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Publisher’s Letter

Editor’s Letter

Ready, Set, Decorate!
Give your kitchen a new and inspired look with ideas from the 2016 Wellesley Kitchen and Home Tour.

A Lifelong Journalist
We sit down for a face-to-face interview with Charles Kravetz, the general manager of WBUR, the flagship public radio station.

The Controversial Hero of “Ether Day” is Immortalized on Canvas
Read the fascinating story of Dr. William Thomas Green Morton, the Wellesley dentist who figures prominently in the annals of medical history.

Our Religious Leaders
In the third article in a series, meet four leaders who are active in the spiritual lives of our communities.

A Fantastic Voyage
Take the plunge as we follow a drop of water from its source to our faucets.

Sistering
Local women help each other survive and even thrive after divorce.

Neighbor to Neighbor
Muslim and Jewish houses of worship in our area create bonds between the two communities.

Wedding Advice
Planning a wedding? Read our tips from brides and a beauty expert for Big Day success.

Get into the swing of summer and make a splash.

WellesleyWeston
The Green Scene
Creating a pollinator-friendly habitat in your outdoor space is easier than you think.

Tips for Stress-Free Travel with Pets
Traveling with your pet can be a fun-filled and rewarding experience if you read our tips before you go.

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, Erica Dumont, Executive Director of the Wellesley Historical Society, tells how the organization is looking toward the future.

Business
Wally Mulcahy reflects on his 50-year career at B.L. Ogilvie & Sons upon retirement.

Good Works
Beyond Boston, an annual event held in Wellesley, powers women’s cancer research.

Family Matters
Local parents and experts weigh in on how parents can help their children who are struggling socially.

Education
More than many realize, vocational technical education has been evolving to meet the needs of our workforce and the range of students’ learning styles.

Artist Profile
Sue Rosenfeld-Laufer creates whimsical, larger-than-life, sweet portraits—out of jelly beans.

Books
Wellesley College English professor Susan Lynn Meyer writes children’s books with grown-up messages.

Local Cuisine
Under the wing of chef/owner Daniel Stokes, Red Bird soars to culinary heights in Waltham.

Excursions
A local writer shares helpful advice on vacationing in Paris with young children.

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, Steve Maas humorously highlights Weston’s “true rulers.”
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Many of the residences at 50 Liberty will have views of both the harbor and the city. Views to the harbor, the city or both are not available in all of the residences. The view illustration shown is for illustrative purposes only and is not representative of the view available in all of the homes at 50 Liberty. The image is an artist rendering and is for illustrative purposes only and does not accurately depict proposed future improvements.

The Seller of the residences at 50 Liberty at Fan Pier is committed to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the Nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.
contributors summer 2016

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DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A STORY you’d like to see featured in WellesleyWeston Magazine? Submit your ideas to editor@wellesleywestonmagazine.com, or via mail to: WellesleyWeston Magazine, 5 Vane Street, Wellesley, MA 02482. Please include your name, address, and email contact information with your correspondence.
for me, this is the most wonderful time of the year. The summer months ahead are filled with weddings, graduations, showers, and reunions. I’m looking forward to many such events this summer in particular and can’t wait to reunite with old friends as we celebrate the happiest of occasions.

If you’re planning a wedding or thinking about it in the near future, you’ll want to read our “Wedding Advice” article where brides talk about their memorable ceremonies and receptions, and offer helpful hints that you may find useful. A beauty expert also weighs in with skin care tips to follow — well in advance of the Big Day.

Quite a few local organizations are celebrating anniversaries this year. The Wellesley Historical Society recently marked its 90th year. In the Forum department of this issue, Wellesley Historical Society Executive Director Erica Dumont writes about new initiatives the Society is planning that include moving to larger headquarters better suited to hold its extensive collections.

Wellesley and Weston have rich histories, and our residents are very fortunate in that we have flourishing historical societies with dedicated staff and enthusiastic volunteers to serve as stewards of the past. If you haven’t done so already, I encourage you to learn more about the Weston Historical Society and the Wellesley Historical Society, consider a membership, and discover how interesting the histories of our towns can be. Both societies offer programs, tours, lectures, exhibits, and social events. You can visit www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org and www.westonhistory.org for more information.

Often on our pages, you’ll find photos courtesy of both historical societies, and we are very appreciative to be able to access these precious resources as we strive to keep history alive on the pages of our publication. In this issue, you’ll see a photo from the past and have the chance to read about William T.G. Morton, a controversial figure who claimed to be the father of modern anesthesia. The article is a fascinating account of the first operation to use ether and the paintings commissioned to commemorate that remarkable event.

Also in this issue, you’ll meet a number of individuals who give their time and resources to help others: the Beyond Boston volunteers; Sue Kisiday and Christina Pavlina, who started a divorce support group for women; the founders of Neighbor to Neighbor; and the clergy profiled in the series “Our Religious Leaders,” to name a few. I hope you find time during your busy summer days to sit back with the magazine and learn more about the incredible people who call and called Wellesley and Weston home.

Beth
this month’s cover brings back warm memories of summers past when our children were younger and we owned a home on a small lake in Maine. One of our favorite adventures was to pack a picnic and hop on our boat with visiting friends for a leisurely cruise up the Songo River, through the historic Songo Lock, and onto much larger Sebago Lake for a day of tubing and exploring. Along the “lazy river” was the highlight of our day: The Rope Swing. Kids, dads, and even moms would take their turn unleashing their inner Tarzan or Jane. Occasionally, swimsuit bottoms would fall off, a belly flop would result in temporary tears, or someone would be playfully pushed into the river before he or she was ready to jump, but it was all in good fun. Quite simply, the rope swing was the culmination of a perfect summer day.

Another memorable family time was the trip we took when our kids were in middle school and we spent a long weekend in Paris celebrating a friend’s birthday. It was an incredible opportunity and festive celebration that our now adult children still talk about today. I’ll never forget standing on the front steps of Notre Dame Cathedral and running into a family from Wellesley! Paris is a magical city, and if you’re thinking about visiting with younger children, you’ll definitely want to read Naz Sioshansi’s article in our Excursions department where she shares first-hand knowledge about her family’s visit to the City of Lights.

Summer is clearly the time for fun with family and friends, and I hope you have some adventures planned with your favorite people. If you’re thinking about taking a trip closer to home and bringing along a much-loved furry friend, be sure to read our Ten Tips for Stress-Free Travel with Your Pet. More and more people are taking pets with them on vacation and our tips will make your life easier if you opt for this.

Summer is also the season when we tend to drink more water and use more water in general. With the bad press about water supplies across the country, especially in Michigan, one might think twice before turning on the tap. Hop on board our mini submarine as we follow a drop of water from its source to the faucets in your home. It really is remarkable—and reassuring.

Wherever your travels take you this summer, may they be fun and festive, and create meaningful memories in the years to come.

Happy Summer!
we gardeners are nature lovers, filling our gardens with flora to please family and friends (and ourselves). But what do we do to provide for the pollinators who help keep our gardens beautiful and productive? Who are these pollinators? Honeybees, an introduced species, probably are the first to come to mind. However, there are many native bees along with wasps, hoverflies, butterflies, moths, bats, and, of course, birds all fluttering through our gardens, gathering food or taking shelter. While native plants might be the best for our native pollinators, recent research from the Royal Horticultural Society has shown that non-natives are good sources of pollinator food too. I do advocate using natives (which doesn’t mean you should dig up your ornamentals), but try to find a balance of natives and pollinator-friendly non-natives.

How do we create a pollinator-friendly habitat? It may be easier than you think. First, assess your garden: What are you growing and which plants have been a-buzz? If your plants are humming with activity, you’re off to a good start. Pollen, which provides protein, and nectar, an energy source, are the primary foods needed by pollinators. Flowers produce the pollen and nectar.
Can your loyalty be bought?

Interesting, isn’t it, that some banks have to offer folks $20/month just to bank with them? Others advertise that they will pay you hundreds of dollars to move your checking account. Are they that desperate?

Have you read the small print?

Should these offers seem intriguing, often they are less so after reading what is required to get the payoff. Sometimes you have to open more than one account, maintain exorbitant balances, sign up for a myriad of automated payments, live only in certain towns, or conduct a required number of qualifying transactions each month. It’s confusing and unnecessary.

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We do it every single day for individuals and businesses. Visit Wellesley personal banker Stephen Walls at 458 Washington Street or check us out at NeedhamBank.com. You can also contact Stephen directly at 781-474-5541 or Stephen.Walls@NeedhamBank.com. He’ll come to your office or home or wherever you wish, whenever you wish, to help with the paperwork. Join the thousands who recently chose to move to Needham Bank.

We don’t believe in buying your loyalty. We earn it.
A diversity of flower shapes, colors, sizes, and scents will attract a wider range of pollinators. Hummingbirds, for example, prefer tubular-shaped flowers such as *Lobelia*, commonly called cardinal flower. Butterflies and bees swarm to the flat-topped flower clusters of Joe-Pye weed, *Eutrochium*, or to the bright yellow, daisy-like heads of *Coreopsis*. Do note that many of the hybrid double flowering plant varieties are sterile and do not produce pollen or nectar. Don’t just depend on perennials but include trees and shrubs that also provide shelter. Good native choices for trees and shrubs are oaks, *Quercus*, maples (*Acer rubrum* in particular), willows, *Salix* cherry, *Prunus*, blueberry, *Vaccinium*, and Serviceberry, *Amelanchier*. Trees and shrubs usually produce a mass of enticing flowers while perennials are more effective if massed in a minimum three-foot by three-foot space rather than individual plants scattered around.

Your beds and borders can be “flowering diners” for pollinators, and there are countless choices from A to Z, *Allium* to *Zinnia*. Don’t, however, overlook herbs and vegetables, which pollinators also find enticing. Remember vegetables also rely on pollinators to produce their fruits. Think of your vegetable patch staples like tomatoes, melons, squash, and beans. While you might be frustrated when greens or herbs bolt (have rapid, runaway growth), leave a few flowering and you will be amazed at what comes buzzing around. Dill and fennel flowers provide an airy look, and pollinators find them tantalizing along with ground hugging thymes. And as for lavenders, pollinators just can’t get enough. Don’t plan on just summer bloomers either; make sure there is something blooming in your garden for at least three seasons. Your local garden center staff can advise you on what’s in stock that is pollinator attracting. The nearby New England Wildflower Society is an excellent resource.

Our gardens can fulfill our desires and designs while simultaneously providing a habitat that benefits local wildlife. Plants and pollinators go together like hands and gloves, so grab your gloves, let flower power rule, and get planting for your native pollinators.

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**RUTH FURMAN** is a Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist (MCH). She trained in horticulture in England and spent many happy years working and gardening there. To reach Ms. Furman, email her at: Ruth@wellesleywestonmagazine.com.
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10 tips for...

**Summer is a great time** to hit the open road, but sometimes it’s tough to leave your pets behind. In fact, traveling with your pet can be a fun-filled and rewarding experience. If you are planning an escape with the whole family (including the four-legged ones), read the following tips for stress-free travel with your furry friends.

**one Get A Healthy Start**
Before heading out on your adventure, it’s wise to check with your veterinarian to ensure that your pet is up-to-date on all necessary vaccinations. Your veterinarian can also issue a health certificate (including proof of a rabies vaccination), which may come in handy when crossing state lines. Many airlines require a health certificate, so if you plan to fly with your pet, be sure to contact the airline well in advance for specific rules and regulations.

**two Pack Your Bags**
Along with your suitcase, it’s important to pack a pet-friendly travel kit. Bring food, a couple of bowls, a leash, waste bags, medications and first-aid, and any travel documents. A favorite toy or blanket will give your pet a sense of familiarity while away from home. Take some bottled water and have a water bowl that is easily accessible for stops along the way. Unleashed by Petco at 165 Linden Street in Wellesley and SmartPak at 30 Worcester Street in Natick have a great selection of pet supplies for travel.

**three Buckle Up**
Have a plan for how you’re going to properly restrain your pet while your vehicle is moving. Some animals are comfortable traveling in their crate. In fact, this is often the most secure and safest option for transport. Pets that prefer being a little less confined, might benefit from a harness and pet seatbelt (like the Kurgo seatbelt tether) or a cargo barrier, which allows the driver to focus on the road while his or her enthusiastic travel buddy stays in the back seat.

**four Tame the Tummy**
Just like humans, some animals experience carsickness. Before taking a long road trip, see how your pet fares in the car on a shorter outing around town. Aromatherapy with lavender oil is great natural option to calm your pet’s nerves. Ginger root extract can work wonders for an upset stomach. Always consult with your veterinarian for the best option and proper dosing of medications or supplements for your pet.

**five Check Your IDs**
In case you get separated from your pet while traveling, have a temporary identification tag. In addition to your pet’s microchip and normal tags, attach a temporary ID tag to your pet’s collar that includes the address and phone number of where you’ll be staying during your vacation.
If your animal were to get lost, having a current photo of him will make it easier for others to help you find your lost pet.
Keep Things Familiar

Even though there is a lot to see and do on the road, animals thrive with a bit of routine. Regular meal times, plenty of water, bathroom breaks, and exercise will be highlights in your pet’s day. A good romp before departing will help your animal relax (and even sleep) while you are driving. Scope out pet-friendly parks and trails for exercise opportunities along the way.

Book Accommodations Ahead of Time

Hotels, motels, and campgrounds are becoming increasingly pet-friendly, but it is important to plan ahead and make reservations, as these accommodations are often in higher demand. Booking a room on the ground floor and by an exit will make it much easier for you to take your pet out for bathroom breaks. Visit www.GoPetFriendly.com for pet-friendly hotels as well as beaches and parks where your dog will be welcome.

Realize That Accidents Happen

New sights and smells can be very exciting for your pet, but their reaction to new things can cause unanticipated or an unwanted response. Cleaning wipes, paper towels, and stain remover can clean up any mess. Bring a bottle of shampoo if your pet is the type of animal that likes to roll around in its new surroundings, ensuring a fresh-scented houseguest.

Check for Potential Hazards

New places and spaces are filled with interesting things to experience and explore. When traveling with your pet, be aware of hazards such as toxic plants, or snout-level decorations or treats that can be dangerous if ingested.

Get the Right Gear

There are many companies that now specialize in making gear for pets to provide better safety and comfort while traveling (Ruffwear, Kurgo, West Paw, Burley). This includes travel beds, raincoats, personal-floatation devices, booties, leashes, harnesses, and treats galore. This type of gear can be great to help you get out there, have fun, and explore. Happy trails and tails!
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Drs. Thiel, Wang & Associates, Inc. has a new name. Now known as Premier Dental Group of Wellesley, P.C., the multi-specialty practice will continue to make a difference in oral healthcare by providing prosthetic, restorative, cosmetic, periodontal, implant, and family dentistry. Premier Dental Group is located at 372 Washington Street in Wellesley. To learn more, please visit www.premierdentalgroupofwellesley.com or call 781.237.3031 to schedule an appointment.

Jimmy Cyr, a master stylist and colorist who has been making his clients beautiful for more than 20 years, has returned to Dellaria Salon & Spa in Wellesley. Dellaria Salons have been home to the finest stylists in New England for more than 45 years. Their clients receive consistently outstanding service and style, and look their best after every cut thanks to stylists with vision, technique, and experience. Dellaria Salon & Spa in Wellesley is located at 37 Central Street. Call 781.235.0631 for an appointment.

Hub Leather Repair & Restoration has been serving a variety of clients including the Boston Design Center, Roche Bobois, Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, Ethan Allen, and more. Owner Bryan Graves is pleased to now be providing his service in-home in Wellesley and Weston, bringing supreme leather furniture cleaning, restoration, and repair to new pieces of furniture as well as family heirlooms. Celebrating 25 years in business, Hub Leather Repair & Restoration has been featured on Channel 5’s Chronicle. Be sure to visit www.hubleatherrepair.com for more information and see their ad on page 75.

Patrick Ahearn FAIA recently received two Bulfinch Awards for “New Construction under 5,000 SF” and for “Restoration, Renovation, or Addition.” In addition, one of Patrick Ahearn’s homes was shortlisted in four categories for the International Design & Architecture Awards, which will take place early fall 2016. Visit www.patrickahearn.com for more information and links to social media.

Medi Tresse has announced the opening of its first medical hair rejuvenation center—the only center in New England catering exclusively to female patients seeking to address thinning hair and varying degrees of hair loss. Located in Wellesley, the highly trained, all-female Medi Tresse team is led by medical director Dr. Mary Wendel, a physician with over 10 years of experience specializing in women’s hair loss. To learn more, visit www.MediTresse.com and see their ad on page 113.

