabled us to open our minds and pursue our interests.”
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JANET MENDELSON writer

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Pam Kubbins could not be more passionate about the beauty and workmanship of the scarves sold by her company, Pam’s Pashminas. Stories bubble out of her about craftspeople she has met and how they create their wares. She’ll tell you about generation after generation of weavers using ancient looms, the origins of silk and bamboo threads, and where textiles are made with centuries-old techniques and tools.

I met with Kubbins recently in the Wellesley home where she and her husband, Paul Criswell, have lived since 1988. Pam and Paul, an attorney, are longtime Town Meeting Members and active in local organizations. They raised their daughter, Rachel, and son, Trevor, in this house, built in 1868, that is decorated with stenciled floors, abundant artwork, and treasured items
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collected from around the world. They are avid gardeners who for decades have composted every inch of their yard. Indoors, too, she never throws anything away. Near her grandfather’s big wooden desk, we sat on her parents’ carefully restored couch.

Over herbal tea, Kubbins told me Pam’s Pashminas, her home-based business, began shortly after 9/11 when she was still a Delta flight attendant. That November, she said, few people would fly.

“I was working on a transcontinental flight that had just 25 passengers on a jumbo jet that held 300,” she said. “I met a gentleman who had a huge bag of pashmina scarves: John Maguire, the brother of a flight attendant. I upgraded him to first class, and we spent the entire time, six hours, talking about the scarves he sourced in Turkey. I wore one. I sold them to first-class passengers, took them up to the cockpit, and it was the beginning of a wonderful thing because we became friends and he taught me about the business.” Later they traveled together to the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, a marketplace with 4,000 stalls, where scarves from all over the world are sold.

“I brought the scarves back and my friends in Wellesley went crazy,” she said. “I started re-selling them. I thought, ‘hmmm,’ because I just love scarves and have been wearing them my entire life starting when I was just a little child in a Ukrainian babushka.” Babushkas are head coverings from her grandparents’ homeland. They kept her young ears warm, and at the time they were stylish, too. Jackie Kennedy Onassis and movie stars wore babushkas in the 1950s and the ’60s. In 2001, pashminas—fine cashmere wool products traditionally made from the
long hairs of high-elevation goats in the Himalayas—had just hit the American market in solid colors with hand-tied fringe, debuting on The Oprah Winfrey Show in 1999.

Kubbins was ready for a career change. She retired from Delta after 28 years but her wanderlust remained strong. In 2004, she traveled for the first time to India alone.

“I got off a plane in Delhi and hit the main road, where stalls are jam-packed, mainly with Kashmiri fabrics,” she recalled. “Serendipitously, I walked into a very famous shop owned by a family, the Wangnoos, who were featured in National Geographic. I started sourcing from them beautiful handmade pieces woven of merino wool with hand embroidery. Gorgeous. They got me into India’s silk Jamavars [scarves] and gave me a lot of information.”

While riding in a signature Pink Ambassador taxi in Jaipur, the capital of the Indian state of Rajasthan, she had another pivotal chance encounter. The driver asked Kubbins what she was doing in India. When she related her mission, he insisted on introducing her to his friend, Helen Webster, an Australian who runs a similar textile business back home. Webster opened the world of scarves wider for Kubbins and became both her mentor and a dear friend. She taught her how to design patterns and brought her to Indian graphic designers with whom she has now worked for more than six years.

Today, Pam’s Pashminas also imports lacy scarves from Buenos Aires and Russian wool scarves from Kiev. She sells alpaca scarves from Peru and Thai silks. Among retailers carrying her collections are two shops in Wellesley—Pine Straw and Sloane & Ivy—as well as at Artisans Way in Concord, Oropa in Duxbury, and The Nehalem Beehive in Oregon. She also sells online at www.pamspashminas.com, at annual garden club events, craft shows, fundraisers, major events including the Boston Flower and Garden Show, and from her home by appointment.
Scarves serve a large purpose in many cultures,” said Kubbins, selecting a gold-embroidered burgundy Jamavar to demonstrate its versatility. “Number one is modesty. You cover your head in public. Or for religious purposes when visiting churches or mosques. Another is warmth. In Europe, scarves are always current. In America, scarves are becoming more popular because of their warmth and style.”

“Wearing a scarf gives you confidence,” Kubbins continued. “We all have things about our bodies we want to hide. Bellies. Sagging skin. And a scarf deflects that view. It distracts people from judging you.” But they are not just practical.

“A soft shawl around your shoulders is like a hug,” she said. “It envelopes you with a sense of being cozy and secure.”

As an independent entrepreneur, the owner of Pam’s Pashminas believes in compensating people well for what they do in life. Additionally, she looks for fabrics that are sustainably produced and environmentally safe because ultimately it means the scarves will last for many years. Pam’s Pashminas sells only pieces made with natural fibers. The same cannot be said of those sold by street vendors, online stores, or even by major retailers.

“I know who makes everything I source and where the materials come from,” said Kubbins. “I’ve gone through huge cultural experiences and made friends all along the way. I’ve been to a friend’s wedding on the Ganges River. My suppliers come from a variety of religious backgrounds, and I enjoy working with them all.”

Her scarves are priced from $25 to $189. Their quality and designs are comparable to those sold in stores like Nordstrom for hundreds of dollars more, she said, explaining that she can keep prices low because she relies on no middle man and has no brick and mortar store. Moreover, she has “corralled local talent,” referring to a half dozen Babson College students on whom she relies for their expertise in finance and computer science. In particular, she credits Kayla Andrews, a Wellesley High graduate now a student at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, with overhauling her inventory, shooting fashion photography in Paris, and building her website. “They are all unbelievable,” she said.
"A scarf can completely change your day, your mood, your point of view," said Kubbins. Among the many styles she offers is one that contains 19 colors in a “missing weave” pattern. Woven on a huge hand-worked loom, it looks fragile but the fabric is strong, she assured me. Lately blanket wraps are popular, especially among young adults. The wraps are oversized at 42 x 82 inches. They were being made primarily for the European market when Pam’s Pashminas began carrying them.

Jamavars once were her bestsellers and they are still among her personal favorites. Jamavar patterns are reversible, woven from silk in India in thousands of patterns that date back four centuries. But now, patterns Kubbins and Helen Webster design and manufacture have taken the top spots. Kubbins’ newest stemmed from discovering floral paintings by Carol Wallace, a watercolor artist in Connecticut. She worked to adapt Wallace’s paintings of wild roses in a variety of pastels on sheer organic cotton.

Kubbins also works with Boston designer David Joseph, maker of bespoke clothing for women. Their collection, Atelier DJPK, ranges from formal evening wraps to silk and cotton scarves and custom-made jackets.

“What I love about my business is that it has put me in touch with so many creative and talented people,” she said. “I trade with Etsy artists and craftspeople around the world. Their energy wears off on me.”

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Food Recovery: A Local Solution to a Global Problem

ROBIN BRETT WECHSLER writer

America grows and raises about 600 billion pounds of food each year, and it’s estimated that we throw away somewhere between a quarter and a half of that. That’s enough food to fill the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, notes Wellesley High School (WHS) graduate Jonathan Bloom in his 2010 book, American Wasteland.

In the early 20th century, we shifted from a rural, agricultural society to an urban, non-farming one. Today we rely on convenience and expect to get whatever food we want, when we want it. And, Bloom points out an average American generates almost five pounds of trash a day. Since 12 percent of that, on average, is or was edible, we each discard nearly 200 pounds of food a year. Since 1974, our per-person food waste has risen by 50 percent.

Wholesome food that’s lost or disposed of is defined as wasted, surplus, or excess food by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This includes unsold food from retail stores, untouched prepared food, or trimmings from restaurants, grocery stores, cafeterias, or industrial processing. Food unfit for human consumption can be fed to animals, composted, or sent to an anaerobic digester (to generate a biogas that’s combusted to make electricity and heat, or processed into renewable natural gas and transportation fuels).
While some unavoidable loss occurs due to harsh weather or spoilage, the costs associated with food waste are huge. According to the EPA, more than 130 million pounds of food ends up in our nation’s landfills. Solid food that rots in landfills emits methane gas, which has a “global warming potential” 28 to 36 times that of carbon dioxide in a 100-year period. Also, resources used to grow, process, transport, store, and dispose of the excess food, like water, soil nutrients, and fossil fuels, are wasted. In financial terms, Bloom reports a family of four throws away an average over $2,000 worth of food a year.

At the same time, the 2017 Global Report on Food Crisis finds over 100 million people worldwide are food insecure, or lack reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. Feeding America, a Chicago-based nonprofit that works to end hunger in the U.S., estimates that 41 million Americans live in households that don’t have enough food to live an active, healthy life. Of that, 23 million are adults, 13 million are children, and 5 million are seniors.

Fortunately, Matt Delaney, Wellesley’s food service director since 2012, is aware of this serious and pervasive problem and is working with Wellesley’s 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Working Group (Department of Public Works, Natural Resources Commission, and Sustainable Energy Committee) and volunteers across town to tackle it.

“In 1992, I learned about food recovery when I worked in food service management at Walt Disney World,” notes Delaney. “Extra food prepared at restaurants and resorts was bagged, tagged, and chilled. At night, a refrigerated truck picked it up and brought it to a food bank and people in shelters.”

The work in Florida made a big impression on Delaney. “It raised my awareness of hardship and hunger that I never knew existed. Not to mention, the environmental impacts such as water wasted to produce food, greenhouse gasses, and lost money on purchased food from the suppliers.”

Delaney felt Wellesley Middle School (WMS) would be a perfect test facility or “proving ground” for food recovery here. A plan to put that in place came about at a February 2016 meeting of the Town’s 3R Working Group.