To celebrate its fourth anniversary, KN Medspa, located at 4 Pleasant Street, South in South Natick, is offering new clients 20 percent off their first treatment. Owned by Kathy Nash, RN, the cozy medspa offers everything from innovative treatments like Regenique facials and microneedling to chemical peels and dermaplaning. The inviting atmosphere is where clients feel safe and trust in Nash’s 25-year nursing career and more than 12 years of practice in medical aesthetics. See their ad on page 99.

Jenn Shotkus was recently named the new buyer and merchandiser of Lyn Evans. Jenn grew up in the fashion industry alongside her mentor and mom, Linda Shotkus. Jenn graduated from Weston High School in 2008 and was an outstanding soccer player. She went on to study marketing at Lesley...
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University. Jenn launched the new LynEvans.com website, and she will bring a new attitude and a younger vibe to Lyn Evans starting with NexJenn, a multi-generational shopping experience.

Melissa Dailey of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Wellesley has received the prestigious NRT Society of Excellence Award and the International President’s Premier Award representing the top 1 percent of approximately 85,000 Coldwell Banker affiliated Sales Associates worldwide. Melissa sold over $91 million of real estate and was Coldwell Banker’s Wellesley office’s #1 selling agent in 2015. Melissa is also one of the Top 50 Sales Associates in Coldwell Banker New England. You can reach Melissa at 617.699.3922 or at Melissa.Dailey@NEMoves.com.

Chip Gibson from Wellesley-based Deland, Gibson Insurance was named a 2015 “Young Gun” by Insurance Business America (IBA). IBA honored 42 insurance professionals age 35 and under who “have already made a splash in the industry.” A measure of the award emphasized Deland, Gibson’s growth and also their charitable involvement. The company recently had more than 10 employees volunteer at The Abundant Table in Norwood to help fulfill the nonprofit’s mission: “We Feed Those In Need.” For more information, visit www.delandgibson.com and www.abundant-table.org.

Lynn Crowley, PhD is expanding her private practice to Greater Boston, offering in-home sessions for children struggling with impulsivity, perspective taking, executive function, social cognition, and emotional regulation. Lynn is a leader in her field and highly regarded for her ability to bridge the gap between skill acquisition and skill use. If you are interested in a one-hour consultation to discuss how Lynn can help your child thrive, call her at 617.735.0444 or visit www.LynnCrowley.com.

A handful of talented Bella Santé’s beauty and wellness professionals were in New York City in March for the International Esthetics, Cosmetics & Spa Conference to learn about the latest developments in skincare and cosmetics. Bella Santé nail technician Liliana Portenko, is shown here with Dr. Vivian Valenty, the creator of Dazzle Dry, a fast drying vegan nail lacquer which is now offered at all three Bella Santé locations. To make an appointment for a Dazzle Dry manicure, please call 617.424.9930.

The Foodery is now delivering to Weston and Wellesley. Founded in 2012 by John Bauer and Mike Speights, the company crafts and delivers healthy, cooked, family-focused meals according to rigorous ingredient standards. Order online today at www.fooderyboston.com. Contact at 617.207.4080 or info@fooderyboston.com.

Hartney Greymont is celebrating 78 years of supporting the health of trees, plants, and the environment. Hartney Greymont’s certified arborists are some of the very best and many hold university

Lara Crawford is excited to announce the launch of her website www.OneSavvyMother.com, a premier online destination for women’s eco-fashion accessories. Crawford’s years of experience in the retail industry combined with an enviable eye for style and a drive to preserve the planet, helps her choose products that are stylish, well-crafted, and on trend. Designers and brands are chosen that support sustainability, and her mission is to empower consumers to take command of their wardrobes while minimizing their eco-footprint. See her ad on page 163.
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degrees in arboriculture and soil culture. Over the years, the company has added lawn care and irrigation specialists to the staff as well as landscape designers. Hartney Greymont’s tree care services include both traditional and organic approaches. For seasonal tree and lawn care tips or to request a consultation, visit www.hartney.com or call 781.444.1227.

Spring is the perfect time to refresh your look at Jesamondo Salon & Spa with its new full-time makeup artist Emily Sousa. Schedule your appointment for prom, weddings, special occasions, makeup application or lesson, and false eye lash extensions with Studio 28 Cosmetics. Emily trained and worked with celebrity makeup artist Stacey Frasca, and the staff at Jesamondo is thrilled to have her join them. Call 508.907.7171 or visit their website to schedule an appointment at www.jesamondo.com.

Tremont Auctions, located in Newton Upper Falls, is currently accepting estate merchandise for its upcoming slate of auctions. Douglas Stinson stated, “Tremont is purchasing fine art and estate merchandise, whether it be one item or entire collections. We travel throughout New England and we also accept items on a consignment basis.” Digital photographs are gladly accepted. Categories suggested include: fine art, Chinese ceramics, oriental rugs, jewelry, sterling silver, and other fine items generally found in New England homes. Contact Tremontauctions@gmail.com.

Mike Jennings, Bill Darcey, Eric Morse, Michelle DeSimone, and Eugene Sheehan recently gathered to celebrate Needham Bank’s donation of $100,000 to The Wellesley Field Fund. Previously, Needham Bank donated $100,000 to the Sprague Field Project. Needham Bank, with an office on 458 Washington Street in Wellesley, is Member FDIC and Member SIF.

ARID Newton-Wellesley Dental Specialty Group and the Wellesley Masonic Lodge are responding to senior oral health needs through community-based partnerships with the Wellesley Council on Aging (COA) providing the “Wellness and Quality of Life through Oral Health” seminar series. In March, Dr. Touradj Ameli and Iva Taslakov presented “Successful Aging” to the COA that detailed the connections between oral health and overall health and well-being. Future presentations will expand upon the subject. For more information call 781.237.1190 or email info@aridnw.com.
Valerie Gates of Wellesley-based Gates Studio has launched a new staging design division called Gates Studio Home offering staging, re-design, organization, and de-cluttering services for MetroWest homeowners looking to sell, rent, or refresh their homes or rooms. Valerie also brings many years of experience renovating, decorating, and managing various rental properties throughout New England—all of which became five-star reviewed rental homes. Her work can be seen at www.gatestudiohome.com.

Gail and Gary Lockberg, owners of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Town and Country Real Estate, recently attended the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices National Sales Convention in Dallas, Texas. In addition to meeting with corporate CEO Gino Blefari (pictured here) the couple had a chance to attend a lecture by Billy Beane of the Oakland Athletics and meet with top real estate agents from across the country.

Wellesley Bancorp, Inc., the parent company of Wellesley Bank, announced that Simon R. Gerlin has been appointed as a member of the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee of the company and the bank. Gerlin has been the Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President of Finance of MassDevelopment.
since February 2013. Prior to MassDevelopment, he served in executive finance, compliance, and audit roles at Clean Harbors Environmental Services and spent 16 years at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

Bruce S. MacDowell Jr., owner of The MacDowell Company, a Weston-based landscape architecture and construction company, has named Jeffrey D. Plant, RLA, Senior Landscape Architect. Jeff has been an essential member of The MacDowell Company family for 15 years and has 20 years of design and project management experience in both the residential and commercial industries. Learn more about The MacDowell Company by visiting www.TheMacDowellCompany.com or by calling 781.899.9393.

Bruce S. MacDowell Jr. and Jeffrey D. Plant

Shop the #SecretSale at IMPULSE by Adamas Fine Jewelry now through June 15. Visit the showroom, located in Linden Square, to find out more about the exclusive designer collections from the boho chic designs of Sisco Berluti to Dana Kellin’s exquisite silver designs with precious gems. You will be the first to know about the newest arrivals and summer trends.

The Wellesley Rotary is pleased to announce that Hannah Nemmers (pictured with her mother,

Susan Bevilacqua, Kathryn Sallis, Hannah Nemmers, and John Adams

Kathryn Sallis) will be studying abroad in France for the 2016/2017 academic year. Hannah will be traveling through the ESSEX Rotary Youth Exchange Program, a nonprofit organization committed to setting standards for international educational travel。

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Chef Wendy Ray is pleased to announce that she is now offering “Fine Dining at Home Tonight” in both Wellesley and Weston. Wendy will bring the fresh California cuisine that she grew up with to the dinner table and take the worry out of menu planning, shopping, and preparing meals. For more information, email Wendy at westpersonalchefservices@gmail.com or call 774.287.1862.

ZEN Associates, Inc. was recently awarded the Top 50 Landscape Architects of 2016 by Ocean Home magazine, which represents the finest landscape architects practicing today in the United States and the Caribbean. “We have a local base in Boston and DC, but our clients and projects are throughout the United States and abroad” says Peter White, Landscape Architect. ZEN is very proud of this award. Visit www.zenassociates.com.

David Giangrasso and Giangrasso Law are pleased to announce that Loren Sutton has joined the firm as an associate. Loren is a graduate of Boston College Law School and has substantial experience with commercial and residential real estate. His recent work includes assisting the firm to close the purchase of a restaurant north of Boston, negotiating and documenting several private commercial loans, and addressing various residential real estate projects. For more information, please visit www.GLAW-LLC.com.

Registration is open for Charles River School's summer program called Charles River Creative Arts Program (CRCAP). For kids ages 6 to 15, CRCAP offers more than 130 classes in art, athletics, dance, theatre, music, video, animation, photo, textiles, and writing. Guest artists like James Taylor, Yo-Yo Ma, and Matt & Kim bring their insight and talent and collaborate with campers. The program has been inspiring young people from diverse backgrounds since 1970. Visit www.crcap.org/.

Drs. Ali and Ali at Wellesley Dental Group have acquired a new state-of-the-art system called DEXIS CariVu™ that helps detect cavities without any radiation. The device quickly captures what’s going on under the surface, allowing both the doctors and patients to understand the depth of the cavities.
The month of May is filled with a variety of events at Pine Straw from book signings to a Farmhouse Pottery trunk show to a Chan Luu pop-up shop. The store has a wonderful selection of great gifts for dads and grads. Stay in touch with Pine Straw by following the store on Instagram (@shoppinestraw) or sign up for the store’s newsletter via the new website at www.livegivepinestraw.com. Visit Pine Straw at 466 W Washington Street in Wellesley and at 1625 Beacon Street in Waban.

Chris Dallmus is proud to announce that Design Associates of Nantucket and Cambridge (www.design-associates.com) is the recipient of the Nantucket Preservation Trust’s “New Construction” Award for a residence off Polpis Road on Nantucket. The Trust noted that Design Associates’ careful siting of the house blended seamlessly into the landscape and that the placement and scale of the home are models for new construction on Nantucket. “We are pleased to be recognized for creating designs grounded in the New England tradition of practicality,” Dallmus said.

Benoit Mizner Simon & Co. (BMS) announced a record-breaking surge in sales in 2015. The real estate firm, with offices in Wellesley and Weston, has tripled revenues in five short years, and its total dollar volume was up 35% in 2015. Debi Benoit is the #1 broker in single family home sales in Massachusetts. Fellow principals Amy Mizner and Sheryl Simon are the top team in the state. Other top-performing agents were honored at the firm’s fourth annual B.O.L.D (Building Our Legacy Daily) Achievements. Visit www.benoitmiznersimon.com.

Weston Garden Club is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The club fosters education in many dental disease and formulate the most conservative treatment options accordingly. For more information, please email smile@wellesleydentalgroup.com or call 781.237.9071.

The professionals at Sudbury Design Group are excited to announce the opening this past year of their new satellite office on Cape Cod, located in Cataumet. Staffing this office is Michael Picard, Registered Landscape Architect, and Jim Richheld, Design Associate. Sudbury Design Group has long been engaged in projects on the South Shore, Cape and Islands, and Rhode Island. Their team approach and collaboration with clients, design professionals, and contractors has been the key to their success.

Dan K. Gordon Landscape Architects, headquartered in Wellesley Hills, has most recently been recognized as one of the nation’s Top 50 Coastal Landscape Architects by Ocean Home Magazine. With 20 years of experience designing estate properties in New England, Dan Gordon and his team are looking forward to completing several ongoing projects in and around Wellesley, the Cape, and the Islands in 2016. For more information, please visit their website at www.dangordonassociates.com.

Chris Dallmus

Jared Wik, Nan Vandervelde, Betsy Hargreaves, Lynn Donahue, Stephanie Burns, Debi Benoit, Sheryl Simon, Tanya Tanimoto, Amy Mizner, Donna Maley, Susie Shorttse, Jessica Allain, Alyson Karpowicz, Traci Shulkin, and Jared Parker

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Weston Garden Club members gather for a civic project. Board member Holly Kalow, president Jessica Pohl and vice president Cynthia Chapra hold the banner.

areas including landscape design, horticulture, and floral design. Members maintain the Forbes conservation land and seasonal and perennial plantings in the Town watering trough and other traffic islands. For the winter holidays, the club makes more than 75 wreaths for Weston’s public buildings. Celebratory activities will include a high tea for members, a display of historical club material, and a video documentary. For more information, visit www.westongardenclub.org.

» C.H. Newton Builders is proud to announce the official opening of its new office at 245 Washington Street in Wellesley Hills. C.H. Newton’s repertoire of services and projects extends beyond building homes, and the company is well versed in a diverse range of specialties including pre-construction, fine homebuilding, estate care, historical restoration, architectural millwork, and special projects. Expertise, customization, and first-class quality are all at the core of every project they complete. Visit the company’s new website at www.chnewton.com or call 781.943.3199.

» Dr. Changhong Zhou, a licensed acupuncturist and herbalist, has joined Boston Chinese Acupuncture, located at 105 Chestnut Street in Needham. A graduate of the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, Dr. Zhou is also a researcher at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Zhou has over 30 years of medical experience and specializes in pain management and infectious diseases. He is currently accepting new patients and also practices in Boca Raton, Florida. For more information or to schedule a complimentary ten-minute consultation, please call 781.449.1813.

» Sippican Partners Construction, LLC participated in the 2015 Lakes Region Parade of Homes and was honored with two awards. The award for Best Exterior Finish and Best Unique Features & Product were chosen out of 12 homes that were part of the parade. This annual event every fall draws hundreds to the Lakes Region, where visitors can tour homes build by the best builders in the area. Visit www.sippicanpartners.com or call 603.968.7711.

» Dana Hall’s Board of Trustees has named Katherine Bradley as Dana Hall’s next Head of School. In July 2016, she will succeed Caroline Erisman, becoming Dana’s 11th Head of School in 135 years. As Dana Hall celebrates the 135th anniversary of the 1881 founding of Dana Hall School, Bradly joins Dana Hall from Groton School, where she has spent the last 14 years. Bradley is well poised to lead Dana Hall into the future and to uphold the School’s mission.

» Gail Bogle, manager of Hammond Residential Real Estate’s Wellesley and Weston offices, is pleased to announce that Jennifer Lozada and Margie Monroe have affiliated with Hammond and will be collaborating with clients from Hammonds’s 40 Grove Street and 506 Boston Post Road office locations.

» The Lagassé Group Custom Builders is pleased to announce that Kevin Boya has joined the company’s field staff as an assistant superintendent. Kevin comes to The Lagassé Group from Turner Construction Company where he worked most recently as a Project Engineer. Kevin is a 2013 graduate of Wentworth Institute of Technology with a degree in Construction Management. Visit www.thelagassegroup.com. 


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in March of 1925, a group of Wellesley residents announced in The Wellesley Townsman that there would be a meeting to address the town’s need to have “at least the nucleus of an historical society.” The Wellesley Historical Society was officially incorporated later that year, and its early members included Isaac Sprague, members of the Hunnewell family, and Dr. Frederick Stanwood, whose home at 323 Washington Street will soon be the Society’s headquarters.

In the beginning, the Society collected historical clothing, objects, art, and documents, and set up a museum in the basement of the Wellesley Town Hall. The organization found a more permanent home in 1975 when it purchased the former residence of a Worcester Turnpike toll collector for a very reasonable price: $1.00. The 1824 Dadmun-McNamara House is still the Society’s headquarters today, though it was moved from its original location along Route 9 to 229 Washington Street, where Routes 16 and 9 intersect.

The Wellesley Historical Society Today

Over ninety years after the organization’s founding, the Wellesley Historical Society has transformed from a small group of like-minded antiquarians to a vibrant organization that serves as the historical resource center for the town of Wellesley. Not only does the Society attract researchers from as far away as the United Kingdom and Australia to its archives, its staff and board also focus on public outreach within the town of Wellesley and the surrounding communities. In order to bring the town’s history to the public, the Society has implemented a variety of educational programs and events in recent years.

■ Walking Tours: The Historical Society launched its walking tour series in 2013 with two tours: “The Development of Wellesley Square” and “How Transportation Shaped Wellesley.” A third tour, “The Rise of Industry in the Lower Falls,” was later added. The newest one, “The History of the Cottage Street Area,” was presented for the first time in October 2015, and the Society’s education committee is currently working to develop a fifth tour, slated to debut in the spring of 2017.

■ Children’s Programs: In order to serve a younger audience, the Society began its first season of “Winter Wednesdays,” a partnership with the Wellesley Community Center, in December of 2014. Winter Wednesdays is a weekly series of programs created for children in elementary school that features historical topics. Most programs highlight an item from the Society’s collections so that children can identify with the community’s history, and families can become more familiar with the organization.

■ Historical Homes Tour: The first historical homes tour was extremely popular and took place in October 2015. Partly a trolley tour and partly a tour of one of the town’s oldest homes, it lets participants learn about the history of Wellesley through the stories of the houses built in town. A second tour, including different homes, will be presented in the fall of 2016.
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The Future

The Wellesley Historical Society has been expanding and reaching new heights. Because of this, the organization has outgrown its headquarters, the 1824 Dadmun-McNamara House. The need for additional storage and operational space led the Society’s board of directors to purchase a new property—none other than the 1916 home of Dr. Frederick Stanwood, one of the Society’s first members.

Dr. Stanwood’s house stands at 323 Washington Street, and will give the Society much-needed collections storage space, exhibition space, and office space. While the house is in excellent condition, it needs to be adapted into an appropriate headquarters facility that will house the Society’s 430 linear feet of archival materials, 1,500 costumes, 2,700 maps and plans, 2,400 entomological pieces, and all of the other historical treasures for which it cares. Museum-quality storage units will be set up, an elevator will be put in, and proper climate control will be installed.

With long-awaited town approvals, the Historical Society is now embarking on the fundraising stage of the renovation project. The staff, board, and volunteers are confident that the new home will become a reality soon with the community’s support and enthusiasm for the project.

The Wellesley Historical Society began as just an idea in 1925, but has since grown into the well-established, dynamic organization that it is today. With an enthusiastic volunteer base, a dedicated staff, and a highly committed board of directors, the Society looks toward a bright future. For more information on the programs and activities of the Historical Society, visit its website at www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org or call 781.235.6690. For research questions and appointments, email info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org.
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it is often said that the kitchen is the heart of the home, a place where family and friends gather not only to eat, but also to connect. The same can be said of the 2016 Wellesley Hills Junior Women’s Club Wellesley Kitchen and Home Tour. After taking a brief hiatus, the tour came back this year with a renewed focus on making the day an event that celebrates bringing people together. “The Kitchen Tour has always been a popular event,” says Marggy Gabriel, co-chair of the event with Ann Jenness. “But we took a step back and realized we had an opportunity to make it even more fabulous. We wanted to create a day that would provide a great opportunity for people to spend time with family and friends.”

The tour organizers decided that their first step was to focus on making each house an event. “We wanted a party atmosphere,” says Gabriel. So at every house the Junior League team brought in local restaurants, caterers, and personal chefs to provide complimentary bites. They invited vendors to create pop-up boutiques selling items like
gourmet caramels, preppy serving trays, and custom floral arrangements. Next, after noticing how many mothers and daughters made the tour an annual bonding event, they changed the date of the event to the Saturday of Mother’s Day weekend. Finally, they asked the craftsmen and decorators who worked on the homes to be present to answer visitor’s questions and provide background details.

And, of course, there were the homes themselves; a stunning and varied selection of some of the finest Wellesley has to offer. “We went in looking for a good cross section of styles,” says Gabriel. “We wanted some traditional homes, some contemporary homes, and, most of all, anything unique. What we found was so inspiring. People have really gone beyond the typical white kitchen. They’re putting their personality and their stamps on their kitchens.” The results are brilliant and fun to see.

But the one thing that every house has in common? “Warmth,” says Gabriel. “People are making their spaces livable and enjoyable to be in.”
If you missed the 2016 Wellesley Kitchen and Home Tour, or even if you didn’t, and want fresh ideas for a new and inspired look in your home, we’ve asked the experts and homeowners for their best tips. Happy decorating!

Putting the New in the Old

While historical homes add character and charm to Wellesley’s streets, historical kitchens are often a less admired design feature. Such was the case for homeowners Tracy and Greg Simko, who were happy with their Dutch Colonial home built in 1906, but not the tiny kitchen that came with it. So they decided to embark on a massive kitchen renovation, gutting the first floor of the house and adding an addition that more than doubled the size of the original kitchen. “One very important thing we learned right at the beginning is that a renovation of an old home requires a contractor with experience,” says Tracy Simko. “Because it’s an entirely different renovation process than a new house. It requires a different depth of knowledge.”

Once the new space was framed, with walls removed, entrances enlarged, and windows expanded, the homeowners were able to start thinking about design details. They envisioned a neutral look, with tonal details and lots of texture. For assistance, they turned to Pierre Matta, designer and principal at Newton Kitchens and Design. Matta has experience incorporating modern kitchens into traditional homes and he advises homeowners: “Sometimes people go overboard. They put in lots of high-gloss, flat-paneled painted cabinetry thinking that will make it a contemporary kitchen. But that doesn’t necessarily go well with a traditional home.” Instead, Matta advises introducing raw, natural finishes that help to marry old and new. In the Simko’s home, this can be seen in the reclaimed walnut base and the marble-topped island, two materials that help smooth the transition between classic and modern.

Matta also advises homeowners to pay attention to the details. The Simko’s upper cabinets feature circle inlays (as opposed to more standard square dividers) which serve to soften the look of the cabinetry, while just below, a glass backsplash feels sleek and modern. The gas

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fireplace separating the kitchen from the breakfast nook has sharp lines, but it is surrounded by inlaid stone. And while the cabinets are painted white, it’s a soft white so as not to contrast too heavily with the home’s wooden tones.


Think Outside the Box

If anyone knows how to build a kitchen, it’s Peter Holland, owner of Riverstone Custom Builders, who has built 29 homes—both spec and custom builds. Holland and his wife, Laura, approached the building of a home for their own family with a lot of experience and high standards. They wanted to break away from the standard new construction kitchen and create a unique space with a homey feel. To achieve this, Holland honed in on unique materials that would provide warmth and visual interest. “I like materials with a story and a history,” says Holland. “It makes it a lot of fun.”

After sourcing materials from his network of suppliers, Holland started mixing them together to create a visually stunning scheme. Running the length of his kitchen and family room are beautifully textured wooden beams that have been reclaimed three different times, starting in an old mill in Rhode Island before being put into service transporting old Victorian homes. The kitchen island surface is Zimbabwe black granite that was scoured with a machine to achieve a wood finish. Holland spotted it one day at a supplier and has never seen it anywhere since. The cabinetry enclosing the sink is made of worm wood, which, true to its name, achieves its texture when eaten by worms. The hood over the range is constructed of reclaimed wood. Oversized pulls grace the cabinets, thick glass light fixtures hang from
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the ceilings, and creamy ceramic tiles with an inlay pattern run the length of one wall. Yet the overall effect is one of textured harmony.

“I think homeowners should embrace the concept of going out of the traditional Wellesley box by using textured and reclaimed material,” says Holland. “Breaking the rules is what makes the house feel more like a home.” Holland recommends that homeowners take advantage of online sources like Pinterest, Houzz, and Etsy for inspiration and not be afraid to make mistakes. “We approach each home as a work of art,” he says. And it shows.

**Color is the New White**

It wasn’t long ago that what most homeowners wanted in a kitchen was white, white, white. But while that look can be calming, it’s
not always warm and inviting. For Amy Lipton, a professional chef and owner of the Joyful Kitchen Cooking School who runs small-group cooking classes out of her Wellesley home, sleek and modern was not going to cut it. “I wanted my kitchen to feel welcoming and bright, but also in keeping with the style of my older house,” says Lipton. “A sense of space is very important in terms of how you feel. It drives emotion. And I needed my kitchen to reflect my brand.”

Though it was love at first sight when Lipton saw the kitchen, which the previous homeowners had renovated, she turned to interior designer Katie Rosenfeld of Katie Rosenfeld Design to help her bring in color and warmth. “I like a kitchen to have personality and patina,” says Rosenfeld. “It needs to feel loved and needs to be able to be tough wearing.” To achieve their design goals, Rosenfeld and Lipton started with fabric, selecting a pattern rich with blues, oranges, and hints of green and brown. “I love using

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interesting colors on cabinetry," says Rosenfeld. “And if not, using it in the form of window fabrics or lighting.” They then moved on to comfortable upholstered bar stools and, last but not least, accessories. Lipton’s kitchen is full of sentimental items, ranging from blue and white porcelain collected during her time living in Asia, to wooden spoons that belonged to her mother and grandmother, to cast iron skillets that belonged to her mother-in-law, to an antique scale that was her father-in-law’s. It is a space that feels true to the name of the business that operates within it — joyful.

But as a professional chef, Lipton is also quick to appreciate the functionality of her space. “Flow is very important in any kitchen design,” advises Lipton. She points to the triangular arrangement of her stove, sink, and refrigerator as being optimal for functionality. “You want to minimize the amount of steps you need to take to get things done,” says Lipton. “Your kitchen doesn’t have to be huge. Sometimes a massive kitchen that is poorly designed can actually be more difficult to work in.” Two sinks, one designated for clean up and one designated for prep, allow Lipton to stay organized, especially when teaching large groups. Continuous stainless steel countertops along the exterior of the kitchen are easy to clean and can withstand heat. Her ten-foot-long honed marble island wears well and feels almost soft to the touch. Lipton doesn’t fret over small stains or watermarks. “Those are the stories of my meals and my family,” she says with a smile.

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fortunately for news junkies across the United States, about 40 years ago Charlie Kravetz turned down an offer to play a horse in a production of *Equus* at a Trinity Repertory Company, a highly respected regional theater company in Providence Rhode Island. Instead, he took a job as a courier for a television station, a fateful step that set him on a path to a long and influential career in broadcast journalism.

Today, Kravetz, a Wellesley resident, is the general manager of another highly respected regional institution, WBUR, the National Public Radio (NPR) station licensed to Boston University and the largest of the three NPR member stations in Boston. Recipient of multiple awards, including the Edward R. Murrow Award for best radio station in 2010, WBUR is revered as a flagship public radio station.

Kravetz has a big job with many moving parts: programming, engineering, fundraising, communications, affiliate relations, human resources, business operations, budget oversight, and more. He joined WBUR in January of 2011, well aware that the station couldn’t rest on its long garland of laurels. Kravetz instinctively understands the do-or-die role of innovation. “I saw local TV news disrupt newspapers during the late 1970s, early 1980s. Now it’s the digital world wreaking absolute havoc on every single legacy news platform,” he asserts as a matter of fact.

From day one at WBUR, Kravetz’s goal has been to transform a premier radio station into a premier multimedia platform, the definitive source for news online, on-air, and in person. “Our listeners are going to want access to the quality journalism we do from any plat-
form, whether it’s an iPad, an iPhone, any written form through the Web, through Twitter,” Kravetz proclaimed at the announcement of his new position.

Within nine months of taking over the reins at WBUR, Kravetz and his staff crafted a three-year strategic plan, codenamed “FutureCast,” to develop new programming, robust digital platforms, compelling in-person community events, and a healthy revenue stream. Many of the resulting initiatives are now moving forward in full force. Today you can get your daily dose of WBUR virtually anytime, anywhere. Tune into WBUR over the radio (90.9 FM). Listen to live streams, or podcasts, on your own schedule, right from your computer or any mobile device. Read WBUR content on its website (wbur.org), on Facebook (WBUR 90.9 FM), or Twitter (@WBUR). Subscribe to receive “WBUR Today,” a daily email round up delivered to your inbox.

Kravetz’s team has also broadened the types of content available on NPR’s multiple platforms. The group’s FutureCast iLab programming incubator has hatched several offerings, among them Cognoscenti, a new ideas and opinion page tapping Boston’s big thinkers (Boston certainly has its share); Modern Love, the wildly popular weekly podcasts of The New York Times “Modern Love” essays narrated by authors and actors and often followed by conversations between the essayist and narrator (imagine what Judd Apatow or Jason Alexander has to say about “bromance”); Kind World, a series celebrating stories of kindness (who couldn’t benefit from a regular dose of compassion?); and Dear Sugar, relationship advice dished out by authors Steve Almond and Cheryl Strayed (of the movie Wild, not your mother’s Ann Landers).

“Getting a job in TV news in the 1970s was the equivalent of landing a plum job at Google today.”
These newcomers join tried-and-true favorites produced at WBUR and distributed nationally, including *On Point* (two hours of morning news and analysis, hosted by Tom Ashbrook); *Only a Game* (NPR’s only national sports program, hosted by Bill Littlefield); and *Here & Now* (midday news program launched in 1997—expanded from one to two hours in partnership with NPR in 2013; now reaches an estimated four million weekly listeners over more than 425 stations, and is co-hosted by Robin Young and Jeremy Hobson). To diversify WBUR’s reach even more, plans are underway for CitySpace, a WBUR-branded downtown community gathering spot for WBUR enthusiasts to get up close and personal with narrative journalists, authors, and actors.
“I saw local TV news disrupt newspapers during the late 1970s, early 1980s. Now it’s the digital world wreaking absolute havoc on every single legacy news platform.”

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Kravetz considers his job at the helm of WBUR the best one of his life and credits the mission-driven work of public radio for giving meaning to his days. Kravetz puts it this way, “As journalism struggles in the digital age, it is a source of pride that public radio remains true to its values and continues to serve millions of people across the country with quality news that is deep and serious and engaging and non-partisan.” Kravetz calls WBUR one of the two or three greatest radio stations in America and feels comfortable bragging because he took over an already impressive organization. “When I started my job five years ago, people told me two things: 1. Congratulations. 2. Don’t screw it up! I think I’ve abided by that admonishment and somewhat more. I hope that WBUR will continue to grow under my guidance and will serve Boston with even more wonderful programming and news in the coming years,” continues Kravetz.

Through his stewardship of WBUR, Kravetz serves Boston in more ways than through news and programming. He has an opportunity to develop deep relationships with countless other nonprofits in the city. WBUR is the largest sponsor of the Boston Book Festival. It also collaborates with the American Repertory Theater, Huntington Theater, Boston Children’s Museum, The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the Boston Foundation.

A drive to innovate for the public good has long powered Kravetz’s career. He was the founding news and programming director of New England Cable News (NECN). “In early 1992, I launched NECN as a

“When I started my job five years ago, people told me two things: 1. Congratulations. 2. Don’t screw it up! I hope that WBUR will continue to grow under my guidance and will serve Boston with even more wonderful programming and news in the coming years.”
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regional version of CNN, the first and only local 24-hour news channel available at the time. My goal was to capture the sensibility of public radio on cable news,” explains Kravetz. He understood that consumer habits for getting their news were changing and as president and general manager during his last years at the network, NECN grew to be the largest regional all-news channel in America, reaching 3.7 million homes in all six New England states. NECN was the only regional cable news channel ever to win the George Foster Peabody Award and the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Broadcast Journalism Award, the highest honors in the television news industry.

Kravetz joined NECN after a 12-year tenure at WCVB, Channel 5. He describes his decade at WCVB as, “Extraordinary years at the best commercial TV station in America at the time.” He joined WCVB in 1980 and held several positions including assistant news director, senior executive producer of news programming, and the original producer and later executive producer of Chronicle, WCVB’s Emmy-winning news magazine. Thirty-four years after the show’s inception, it is still on the air. A fantastic accomplishment that Kravetz calls, “a little miracle,” in the ever-evolving world of TV and certainly a nod to his astute sense of what consumers want.

It’s easy to overlook the humble beginnings and circuitous paths of industry leaders. Kravetz’s jobs have not always been glamorous ones. He graduated from University of Rochester magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in sociology and from York University in Toronto, Ontario, Canada with an advanced degree in theater during an era when, as he explains, “Those who fashioned themselves liberally educated human beings considered plotting out a career path the equivalent of selling out.”

Fresh out of graduate school, Kravetz wanted to act. So, he took a day job as a courier for a Boston law firm and performed at night.
in local theater. Believe it or not, this first courier position actually helped him break into TV. It’s likely why he was selected for his second job (the one he chose over playing a horse in *Equus*) as a courier for WBZ TV. “Those were the days when you had to physically transport film. I traveled around with film and a stack of résumés in my car, distributing reels to local TV stations and also my résumé every chance I got,” remembers Kravetz of his less than lofty first job in the TV business. After six months as a courier for WBZ, Kravetz at last got his lucky break, albeit on an extremely unlucky day. (“Getting a job in TV news in the 1970s was the equivalent of landing a plum job at Google today.”) “The day I was offered a full-time job in TV production was the day my mother was diagnosed with cancer and that I had attended a funeral of a close family friend,” recalls Kravetz.