At the end of lunch service, staff members put extra pre-consumer cooked meals in sealed, plastic bags, and transferred them to a freezer. On Fridays, Wendy Beck von Peccoz volunteered to pick up the food and deliver it to the Wellesley Food Pantry (WFP). Items that couldn’t
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be frozen or kept at the pantry, like sandwiches and salads, were offered to staff at the Wellesley Fire Department, Department of Public Works, and other town departments.

“The thought of perfectly good food being put in a dumpster is such a gross waste especially knowing that there are so many people living with food insecurity all around us,” says Beck von Peccoz. “I was more than happy to help Matt, who is the MAN as far as I’m concerned.”

Another volunteer with the pantry took over the pickups at WMS from Beck von Peccoz until fall 2017. Since October, food recovered from WMS has been collected by Food For Free, a Cambridge-based nonprofit that has been bringing food that would have been thrown away to meal programs, shelters, and pantries since 1985.

“Approximately two to three hundred pounds of food per week was being wasted by our overproduction and distribution methods in the past,” says Delaney. “We tracked our donations 2016 to 2017 of nearly 2,000 pounds of food, or 4,000 meals.” He adds, “Food For Free will supply us with an annual report of the amount of food we donate and their estimation of the number of meals they created with the supplies.” WHS was added for collection in November.

To get to the point of recovering food from WMS and WHS, several Wellesley residents started the hard work in 2015. Ellen Korpi, vice chair of the Town’s Sustainable Energy
Committee, became galvanized after visiting Jordan Dairy Farms outside of Worcester—the first farm in Massachusetts to produce energy from organic waste. Korpi is pleased with the expansive progress to date and notes, “Whitsons Culinary Group, Wellesley’s food service provider, has pledged to reduce food loss and waste in its operations 50 percent by 2030. It’s fantastic.”

Korpi and Alison Cross, a member of the 3R Working Group, worked with the Health Department as it developed formal standard operating procedures for food rescue. They’ve also brought area colleges into the effort so it’s more sustainable. Bentley University got started in September, while Wellesley College, Olin College, and Babson College were approved in October for Food For Free pickups. Massachusetts Bay Community College is hoping to become a recipient but needs a freezer first. Delaney is eager to have a regular pickup schedule of donations to Food For Free to “maximize the load going and minimize environmental impacts.”

“A collaborative, iterative food rescue process lends itself to a successful school-based program, with vast potential,” posits Cross. “We plan to donate 20,000 meals this school year.”

In spring 2016, Bates Elementary parents Marybeth Martello, Gretchen Hall, and Alexa Plenge led an award-winning effort to improve cafeteria waste management at the school. An assessment of all cafeteria waste at Bates showed it’s possible to reduce landfill-bound waste by 93 percent, or from about 400 to 28 pounds per week. A pilot cafeteria program took an initial step in this direction. By rescuing unused, post-consumer food like yogurt, cheese sticks, apples, and packaged carrot sticks (left at a “share table”) for the WFP, diverting unused liquids, and recycling cartons,

“it’s possible to reduce landfill-bound waste by 93 percent” good works
utensils, trays, and more, Bates reduced landfill-bound waste 40 percent by weight. Diverting food waste to composting or anaerobic digestion in the future will reduce Bates’ landfill-bound waste even further.

With support from parent volunteers, Sprague and Hunnewell Schools adopted the Bates cafeteria program. Bates, Sprague, and Fiske were approved for Food For Free pickups and share-table donations in November. With staff training and freezers, food rescue began in January. In addition, Delaney purchased Preserve-brand recycled plastic containers for cold lunches at the elementary schools. Replacing disposable single-use containers will save over 15,000 disposables.

Separately in town, a pilot program run from October 2017 to this past January at the Recycling and Disposal Facility collected food waste from residents in buckets, which was eventually turned into fertilizer. An evaluation will determine if this food management program can be continued.

Successful food recovery and waste reduction has resulted from teamwork and broad participation. Delaney asserts, “Private schools and clubs should also consider this effort. Food that’s intended for people and is ‘extra’ should be given a second chance to nourish a life, not a landfill. The local grocery stores reduce waste, create compost, and donate to recovery organizations. Everyone should consider the amount of food that’s being wasted and the impact that it could have as a positive for people and the environment.”

Food recovery work is not simple, but it has a wide-ranging and lasting impact. Says Delaney, “If we can save money, waste less, and feed more people with what we have, that’s good. If I can teach others to do the same, that’s great!”

**Recommended Reading**

To learn more about food waste and what you can do about it, check out the following books:

- **AMERICAN WASTELAND: HOW AMERICA THROWS AWAY NEARLY HALF OF ITS FOOD (AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT)**
  by Jonathan Bloom (De Capo Press, 2010)
- **FOOD FOOLISH: THE HIDDEN CONNECTION BETWEEN FOOD WASTE, HUNGER, AND CLIMATE CHANGE**
  by John M. Mandycz and Eric B. Schultz (Carrier Corporation, 2015)
- **WASTE FREE KITCHEN HANDBOOK**
  by Dana Gunders (Chronicle Books, 2015)
- **WASTE: UNCOVERING THE GLOBAL FOOD SCANDAL**
  by Tristram Stuart (W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2009)
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Bullies Move Beyond the Schoolyard

JULIE SUTHERLAND writer

do you remember the 97-pound weakling? It’s an ad that you might recall that features a skinny guy getting sand kicked in his face by a beefcake, who then walks away with the guy’s girlfriend. The “weakling” uses the moment as inspiration to build his body, and comes back to the beach to give the bully his just punishment, taking his girlfriend back.

As times have changed, so has bullying. With the advent of cellphones and social media, bullying can and does happen just about anywhere, online or off.

We’ve heard of heartbreaking stories like the one of Tyler Clementi, a bright, musically talented student, who was a victim of cyber-harassment when his roommate used his computer’s webcam to record Tyler kissing another boy. A freshman at Rutgers University, he ended his life in 2010 at the age of 18.

How do we help our kids and teach them appropriate online behavior?

Defining Cyber Bullying

The term “cyber bullying” was first coined in 1999 and refers to the use of digital technology to willfully inflict harm in a repetitive fashion. Most descriptions of cyber bullying have been based on the generally agreed-upon definition of traditional bullying. True bullying is calculated, ongoing abuse that is aimed at a less powerful target. Socially cruel behaviors meet the definition of bullying if they include three core characteristics: intention, repetition, and power imbalance.
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Dr. Elizabeth Englander is a professor of psychology, director, and founder of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center, and author of the book *Bullying and Cyber Bullying: What Every Educator Needs to Know*. Englander notes that we should not label every one-time incident and every equal-power fight as bullying. “One of the ways that bullying can be distinguished from other conflicts is that it’s largely a one-way street when it comes to responsibility,” Englander writes in her book.

Data shows that bullying today most often does not involve physical contact. In cyberspace, identifying true bullying presents unique challenges. For example, assessing for intent, repetition, and power imbalance can be challenging when it comes to online communication. A child’s single online comment can spread widely beyond the initial posting, though this does not constitute repetition on the aggressor’s part.

Cyber bullying differs from traditional bullying in other ways too. For example, the use of anonymity online may lead kids to make comments they might not make in person. Additionally, cyber bullying occurs primarily out of school. While traditional bullying does not usually carry into the home setting, victims of cyber bullying may be unable to escape comments and find a safe refuge.

**What is the Scope of the Problem**

According to Dr. Englander’s review of published data, somewhere in the range of 25 to 30 percent of kids experience in-person bullying at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Unlike traditional bullying rates, reported cyber bullying rates tend to vary wildly, with five percent at the low end and 43 percent at the higher end of estimates.

At the high school level, most bullying—both cyber and traditional—occurs in the ninth and tenth grades. Based on research by Dr. Englander, bullying does not often persist through every year of high school, with only four percent of students reporting being victimized all four years.

**Local Experience**

Wellesley Middle School (WMS) Assistant Principals Cathi Gordon and Robyn Reese, who have worked in education for 19 and 20 years, respectively, have observed an increase in cyber bullying over the past five to seven years. This change has occurred as smartphones have become more sophisticated, and with the advent of apps like Instagram and Snapchat.

Gordon notes, “Social media and texting is really the main way that kids communicate with each other now.” Like many parents and educators, she has concerns about how this affects our kids. “This generation is lacking in

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“Some of the things kids text they wouldn’t say to each other in person. Sometimes they don’t even know they’re being hurtful.”

—Cathi Gordon
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empathy. Kids can’t read someone’s facial expression over text and may not realize the impact of their words. Some of the things kids text they wouldn’t say to each other in person. Sometimes they don’t even know they’re being hurtful.”

Gordon and Reese handle cyber bullying issues on a case-by-case basis and estimate that, on average, they address issues a couple of times a month. And while each case doesn’t always reach the level of true bullying, all harmful online behavior is approached similarly. “We take each case very seriously,” Gordon notes. But she also makes an important point: “At this age we have to remember that they are still children and they’re learning. They’re going to make mistakes; they’re not fully formed.” When counseling kids and parents in these situations, Reese and Gordon focus on education about inappropriate behaviors and how to effectively and appropriately use technology to communicate.

Reese and Gordon agree that within the middle school years, cyber bullying is most prevalent in seventh grade, probably because this is the year of greatest transition. Sixth grade is a new experience in which students often socialize in larger groups defined in part by their classrooms. By eighth grade, students tend to have more solidified friendships.

Reese and Gordon have also observed that in many cases, parents turn to administrators to mediate. “Often parents don’t want to confront each other,” Gordon notes. “Even when cyber bullying occurs over the summer, when kids are out of school, parents will call us. They want us to be the intermediary. It’s an interesting social phenomenon. How do parents of involved kids learn to address this with each other?” Gordon and Reese emphasize that they are always happy to help, regardless of whether school is in session or not.

So what advice do they have for parents and kids? Reese tells parents: “Pay strict attention to what your kids are doing on social media. Have a time to check in with them and flip through their text messages and Instagram, etc. The more you know, the more you can prevent and have the opportunity to teach them proper ways to engage online. Be in partnership with your child and their phone. It should be expected that the phone is property of the entire household; (the contents) should not be the child’s secret.”

Wellesley High School (WHS) Assistant Principal Marc Bender echoes many of the sentiments of Gordon and Reese. He feels that WMS does an excellent job of addressing these issues, and WHS directly benefits from that awareness campaign. “In middle school, students learn the importance of not being a bystander.” Students are encouraged to report hurtful behavior.

His experience is consistent with Dr. Englander’s data: cyber bullying is most prevalent among ninth graders. WHS directly addresses bullying in the freshman guidance seminars and in sophomore health
curriculum. As a part of the freshman seminars, students receive a copy of the Massachusetts bullying law, which they review and sign to indicate they have an understanding of this.

Bender notes that there has been an important change in recent years in terms of how the school handles possible bullying or similar social issues: regardless of when and where the behavior occurs, the school will address it. It is no longer something that needs to happen on school grounds or during school in order for administrators to become involved.

How Can Parents Help?
Helping our kids handle the digital world and guiding them in appropriate online interaction is a challenge, even for the experts. During a recent local talk, Dr. Englander joked, “My husband, whose career is in technology, and I should be the best prepared couple in America to deal with this.” But Dr. Englander, a parent of three children, readily acknowledges that even with their combined expertise, it isn’t easy.

The good news, Dr. Englander notes, is that parents do not need to be experts on apps and all things digital in order to help facilitate positive online behavior in their kids. Avoiding problems is more about common sense than about understanding technology. Here are some points she makes in talks and in her publications:

- **START TALKING AND THE YOUNGER, THE BETTER.** Don’t wait until middle school to start talking about texting and online behavior. Open communication and discussion is key.
- **WHILE A CONVERSATION ON TEXT OR SOCIAL MEDIA MAY FEEL PRIVATE, IT’S OFTEN NOT.** Remind kids that most anything can be forwarded and shared and talk about factors that increase the likelihood of inappropriate digital communication and sharing. These include heightened emotions, group texts, use of alcohol and other drugs, and small
screens. Studies have shown that use of small screens makes the conversation feel more intimate, and kids are more likely to share more private information and feelings.

- **TEXTING ISN’T THE SAME AS TALKING.** There are times when it’s best not to type, but to talk. Texting is convenient, and it’s easy for this to become a habit. Every now and then ask yourself and your kids, would it be better to talk in this situation? Reading emotions can be difficult in a text, and messages can more easily be misunderstood.

- **WHEN YOU’RE UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING, WAIT BEFORE YOU TEXT OR POST.** Dr. Englander recommends the 24-hour rule, though readily acknowledges that it’s highly unlikely that most teens will wait that long. “Even two hours will help!” she notes.

- **NOT ALL PHOTOS ARE MEANT TO BE SHARED.** Discuss with kids when it’s okay to post or share photos. What situations might require permission to post photos?

- **TALK WITH YOUR KIDS SO THEY WILL TALK, AND LISTEN.** Talking with kids about their friends and what’s going on with them, as well as social problems kids might be experiencing does help, even when it might not seem to be helping at the time. Dr. Englander’s research has shown that, in most cases, kids report that their parents talking with them did have an impact.

- **OUTLINE RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILEGES.** Cellphones, paid for by mom and dad, are a privilege, not a right. The privilege of having a cellphone to use and the responsibility which accompanies it should be explicitly linked.

**What to Do If Your Child is Being Bullied**

If your child or someone you know is a target of cyber bullying, you can help him or her cope. Here are some steps you can take, adapted from Dr. Englander’s website:

1.) Ensure that school administrators have a discussion with the bully and bystanders.

2.) Ensure that the bully and bystanders are informed about the possible consequences of bullying in school.

3.) Be sure that the victim has a safety and comfort plan that includes a safe person that he or she can go to at any time.

4.) Inform all relevant adults about the situation, including teachers, coaches, counselors, and bus drivers.

5.) Have a plan for less structured locations, such as on buses and in lunchrooms. A victim should not be left to hope they find a safe seat; seats near friends should be reserved in advance.
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contact with nature is not some magical elixir but the natural world is the substrate on which we must build our existence,” wrote Stephen Kellert, PhD, a professor of social ecology at Yale University who explored the links between humans and the natural world. Since 1989, students attending Wellesley’s seven public elementary schools have been exploring nature and learning about the environment through the schools’ “nature walk” program. This program, which always relied upon parent volunteers and teachers carving out class time to support outdoor enrichment, is still running but is now under curriculum review and is undergoing a round of upgrades.
Carolyn S. Collins has been teaching in Wellesley since 1994, and, in 2013, she was named the K-5 Science Coordinator for the Wellesley Public Schools. According to Collins, the main goal of the Nature/Environmental Walk program, that was renamed “Field Investigations” in 2015, is “to enrich and support the classroom curriculum and to extend classroom learning into schoolyard explorations.” As initially conceived, the program was developed to sharpen observation skills, help children make connections between classroom activities and the natural world, and to empower children to learn through their own observations rather than waiting to be taught.

When a new life science curriculum was implemented in the fall of 2015, the continued success of the Field Investigations program was possible due to the efforts of a committed group of parents who represented each elementary school as the Environmental Aid Coordinators (EAC) group. Over the past three years, this group has met regularly to synchronize the material and worksheets, organize volunteers, and run a pre-program volunteer training session at each elementary school.

The groundwork accomplished by the EAC group has laid the foundation for the next stage of evolution for the Field Investigations program and will align vertically within each grade-level curriculum as students progress from Kindergarten through fifth grade. EAC team member and Hardy Elementary School parent Ansley Martin has been involved with the nature walk program for the past 10 years. According to Martin, the biggest difference between the new program and its predecessor is that it’s led by teachers, with parents in a supporting role. (The previous program was run entirely by parents.) “With the new curriculum,” he says, “the teacher leads and instructs while parents serve in a supporting role during the active exploration of the schoolyard. As such, you ensure all the students are getting the same level of engagement and instruction and you take a lot of pressure off parents from having to learn the material.”

“The positives of this program/outdoor education is that children get to do some outside learning and have their curiosity piqued. They learn so much by watching the nature around them.”

–Stephanie Juma / EAC team member

Hardy Elementary School third graders study the weather and learn how various structures are designed to withstand extreme weather conditions.
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Another EAC team member and Hardy parent, Stephanie Juma, has volunteered in the past and now coordinates and praises the Field Investigation program. “The positives of this program/outdoor education is that children get to do some outside learning and have their curiosity piqued. They learn so much by watching the nature around them.” Parents learn a great deal as well. “It’s great for parents to have perspective on what it’s like for teachers to deal with a group of children on a daily basis,” she says, “and it brings a new level appreciation and respect for teaching. The parent volunteers in general are surprised by some of the observations that the children make, which they never even saw or thought of.”

Among early childhood specialists, educators, and parents, there seems to be a growing sentiment that children need to be presented with opportunities to learn the same material in different settings and through different lenses; the indoors methodology of instruction conducted within the isolation of classrooms doesn’t seem to promote ways by which kids learn best. According to Denise Pope, PhD, Challenge Success Co-Founder at Stanford University, “By asking the right questions, we can better direct student investigations of their environment, and when outdoors, students are identifying objects, making comparisons, testing ideas, exploring the world using cross-disciplines, and being naturally engaged.”

Collins said that when she began this role as K-5 Science Coordinator, “There was very little Earth and space science in the elementary curriculum. The only place it showed up was in fourth grade with studies of geology and climate and topography. With the advent of the new Massachusetts STE frameworks (curriculum), we have taken this opportunity to re-vision our K-5 science curriculum.”

“If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, then let us allow them to love the Earth before we ask them to save it.”

– Dav Sobel
As part of that fresh look, Earth and space science have been integrated into all levels, starting with Kindergarteners learning about weather, second graders learning how wind and water can change landscapes, and fifth graders learning about the interactions and movement of the sun and Earth.

Embedded in all of these units of study are outdoor learning components. First graders track seasonal changes in shadows and plant life, third graders test weather instruments, and fourth graders apply their new learning during a performance assessment “in the field” as they visit geologic sites in Wellesley looking for evidence of weathering, erosion, and deposition. Outdoor learning experiences also play a major role in the life science curricula as students apply and extend their classroom learning to their schoolyard setting. “Outdoor learning has changed a lot since the early days of the Nature/Environmental Walk program and will continue to grow and expand as we endeavor to offer students more direct experience with the content they are learning, giving students opportunities to apply their developing understanding in a real-life context and to connect with nature and natural systems,” Collins says.

Collins worked with the National Audubon Society to create the elementary schools’ first grade science unit called “Seasonal Patterns of Change,” that gets students outside during each of the four seasons to observe the changes going on, including changes to the position of the sun, plants, shrubs, and trees.