Charlie Kravetz and his wife Deborah Sinay met when they both worked at WCVB. They have two grown and recently married daughters who were educated in the Wellesley public schools. The Sinay-Kravetz team has called Wellesley home since 1984. In fact, you’re likely to spot Kravetz at one of his favorite Wellesley haunts, the Maugus restaurant. That is when this lover of narrative journalism and his wife are not home watching *Transparent, Mozart in the Jungle, Homeland,* or lamenting that Jon Stewart is no longer hosting *The Daily Show.*
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The Man

This much we know for sure: One of history’s most significant surgical advances took place 170 years ago at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) on October 16, 1846. In an operating theater illuminated only by sunlight beamed through an overhead dome, a twenty-year-old house painter was undergoing surgery to remove a congenital jaw tumor. A twenty-five-year-old dentist, Dr. William T. G. Morton of Wellesley, was administering ether fumes to the patient from a glass flask containing a soaked sponge. It was an attempt to attain the Holy Grail that had thus far eluded the medical world: pain-free surgery. Morton, who kept animals on his Wellesley estate (where Town Hall now stands), had practiced for that day by etherizing a chicken, a dog, and one of his dental patients in need of a tooth extraction.

After inhaling Morton’s ether, the MGH patient awoke from the surgery, declaring that he had felt no pain. In an age where surgery was a last resort, with patients even being knocked unconscious to mask the agony,
is Immortalized on Canvas  

First Operation Under Ether
Robert C. Hinckley / 8’ x 9 5/" / Oil on canvas

DIANE SPEARE TRIANT writer
it was an unheard-of revelation. Chief Surgeon Dr. John Collins Warren spoke for the phalanx of doctors observing the procedure, exclaiming, “Gentlemen, this is no humbug!” The Boston Advertiser called it “the greatest boon to humanity that ever originated in Boston.”

Here the story becomes murky. Other dentists and doctors began coming forward, accusing Morton of stealing their ideas. Three claimed that they were the first to demonstrate the use of anesthesia, and that they, not Morton, should be wearing the “conquest of pain” crown for which he was receiving national accolades.

Horace Wells, a Connecticut dentist for whom Morton had worked, claimed to have used nitrous oxide in 1844 to complete 12 pain-free dental surgeries. However, in an attempt to replicate the results in a 1945 demonstration for Harvard Medical School students, he had administered an inadequate dose of the gas, and the experiment had failed. Dr. Charles Jackson, head of a chemical research laboratory in Boston dedicated to discovering an anesthetic drug, asserted that he was the one who had first suggested to Morton the use of sulfuric ether as an anesthetic. And Dr. Crawford Long of Georgia advanced the strangest claim of all: He described attending “ether frolic” parties, where participants inhaled sulfuric ether recreationally. Noticing the drug’s numbing effects at these gatherings, Long claimed to have successfully used ether on a patient to remove a tumor—pain-free—in 1842. There were no witnesses, however, and he neglected to publish his findings.

Morton spent much of his life dodging these allegations, and was regarded as somewhat of a scoundrel. Michelle Marcella, present-day manager of the MGH Russell Museum of Medical History and Innovation, explains that the competing claims eventually found their way to Capitol Hill: “Congressional hearings were held on the subject of who should receive credit, and [the results] upheld Morton as the discoverer.” And so, despite this controversy, history has awarded the Wellesley dentist the title of “founder of anesthesia.”

The Paintings: Robert C. Hinckley

Two artists, proficient in producing large oil canvasses, have helped to cement Morton’s fame by gloriously brushing him into the public spotlight. The first was Robert C. Hinckley, born in Boston seven years after Morton’s historic demonstration. Hinckley spent 17 years of his youth studying portraiture in France, where he exhibited at the Paris Salon of 1882, and at one time shared a room with another promising pupil—John Singer Sargent. At age 30, Hinckley returned to America, hoping to bring to life on canvas the medical miracle—now called “Ether Day”—that had occurred in his native city nearly four decades earlier.
Although none of the participants was alive to offer Hinckley a first-hand account of the proceedings, he tried to capture the flavor of that historic moment, starting with the extraordinary fact that the doctors and surgeons in the operating theater, including Morton and Bigelow, were dressed in velvet-trimmed frock coats, wing-collared shirts, and ascots. None wore gloves or masks, and no protective barrier segregated the gallery of viewers from the surgical field. A reporter was even allowed to be present on the floor, standing on a chair for a better view. The only nod to sanitation was a white cloth casually draped on a table, where a few surgical instruments rested. The patient, Gilbert Abbott, was seated upright in an armchair, his only comfort a pillow supporting his head. The surgery was performed by the light of the sun filtering down through the dome designed by Charles Bulfinch.

Hinckley used the sunlight, the diagonal handrail of the gallery, and the stark white shade of the pillow and Abbott’s shirt as effective artistic devices. All served to direct the viewer’s attention to the central figure of the painting—the patient—and to the significant element of the day’s proceedings—the fact that the patient had been successfully rendered insensible. Hinckley’s use of a palette of browns, tans, and olive tones lent a warmth and quaintness to the work, consistent with its nineteenth century setting.

First Operation Under Ether was indeed an imposing mural at 8 x 9½ feet; yet it languished unappreciated and without a buyer during Hinckley’s lifetime. Only in 1946, when it was displayed at MGH for the 100th anniversary of Ether Day, did its popularity soar. Eventually, the painting found its way to the lobby of Harvard Medical School’s Countway Library, where it still holds court today. Generations of students, doctors, and visitors—drawn by the canvas’s epic size and theme—have rendered it one of the world’s most recognizable medical works of art.

Like Morton, however, the painter himself (and his creation) was soon awash in controversy. Critics pointed out that not all of the figures depicted had actually been present on Ether Day. They suggested that Hinckley had knowingly inserted prominent physicians, despite being aware of their
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absence. Did he do it to honor outstanding members of the profession? Or perhaps to pump up the importance of the work? Whatever the reason, the inaccuracies troubled present-day physicians enough that they thought it worth setting the record straight with a new painting.


The Paintings: Warren and Lucia Prosperi
Warren Prosperi is a self-taught painter, who moved from his native Florida to Boston seeking to establish a career. A proverbial “starving artist,” for several years he mopped floors at the Blue Parrot Restaurant in Harvard Square in the mornings, then hurried to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts in the afternoons to copy the old masters. Prosperi credits Rubens’s sketches with teaching him how to use paint and with launching him as a portrait artist. With the completion of several dozen portraits of MGH physicians, six murals at the Joslin Diabetes Center, a thriving studio, and the partnership of Lucia—who shares with him in the creative vision and execution of every work—he, with Lucia, was ready to take on the considerable challenge presented by the MGH chiefs of service.

As if warned of the pitfalls by the Dickensian ghost of their predecessor, Robert C. Hinckley, the Prosperis went to extreme measures to assure the accuracy of their portrait of Ether Day. They staged a reenactment of Morton’s demonstration in the still-existing Ether Dome in the hospital’s Bulfinch Building. They chose 20 MGH surgeons and

Ether Day 1846
Warren and Lucia Prosperi / 8’x 6’ / Oil on canvas
physicians to recreate the roles of the original participants, each cast for his resemblance to his 19th century counterpart. They recruited a team from Emerson College’s Performing Arts Department to achieve authenticity in costuming and make-up. And they snapped more than 200 photographs of the re-enacted demonstration to guide them as they went to work painting on site for one year inside the Ether Dome. From this meticulous preparation emerged an 8x6-foot, historically accurate gem titled Ether Day 1846.

In their mural, the Prosperis have clustered together individual portraits of the surgeons and physicians present at Morton’s demonstration, fusing them into what they call “the structure of an actual moment.” Unlike First Operation Under Ether, where the viewer appears to be at a distance observing the proceedings, Ether Day 1846 draws the viewer in—as if by magnetic force—as an actual participant. There is Abbott, the patient, just beside you, his incision oozing blood; there is Morton, carefully directing the ether inhaler towards the patient’s face; there is Chief
Surgeon Warren, excising the tumor; and there is even a glimpse of the torso of the statue of Apollo—gifted to the MGH by Senator Edward Everett in 1845—which to this day stands in the room. The Prosperi’s canvas has remained on display in the Ether Dome since its unveiling in 2001, offering visitors a rare entrée into the extraordinary moment that took place there almost 200 years ago.

William Thomas Green Morton may have died with a tarnished reputation, berated as an “imposter” for his attempts to obtain exclusive rights to ether anesthesia and hanged in effigy in Wellesley Square for the debts he had amassed. But thanks to two magnificent oils that have captured on canvas his hour of greatest accomplishment, he will remain painted into the annals of medical history. 

**Ether Day 1846:**
Visitors to MGH today may tour the very spot where Morton’s demonstration took place. In the Ether Dome—a National Historic Landmark—little has changed. Its ocular window still floods the space with sunlight. Steeplly tiered rows of benches (literally forming an operating “theater”) rise from five-inch-wide oak floor-boards. The names of the principal participants on that momentous day are stenciled where each took his seat. And the Prosperi mural hangs on the wall just above the area where Abbott’s surgery took place.

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in this third part of our series on individuals who are active in the spiritual lives of our communities, we introduce you to four people who give generously of themselves to help others: The Reverend Dr. Matthew Wooster, Lisa Thomas, the Reverend Stephen Melius, and the Reverend Kevin Crispell.

left to right: The Reverend Dr. Matthew Wooster, Lisa Thomas, The Reverend Dr. Stephen Melius, and The Reverend Dr. Kevin Crispell
In prayer, the music we sing, the approach of the sermon, all are concerned with being honest and curious and having a humility about our own knowledge,” says Rev. Wooster. “We don’t have a corner on God or understanding who we are or what the world is. We have a rich tradition that allows us to seek answers together. We take God and worship seriously, but we also have a sense of humor and recognize there is room for our own doubts and human-ness.”
Raised in “a fantastic church community” near Columbus, Ohio, he felt a call to ministry while an undergraduate at Miami University and received graduate degrees from the Methodist Theological School and Chicago Theological Seminary. After serving two churches in Greater Cleveland, he and his wife, Betsy, moved into the parsonage here the same year his two stepsons graduated from college.

In the Hills Church, he found exactly what he had been searching for. “This church is down-to-earth. These are people who ask good questions and don’t settle for pat answers,” he says. “They are centered in worship, in caring for children and youth, and engagement with neighbors, both near and far.” He cites as an example an outreach partnership in Karnataka, India, where longtime associate minister Rev. Dr. Pash Obeng leads their mission to improve conditions of Siddis (African Indians) and other marginalized peoples.

Founded in 1867, the Hills Church is an “Open and Affirming” congregation of the United Church of Christ. “Congregationalists trace our roots back to the Pilgrims and the founders of Boston,” says Rev. Wooster. “Ours is a tradition that founded schools and colleges. It gives us guidance without ossifying us.” Years ago, that history guided the Hills congregation to declare that people who are gay or lesbian are fully accepted in church life. Today, he says, it teaches them to build relationships with neighbors of different faiths and shape the church for a world that is increasingly connected to other countries and other places.

As a minister, he is continually surprised by the depth of passion, deep sorrow, struggles, or love often hidden below the surface that people can express in a moment or community of trust. “It is a privilege of my work but also of being in a faith community where we can share with each other in an honest way,” says Rev. Wooster.
Seven years ago, when Babson College in Wellesley reorganized many of its departments, Lisa Thomas pitched her idea. As head of the volunteer program she created in 1998, she had reported to two ordained ministers in the Office of Spiritual Life. But Babson students come from a wide range of faiths and cultures. Arguing that the college should reach out to all students, she proposed restructuring both halves of the program under a secular director. When the new Office of Faith and Service was approved, Thomas got the job.

“At first, I felt overwhelmed,” says Thomas, a graduate of Ithaca College with a master’s in counseling from Northeastern University.

“College can be a time of exploration for students who are moving away from, or even back to, the religion they grew up with.”

Lisa Thomas
Babson College Office of Faith and Service
“When I started the volunteer program, I realized it was what I should have been doing all along, exploring issues like hunger and homelessness. But I’m not your typical religious leader. How could the two parts, faith and service, complement each other? Then I took a step back and realized what they have in common—striving for social justice.

“Babson is not religiously affiliated so our ecumenical approach makes sense,” says Thomas who has worked there for 25 years. “College can be a time of exploration for students who are moving away from, or even back to, the religion they grew up with. Here they can find their path through the variety of religious services and programs we offer.”

She heads a team of 12 chaplains from the Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Catholic and Protestant faiths who are on campus part-time but who are highly visible.

Realizing the college’s fast-paced environment doesn’t leave students time for reflection, the team added yoga and meditation sessions. They invite everyone to all forms of worship. Often more than 100 students attend Shabbat services on Friday nights, including many who are not Jewish, to unwind with good food and spiritual awareness. And compared to 2009 when only 2,000 people used the school’s nondenominational chapel (including weddings), last year close to 18,000 people came for Catholic mass, Muslim prayer, Christian worship services, yoga, reflection and more.
We are a piece of Babson that does what a business school focused on entrepreneurship does,” says Thomas. “Global leaders add social and economic value everywhere, and that is difficult unless you understand and embrace cultural differences.”

Thomas lives in Wayland with her husband, Tim, their 12-year-old daughter and two sons in college. She’s proud to say that when she launched the volunteer program, it was at the forefront and still is. Babson students completed more than 31,500 hours of community service in 2014-2015, from working with social service agencies, to volunteer opportunities abroad, to teaching entrepreneurship to Wellesley middle school students.

“The United Methodist Church now expects ministers to literally be outside the building to meet people we wouldn’t otherwise meet,” says Rev. Melius. “The pumpkin sale is a good opportunity for people to see the mission work we do.” When drivers on Route 117 stop to shop, the pastor can casually mention weekly study groups and service programs, here and abroad, introduced to the 117-member congregation since his ministry at Weston UMC began 19 years ago.

“My wife, Sandy, and I feel it is part of our ministry to help people in need, in keeping with Jesus’ parables.” – The Reverend Dr. Stephen Melius

Weston United Methodist Church

Look for the Rev. Dr. Stephen Melius selling pumpkins in October on the front lawn of Weston United Methodist Church (UMC). “Every year, 1,000 pumpkins grown on a Navajo reservation in New Mexico are delivered to us at no charge, something they do nationwide,” says Weston UMC’s pastor. Two-thirds of the money raised is sent back to the Navajos and one-third goes to two charities in Waltham.

“The United Methodist Church now expects ministers to literally be outside the building to meet people we wouldn’t otherwise meet,” says Rev. Melius. “The pumpkin sale is a good opportunity for people to see the mission work we do.” When drivers on Route 117 stop to shop, the pastor can casually mention weekly study groups and service programs, here and abroad, introduced to the 117-member congregation since his ministry at Weston UMC began 19 years ago.

“My wife, Sandy, and I feel it is part of our ministry to help people in need, in keeping with Jesus’ parables.” When we spoke, a family from Uganda was living with them in the parsonage, as others have done throughout their marriage and while they raised six children.

For 15 years, Sandy Melius chaired the UMC New England Conference Nicaragua Convention Committee, which sponsors projects to help communities in the Central American nation struggling with poverty and a lengthy, severe drought. Currently she chairs Weston UMC’s mission committee. Both husband and wife travel
Trust is not the only thing we build.
annually with the church’s team to dig wells and latrines to improve water quality and sanitation, or assist with education, food, clothing, and healthcare programs.

A graduate of Westminster College and Boston University School of Theology, Rev. Melius grew up in Albany, New York.

Two years ago, his son, Alex, died from a heroin overdose. “Alex was 30. When tragedy happens so unexpectedly, it makes you realize how precious life is and think more about eternal life,” says Rev. Melius. “I find myself talking to Alex and to my brother who died last year in his late 70s. Alex’s death made me more sensitive to the pain others experience.

“A high percentage of young adults, who the church would want to bring in, now find churches irrelevant or homophobic, or they think we dismiss science, or that we don’t act in a Christ-like way, dismissing Muslims and others. They think we believe those who disagree will go to hell,” says Rev. Melius. “But none of that is what we believe.”

In 2015, Weston UMC voted unanimously to become a “Reconciling” congregation, welcoming everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. “We need to let people know who we are,” he says.

**The Reverend Dr. Kevin Crispell**

*Elmwood Chapel*

“It’s no secret the millennial generation walked away from the church,” says the Reverend Dr. Kevin Crispell. “The question we need to ask ourselves as ministers is why.”