Many local educators and parents say they’ve witnessed the benefits of outdoor education as demonstrated by their students and children. They’ve noticed improved problem solving skills and teamwork, better leadership skills, and increased focus and retention of topics studied. Going forward, Collins plans to have outdoor activities continue and extend the learning that begins in the classroom. One of her favorite quotes is by educator David Sobel, who helped develop the philosophy of place-based education. He says, “If we want children to flourish, to become truly empowered, then let us allow them to love the Earth before we ask them to save it.”

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Wellesley Weston Magazine  |  spring 2018
in a small artisans’ gallery in Wellesley Square, three artists with ties to Wellesley’s Dana Hall School showcase their work—and work to foster the store’s cooperative mission.

The three—Ruth Treitman, Linda Lutfy Clayton, and Nancy Rich—all came to art in different ways, but they have common goals: to make something beautiful and to contribute to the Clever Hand Gallery’s community. In doing so, they satisfy their own artistic needs, learn from fellow artisans, and take delight in the joy that their creations bring to others.

The cross-sharing was evident as the three literally talked shop during an interview that included a tour of the gallery. Ruth and Linda, both jewelers and former Dana Hall mathematics teachers, discussed techniques of working with silver; as Nancy explained a new venture into mosaic making, Linda offered her a kiln that she no longer needed. It’s clear that their community is cooperative in more ways than one.
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“The gallery gives me a venue to show my work,” said Nancy, a photographer and former Dana Hall administrator. “And it’s fun to be inspired by other artists and see what they are doing. I walk in that store, and I see something new, and that gives me an idea.”

Everything at the gallery is handmade, and the cooperative is owned and managed by its 23 members. Each has at least one role: Ruth handles store publicity; Linda creates inventive and ever-changing displays; and Nancy is on the marketing committee and works in sales, giving customers insight into each artisan’s creative process.

Examples of their generous community abound. “It’s been a second family in a way,” says Linda, whose husband became ill at the same time she joined the gallery. During her husband’s illness, she said, the members supported her, creating an enduring closeness. “It really develops a sense of community that lasts, whether members are still involved or not.” One former member, a woodworker, has recently retired, but he still plans to host the group’s holiday party.

The structure of the cooperative fosters the gallery’s community. Artisans must apply to be members, submitting several examples of their work. Other members judge the work based on factors such as originality, appeal to customers, and workmanship. Members share in the cooperative’s expenses and responsibilities. All of that ownership has its rewards.

“People in the membership really respect everyone’s work,” said Nancy. “It’s nice to know that these people voted to have you in their group.”

Educators must constantly use their creativity and be open to trying something new, so it’s not surprising that these three became artists. While the women’s time together at Dana Hall overlapped, their art careers began to flourish at different times.

Ruth began knitting and sewing as a child. She began making jewelry much later, when a friend invited her to a class. Soon she found herself creating chains, each link made one by one, by hand. “Geometry was my
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field,” she said, and she often uses the spiral, a form abounding in nature with its roots in mathematics.

Using gold, fine silver, or tarnish-resistant Argentium silver, Ruth works precise teardrop-shaped links—her signature—into necklaces, pins, bracelets, and earrings for a beautifully classic look. She also makes bold pieces that she sometimes accentuates with abstract shapes created by recycling silver scraps or pieces that don’t meet her exacting standards. These have an organic, natural feel that tilts modern.

Like many artists, she easily turns mistakes into something new. One silver piece with hammered edges came about when she mistakenly hammered the wrong side of the silver. She liked the effect, and a new style joined her repertoire.

While Ruth’s jewelry making is a hobby, her sales have been significant. When Ruth’s granddaughter was 15, she was diagnosed with diabetes. Ruth decided to donate all of her profits from jewelry making to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. To date, she has given at least $75,000 to the foundation. She also helped raise funds for a former Dana Hall teacher with cancer.

“I love to do it, and I like to know that there’s a purpose,” she said. “It makes me feel good to know that I’m doing something worthwhile. I have a philosophy that donors get more out of giving than receivers get out of receiving. That’s why I’m a donor.”

Linda, too, uses geometry as inspiration for her fluid silver earrings, pendants, and bracelets. Dangling earrings seem to spiral endlessly; a silver pendant accentuated with an opal seems to flow as it folds over and over upon itself. A thick bracelet cuff is distinguished by an asymmetric crease that’s reminiscent of a draped piece of fabric. To enable her to form the metal to her specifications, Linda uses a technique to heat the silver so that it retains its malleability even when cooled.
Linda’s modern designs are influenced by organic forms, and she complements them with natural stones such as onyx, malachite, and agate.

Linda finds inspiration all around: in the garden, in a piece of lace, or even in architectural designs. “Everything can become a piece of jewelry,” she said. Her pendant’s undulations were influenced by a medieval woodworking method of depicting folded cloth called “linen fold,” which she first saw when a Dana Hall art teacher arranged a tablecloth in that way.

“I always wanted to make jewelry,” Linda said. She began with a jewelry-making class while on sabbatical from Dana Hall. It was Ruth who encouraged Linda to join the gallery and also had a role in her first sale. “The first pair of earrings that I made,” Linda said, “were bought right out of my ears at a sale of Ruth’s for juvenile diabetes research.”

Nancy has been taking photographs since she was a child and given her first camera—the Eastman Kodak Brownie. She’s focused her photographic lens on the rough textures and nostalgic appeal of New England’s wooden boats, which are featured in her book, Afloat on the Tide: Wooden Dinghies, Prams, Skiffs, and Other Rowboats (Sheridan House, 2009) and most recently has turned to creating small worlds through macro (extreme close-up) photography.

She’s been told that she has an innate sense of color, and her vivid work proves the observation true. Inspired by the sea, Nancy arranges objects in water—marbles, holiday ornaments, colored glass—and captures the shimmering effervescence of bubbles through that liquid with amazing clarity. In another series of work, found sea surprises—twisted tow ropes, barnacle-encrusted seaweed, oysters’ pearly interiors and spiky sea urchins—gleam against black backgrounds like jewels.

Nancy prints her photographs on canvas and on aluminum and also has created a line of calendars and cards. In 2017, her work was shown
at The Center for Arts in Natick’s Summer Street Gallery and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Memorial Union.

Nancy became a Clever Hand Gallery member just a year ago, but her connection began when she was an administrator at Dana Hall. To treat herself at the end of each school year, she made a point of stopping in and choosing something special.

“What could be a better place to buy a gift that’s handmade, one of a kind, and you’re supporting an artisans’ cooperative?” Nancy asked. “It can’t get any better than that.”

The Clever Hand has not only survived since its 1993 arrival in the Square, but thrived even as Wellesley Square businesses—-independent stores and national chains alike—have come and gone. “One thing that has helped us over bumps and hills is that we do the work,” said Ruth. “We don’t pay anyone. We’re putting our time in.”

And as the cooperative has flourished, so have these women’s artistic careers. “Handmade art is something people want to hold onto because there’s a beauty to it, and a tradition to it, that can’t be replaced,” said Nancy. “I’d like to think there always will be a place for it.”

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his career as an architect has spanned 45 years, but Patrick Ahearn’s stated goal is to design homes that escape time. His creations learn from the past so they can shape a future that balances preservation with innovation.

It’s fitting, then, that Ahearn’s first book, a monograph that explores in words and pictures 18 homes he restored or created, has the title *Timeless*.

The 160-page book, which was published by Oro Editions in December, shares how Ahearn approached his favorite projects—a list that includes a Greek revival on Martha’s Vineyard and the renovation of a 1910 shingle-style “jewel in the Chatham crown.”

The book also details his work on three homes in Wellesley. One of those houses is his own, a cottage in Wellesley Farms designed by Boston architect Royal Barry Wills, whose penchant for refinement earned him renown as a preeminent Cape Cod-style designer.

Ahearn’s style aims for “the greater good,” he said in an interview before the publication of *Timeless*. In his eyes, the greater good is “all about scale. The spaces between buildings become as important as the houses themselves. You need to think about character and environment and carry it throughout the whole project.”

Ahearn grew up in Levittown, New York, where the seeds for his architectural style took root. He created model houses and village surroundings for his train set, striving even then for a proper balance of space.
He earned degrees in architecture and urban design from Syracuse University in 1973, and then packed up his Volkswagen Beetle and made his way to Boston. Ahearn didn’t want to start a career in New York City; he preferred Boston. “It’s such a walkable city, and there were so many opportunities here for people to succeed in my profession. It made sense.”

Ahearn began his career working for Benjamin Thompson & Associates and The Architects Collaborative, where, among a variety of projects, he contributed to the redesign of Faneuil Hall. In 1978, Ahearn decided to open his own firm. His firm’s conversion of a

The topography of the property was altered to minimize the addition’s impact to the classic character of this Wellesley home, designed by Royal Barry Wills
condominium in Back Bay kick-started that movement citywide, and its introduction of retail spaces and sidewalk cafes transformed Newbury Street into the pedestrian spot it is today. Ahearn eventually turned his firm's attention to high-end residential projects.

Now in his fifth decade as an architect, Ahearn sees a renewal in the importance of design, with architects and homeowners striving to build and restore houses that reflect, through their design, a balance of history and modernism that ultimately befits their surrounding community.

“It’s not just what (the homeowner) wants but also what fits the appropriate context,” Ahearn said. He added, “When someone’s new to a community, and they do their home the right way, they are embraced by the community. If you build a McMansion…it’s not going to go over well. That’s the challenge in Wellesley, with all these teardowns. What do you replace them with? Not every house is worth saving, but in the context of a neighborhood, it’s worth looking at what is there.”

Ahearn believes the three Wellesley projects featured in Timeless respect the aesthetic and expectations of their respective neighborhoods. Two of them, including his own, were renovations of old structures in Wellesley Farms, while the third was a complete creation in Wellesley Hills. That one had to convey grandeur, on a large scale that would include the amenities of a modern resort, such as gathering spaces and room for...
family and friends to stay for long periods without having to leave the property.

“I developed a double-gabled scheme clad in stone and shingles, with stepped-back wings, all of which helped de-emphasize the home’s heft. Keeping the building’s proportions internally consistent, if not quite human scaled, I designed substantial exterior details, like 14-foot-tall columns, 10-foot-high doors, a monumental 12-foot-high Romanesque archway at the entrance, and weighty trim and moldings. Inside, ceilings are 10-feet high, and one commodious space gives way to another along two central spines,” Ahearn wrote in Timeless.

Ahearn and his wife bought their Wellesley Farms cottage in 1989. Then, as he is now, Ahearn was enamored of the concept of the neighborhood, an “anti-suburbia” that has the character of Beacon Hill in a country setting. “The houses are intimate in scale and attuned to the topography and landscaping,” he said in an interview. “At the time, we had three kids with a fourth on the way. I wanted to take the train to work (in Boston) and have a country house.”

When expanding and renovating his 1936 English-countryside-inspired house in Wellesley, Ahearn worked with the themes, materials, and scale of the existing building.

As he explains in his book, in 1989, weeds had surrounded the cottage and the previous owners had replaced the original wood-shake roof with asphalt shingles. Despite its disrepair and the smallness of the home’s three bedrooms and two bathrooms, Ahearn knew he could build upon Wills’ feeling for scale and nostalgia, interests he shares with the architect, and still enlarge and renovate the cottage.

After finding the original plans in the attic, Ahearn at the time asked himself, if it were 1936 and he’d had a larger program for this house, “What would Royal Barry Wills have done?” He decided to expand the structure in a way that it would appear as if it had grown over time. He doubled the size of the building, to 4,000 square feet, by adding wings to both sides, extending the entrance, and creating a carriage house from the base of the one-story garage. In 2016, Ahearn bought a neighboring barn that he said seamlessly meshes with the property.
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“Thanks to our work’s sensitivity to appropriate proportions, authentic craftsmanship, and romantic nostalgia—all inspired by Wills himself—the enriched home looks as natural in its setting as ever,” Ahearn wrote in *Timeless*. In an interview he added, “It’s a communal place for holidays and events, when we have 25 to 30 people here… People think my house is one of the most loved houses in Wellesley. It has a Currier & Ives notion of living in New England.”

The other Wellesley Farms restoration highlighted in *Timeless* was also designed by Wills and built in 1941. But the Georgian Colonial had lost its charm with the addition of bay windows from the 1960s and the stripping of nearly all of its molding and trim. Using photos of the home before its first renovations, Ahearn borrowed from Wills’ original vision to replace two wings from the 1950s with gambrel-roofed, white clapboard, and red brick additions. He also restored the original windows, framing them with bluestone lintels and brick soldier courses. A pair of new chimneys and a white-painted portico elevated the entry and “honored the past.”

“Inside the home, Wills’ signature knotty-pine paneling, now painted, extends beyond the dining room into several other spaces, including a new mudroom and kitchen. Adorned with rebuilt balustrades that exactly replicate those from 1941, the original staircase leads to a reconfigured second floor. There, a new four-foot-wide beamed corridor connects bedrooms and bathrooms that both preserve Wills’ sense of proportion and accommodate the needs of twenty-first-century living—just like the rest of the house,” Ahearn wrote.

*Timeless* is out during a time of great interest in design, not just in homes but also in consumer products, Ahearn said—also noting, “A good design changes how people live their lives.” And in architecture, design that matches the need for a strong community is sought after, he added. “Hearth and home are really important. Architects who practice that greater good are doing a service for our country.”
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Bernard’s Redux
A Contemporary Take on Chinese Cuisine

RICHARD L. CRAVATTS writer

from the day it first opened in the Chestnut Hill Mall in 1989, Bernard's, the eponymous eatery of the gracious and elegant Bernard Leung, differentiated itself from the area's many other Chinese restaurants to which diners had become accustomed.

Leung, a Wellesley resident, decided to avoid the typical highly-stylized Chinese décor defined by bright reds and golds, as well as cornstarch-thickened sauces, thick batters on fried foods, and Americanized corruptions of classic dishes from Mandarin, Cantonese, Shanghai, and Hunan traditions. Instead, the original Bernard's had a sleek, contemporary look; a kitchen that delivered elegant, lighter sauces and preparations; and an obsession with using the freshest ingredients sourced from local suppliers.

That formula for creating a very different Chinese restaurant experience was obviously successful, since loyalists have been packing Bernard's since it first opened its doors. Since 2013,
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52 Valley Road, Wellesley
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Bernard’s has been located in a new cluster of businesses called THE STREET in Chestnut Hill at 55 Boylston Street (next to the Showcase SuperLux theater). Here, the restaurant offers guests some 5,000 square feet of sleek and softly-lit space—with a more efficient kitchen, three times the size of the one in the old location—and providing 120 seats in the dining room and roughly 25 in the bar area.

Repeat guests in the spacious new Bernard’s will recognize their favorites, and newcomers will easily navigate the extensive offerings. What defines the food here, of course, is the execution: fresh ingredients; clean, vivid flavors; and an elegant restraint with the preparation of sauces. There are also plenty of options for those who want Chinese standbys; reinterpreted classics; lighter spa offerings; and noodle, rice, and vegetable dishes as either sides or entrées.

Among the appetizers at Bernard’s are the familiar go-to selections, but the preparation is fastidious and skillful. The scallion pancakes here,
for instance, are not pancakes in the way we normally think of them, but a dough-based flatbread studded with scallions, brushed with sesame oil, and then nicely-browned in an oil-coated pan. The result is a fluffy, crunchy, and aromatic appetizer that is satisfyingly authentic, even given its simplicity.

The fried shrimp, which often arrive covered in a dense batter at other establishments, are less heavy here thanks to a gentle dusting of Japanese-inspired panko.

Barbecued spare ribs are available in the convenient boneless version, but, as Bernard’s general manager, Allan Lam, boasted, the restaurant’s signature rib rendition is the center cut baby back ribs, which, he noted, are meatier, more tender, and the superior rib section.

The steamed wontons are a particularly homey and satisfying dish, little pillows of dough (equivalent, in other familiar cuisines, to kreplach or pierogi) which are stuffed with chicken and spices and come to the table in a luscious pool of spicy peanut sauce, spiked with sesame oil and soy sauce.

Like the appetizers, the entrees include the familiar as well as new interpretations of classics and rarely-seen dishes. Sesame chicken, General Tso’s chicken, orange-flavored beef, Mongolian beef, and Moo Shi with a choice of shrimp, meat, or vegetables are all there to comfort traditionalists. But there are also flourishes in other, unexpected dishes, incorporating fresh ingredients, a light touch from the kitchen, and delicate sauces and spice. Consider, for example, the stir-fried shrimp, with ordinarily not seen avocado and plum tomatoes and spiked with sake. Chicken Soong is perfect for sharing as an appetizer or having alone as an entrée. It features finely diced, aromatically-spiced chicken which diners fashion into a type of Chinese taco, with cool lettuce leaves serving as the wrapper. In another favorite, tender slices of sautéed beef are tossed in a rich, smoky, and flavorful Mandarin barbecue sauce.
Shrimp is also available sautéed, such as the rendition where plump shrimp are served with roasted black beans, garlic, and shallots, and presented atop a bed of fresh green beans. And for an indulgence, opt for the one-and-a-half-pound lobster sautéed with ginger and scallions.

Seafood lovers will find their culinary prayers answered with the various preparations of Chilean sea bass available here. The impressive crispy filet is lightly coated with panko, quickly fried, and served in a rich pool of Hunan sauce including soy, rice vinegar, and fish sauce. A lighter, more elegant version is the sautéed filet, dramatically brought to the table and generously garnished with vegetables, ginger, and scallions. For those who want their sea bass as austere and healthy as possible, a selection from the spa entrees menu can include the steamed Chilean sea bass, draped with a light soy glaze and served, as all the spa selections are, with angel hair pasta. The spa selections also offer either steamed lobster, chicken, salmon, or shrimp, and grilled selections that include either boneless chicken breast, shrimp marinated in five-spice powder, or salmon teriyaki.

Leung is particularly fond of another specialty: the pan-seared angel hair dishes, which help you understand why Marco Polo was so interested in taking pasta back to Italy after visiting China in the 13th century. Bernard’s
pan-sears the angel hair to make the surface crispy while leaving the inside tender and offers versions garnished with either vegetables, chicken, pork or beef, or shrimp. In a nod to Japanese cuisine, the vegetables, meats, or shrimp can also be chosen as toppings for sautéed Udon, the fat wheat flour noodles often found in Japanese soups but which in these preparations provide homey and filling entrée options.

For side dishes or for those guests who wish to choose only vegetarian options, there is a nice selection, including the sautéed peapod leaves laced with ginger juice and seasonings, sautéed eggplant in a sauce redolent of garlic, or sautéed bean curd with leafy Chinese broccoli and black shiitake mushrooms.