Part of the answer, he contends, is “tremendous dissatisfaction with the institutional church, often because of its emphasis on making God in our own image. This led to a therapeutic approach to ministry—specifically self-help solutions, which simply made people feel good about themselves. The church wasn’t offering millennials something beyond the superficial,” he says. “The contem-
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Temporary church was and still is embarrassed by the supernatural or spiritual elements of our faith, and that’s a sad thing to see.”

In December, Crispell will retire after 18 years as pastor of Elmwood Chapel, Wellesley’s 100-member Baptist congregation. But looking forward, he sees exciting times for people of faith.

“Over the next 30 or 40 years, the church will increasingly become more of what actually began in the late ’60s and ’70s when small groups began meeting at local restaurants and coffee houses or in someone’s home to study the Bible or other topics. I’m in one now. We call them ‘life groups.’ Prayer, communion and fellowship can be done in these more intimate settings. Sunday mornings are not necessarily the venue where you want to share your burdens with each other and pray. And from a practical standpoint, someone’s house is more economical than keeping up the expense of maintaining a building.”

“I would never think of myself as a spiritual leader,” says Crispell. “I’m a shepherd. My goal is to simply bring people to the place where they see that life is not about ‘me’ and that I am not the center of my universe.”

After his father left his family when Crispell was young, he and his brother were raised by their single mom who ran a home for unwed mothers. He remembers her wholeheartedly helping others, and he grew up as a musician in the Salvation Army Band, playing trumpet before he was eight years old.

He received a master’s degree and doctorate from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary but taught high school English and drama before joining the ministry at nearly 40 years of age. “Entering as a second career gave me ‘the view from the pew,’ which is unavailable to those who go directly from seminary to pulpit,” he says.

The parents of two adult daughters, Crispell and his wife, Polly, have been married 40 years. They live in Medfield with several rescue cats from an animal shelter where they both hope to volunteer upon retirement. He also looks forward to time for his lifelong love of birding and music, singing in a Baroque and pre-Baroque musical ensemble, and plans to join a community theater group. No matter what, Crispell is grateful for the opportunity to serve.
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those of a certain age may remember the sci-fi thriller *Fantastic Voyage* about a scientific crew in a sub shrunken to such a tiny size that it could be injected into a person’s bloodstream. Let’s imagine another fantastic voyage: We’re in a sub miniaturized to fit into a drop of water.

Now we can explore why the water crisis that beset Flint, Michigan won’t happen here. We’re going to float in this drop of water from its source to our faucets.

For Wellesley residents, that source could be as close as a local well or as far away as Quabbin Reservoir, some 65 miles to the west. For everyone supplied by the town of Weston, the source is the Quabbin.

The Quabbin was created to supplement the Wachusett Reservoir, which is two decades older and about 30 miles closer to Boston. The two reservoirs supply the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), which serves 61 Boston-area communities—2.5 million people in all.

Many have probably heard the story of how in the 1930s, 2,500 residents in four towns and 7,613 bodies in 34 cemeteries were moved from the Swift River Valley to make way for the Quabbin Reservoir. Everything—stores, houses, hotels, stables, and trees—was leveled, carted away, or burned (don’t believe those tales of underwater church steeples) before the valley was flooded. When it opened in the 1940s,
The Quabbin was the largest human-made reservoir in the world. Covering 25,000 acres, it's the largest body of water in the state. We'll start our journey there.

With its two main forks, numerous islands, and craggy shoreline, the Quabbin on a map looks like an image from a Rorschach Test. From the visitor center (a great resource for historians and naturalists alike) at its southern end in Belchertown, the view is of pristine water, tree-covered hills, and soaring birds (watch for a bald eagle).

Keeping contaminants from trickling into the Quabbin is the job of the State Department of Conservation and Recreation. The watershed is 70 percent development-free, and most of it is owned by the state. Private land is subject to strict environmental regulations. Even private boats are inspected before they can be taken out on the water; otherwise, invasive species could contaminate the water and clog the tunnels and pipes.

Watershed protections are in place at Wachusett as well. There the biggest problem is storm-water runoff from nearby roads, which the state is now addressing with a series of diversion projections.

Since 9/11, the state has stepped up security around the reservoirs, closing off a causeway to traffic, setting up surveillance cameras, and implementing other measures that the authorities understandably prefer not to discuss.
As a result of these efforts to keep the reservoirs clean, the MWRA is one of five large water suppliers in the nation exempt from federal requirements for a water-filtration plant.

Now let’s take the plunge. Look through the portholes and notice how clear the water is. It circulates here for months, shedding sediment, and basking in the disinfecting ultraviolet light of the sun. We may spot fish, including trout, bass, and salmon. Fishing, but not swimming, is allowed in the Quabbin.

About 90 feet below the surface, on the southeast side of the Quabbin, we enter the Quabbin Aqueduct for our 24.6-mile trip to the Wachusett Reservoir. The concrete-encased tunnel is 11 feet wide by just under 13 feet high, which is comparable to other aqueducts and tunnels we’ll pass through. Our sub doesn’t need an engine; gravity is on our side. The tunnel’s exit is 135 feet lower in elevation than its entrance. Our travel time: 18 hours on average.

The Oakdale hydropower station harnesses the energy of the water as it streams into the Wachusett. It’s located in West Boylston at the northwest edge of the V-shaped reservoir. We’ll circulate in the Wachusett for a month before exiting some five miles to the west in Clinton at the Cosgrove intake station, which also has a power turbine.

It’s a good thing that our sub is so tiny, because the intake tunnels located 70 feet below the water’s surface are protected by wire mesh that blocks anything larger than a quarter-inch square. An automated rotation system periodically pulls the screens to the surface, where they are blasted with water to remove accumulated twigs, leaves, and the occasional mashed fish.

Once inside the Cosgrove station, we won’t see daylight until someone turns on a faucet.

After doing our part to propel the energy turbine, we’ll take an abrupt, 300-foot stomach-flipping drop to the 9-mile tunnel leading down to the John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant in Marlborough. Carroll, the long-time town manager of Norwood, has served on the MWRA board since that authority was established in 1985.

Now let’s hope our sub is truly watertight and heavy-duty. The treatment center will subject us to roller-coaster gyrations, blasts of bubbles, repeated swings through serpentine tunnels, intense light rays, and a series of chemical baths. All of this activity takes place below ground level and out of view of treatment staff. All of the systems are automated and monitored by computer in a second-story control room.

The plant employs two processes to eradicate pathogens like giardia: ozone and ultraviolet light. In massive stainless steel chambers, oxygen gas is zapped with electric current. That process creates ozone, which consists of molecules containing three atoms of oxygen. The gas is piped below the water channels and then released through ceramic
The trip through the treatment plant concludes with three rounds of chemical inoculations.

To prevent new organisms from growing in the water, it is injected first with chlorine and then with ammonia. The chemicals mix to form monochloramine. This combination is better than chlorine alone because it’s less aggressive than chlorine and more stable. That means the water won’t smell like a swimming pool and the disinfecting protection will reach all the way to Marblehead and Quincy at the far ends of the MWRA system.

Fluoride is also added to the water, which makes our teeth more resistant to decay.

To protect the pipes, soda ash is injected into the water, raising the pH level and making water less acidic. Without this adjustment, the water could corrode pipes, causing them to leach lead, copper, or iron into the drinking supply. When Flint decided to draw water from its river rather than tap into Detroit’s system, officials failed at first to treat it with anti-corrosive chemicals. The lead in the city’s drinking water derived from aging pipes, not the river. MWRA and community-
To protect the pipes, soda ash is injected into the water, raising the pH level and making water less acidic.
Before we enter Wellesley’s water supply, our sub will be scrubbed, filtered, and anointed with protective chemicals at one of the town’s three treatment plants.

owned water lines, by the way, are made out of iron, steel, or concrete; the only time the water may come into contact with lead is through pipes, soldered joints, or brass fixtures within your household plumbing system.

The last leg of our sub’s journey will be by one of two routes: the 1940s-era Hultman Aqueduct or the MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel, which opened in 2003. The Hultman runs closer to the surface; the MetroWest descends as deep as 500 feet. At the entrance of each tunnel, the water passes through storage tanks. Together, these tanks provide 44 million gallons of backup should the treatment plant temporarily shut down.

Running parallel, roughly along the Mass Pike, the waterways meet 18 miles east at the Norumbega Covered Storage Tank in Weston. Located underground, the concrete-encased tank is 25 feet deep, covers 17 acres and holds 116 million gallons of water. From here, water mains fan out to serve Greater Boston. The Norumbega tank, supplemented by smaller storage facilities around the city, contains enough water to supply residents for one day.

But communities west of Route 128, including Wellesley and Weston, tap into the supply lines before they reach Norumbega.

Wellesley: Let’s Go to the Well

If you live in Wellesley, where you get your water depends on the time of year. In summer, when demand more than doubles to as much as 5 million gallons a day, the town supplements its own supply with that of the MWRA. In winter, the town relies on two aquifers. They are tapped by a total of 10 wells, each consisting of a perforated pipe, 2 feet wide and 50-60 feet deep. The town owns the property immediately around the wells. People who live within the watersheds of the aquifers must abide by special land-use rules.

An aquifer consists of gravel and stone permeated with water that originally fell as rain or seeped in from nearby brooks or ponds (Morses Pond is near one of the aquifers). If our
sub starts out in the aquifer, we'll eventually be drawn through a hole in the well shaft and then pumped to the surface.

You would think that coming from underground, the water would be safe for use. But while untainted by infectious agents like those that the MWRA eradicates at its Carroll treatment plant, the well water does contain minerals such as iron and manganese that it picks up as it seeps through the ground. These minerals are the ingredients of hard water, which can taste foul and stain sinks, toilets, and laundry.

Before we enter Wellesley's water supply, our sub will be scrubbed, filtered, and anointed with protective chemicals at one of the town’s three treatment plants. At the first stage, the water is prepped with bleaching agents that promote distillation of the minerals. Then it enters a vertical steel tank, trickling down through layers of anthracite, green sand, and garnet sand that absorb 95 percent of the minerals.

Next, the water is doused with fluoride (must keep those teeth healthy!) and plunged into an aeration tank. The turbulence removes carbon dioxide, which otherwise would combine with the water to form carbonic acid. As you may recall, acidic water is corrosive, and corrosion can cause dangerous stuff like...
lead to leach from pipes. While Wellesley’s mains are lead-free, that’s not always the case with indoor plumbing.

Our sub will endure one last chemical bath: the addition of hypochlorite (chlorine and oxygen). After sitting for a while in a tank to allow the disinfectant to take hold, the water is released into the town’s 150 miles of pipe. Depending on the demand for water, our sub may plop out of a faucet within hours, or we could wind up spending the night in one of the town’s four underground concrete storage tanks. Filling up at night, when water use is low, the tanks can hold a total of 6 million gallons. In the morning, when everyone is running their showers and filling their coffee machines, the water flows back into the pipeline. Since the reservoirs are on high ground, the pressure comes courtesy of gravity.

The water system is designed to be sealed off from any potential contaminants. But nothing is foolproof. Every week, water is sent to labs for testing from nine sites around town. One week in August 2014, technicians found bacteria in several samples, indicating something foul in the water. As a precaution, residents throughout town were ordered to boil their drinking water. After several days, water officials tracked the source of the problem to one of the reservoir tanks. It was isolated from the main water system, drained, and cleaned. The workers turned up a mouse.

How did a mouse get into the system? For cleaning and monitoring purposes, all tanks can be accessed through hatches. In the wake of 9/11, a hatch for this particular tank was buried several feet below the surface. The security measure may have thwarted terrorists,

SAFETY MEASURES

Although he plays a key role in keeping Greater Boston running, David Coppes doesn’t expect anyone to notice.

“You turn your tap on, and the water is always there,” said Coppes, director of water works for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). “It’s always clean. It always tastes good. So you don’t think about it.”

In the wake of the nightmare news out of Flint, Michigan, I asked Coppes to take me on a tour of the MWRA’s reservoirs and treatment plant.

A veteran Peace Corps volunteer—he helped bring water to a remote village in Yemen—Coppes comes across more like an Appalachian Mountain Club guide than a government bureaucrat.

He is one of five former Peace Corps volunteers among the top ranks at the MWRA. It’s a place where they can still feel like they’re making a difference, he said. “People understand the importance of what we do. If something is not right and needs fixing, it’s amazing how people step up,” Coppes said. “It’s really fun to be part of an organization that is mission driven.”

It wasn’t so fun six years ago, though, when a leak sprung in the MetroWest tunnel, spurring the governor to declare an emergency and to warn residents to boil their water. Ironically, the tunnel had been opened less than a decade before to provide Boston a second supply line from its reservoir system. At the time of the burst, the other line, Hultman Aqueduct, was closed for a major overhaul.

Redundancy is the mantra at the MWRA. The John J. Carroll Water Treatment plant in Marlborough has enough excess capacity that half of it can be shut down at a time for maintenance and repairs in winter. The key disinfecting systems—ozone and ultraviolet light—each have spare units.

The water system as a whole can produce 300 million gallons a day, which is 50 percent higher than typical demand.

The MWRA samples water quality at the treatment plant multiple times a day. Staff members call every municipality weekly to ask about complaints. “You don’t want problems sneaking up on you,” Coppes said. “If your water is objectionable, has some flaw in it, people won’t trust you. The next thing you know, you have a Michigan situation.”
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but not a persistent rodent, which found a spot where the hatch had deteriorated. Wellesley’s water and sewer superintendent, William Shaughnessy, said the problem was fixed and other hatches inspected. He expressed confidence that a similar incident would not recur. Shaughnessy said the boil order was the first in his 20 years with the water department.

**Weston: Take a Sharp Left**

Shortly before we reach the Norumbega underground storage tank, our sub will take a sharp left into the water main that supplies Weston. Just on the other side of the Mass Pike, the 16-inch main enters the basement of Weston’s small pumping station.

To reach all the way through the town’s 106 miles of mains and its three elevated storage tanks, the water pressure has to be more than doubled. Three pumps are available to do the job. Only one is needed...
in winter, when water use averages a million gallons a day. But in summer, two often chug away as all those water sprinklers and swimming pools triple demand. The third serves as a backup.

The trip through the water pump isn’t for anyone who suffers from vertigo. Water pressure is increased through the spinning motion of centrifugal force.

Once up to speed, we’re propelled into the water system. If demand is low, we could end up in one of the storage tanks for a spell. They can hold a total of 2.7 million gallons. Unlike in Wellesley, where topography varies enough for underground tanks at high elevations, Weston relies on elevated outdoor tanks. That way, when demand increases in the morning, gravity tugs water back into the system.

You’d think that the pressure would be highest near a tower, but as Weston’s water superintendent, David L. Fava, points out, the pressure rises as the flow gains momentum.

Since its water comes straight from the MWRA, Weston typically does not have to treat it. However, sensors at the pumping station do monitor the levels of monochloramine. An alarm is triggered if the level falls. If necessary, the MWRA can deploy a portable disinfectant system.

Water is tested for bacteria at five sites around town every week. In addition, Fava and his crew regularly monitor the pumps, water pressure levels, and reservoir tank levels.

The water crew inspects the vents and overflow outlets of the reservoir tanks monthly to make sure screens are in place so no birds or other critters can get in. Our fantastic voyage has now come to an end, but it’s good to know that the work to keep our water safe and clean goes on.
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Women Helping Each Other Survive and Even Thrive After Divorce

LISA LESLIE HENDERSON writer

local organization Jane Does Well specializes in “sistering.” The verb “sistering” originated in the construction industry and refers to the process by which a joist—a wooden or steel beam that typically supports a floor or ceiling—is strengthened. By attaching a new piece of frame to the original joist, builders can double the joist’s capacity, enabling it to withstand a heavier load. Similarly, Jane Does Well uses sistering to strengthen women going through the divorce process. The positive support provided by its community of women who have been there, combined with its vetted network of trusted divorce professionals and regular events and communications, enables women to thrive, not just survive, divorce.

“Divorce is one of the most traumatic experiences anyone can go through,” explains Christina Pavlina, co-founder of Jane Does Well. Pavlina speaks from experience. When she found herself in the divorce process five years ago, she felt as if she was living a nightmare. “I was completely undone—I didn’t know how I would get through the next hour, much less the whole day.”

Divorce ushers in a time of intense emotional and financial upheaval that can leave even the most together woman feeling undone. As relationships change, the loss is often overwhelming. Imagine that your spouse, the partner with whom you thought you would share a lifetime of dreams and experiences, is no longer there for you. Perhaps someone else has already replaced you. Or maybe there is someone new in your life. Whatever the case, it’s a
major change in plans where the impact extends far beyond the two of you. Your children are hurt by the seismic shake-up of their world and rather than being able to protect them from it, you are a party to it. The family that you have nurtured is no longer together; many nights you are not able to put your children to bed or see them off to school in the morning. Holidays can be difficult as you find yourself left out of the “family” celebrations that you used to organize. Friends often disappear or take sides and sometimes your own family is hurt and doesn’t understand or know how to support you. Your financial future is uncertain as you contemplate dividing assets and funding two households. A profound sense of isolation stems from the realization that your future, and perhaps that of your children, is entirely up to you.

However, devastation does not have to be the end of the story—it certainly has not been for Pavlina. “Divorce presents an opportunity for profound personal transformation,” Pavlina explains. “It is an invitation to discover the depth of your strength and courage—to create a highly satisfying and authentic life for yourself, and be proud of YOU.”

Let’s be clear, Pavlina is not promoting divorce. “If you can salvage your marriage, do it,” Pavlina says. “Think about it very carefully and give yourselves time. If you decide divorce is the right choice, then know it will be much harder if you try to go it alone.” You need sistering.

“A girlfriend of mine took my hand and continuously reassured me that we were going to go through my divorce together,” Paulina recalls. “She got me out of bed some mornings, went with me to see my lawyer, and helped me manage the constant flow of ups and downs until I could stand on my own feet. Having been through divorce herself, she was daily proof that I would eventually feel whole again.”

Convinced of the power of sistering, Pavlina began to reach out to other women in Wellesley and Weston who were divorcing to offer her support. One of them was her friend and neighbor, Sue Kisiday, who took a year to return her phone calls. “Denial is a powerful thing,” Kisiday explains.

Sistering proved to be healing balm for both. “Sistering led me on the path to the light at the end of the tunnel,” Kisiday explains. “I highly recommend seeking sistering early in the process—it’s both comforting and inspiring to learn from someone who has come through the process and is on the other side. It helped me understand what was ahead and how to best prepare myself.”

Similarly, Pavlina offers, “There is no better feeling than to make a difference in a woman’s life when she is undergoing divorce. I appre-
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“While divorce may bring an end to the life they have known, it can also be the beginning of something wonderful.”

By providing friendship and support where needed, I feel I have turned my own negative experience into something positive.”

This past year the duo formalized the sistering process by creating Jane Does Well, a digital and physical community of divorced or divorcing women in Greater Boston. Today more than 60 women comprise this healing community. Every month members are invited to participate in multiple social and educational events where they can connect with others and learn. Weekly communications provide insight and inspiration, and “Jane’s List” offers names of vetted local divorce professionals. Soon women will be
The Who, What, and Why of Divorce

Some Divorce Facts

- AFTER MORE THAN A CENTURY of rising divorce rates, during the last 30 years rates have been declining. If current trends continue, Justin Wolfers, a University of Michigan economist, estimates that nearly two-thirds of marriages will not end in divorce.
- ABOUT 25 PERCENT of all divorces in the United States are between couples over the age of 50. According to a study conducted by the American Association of Retired Persons, the top causes for women-initiated divorces were physical or emotional abuse, infidelity, or drug or alcohol addiction. For men, the most common reasons stated included falling out of love or believing that they had different values or lifestyle wishes than their spouses. Motivated by a concern that they would lose touch with their children in a divorce, men were more likely to prolong a difficult marriage than women.
- DIVORCE CAN BE DEVASTATING at any age. However, when it happens later in life, it can have a profound financial impact on a woman and negatively affect her ability to retire,” explains certified divorce financial analyst and Weston-resident Gabrielle Clemens who specializes in working with divorcing individuals. “By developing a comprehensive understanding of her individual and marital assets, liabilities, and financial needs, a woman can empower herself to make smart and sustainable short- and long-term financial decisions. To be successful, she needs to create and follow a realistic budget and financial plan. With proper planning, she can face the future with confidence.” In the end, Clemens cautions, “marriage is about love; divorce is about money.”

able to ask and answers each other’s questions virtually through JaneDoesWell.org.

“We try to offer events, experiences, and information that will help women at each stage of the divorce process, from the initial request, through the legal process itself, and on to life beyond,” Kisiday explains.
One new member recalls how comforted she felt by the women at the first Jane Does Well dinner she attended, “When my husband announced that he wanted a divorce, I was completely blindsided,” she recalls. “Several women sat with me at dinner that night and listened to my story. Although I cried all the way home about being eligible for this group, I held on to their reassurances that I would be okay—and their phone numbers!”

Educational events including group discussions with local divorce attorneys and financial planners have helped new members understand what the divorce process entails and the types of professionals who make sense for their “divorce team.” Women who have been around for a while continue to find value in these evenings. “We can always use free advice from a divorce attorney,” Pavlina chuckles. Other events on the calendar include an evening with an online dating specialist, an expert on spiritual nourishment during change and adversity, and a leader in mindfulness meditation.

Growth in Jane Does Well has been organic—a friend mentions Jane Does Well to another friend who is in need. Women come from many different communities, and represent a variety of professions and circumstances. Some, having initiated their divorce, are plaintiffs in their case; others are defendants. Members span life stages, although the majority of women are approaching mid-life. Some are even remarried!

“Women remain in our community, even when they remarry,” Pavlina says. “They have made great friends and love to help others. Plus we have a great time together. My married friend refers to this group as my fun friends!”

Why did Pavlina and Kisiday choose the name Jane Does Well for the community? “Jane” is a nod to the pseudonym Jane Doe and acknowledges that divorce can happen to anyone. “Does well,” reflects the most frequent question women ask at the onset of divorce: Will I be okay?

“We wanted to reassure women, in our name and in the experiences that we offer, that life doesn’t end with divorce,” Kisiday explains. “While divorce may bring an end to the life they have known, it can also be the beginning of something wonderful.”
MARK MCDONOUGH
Mark has been an active residential realtor for the past 8 years in Needham and surrounding communities. Previously, he worked for 24 years in the financial services industry managing sales operations. He is a lifelong resident of Needham and is active in town government and has a broad knowledge of the town and its neighborhoods. He is the President of the Needham Exchange Club, a privately funded charity that supports scholarship for the youth of the town, provides activities for seniors and sponsors community wide events like the 4th of July fireworks and the annual Oktoberfest.
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if you have ever traveled down Boston Post Road (Route 20) in Wayland, you’ve undoubtedly noticed the Islamic Center of Boston (ICB) and Temple Shir Tikva diagonally across the street, only a few hundred feet apart.

Perhaps, as you have passed by, you have also hoped that the Muslim and Jewish houses of worship are taking advantage of their proximity to create bonds between the two communities. For, sadly, much of what we hear in the news is about the seemingly endless Arab/Israeli conflict in the Middle East and errant acts of terrorism around the world by religious extremists.

Building interfaith bridges is precisely the goal of Neighbor to Neighbor, founded in 2009 by Joyce Pastor, a Weston resident, long-time member of Shir Tikva, and one of the founders of another like-minded, nonprofit organization, the Weston-Wayland Interfaith Action Group. The group brings together women from the mosque and the synagogue to build friendship, understanding, and respect through shared experiences. Joyce explains her motivation: “I am all about relationships. I believe relationships are the key to making the world a better place.”
Sharing Sparks Understanding

The women typically gather in one another’s homes. With potluck dish in hand, they share family specialties, such as couscous and lamb, kugel, borscht, rice with lentils, fried pakoras, baklava, and rugelach. The women also bring a treasured object from their culture: perhaps a family photograph, a handwritten letter, an heirloom, a piece of jewelry, a ritual object, a book, or an article of clothing.

Sheila Rosalyn Deitchman, co-organizer of Neighbor to Neighbor, describes how participants form a circle to share personal stories and meaningful objects reflecting their respective traditions. Sheila, who joined Shir Tikva the very day before 9/11 and proudly serves as the synagogue’s go-to Torah chanter, finds that the “show and tell” experience is a perfect way to spark free-flowing conversation and to uncover similarities between Judaism and Islam. “We don’t come to these gatherings to get our personal point of view across. Nobody has an agenda. Everyone listens wholeheartedly without judgment,” explains Sheila.

At a recent Neighbor to Neighbor gathering at the home of award-winning children’s book author and retired elementary school teacher Farhana Zia, several of the women shared poetry. Joyce distributed copies of a poem written by Elie Mangoubi, a psychiatrist and Egyptian Jew living in the United States, so the women could follow along as she read the poem aloud to the group. All were struck by how Mangoubi’s words express their own reverence for the unity of humankind. At the
prior gathering, the women listened to Farhana share themes from her novel—*The Garden of My Imaan*—about a fifth grade Muslim girl looking to fit in at her school in New England. The book reflects themes that are relevant to the group, such as assimilation, racism, tolerance, and belonging. Many of the Muslim Neighbor to Neighbor members are first-generation Americans; many of the Jewish members are children of immigrants.

In addition to sharing food and treasured items, the women participate in service and cultural activities together, as well. For example, this fall they served dinner at Pearl Street Cupboard & Café in Framingham to guests who were hungry or in need of community. And they came together at the ICB to watch and discuss the award-winning film *David* about a Muslim boy in Brooklyn struggling to find his place in the world while concealing his identity and inadvertently befriending a group of Jewish boys.

**Alike and Diverse at the Same Time**

Muslims and Jews actually have much in common. The monotheistic belief of Islam—“God is One”—is consistent with Judaism’s, expressed in Deuteronomy 6:4–9 and the central Shema prayer—"Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God, The Lord is One." Both religions are organized around laws and both share the values of prayer, pilgrimage, charity, family responsibility, fasting, tolerance, and more. A Muslim participant in Neighbor to Neighbor points out a fundamental bond, stating, “Every day we pray five times to Abraham, the patriarch of Judaism and Islam, and his descendants.”

Mary Lahaj, a Muslim of Syrian/Lebanese descent, grew up knowing little about her faith. During her youth there was no mosque to worship at in New England and no community of Muslims anywhere near her hometown of Weymouth. But as an adult, Mary was spiritually driven to learn more. In the 1980s, Mary worked as a secretary at the first mosque in New England — located in Quincy, and founded in 1964 by her parents and grandparents while she lived out of state. Serendipitously, while employed at the mosque, Mary came across a brochure from the Hartford Seminary promoting interfaith education. At the seminary’s Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, the country’s oldest center of its kind, Mary earned a master’s degree and became a chaplain and cultural and interfaith consultant.
“Just as I started understanding and embracing Islam, the world was being introduced to Muslims as terrorists—first through coverage of the 1979 Iranian Revolution and then, in the ’80s, through reports of Muslim extremists hijacking airplanes. People did not see the difference between one Muslim and another. Sometimes I was afraid to leave my house because a Muslim fanatic murdered a person in Paris,” explains Mary. “People near our mosque worried, ‘Are you these people?’”

“Just as after 9/11, we needed then to build bonds with other faiths,” describes Mary as the motivation for her career and her current interest in Neighbor to Neighbor.

Weston resident Melanie Kucherlapati, a researcher in cancer genetics and a member of Shir Tikva, joined the group in the spirit of tikkun olam—Hebrew for “healing the world.” “The time a person receives from another and gives in return is a mutual gift,” expresses Melanie. “People are people” is a simple observation made by a fellow Neighbor to Neighbor participant, Thoraya Benotmane. “Perhaps if we focused on this, the world would be a more peaceful place.”

Thoraya was raised and educated in Meknes, Morocco. After meeting her husband-to-be in Casablanca, a quick courtship, and a six-month wait for her visa, she moved to the United States to join him. Thoraya considers her journey a “triple immigration”… “I came to Boston not speaking English and soon after gave birth to a son who is deaf, so I learned English and American Sign Language at the same time. Also, while Jews have lived in Morocco throughout history, in school we were never taught anything about Judaism. It wasn’t until I emigrated that I got this chance.” Thoraya elaborates, “I wish the world would stop judging and people of all faiths would get to know one another before labeling and stereotyping. Groups like Neighbor to Neighbor help build a new culture of interfaith acceptance and bring amity to the world. We are all tired of messages of hate and political agendas.”

Another ICB member and Neighbor to Neighbor participant, Nazda Alam of Weston, was also drawn to Neighbor to Neighbor for an opportunity to pursue peace in the world. Nazda moved to the United States from Bangladesh with her husband and their one-and-a-half-year-old daughter in 1982 to attend graduate school in Houston. Currently a social worker with
the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, a member of the Democratic State Committee, a chair of the National Muslim Voter Registration Project in Massachusetts, and an advocate for women and interfaith understanding, she works to showcase Bangladesh as a global peacemaker in Muslim countries in the Middle East and returns to her native country every year to perform humanitarian work.

Nazda was one of the organizers of the interfaith rally held on Boston Common in January 2015 to demonstrate solidarity with

**Three Children from the same G-d**

*(translated from French)*

April 19, 2015 | Elie Mangoubi

Three children from the same good G-d

Who in six days created the skies

The world and who sent us

The rules of life.

Moses, after freeing the Israelites

From slavery said that in order to be happy

One must follow the rules of moral laws

That will provide peace on earth

In the heart of the Ten Commandments

That we need to follow at all times.

Jesus, taught us the importance

Of love and to reject violence

Ignorance causes the fear

And makes us repeat the same mistakes.

Mohamed emphasizes in his message of the Koran advises us to turn the page

On the past, to build a new world

Under the laws from the sky above

To reach Paradise at Eternity.

The children from one same G-d who from

The creation of the world make much noise

While fighting and killing, forgetting

The love and the lesson of the Ten Commandments.
the victims of the Charlie Hebdo shooting in Paris and against violence anywhere. Nazda and her co-organizers—Reverend Dr. Frederick Moser, rector of Church of the Holy Spirit in Wayland; Eileen Zalisk and Merna Victor, of Lexington, and Wright Salisbury, also from Lexington (who lives in Paris)—explained to The Boston Globe that their goal was to raise an interfaith voice against radicalism in any form, as well as against racism and anti-Semitism in France, in the United States, and around the world.

Greetings of Peace: As-salamu Alaykum, Shalom Aleichem

If only people of all faiths would heed the words and follow the actions of the women of Neighbor to Neighbor, the world would be a more peaceful place for all.

Thoraya advises, ”We need to remind people that we are all from the same big family.” She continues, “I feel as if the Neighbor to Neighbor women are distant cousins whom I just met”

Melanie agrees: “The lives we are all living are surprisingly similar.”

Nazda conveys her belief in the oneness of humanity this way: ”Religions do not separate the roles, aspirations, and hopes of women.”

“Recognizing yourself in each person you encounter, panim el panim, face to face,” is how Sheila expresses her hope for Neighbor to Neighbor and for all humankind.

May it be so.
Wedding Advice

CHERYL FENTON writer
Tip #1
START YOUR BEAUTY STEPS EARLY.

With a wedding timeline, everyone has thoughts on when to pick your dress, cake, music, and location. But what about the smaller (yet still important) details, like your beauty treatments? A facial too close to the day could mean blemishes. Schedule one too far away, and you won’t see the benefits.

Skin Care Expert and Medical Esthetician Samantha Terrio at Bella Santé in Wellesley tells her brides that beautiful skin should start long before you say “I do.”

“To help obtain that luminous glow every bride strives for on her special day, she should start a skin routine a year before,” she says. Translation: right after he pops the question, start working on your skin care options.

“It’s best to get advice on a home-care routine from an esthetician, who can take the guess work out of the equation to avoid drying, irritating, or overactive oil pro-

not everyone has a crystal ball at his or her disposal—although it certainly would come in handy while you’re planning for your wedding.

When hosting your family and friends for your Big Day celebration, the last thing you want to run into is a case of “coulda, shoulda, woulda”. But no one hands you a manual to achieve the perfect wedding, and no one has the ultimate advice. Or do they?

We asked five local experts (former brides and beauty gurus) what they wish someone had told them before their nuptials. Here are their tips for Big Day success. Because if there’s anyone who knows something about planning, it’s someone who has planned a wedding.
duction,” she continues. “Remember if you’re not using proper products at home, you’re not going to see all the benefits from your facial treatments.”

And by facial treatments, she means monthly facials, which she considers the best way for a bride to keep skin healthy and clear amid all the stress that nuptial planning can cause.

Six months to a year before walking down the aisle, Terrio suggests scheduling a skin analysis to discuss areas of concern and the right plan for you. Remember complexions can be complex, so you want to treat them as such for the best outcome on your wedding day.

Terrio warns against doing anything aggressive in the month to few weeks before the Big Day. Instead choose soothing, hydrating, non-invasive resurfacing treatments to avoid unnecessary irritation.