There is a core group of Boston-area Chinese restaurateurs who have helped define — and set a high bar for — this culinary tradition, people like Sally Ling and her husband, Ed Liu; Nadia Liu Spellman, Ling and Liu’s daughter of Dumpling Daughter fame; Joyce Chen; and Wellesley’s star-chef Ming Tsai. Bernard Leung entered the Boston restaurant scene along with this rare group and continues the tradition of offering stand-out Chinese cuisine with his newest incarnation of Bernard’s. Given the care and professionalism he has consistently brought to his own restaurant, and the loyal clientele who have long-loved his food, it’s likely that his tradition of excellence will easily continue for yet another 25 years. **WW**
in their culinary arsenals, home cooks have a deluge of options with which to arm themselves. Most, however, aren’t exactly silver bullets. Recipes, for example, are all well and good—if, that is, you’ve already mastered every technique they include. Or, of course, there are always cooking shows and online classes that can give us a huge leg up. But what if you have questions somewhere in between the marinating, the butterflying, and the basting? What are you then going to do—ask a TV screen? Moreover, what about those of us who simply relish the connection of human interactivity during cooking?

Sometimes, there’s just no replacement for a good old-fashioned, hands-on, and in-person cooking class. Locally, we have an embarrassment of riches on that front, particularly when it comes to private classes and boutique cooking schools.

That very craving for the human connection during cooking with others is what drove Amy Lipton to start up her cooking school and also to name it Joyful Kitchen. “I ran a catering company for so many years, and it’s very solitary. A lot of food jobs are in cooperative kitchens, but catering isn’t,” says the New Jersey native who moved to Wellesley with her family five years ago. “I really missed the togetherness of cooking with other people and especially the excitement of teaching.”

Over the past few years that’s evolved into a roster of adult classes (younger family members are welcome with parents)—half of which are open to the public so anyone can join. They are
often themed around an international cuisine that Lipton has studied on her travels (she’s received training everywhere from Japan and Thailand to India and Italy), or around a holiday. This spring, for example, she’ll offer her annual Mother’s Day class, which draws all manner of mom-and-daughter teams, of every age and blended family configuration.

The other half are private and customized to the interests of a small groups (8 to 10 people). Those are usually either families and friends, or corporate team-building. “A lot of employers want to get their teams out of the office and have some downtime. Cooking together is really a fantastic metaphor for the workplace,” says Lipton, who also happens to be a former financial services senior executive. “It requires collaboration and teamwork and compromise and communication. So many of the things you need to work together well.”

Joan Horner, owner of Create a Cook in Newton Highlands, has a similar cooking philosophy. Also a former business executive (who has since graduated from the Cambridge School of Culinary Arts), she now oversees a staff of 10-plus cooking instructors who teach classes that veer from corporate team events and classes designed specifically for kids to classes for adults who use them as a platform for girls’ night out parties, and even couples’ date nights.

“Our most popular classes are usually anything with the word ‘chocolate’ in the title,” she says. “Sushi classes are always big, and so are anything related to a holiday.” For spring, she too will offer a Mother’s Day course, although hers are aimed at creating gifts to give to mom after the class. “Sometimes the dad or grandparent will come with the child,” she explains. “And that becomes a special experience, as well. There aren’t a lot of activities that you can do with your kid — many are drop-off — so this becomes a hands-on and personal bonus for the children and the grown-ups.” (Many of Horner’s classes are drop-off, however, as well. Over winter and spring school vacations, for example, she offers
55 Love Lane, Weston | price upon request

100 Orchard Ave., Weston | $4,490,000
211 Meadowbrook Rd., Weston | $4,250,000
143 Meadowbrook Rd., Weston | $1,900,000

61 Meadowbrook Rd., Weston | $1,900,000
32 Conant Rd., Weston | $1,620,000
556 Wellesley St., Weston | $999,000
kids-only classes.) She also offers mommy-and-me classes throughout the year, and all classes take place in her two professional kitchens at the school, which she describes as ideal for most of her clients. “It’s pretty great to make a mess in someone else’s kitchen instead of your own,” she adds with a laugh.

Courses max out at 12 people so that everyone gets personal attention and has the space to learn something. The goal is for “people to get in the kitchen and have the support and environment they need to feel comfortable trying new things.”

In some cases, however, the most effective space is nothing like a kitchen at all. At Volante Farms in Needham, classes are held in the giant greenhouse retrofitted as a demo kitchen. Led by Volante’s executive chef, Todd Heberlein, they center largely on teaching home cooks how to make many of the recipes included in a new cookbook, written to celebrate the Volante Farms’ 100th year.

Throughout the summer and through Christmas, the property is always abuzz with locals running in and out for fresh produce, herb and floral plants, and freshly-made foods from the kitchen and bakery. But during the quieter season of winter and throughout the spring, the staff organizes public group classes that focus primarily on cooking the produce grown right there in the fields.
surrounding the greenhouse. “Chef Todd has made it a mission to put a spotlight on teaching how to make the most of all of our local ingredients,” explains the Farms’ marketing and field manager, Ryan Conroy.

The resulting classes could be described as a mash-up of entertainment and education. “People come in groups of friends and couples and make it an outing,” says Conway. “Especially our wine and cheese pairings.

**COD POTATO LEEK GRATIN**

*Courtesy of Eva Sommaripa of Eva’s Garden, from her cookbook, Wild Flavors*

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 3 leeks, chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 lbs. potatoes, scrubbed and thinly sliced
- 2 ½ cups half-and-half
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 ½ lbs. fresh cod or any white-fleshed fish, cut into 2-inch pieces
- Half a loaf of good hearty bread, sliced thick

- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
- In a large stovetop casserole dish (at least 12 inches in diameter), melt the butter over medium heat. Add the leeks and sauté, stirring until they are soft and slightly browned, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook one minute. Add potatoes and half and half, and season with the salt and freshly cracked pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to low and simmer, covered, for 5 minutes.
- Stir in the fish, then set the casserole in the oven and bake, uncovered, for 25 to 30 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender.
- Arrange the bread slices so that they hang half in and half out of wide soup bowls. Spoon the gratin into the bowls, partially on top of the bread. Ladle in the cream that remains at the bottom. Serve immediately.

**Serves 6**
food & wine “it brings the community together”

We’re so proud of the selection of cheeses we sell from many of New England’s best cheesemakers, and this is a terrific and hands-on way to educate people about the extremely high quality of what’s being made right nearby.”

A similar farm-to-table ethos is embraced at Powisset Farm in Dover. Owned and run by the nonprofit Trustees of the Reservations, which preserves land of historic and ecological value for public use all over the state, Powisset Farm rolls out all kinds of events and courses that promote an appreciation of land and agriculture, including those focused on food and cooking.

There they offer a slew of year-long classes for kids and grown-ups in their professional kitchen that holds up to 40 people. “We just did one custom birthday party with a group of kids,” says D.A. Hayden, who joined the Trustees as its general manager six months ago. “They came to the farm and collected eggs and then went to the kitchen to make cookies, mini-quiches, and cakes. Then we do so many others — like ones that use our strawberries to make shortcakes — everything using the bounty of the farm.”

For adults, classes run the gamut, from how to prepare comfort food in chilly months to a hugely popular one titled ‘Hugs and Knishes.’ Courses are also taught by local experts — like one headed by the renowned Eva Sommaripa of Eva’s Garden in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, on turning wasted food into plenty (meaning how to use ingredients we would normally toss — fruit skins, and soup broths, and such — to whip up delicious dishes).

“We have a lot of fun getting creative with the themes,” says Hayden. “But the main emphasis is on bringing people to our beautiful farm to give them a hands-on experience in creating something from local ingredients. It’s educational, but also just fun and engaging — and it brings the community together.”

Which aside from yielding some delicious food and teaching new skills, may just be the classes’ most compelling point. At a cultural moment where parents are wrestling with how to limit screen time, and even adults are struggling to tear ourselves away from the isolation of our myriad technologies, there’s a solid argument to be made for something like learning to cook together.

“Food is the great unifier,” says Lipton. “It’s universal, and everyone is working and interacting to make it.” And then, she adds, “You also get the reward at the end, of eating something delicious you’ve created together.”

ROASTED BEET HUMMUS
Courtesy of Volante Farms Executive Chef Todd Heberlein, from the The Volante Farms Cookbook: A Century of Growing

2 beets (about 1 lb), rinsed and greens removed
3 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil, divided
2 tsp za’atar, divided
Kosher salt, to taste
Black pepper, to taste
1 14-oz can garbanzo beans, drained and rinsed
¼ cup tahini paste
2 Tbsp. chopped garlic
2 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 tsp cumin

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
- Toss beets with 1 Tbsp olive oil, 1 tsp za’atar, and a pinch of salt and pepper. Place on a sheet pan and cook until tender, about 45 to 60 minutes depending on their size. Remove from oven and let cool for 10 to 15 minutes.
- Put garbanzo beans, tahini paste, and garlic into a food processor. Purée for 30 seconds. Add lemon juice, 1 Tbsp water, cumin, remaining za’atar, remaining olive oil, and a pinch of salt and pepper. Pulse until well combined, about 30 seconds, and scoop into a bowl.
- Using a paper towel, wipe the skin off of the beets, cut them in half, and place into the food processor. Pulse until smooth, about 30 seconds. If the mixture gets too thick, add a tablespoon of water.
- Combine beet purée with hummus.
- Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve with pita chips, crudité, or enjoy as a sandwich spread.

Makes 3 cups
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cabin fever got you down? An excursion to Jamaica Plain, one of Boston’s trendiest neighborhoods, may be just what you need. Located just over the Brookline border in Boston, Jamaica Plain, or “JP” as the locals call it, offers intimate eateries, hometown breweries, funky music venues, eclectic boutiques, bountiful outdoor space, and interesting American history to boot. There is something for everyone and more than enough to keep you intrigued well after spring arrives.