The week leading up to their weddings, she advises brides to have a dermaplaning treatment, a gentle resurfacing that removes two to three weeks worth of dead skin as well as peach fuzz. When coupled with a hydrafacial, which infuses fresh new skin with potent antioxidants and hyaluronic acid, skin is hydrated to the highest degree.

“You skin will be smooth and dewy with clear pores, and your makeup will look flawless because you have a beautiful canvas,” she says.

Tip #2

DO YOUR BEST TO STAY ON A BUDGET.

With a career in business development at an e-commerce start up in New York City, Wellesley native Halley Morrissey has to focus every day on pursuing opportunities for long-term growth.

When it came time to plan her wedding, her thought process didn’t change. She put her skill set to work for the June 27, 2015, Big Day. She and her then-fiancé Michael Verrelli wanted their casually classic, New England celebration at Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, Connecticut to speak volumes, not cost volumes.

“Throwing a big party is amazing, but it’s not an investment with an upside. It’s a financial loss,” warns Morrissey. “Ask yourself: ‘how can I throw the best party while respecting our long-term financial goals and most importantly, our values?’”

The couple let their budget rule their planning, deciding where to spend and where to spare.

“Do a breakdown at the outset of your budget by sub-category, then increase or decrease sub-category budgets based on your personal priorities,” she explains. For example, more money spent on your photographer and DJ means less on stationery and a dress.
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Wedding Advice

They also took some matters like the flowers into their own hands—a laid-back, non-crafty approach that kept the focus on the love, not the expensive bill. “I’d say we’re not DIY types, but we did it ourselves,” she says.

She suggests skipping the typical expenses that the wedding industry leads brides to believe are must-haves such as the engagement photo shoot, welcome gift bags, wedding favors, photo booths, etc. “Keep it simple. Keep it all about the love that everyone is there to celebrate,” she suggests.

Also think about forgoing a bridal party. “You’ll save on giving your friends presents, subsidizing their bridal gowns or groomsmen suits, buying their bouquets and boutonnieres, and paying for their day of hair and makeup—and a whole lot time spent coordinating,” she explains. “For our wedding, it was just Mike and me, surrounded by everyone we love.”

“Being analytical about how you spend your dollars will keep you on track and ultimately all decision-making will be easier on you and your husband-to-be,” she adds. “Your budget has all the answers.”

Tip #3
INCORPORATE RITUALS WHILE ALSO PUTTING YOUR OWN STAMP ON THE DAY.

The gown is tailored; the tuxedo altered. The menu is created to suit distinctive tastes. With all of these custom-made notions blending for the perfect day, shouldn’t the actual ceremony follow suit? Rebecca Zeidel
and Benjamin Towbin, now Cambridge residents, showed that it’s possible to take traditional themes and spin them to speak to whom you are as a couple.

This is precisely how they approached their garden party wedding at Massachusetts Horticultural Society’s Gardens at Elm Bank in Wellesley.

“We did things in a way that fit us, but also took serious the Jewish law,” Zeidel says of the couple’s egalitarian Jewish wedding.

“It was very clear that the rituals were totally our call with our rabbi. It wasn’t a source of conflict, and we were lucky in that regard. She helped us think through a lot of ways we could do things,” Zeidel continues.

The couple enlisted the advice of friends on how to put the pieces together. Then they found Rabbi Jane Kanarek, who was “on the
same page” as them and found inspiration as they made the day the way they wanted it.

Forgoing the traditional gender-segregated, pre-ceremony celebration, they each had a gathering with male and female friends and family in attendance in separate gardens at Elm Bank.

Then they “flipped it,” says Zeidel. Rather than Towbin having a tisch (the groom’s traditional pre-wedding reception), Zeidel had her own. She sat at a table, gave a short speech, and was interrupted by singing.

“I liked the idea of everyone literally gathered around me in a circle, starting in separate spaces and then coming together,” she explains. “I was danced up to Ben, while he walked across a lawn area to meet me.” This stroll through the field is a nod to the Biblical story of Rebecca who meets her future husband Isaac outside. “We thought that fit us a little better.”

Historically, the ketubah (marriage contract) is signed at the groom’s tisch, before the bedeken (the veiling of the bride). For the couple, it was important for both to be present, as this affected both husband and wife. Rabbi Kanarek guided the couple through a ritual to join their lives and formalize commitments to each other.

“We’re Jewish, and our wedding reflected the importance that Jewish ritual and practice holds in our lives,” says Zeidel. “The ritual aspects of the wedding were some of the most important to us.”

**Tip #4**

**STAND YOUR GROUND.**

“What’s exciting about weddings right now is that people are having fun making their day unique to them and not necessarily doing what is expected or traditional,” says Zoë Chatfield-Taylor, merchandising and marketing manager as well as namesake for NIC+ZOE apparel.

When she married her Weston High School sweetheart Evan Korsmeyer on her mother’s farm in South Dartmouth on September 12, 2015, their wedding didn’t follow tradition at all. And that was exactly what they wanted. One of their best friends from high school, Colin Igoe, married the couple. The bridesmaids wore white. They traded in floral arrangements for succulents on the tables and tossed the cake for mom-made peanut butter and chocolate chip “Sweetie Balls” and mocha chocolate chip cookies.

A hurdle the couple faced was proving they could make even made the idea of reception food trucks work.

“We decided early on that the best part of a wedding is the cocktail hour,” she remembers. “Because of this, we didn’t want an overly formal sit-down dinner. Instead we opted for food trucks and just sat after the cocktail hour for speeches. Then everyone was free to continue mingling and chatting.”
Guests enjoyed melty goodness from Roxy’s Grilled Cheese, specialty sandwiches from Pennypackers, and family-style quinoa arugula salad and succotash at the tables.

“What I learned throughout this is that sometimes people like tradition because it is proven,” she explains. But that doesn’t matter if tradition isn’t for you. “There was pushback at different times and even from us wondering if we made the right decision. Like if your decision to have RSVPs emailed rather than the mail back card was the right one. But if it is something you feel strongly about, stick to it.”

Regardless of the advice you take or leave, your Big Day should be exactly that—your Big Day.

“You’re the ones getting married and the day should be a representation of you and your partner,” says Chatfield-Taylor. “Eventually all of the decisions you were stressing about turn into an incredible day.”
When Army Battalion Executive Officer Major Julie “Julz” MacKnyght was planning her Wellesley wedding to Shaun Werner back in 2011, she was a little preoccupied.

Then known as Captain Perry and serving as headquarters troop commander for Task Force ODIN V, she was stationed in Iraq, dealing with 120 soldiers, sandstorms, and traveling to both Baghdad and Mosul bi-monthly. Not exactly a place where linens, bridesmaids gowns, and bridal registries fit easily into daily chitchat.

above: Julie and Shaun MacKnyght
It was now up to MacKnyght to let others take the lead when it came to arranging their special day celebration—a piece of advice she gifts to future brides. “Let people help you,” says MacKnyght, the last name the couple took after their marriage.

“This was especially important for our second wedding in 2011, as most of the major details and decisions happened while I was in Iraq,” she explains. Although the couple had already had a simple civil ceremony on horseback at Tarrant Ranch in Texas in October 2009, their “blessing ceremony” at the Babson College chapel and reception at the Wellesley Country Club marked the official starting point as a married couple.

Other than lots of emails, the bride had to trust her mom and grandmother to do the legwork, send her information, and move full speed ahead on things once she made key decisions. While some might shudder at the thought of this hands-off approach, MacKnyght welcomed it.

“It was honestly a relief,” she explains. “Delegation, and letting go, really helped me enjoy my wedding and not be so stressed out,” she says. “A bride should be able to fully be in the moment on her day and enjoy each part of it, rather than worrying about details. I am very much a type-A personality, normally the one who’s in charge and making everything happen. But for this, it was such a luxury for me to be able to take a back seat and let other people drive.”
fifty years ago, when Lyndon B. Johnson was still president and gas was only 32 cents a gallon, Walter (Wally) Mulcahy was a spry high school student looking for a job. His uncle, Alden Whittemore, (grandson of B.L. Ogilvie, founder of B.L. Ogilvie & Sons Hardware Store on Warren Avenue in Weston) was willing to take Wally on with no experience at all. “He ran a tight ship,” Wally says. “But if you stuck with his rules you were fine.”

Wally was given tedious, menial jobs that only required common sense. But he was happy just to be employed. His first assignment was to spend hours lifting firewood onto a conveyor belt. He also delivered coal. “I was there to unload the very last trainload of coal in the late 1960s,” Wally proudly shares. “Delivering was a dirty job. I would hold a two-foot-wide sack over my shoulder near the truck while a lever was lifted and coal fell into the sack. Next I’d lug it to the house near a small basement window, drop to my knees, and send it down into the coal bin.”

After graduating in 1969, he began working full time. He worked the grain route twice a week to deliver feed and shavings to many gentleman farms in Weston and surrounding towns. Local farmers would come in to the shop needing several 100-pound sacks of grain and bales of hay. The unspoken rule was that “whoever sold it, had to load it.” Weighing barely 125 pounds soaking wet, Wally got quite a workout in those days.
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His duties soon expanded to stocking the store, waiting on customers, and doing other odd jobs. “It was a more formal era back then. We called all customers Mr. and Mrs. So and So—never by their first names unless invited to.”

“I initially knew nothing about hardware,” Wally continues. “I was told what to do and was then left on my own to figure it out, hoping I had done it right. I learned mostly by reading the packages of the products and listening to the other employees as they interacted with the customers.”

Wally gradually became known to the customers as the “go to man” to creatively solve their hardware problems. He might suggest Bondo auto repair putty to patch holes in a steel door or recommend a part from the door department to replace a missing foot on a much-loved cutting board. “Back then homeowners fixed things by themselves,” Wally says. “If they had a broken window, they would come in to ask how to fix it and get the parts. I learned over time it was okay to say I didn’t know the answer and grew to love the detective work that was sometimes required.”

In 1954, B.L. Ogilvie’s old carriage house was used as the hardware shop. Not really designed as a store initially, there was no insulation so paint stacked against the back wall would often freeze. Modernizing the paint department by offering custom colors for the first time occasionally brought in unusual requests, like the time a woman came in holding an open jar of brown mustard and wanted Wally to mix a quart of paint to match it for her home.
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In 1975, under Alden Whittemore’s direction, the new hardware building as it stands today was built, expanding the hand and power tool department. Wally became responsible for merchandising and most of the set up of the store. He smiles and says, “Rearranging and organizing the displays has been one of my favorite things to do. I was in my glory being given an eight-foot length of floor space and working to get everything uniform, placed in the right category, and looking great for the customers.”

Craig Monson, a local customer, fondly remembers watching Wally grow from a young man into a responsible manager. “I had just moved to Wayland in 1974, and I headed to a small hardware store in Weston that I’d heard of. I introduced myself to Wally, who was very helpful finding some things I needed. “

Before paying, Craig began chatting with Ray Ogilvie behind the counter about small town stuff. “What do I owe you?” he asked.

“Well, what’s your name? You live around here?” Ray replied.

“Yes,” Craig answered, “just down the road.”

“That’s fine then. Don’t worry about it. We will keep a tab for you.”

When Craig reacted with disbelief, Ray offered, “This is the way we work, we know you’re a neighbor.”

This community family feeling extended to the employees as well. “Since it was a family-owned business,” Wally said, “Alden
Whittemore’s employees were also considered family and had many great get-togethers over the years.”

Attending two hardware conferences per year, Wally would be exposed to new goods and services. Over the years, it became his job to decide what would be sold in the store. Wally has always had a love of nostalgia and appreciated the small town feel of Ogilvie’s. When he found a company in Wakefield that made the old balsa wood airplanes like the ones that he remembered from his youth, he knew he needed to bring them in. One year for their anniversary celebration, he brought a few cases of “Ogilvie Root Beer” to give away with the popcorn. Thinking it was a one-shot deal, he did not think much of it until a month later a young mother from Weston wanted to buy a case of it for her son’s birthday and pleaded with him to get some for her. Well, the rest is history. Ogilvie Root Beer soon became a staple and continues to be one of the store’s best sellers!

During the 1960s and 1970s, there were many locally owned businesses in Weston Center. Wally recalls Mary Murphy’s Chinese Shop for gifts and watch repair, Phelps TV, two diners, a 5 & 10 Shop, and Knob Hill Press, to name a few. Wally became good friends with a few of the locals in town and would meet to go fishing at Foote’s Pond after work on Friday or Saturday.

Wally has been happy to see Ogilvie’s continue to thrive despite the impact of larger
big-box stores in the area and would like to see a resurgence of independent businesses in town. “To me, you can’t be successful just because you are a local store. You really have to do what you do right. Anyone can put a hinge out with a price on it. You must do something that your competitor does not and develop a good relationship with the customer,” he shared.

Wally has made friends with many of his customers over the years. Marilyn and Jake Kerwin got to know him well. Marilyn says, “Wally has always been there with a nice warm hello reminiscing with us about the old days and is so willing to help. It's like home.”

Jonathan White, a local lawyer, offered, “Wally stands out as a real people person, who has done a nice job of interacting with the customers. These types of small-town hardware stores are dwindling. I can’t imagine Weston without Ogilvie’s.”

Peter Nickerson is one of the Saturday regulars who often comes in with questions. “Wally is great at giving me an honest answer or asking me to give him a couple of days, and he’ll check on it. They treat me like gold there, which is why I keep coming back,” he says.

Wally recalls a story involving Ginny Redpath, a customer for 44 years. "Always going the extra mile"...
years. “When Costco savings cards came out, Ginny approached me wanting a similar card from Ogilvie’s. Not having one, I took pencil in hand and created a one-of-a-kind, #1 Gold Star Customer Card on the back of one of my business cards for her, which she still carries to this day.” Ginny remarks, “He certainly is an institution. There just couldn’t be a nicer guy and so good at what he does, always going the extra mile. The words ‘Wally’ and ‘Ogilvie’s’ just go together. Fifty years is a long time to do one thing. We will miss him!”

Wally is very proud to see how Ogilvie’s has become part of the fabric of the Weston community over the years by supporting many charitable organizations and events in town with donations of materials or money. Their belief can find its origins in Ray and Harold Ogilvie, B.L.’s sons, who were founding members of the Weston Rotary. “It became an Ogilvie family tradition to be part of the Rotary, Wally shared. The primary motto of Rotarians is ‘Service Above Self,’ and I believe in their values very much. We have earned our living from the business the people of Weston give us, and it’s only fair to return some to the town. It really does take a village to have a healthy community.”

Wally has worked at Ogilvie’s for 50 of its 97 years in business, which is a remarkable feat by any measure. In retirement, he is looking forward to playing more golf, skiing, and traveling with his wife, Nancy, who is the director of nursing at Campion Health Center. He will especially cherish spending more time in his much-loved role as “Papa” to his three grandchildren.

When asked how he would like to be remembered by his former customers, Wally pauses, smiles, and says, “That I enjoyed my job very much, and my relationships with the best people around—my customers. I hope I was a help to them. It’s been a great career. I have been very fortunate.”
Beyond Boston
Wellesley Event Powers Women’s Cancer Research

CHERYL BALIAN SCAPARROTTA writer

many of us have been to fundraising lunches (or dinners). But did you ever sit across the table from a doctor or a researcher from a hospital to which you made or were thinking of making a donation? And enjoyed an enlightening exchange of information?

That’s the model of the annual “Beyond Boston” luncheon in Wellesley, which connects those touched by women’s cancers to a medical professional at each table. It’s a rare chance to have an informal dialogue about the often scary world of the disease, whether it’s the latest research, how to find a specialist, or how to get more involved in solutions.

This year’s luncheon will be held at the Wellesley Country Club November 15, and will mark its eighth year.

“I’ve been coming since this initiative started,” says Wellesley resident Pam Martin, one of three co-chairs of the 2016 event. “My mother, Debbie First, is a survivor of ovarian cancer. Dana-Farber saved her life back in 1977.” A decade ago, First and several other women
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“grabbed a couple of people who they thought would be good candidates to get involved,” says Martin. “Their goal was to educate others on all women’s cancers.”

Their nugget of an idea has grown into “Beyond Boston,” a powerful event that brings stakeholders together. In addition to Martin, the 2016 co-chairs are Wellesley residents Carie Capossela and Meredith Beaton Starr. All three have worked tirelessly with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers to connect women with drive and resources with researchers in need of “seed money” to advance their cancer investigations.