**Early JP History**

Centre Street is JP’s main street and has been for centuries. **MONUMENT SQUARE**, located at the intersection of Centre and South streets, was the center of village life for the English settlers who arrived in JP shortly after the founding of Boston in 1630. Farmers by trade, the settlers became friendly with the Massachuset, one of the Algonquin tribes who also lived in the area,
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from whom they learned to grow beans, pumpkins, tobacco, wild rice, and maize. JP is likely to have been named for Kuchamakin, who was regent for the young Chief of the Massachusett tribe, or for his wife Jamaco, who was known for her fine basket weaving.

Well-to-do Bostonians also took a liking to JP; the village’s rolling hills, deep forests, and 70-acre pond offered a bucolic setting for their country estates.

THE LORING GREEN HOUSE, at 12 South Street, is the last of these 18th century residences. Built in 1770 for Joshua Loring, a retired commodore in the British Navy, the estate originally included a Georgian-style home with a captain’s walk, a carriage house, luscious gardens, and an active farm. Loring and his family were not able to enjoy their estate for long, however. Fearing for their lives as Colonial unrest grew, they abandoned the property and returned to England. Their home would serve as headquarters and a hospital for rebel troops.

A simple puddingstone boulder on Monument Square recognizes the men from JP who gave their lives in support of the revolution. SOLDIER’S MONUMENT, which is crowned with a statue of a Union soldier, commemorates the men from JP who died preserving the Union less than a century later. You can plan to attend THURSDAYS ON THE LAWN at the Loring Green House, when folks gather for picnics—or food trucks—and live music, every Thursday, June through October.
JP morphed from a quiet, rural village to a bustling suburb during the 19th century. The primary impetus was new forms of transportation that enabled Bostonians to live outside of the crowded and dirty city in which they worked. First it was the hourly, a public horse-drawn trolley; then the railroad; and finally, in 1889, the electric streetcar. Many of the homes along GREENOUGH, ELM, BURROUGHS, and ELIOT streets, were built during this time and reflect JP’s newest residents’ desire for single-family homes surrounded by yards. The FOOTLIGHT CLUB, located at 7A ELIOT STREET, demonstrates the emerging middle class suburban lifestyle. Originally built as a temporary town hall, in 1877, the Italianate-style building became home to the country’s first community theater group—and it’s still in operation today.

Just down the street is the ELIOT SCHOOL, JP’s first grammar school, which has been in
continuous operation for 342 years. The school is named for John Eliot, who donated land for the school on the condition that it would accept Native American and African American students without prejudice. The Eliot School educated JP's children well into the late 19th century. Today, it offers courses in woodworking, painting, fiber arts, and other crafts. A few steps further, at 32 Eliot Street, is the home of Ellen Swallow Richards, a pioneer in environmental engineering and MIT's first female graduate and first female instructor. You'll find the James Michael Curley Home a few streets away at 350 Jamaicaway. Curley served one term as governor, two terms in Congress, and four terms as mayor of Boston—and five months in federal prison for mail fraud. The shamrocks incised on the shutters of his Georgian Revival home proudly display Curley's Irish heritage and the growing diversity of JP.

**JP's Abundant Green Space**

In 1878, Frederick Law Olmsted began working on Boston's Emerald Necklace, often referred to as the “Eden of America,” a chain of green spaces that would extend from the Boston Common to Franklin Park. JP is home to several of the green emerald links in this necklace. OLMSTED PARK, located at Perkins and the Jamaicaway, is known for its winding paths, quaint pedestrian bridges that span the Muddy River, and the contrast of heavily wooded areas with open spaces. A peaceful and quiet spot, today Olmsted Park is great place for walking.

Eating Out in JP

JP specializes in small, homegrown restaurants, ranging from intimate upscale restaurants to quick and casual venues. You can taste your way through the neighborhood’s offerings at the annual TASTE OF JAMAICA PLAIN held every September. But in the mean time… VEE VEE is the spot for a quiet conversation, delicious food, and lovely ambiance. Enjoy $1 Oyster Sundays and Pasta Thursdays at TEN TABLES, a lovely candle-lit neighborhood bar and farm-to-table restaurant. TRES GATOS was founded on the belief that sharing food, music, and books is essential to a happy life. That’s why they offer delicious tapas, innovative cocktails, vinyl records, concerts, book readings, and even a book club to their guests. The folks behind Tres Gatos created CENTRE STREET CAFÉ, where you can enjoy excellent pasta, local veggies, and one of the best brunches in Boston.

For casual eats consider CHILACATES, which has the best burritos north of the border. PURPLE CACTUS serves up sandwiches, wraps, and salads. Look for NIELKA, a brightly colored mural that depicts images of Jamaica Pond in the rain on its outside wall. You can get tacos, tortas, and chili lime fries at CASA VERDE, Pho at NOODLE BARN, and deli sandwiches at CITY FEED AND SUPPLY. For an amazing burger and fries, go to GRASS FED, which serves, you guessed it, 100 percent grass-fed meat. If you are craving Ropa Vieja, fried yucca, flan, and Cuban coffee, and/or creative tropical fruit drinks, head over to EL ORIENTAL DE CUBA, which serves up authentic Cuban food. Locals will tell you that the best way to start your day is at SORELLA’S, where you can get home-baked goods, French toast and pancakes, crepes and exotic omelets, and fresh-squeezed O.J. Bring cash—they don’t take plastic. FIORE'S BAKERY has delicious breakfast sandwiches, smoothies, and salads that never disappoint.

For delicious cookies, muffins, and artisan breads, stop by WHEN PIGS FLY. Be sure to try their daily samples! For ice cream, it’s hard to beat JP LICKS. They make their own creamy cold stuff and are located in the old Boston Firehouse. FOMU creates small batch ice cream and desserts from scratch using natural, plant-based, and kosher ingredients.
### Wellesley

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### Weston

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### Recent Sales

If you are thinking of making a move or would like more information about the current market, please contact Denise for a complimentary consultation.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, 426 Boston Post Rd., Weston 781-894-5555
biking, running, and picnicking. A stone's throw away is JAMAICA POND, Boston's largest body of fresh water. A lovely 1.3 mile path extends around the pond where you can sit for a spell on a sandy beach, shaded grassy patches, or park benches placed along a gentle shore. Look for the bench that has two backs instead of one—a little fun twist of designer Matt Hincman. Plan to rent sailboats and rowboats at the JAMAICA POND BOATHOUSE, which is open from noon until sunset, Patriot's Day through Halloween. It’s located on the Jamaicaway, which was originally designed to be a bridal path along the pond’s edge but has since morphed into a central artery for commuters.

The Jamaicaway ends near the ARNOLD ARBORETUM, in which you can find trees and shrubs from all over the world. Established in 1872, the Arboretum is managed by Harvard University, which leased the 265-acre plot from the city for a dollar a year for a thousand years. Hike up Peter’s Hill for a nice view of Boston; explore a Bonsai garden; and pack a picnic to enjoy on LILAC SUNDAY on May 13 when 165 taxidermies of lilacs will be on view. Nearby is the FOREST HILLS CEMETERY, one of the finest examples of a garden cemetery—which replaced church burial grounds—in the United States. Enjoy meandering paths, scenic vistas, a lake, and sculptures, while trying to find the graves of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, suffragist Lucy Stone, poets Anne Sexton and e.e. cummings, playwright Eugene O'Neill, and sculptor Martin Milmore. FRANKLIN PARK is the last and largest link in the necklace. There are many treasures to be discovered there including walking trails and paths, playgrounds, a golf course and clubhouse, and the FRANKLIN PARK ZOO, the largest zoo in New England.

Although the SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR BIKE PATH is not part of the Emerald Necklace, it is one of the best bike paths in the city. Extending from Forest Hills to the Back Bay, this path crosses city streets, but is separated from them. This land was originally cleared of some 300 businesses and 700 households in the 1970s to connect I-95 to downtown Boston. Residents of JP and the surrounding areas came together to oppose the project—and won—but it would be several years until JP property values recovered. Don’t miss JP’s annual WAKE UP THE EARTH FESTIVAL the first Saturday in May, which celebrates this triumph specifically, and, in general, what can be accomplished when people
of all traditions, cultures, ages, and beliefs come together.

**JP’s Breweries**

Today and in the past, JP has been home to small businesses and industries. In the late 1880s, 24 smokestacks of 24 different breweries rose to the sky, continuously filling the air with the smell of hops, yeast, and burning wood. These breweries provided jobs for many Irish and German immigrants, who called JP home. The **HAFFENREFFER BREWERY**, established in 1870, was known for its tap from which free beer poured continuously. It was the only local brewery to survive prohibition, which it did by selling “near beer.” When it closed its doors in 1965, it left Massachusetts without a brewery for the first time in 300 years.

**Shopping in JP**

If you like charming mom and pop stores, with unique items and old-fashioned customer service, you’ll like shopping in JP. **FIRE OPAL** has a lovely collection of artisan made jewelry, decorative items, and contemporary clothing, and they sell **FILTHY RICH CHOCOLATES**, handmade artisan chocolates made in JP. At **ON CENTRE** you can find cards, zany and fun gifts, and lots of JP-themed items. **KITCHENWICH** is a hoot with its eclectic assortment of kitchenwares. Don’t be deceived by the small storefront; they have a vast selection and great prices! **COBWEBS** specializes in antique furniture, rugs, jewelry, china, glass, and toys. If you are looking for a spring hat, bag, bowtie or fedora, make sure you stop into **SALMAGUNDI**, which stocks over 12,000 men’s and women’s hats made in all shapes and sizes. And if you are into thrifting, you may find some good stuff for cheap at **BOOMERANG**.

For the children in your life, scoot over to **BOING!** for high-quality books, games, puzzles, LEGO sets, and lots more. Look for the cool characters hanging out on their storefront and ask about their Kindness Club, which encourages children to think about ways they can show kindness and compassion to others. Beautiful children’s clothing hangs in the windows of **HATCHED**, which has the biggest selection of organic fiber clothing in the Boston area for children from newborn to eight years old. And if you love books, find your way to **PAPERCUTS**, which has a thoughtful collection of books and gifts for children and grown-ups.

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Brews are back! Today the test kitchen for the BOSTON BEER COMPANY, brewer of Sam Adams Beer, is located in the original Haffenreffer complex in JP. Take a tour to learn about the brewing process, smell the Hallertan hops, and taste experimental beers, but come early to get tickets. Enjoy their taproom, beer garden, and gift shop. TURTLE SWAMP BREWING is the new kid in town, and, although you might guess otherwise from its location, it’s a hopping spot. There’s always a fun crowd and several tasty brews on tap. When the weather is good, the action is on the outside patio, where board and lawn games—and great food trucks—add to the experience. Children and dogs are welcome. Finally, for an authentic Boston Irish pub experience, head over to DOYLE’S CAFÉ which has a nice selection of aged scotches and whiskey.

JP’s Rich Diversity

In the 1980s, low rents resulting from the proposed I-95 project brought many students, artists, musicians, and immigrants to JP creating a diverse, socially aware, and highly tolerant community. Recognizing the influx of residents from Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Central and South America, the City of Boston recently designated the portion of Centre Street between Hyde Square and Jackson Square to be BOSTON’S LATIN QUARTER. Bodegas, botanicas, and Latino specialty shops and restaurants line this vibrant portion of Centre Street. Look for the TAINO MURAL by Puerto Rican artist and art professor Rafael Rivera Garcia, located behind Whole Foods on Perkins Street, which tells one of the legends of the hurricane goddess Guabancex.

Times have changed once again. Today rents in JP are at an all-time high, but there is still an important music and art scene in JP. MIDWAY CAFÉ offers an eclectic mix of musical styles and crowds—rockabilly, blues, jazz, reggae, hip hop, country—live, every night. JP has two music festivals: JP PORCHFEST, held every July, when 150+ bands, spoken word artists, poets, and storytellers share their gifts on porches and front yards across JP. There is also the JP MUSIC FESTIVAL, held in September, where you can revel in seven hours of non-stop music on two main stages in Olmsted Park. A few weekends later, come back and tour the private studios of over 200 local artists at JP OPEN STUDIOS. Any time of year, you can explore your creative side at the ELIOT SCHOOL and at STONYBROOK FINE ARTS.
The Candy Bar Fifth Anniversary Celebration

1 Marissa Vieira, Crystal Webber, Candace Evans Lucas, and Samantha Spearin
2 Cathy Poli and Rosemary Martirosian
3 Cynthia Haly and Kim Lombard
4 Samantha Spearin and Justice Machado
5 Kyle Webber and Nicole Botelho
6 Patti McGlynn and Laura McGlynn
7 Wendy Fox, Rosemary Martirosian, and Beth Backer
8 Mark Lucas, Candace Evans Lucas, and Mark Iwicki

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2. Stacy Poli and Megan Shea
3. Peggy Perry and Susan Crowell
4. Kate Phelan and Amanda Caffarella

FIERCE Fashionable Fall at Pine Straw

1. Susan Brennan, Michon Schenck, and Lisa Hastings
2. Laura Imperatore, Tracy Cranley, Betsy Komjathy, Derith Cass, Sarah Fulkerson, Diana Blakely, and Ellen Zientara
3. Derith Cass, Carol Chaoui, Anni Rolincik, and Sarah Fulkerson
4. Honor Herron and Tracy Cranley
5. Derith Cass and Beth Furman

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SAMANTHA EISENBERG

Having recently moved from Boston, Samantha is sensitive to the needs and concerns of young families contemplating a move to the suburbs. Prior to joining Benoit Mizner Simon as a Licensed Real Estate Broker Associate, Samantha worked as a litigation associate as Proskauer Rose LLP, a top global law firm in New York City. Samantha’s work experience has allowed her to polish her negotiating, problem-solving, analytical and interpersonal skills. She is able to draw upon this experience to expertly negotiate and advocate on behalf of her clients, while bringing a strong work ethic and extensive knowledge of the Boston suburb’s real estate market. Having grown up in Waban, Samantha specializes in the Newton and the surrounding areas including Needham, Wellesley and Weston.

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Sonja Selami Law Offices’ Community Servings of Massachusetts Benefit

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Amy McKeag, Amy Rutkowski, Amy Mizner, and Amy-Jo Vesley

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Pine Straw Meet the Makers

1 Brian and Melanie O’Neil  2 Robert and Alison Bedenkop  3 Terri Tsagaris and Nanci Gelb  4 Tiffany Narbone

Wellesley Bank and Women’s Lunch Place Appreciation of Art and Community

1 William Head, Liz Harrington, Elizabeth Keeley, Janice Hayes-Cha, and Wendy Beck  
2 Mari White, Charlie White, Georgia Jenkins, Sheila Boyle, Thomas Fontaine, and Liz Harrington  
3 Thomas Fontaine, Andrew Harrington, and Jeffrey Harrington  
4 Sarah Fulkerson, Jennifer Hanlon Wigon, and Tim Wigon  
5 Linda Spear, Nancy Bogue, and Marc Bogue

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Lux Bond & Green Holiday Party

Donahue Maley Team Fall Cocktail Party

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1 Charlie and MacKenzie Larkin, Alex Talali
2 Dawn Valkoun and Trevor LaMarche
3 Mary Beth Mahoney and Sarah Phillips
4 Amanda and Sam Kennedy, Nancy Haas
5 Tom and Peggy Spaziano, Dawn Valkoun

1 Maura Dolan, Donna Maley, Lynn Donahue, and Amiee Munro
2 Giney Keator, Lori Hughes, and Lynn Donahue
3 Donna Maley, Laurel Martin, and Jill Creevy
4 Amy Mizner and Lynn Donahue
let’s play all day

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BTONE FITNESS / CHESTNUT HILL MEDICAL
COMELLA’S / THE COTTAGE / DAVIDSTEA
DAVIO’S CHESTNUT HILL / DEL FRISCO’S GRILLE
EYESPOT / INTERMIX / J.MCLAUGHLIN
JONATHAN ADLER / JUICE PRESS
LA ROTISSERIE / LEGAL SEA FOODS
LEGIT ACTIVEWEAR / LULULEMON ATHLETICA
MINILUXE / POLKADOG BAKERY
PORTOBELLO ROAD / POTTERY BARN / RONSKY’S
SHAKE SHACK / SHOWCASE SUPERLUX
SNIP-ITS / SPLENDIO / STAR MARKET
THE BAGEL TABLE / VERIZON WIRELESS
VINCE / YOGAWORKS

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Wellesley Holiday Stroll

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Regis College Scholarship Gala

Do You Have An Event You Want Us To Showcase?
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What Mary Taught Us

PATTY LENZ BOVIE writer

Mary Tyler Moore passed away last year, I couldn’t help thinking about my mom, who watched The Mary Tyler Moore Show religiously every week when I was growing up.

During the 1970s, when the show aired, my mom was a housewife and mother to five kids. Just 15 years earlier, she had graduated Phi Beta Kappa, earned a master’s degree in anthropology, and lived in an Indian fishing village in Alaska doing fieldwork alongside one of the most distinguished anthropologists of her time. Yet a decade and a half later, her visions of scholarly pursuits had dissipated like hot breath on a cold day.

She was in a loveless marriage. She didn’t know how to drive. Her greatest challenge was trying to keep the house clean. And while she loved being a mother, she despised cooking meals and taking out the trash. The truth was, despite all her career qualifications, she was trapped.

My mom’s weekly dose of The Mary Tyler Moore Show was not only therapeutic, it was inspiring.

As Mary battled women’s oppression in the workforce and dug deep to bravely follow her dream, my mom finally discovered her own gumption, dormant for so long. When she read an article about the “Sad Decay of the Museum of American Indian,” she wrote to the museum director asking if she could volunteer one day a week to do “the dog work.” “I am not a middle-aged housewife suffering from an empty-nest syndrome and looking to take something up,” she wrote. “I’m a middle-aged housewife, all right, but I have 15 places to put every minute, and if you decide this would not be a feasible arrangement, there are a lot of other places I’m needed.” This letter was the launching pad to my mom’s illustrious 40-year career that would blossom from a one-day-a-week volunteer, to full-time curator, to the first Curator Emeritus at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American Indian.

Now, I can’t help thinking that watching Mary Richards challenge the shallow anchorman, Ted Baxter, or stand up to her surly boss, Lou Grant, weekly, inspired my mom to forget the laundry and follow her heart instead. Every time Mary threw her beret into the air it gave my mom, and lots of other women, the courage to break out of their staid roles and try for something more fulfilling. Perky Laura Petrie, the dutiful wife Moore had played on The Dick Van Dyke Show years earlier, was in the rearview mirror and Mary Richards had taken the wheel.

Today, more than 40 years later, I think about the brave people who constantly stand up for women’s rights. Who regularly challenge the status quo. And who are teaching their daughters what they’ve learned from watching their own moms persevere. That no one should ever feel trapped. That we should all have the courage to pursue our dreams—no matter how impossible they may seem. And if we do, we might just “make it after all.”

BE CREATIVE This page is designed to give our readers the opportunity to express themselves creatively. If you have a short piece of fiction or nonfiction (300-500 words), a poem, illustration, or photograph depicting life in Wellesley and Weston, we would love to hear from you. Please email your submissions to jill@wellesleywestonmagazine.com.
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