“It’s a labor of love and very meaningful to us as co-chairs, because we learn so much, too,” says Starr. “As part of the responsibility of being

*top:* Cancer survivor and Beyond Boston founder Debbie First (left) accompanied by her daughter and 2016 Beyond Boston co-chair Pam First Martin
*bottom:* Carie Capossela, a co-chair of the 2016 Beyond Boston luncheon in Wellesley
Marna Kennedy
Marna has worked as a successful real estate agent not only in her hometown of Weston and surrounding communities but also has extensive knowledge of Lower Cape Cod from Chatham to Provincetown. Marna has also owned her own business and is a long time educator in the Arts and English as a Second Language. Her past experience has sharpened her attention to detail and her ability to assess her clients’ needs while establishing rapport, trust and relationship building during key periods of negotiating.

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a co-chair, we go to the Susan F. Smith Center to become more educated on the issues."

Martin puts it more simply. “I’ve always been grateful to Dana-Farber for saving my mother’s life — ovarian cancer back in the 1970s had few survivors.”

Taking Care of Business

While about 250 women attend the invite-only gathering, the real twist is that there is a Dana-Farber researcher, oncologist, doctor, or nurse seated at each table. Their role is to field questions and provide insight as to where things are moving in women’s cancer research.

“We’re so lucky that two dozen medical professionals come to sit down at each table and answer questions,” says Capossela. “We
put together a high-powered, but very understandable program that always involves a patient speaker and something that’s going on in the world of women’s cancers. We want every woman who leaves the room to be more knowledgeable than when she walked in.”

“This is different from listening to a lecture over lunch,” agrees John Noble, Dana-Farber’s senior media relations specialist. “We’re so grateful for all the work the Beyond Boston team puts into this initiative every year. With federal government cutbacks, it’s getting tougher to fund crucial research.”

Some of the deep and devastating cutbacks over the past five years include declining funds at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which “has a trickle-down effect to research they support, including cancer research,” Noble points out.

The Beyond Boston event (named for its location in the MetroWest suburbs) gathers more steam each fall, generating more than $1 million thus far for the women’s cancers program at Dana-Farber. Specifically, the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers is a place where the world’s leading experts in breast and gynecologic cancers can offer women the most leading-edge, advanced care, including innovative therapies that are often available only through clinical trials.

“We’re very passionate about raising this money to offset cuts in government funding,” says Capossela. “Our event is really about individual funding to get their research mov-
good works “there is a lot of energy and empowerment in the room”

ing. They are doing critical work, and what we’re doing is critical to their research.”

Since 2003, the NIH budget has declined by nearly 25 percent, or more than $5 billion when adjusted for inflation. “Only one in six NIH research proposals now receives federal funding—that’s compared to one in three projects earning federal support 15 years ago,” Noble points out.

The co-chairs say that by working with the Smith Center, they’re able to see directly where the money raised goes—“They’re able to hire new staff or fund someone who made a small discovery continue with their research,” Starr says.

“These exceptional women leaders work tirelessly to create awareness around new developments in the treatment of women’s cancers and to raise money for essential research that might not otherwise be conducted,” says Dr. Eric Winer, chief of the division of Women’s Cancers at Dana-Farber. “This funding allows us to generate preliminary data that can be used in grant applications to the government and foundations.”

Staying the Course
Capossela herself is a breast cancer survivor. “Fifteen years ago, when I was a young mom, I was treated at Dana-Farber,” she says. “Like many patients, I wanted to give back and do something for other women, because I felt so lucky.”

By getting involved, she learned about the latest research and findings that doctors had uncovered. “They had clinical trials to conduct, with new ideas to explore, but the continual theme is that they didn’t have enough money,” she recalls.

As for the yearly lunch, the co-chairs agree that there is a lot of energy and empowerment in the room. “There are so many women in...
the room that either have had cancer or been touched by it in another way,” says Capossela. It’s about women helping other women.”

True to its grassroots heritage, the Beyond Boston lunch fills up each year via word-of-mouth. “We have never had guests buy a ticket—they are invited by the host committee,” explains Starr. “People give what they’re able to.”

“Our goal is to raise $250,000 from the lunch alone, which we did accomplish in 2015,” adds Martin. “We find this is an effective way to fundraise, because people give at the different levels of support as they choose.”

The room is filled to capacity every year, and there’s always a hopeful waitlist. Women attend from the surrounding MetroWest suburbs, including Weston, Natick, Needham, and Framingham.

“I believe this model is being used with many other medical institutions in the Boston area, because I’ve been invited to a number of similar events,” says Capossela. “But we were the first ones to use this model of bringing a large number of high-level professionals to a targeted group, and allowing direct access in a personal way.”

With her first-hand experience, Capossela points out that there is a lot of misinformation out there. “Women are self-advocating, and that’s great, but we want women to have correct information—having been a cancer patient, I know the Internet can be a dangerous thing,” she emphasizes.

Because Dana-Farber is known as a leader in cancer research and treatment, it’s no surprise that it attracts the best and brightest from all over the world. To attract top talent, though, there must be some glimmer of possibility for funding new ideas.

And luckily, that’s where Beyond Boston comes in, growing in impact every year, helping to find cures for women’s cancers.

“The researchers value what we do very much,” sums up Capossela.
most parents expect some bumps and bruises along the way as their children grow up. After all, they were kids once themselves. But few parents would go so far as to imagine a difficult, unpredictable social life as part of their children's narrative. Sadly, it is all too common. "Kids get left by friends or leave friends," says Wellesley resident Joani Geltman, MSW and best-selling author of Survival Guide to Parenting Teens (American Management Association, 2014). "It can be extraordinarily difficult for kids and their parents."

When children are very young, parents and geography rule social agendas. Neighborhoods offer easy access to peers who are within walking distance. Often the parents are friendly, which completes a strong social circle. "When kids are younger, the play date happens more naturally, more easily. They aren’t necessarily asking, ‘Do I like this kid?’" says Geltman. But as kids grow up and develop critical thinking skills, every aspect of their decision making comes
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into question. The easy neighborhood group may give way to more carefully chosen peers who are more like-minded, and what once was a solid group of friends can quickly break up in elementary school and especially on the rocky shoals of middle school.

“Another thing that happens is that the way kids spend time together is different when they get older,” says Geltman. “There’s more hanging out. Kids mature at different rates so some kids are ready for the social scene, other just want to play Legos.” A Wellesley mother of an eighth grader can relate. “My son was always ‘younger’ than his peers,” she recounts, “I remember when his friends would be onto Power Rangers, and he would still be playing with Thomas the Tank Engine. It only got worse as time went on.” These different developmental stages can mean a mismatch in established friendships as children age.

Witnessing the breakup of a friendship or the outright ostracism of your child is one of parenthood’s grimmest tests of fortitude. “It’s excruciating to see your child suffer, but it’s important to separate your child’s feelings from your own,” says Dr. Kelly Mitchell, a clinical psychologist at The Human Relations Service in Wellesley. Parents go through cycles of pain and anguish on behalf of their children, but experts warn that a parent may be mistakenly projecting their own feelings on a kid who isn’t all that heartbroken. “Sometimes parents don’t get that their kids have been left behind but not in a bullying way, but in more of a ‘moving on’ way,” says Geltman. “And their child might intuitively understand that.”

The Wellesley mother of the eighth grader agrees. “It was really painful in the beginning to watch him being left out of his neighborhood gang,” she says, “but what was interesting was that he lost his appetite for those kids. He wasn’t scratching to get back in; he was okay being out of the group.”

“It is critical to cultivate a relationship with your adolescent so he or she can feel safe coming to you if they have problems. Ideally the groundwork for that relationship is laid out in early childhood.”

– Dr. Ben Herzig
But for other parents, it’s not so easy. “Sometimes I feel like my feelings are hurt more than hers,” admits a Wellesley mother of a second grade girl with special needs. “Right now all of the girls get invited to the birthday parties, but what will happen in the future when the sleepovers begin? You can’t invite everyone.”

Acknowledging those emotions is critical according to Dr. Ben Herzig, a private therapist in Weston. “In addition to keeping on top of how your kids are feeling, I think it’s really important for parents to stay in touch with their own feelings,” he says. It is also tempting to overly identify with a child’s pain and tear into those who have done the damage. “Parents feel anger of behalf of their kids; they feel anger towards other parents, and anger at the kids for abandoning their child. But what they need to realize is that these are just children; they are also trying to figure it out,” says Geltman.

So what to do with all of this pain and suffering? How can a parent help a child going through a tough break up or social pain? First of all, parents need to adapt along with their child. “For every developmental stage a child goes through,” says Dr. Mitchell, “a parent has to go through that phase too. The rules change as your child grows, so the question becomes: What does my child need in terms of support from me?”

Often parents want to use their superior communication skills to solve the problem,
parent to parent. According to the professionals interviewed, this is treacherous territory that should be avoided. “Parents need to learn how to not intervene,” says Mitchell. “It is really important for the parent/child relationship.”

A Wellesley mother tells of calling a longtime friend whose daughter had been part of a hurtful group toward her daughter. “These girls had been friends since they were two years old, but the call really didn’t go very well,” she acknowledges. “The other mom denied the behavior and nothing really got solved.”

While the temptation to make things right can be overwhelming, it might be that offering validation and some handholding might be more important. “Don’t just jump into problem solving mode if your kid comes to you in despair; acknowledge their feelings. Tell them that you understand that it’s really hard. Don’t negate or minimize the problem,” says Geltman.

Another Wellesley mother described how she and her husband handled the tough new reality when their high-school-aged son became inexplicably shut out of a long-time friend group. “We did a lot of talking and hanging out. We just tried to be supportive, to let him know that things would get better,” she said. Not to say it was easy. “It was torture really, to see him so lonely and perpetually wondering why it happened.” And while it feels contrary to being supportive, giving kids that space to feel sad is another way of validating them. “Acknowledge the loss,” advises Geltman. “Part of your job is to teach your kids how to handle their emotions. And this is a brand new emotion; it has no history.”

It doesn’t help when a child is clearly struggling but won’t allow any discussion of the problem. “It is critical to cultivate a relationship with your adolescent so he or she can feel safe coming to you if they have problems,” says Dr. Herzig. “Ideally the groundwork for that relationship is laid out in early childhood.” Dr. Herzig advises parents to use statement sentences rather than direct questioning when broaching the delicate topic of a changing social landscape. “Better to say: ‘I notice that you have been spending more time around the house lately,’ than ‘How come your friends aren’t around?’” he says. Statements that don’t demand a direct answer can offer a few different ways to begin a conversation. In short, a neutral statement can diffuse defensiveness and shame.

Another way parents can help redirect a drifting social life is by becoming a bit of a sneak. If a parent notices that a child has suffered some friendship attrition, it doesn’t mean that there aren’t other options out there. “Parents need to ask themselves, ‘Who is my kid? What does he like to do?’ Then be on the lookout for like-minded kids whether it’s on the sidelines or through some teacher feedback,” says Geltman.

This strategy worked well for the mother whose son struggled with his neighborhood gang. “We talked about other kids, literally going through the class list with him,” she says. “He was totally against it of course, but when I met a mother on the sidelines of his soccer game, I realized that she was a mom of a boy who my son identified as a
kindred spirit. We cooked up a play date on the spot. She was thrilled for him to have something to do too!” That’s the other secret that parents don’t necessarily know. Kids like to be invited places. It feels good to everyone. “Don’t underestimate the power of a well-crafted invite,” says Geltman. “Some kids want to make things happen but they don’t know how.”

Another ally in the fight can be teachers and guidance counselors. These educators observe children in real time in the place where much of their social lives play out. Dr. Herzig was a guidance counselor prior to his role as a therapist and says that as long as no confidences are being betrayed, using educators or coaches as sounding boards can be very useful.

In the end, sometimes all a family can feel is helpless as their child takes it on the chin socially. But if a child “feels that they have relationships they can draw on when they need them or that they have a safe place in the world emotionally,” in Dr. Herzig’s words, that child will be able to face the sometimes confounding, sometimes cruel, sometimes thrilling world of friendship. For some parents, this starts as soon as that child is born. “Our job is to fill our daughter’s cup with so much self esteem that when people shoot a hole in it, it’s not going to empty out,” says the mother of the special-needs child. “And if we overdo it on the one-on-one time or the encouragement? Who cares?”
Vocational Technical Education for Local Students

CAROLYN S. ELLIS writer

for more than four decades Weston students seeking vocational technical education have attended Minutemen High School in Lexington for hands-on training in the fields of construction, engineering, manufacturing, and business. Weston and 15 other towns comprise the Minuteman Regional Vocational School District. Several other communities send students to Minuteman on a space available, tuition basis.

More than many realize, vocational technical education has been evolving to meet the needs of our workforce and the range of students’ learning styles. At Minuteman academic offerings include foreign languages and Honors and Advanced Placement courses. Extracurricular activities include sports, music, and art. Many students graduate ready to enter the workforce while more than half go on to post-secondary schooling.
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As our nation experiences high secondary school dropout rates, soaring college loan debt, and under-employment and unemployment for young adults, students and families are taking a fresh look at vocational technical education. A broader concept of what is acceptable schooling could encourage more teens, including some struggling at Weston High, to seek work-based learning.

Minuteman is one of 26 vocational technical high schools in Massachusetts and enjoys a reputation for being one of the best in the Commonwealth and the nation. Chapter 74 of Massachusetts General Laws requires towns to offer vocational and technical education. Since Weston does not have a program to meet state standards in those areas, Minuteman plays a critical role. In recent years, Weston’s enrollment numbers have been very small, totaling three to four students in grades nine through twelve. The low numbers occur in part because Weston’s student population is small. Equally significant, some would argue, is the high value placed in Weston schools on admission to elite four-year colleges.

Chris Symonds, a 2014 graduate of Minuteman and former Weston resident, made the decision to apply to Minuteman when he was in 8th grade at Weston Middle School. Like celebrity chef Todd English, Symonds knew by age 12 that he wanted to pursue culinary arts. Weston High School offerings did not support his career goals. When Minuteman students visited Weston Middle School, Chris saw an opportunity to go from being average to possibly achieving something extraordinary.
Chris Symonds’s parents were supportive of his decision. His father Bill Symonds was director of Harvard Graduate School of Education’s Pathways to Prosperity Project and primary author of the report it issued. This report gained international attention for its findings that we could help more young adults succeed by offering them multiple paths to success. Today Bill Symonds is founder and director of the Global Pathways Institute at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

Global Pathways brings educators, thought leaders, and business executives together to address how to train young men and women to be the skilled, knowledgeable, creative workers our employers need. “Long-lasting learning occurs when a student is interested in the subject matter and can see the connection to his or her future life,” Bill Symonds says. “Our son Chris transformed his life at Minuteman. He represented Massachusetts in the national Skills USA competition in culinary arts after winning the Gold Medal in Massachusetts, worked directly under Ming Tsai as a student intern at the restaurant Blue Ginger, and went on to the Culinary Institute of America, widely regarded as the top school in the world for future chefs.”

Bill Symonds believes Weston school guidance counselors and teachers could be more open-minded about the learning opportunities vocational and technical education presents for many Weston teens. But old stereotypes die hard, like the idea that vocational systems exist to offer an alternative opportunity for the less talented or more troublesome students to succeed. Today Minuteman’s offerings in engineering, construction, and trades range from automotive to telecommunications and fiber optics. In life sciences and services, they span biotech, marketing, and culinary arts. “At Minuteman,” Chris Symonds says, “You can excel in something that makes you happy.”

Vocational technical education was created with the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 that provided federal funds to support teaching agriculture, trades, home economics, and industry. In 1984, the Carl D. Perkins Act expanded the mandate to include preparing vocational technical students both for careers and post-secondary education.

In The Changing Face of Career and Technical Education, a position paper released in 2012, Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, superintendent-director of Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, makes the case for helping the wider public understand the mission of Career and Technical Education (CTE). Public perception in communities like Weston may need to catch up with today’s CTE so all students can be comfortable pursuing the schooling that best meets their learning styles and career goals.
At Minuteman, students from communities ranging from Acton to Watertown find an environment focused on their success. “We work with our students to help them discover what they are good at and what they love to do, and how to put that together with a career,” says Dr. Edward Bouquillon, superintendent-director of Minuteman High School. With nearly 600 students from throughout Eastern Massachusetts, Minuteman offered Chris Symonds a very diverse set of schoolmates. He says, “I learned that kids from towns all around are just like me, and I saw how hard they work for what they have.”

Vocational technical education can be costly, in part because of the shop facilities needed for different programs. Member towns pay an annual minimum required contribution, an operating assessment, and a capital assessment. There are costs for transportation and, in some cases, for special needs education. For Weston, the annual cost has been approximately $42,000 for each student. For out-of-district communities, the cost has been approximately $29,000. Member communities will be responsible for debt incurred for a new school facility.

Minuteman is well into planning and designing a new school facility on district-owned land in Lincoln. In February, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) approved a project funding agreement for a $144 million facility. The MSBA is expected to cover up to $44 million, or about 33 percent of eligible project costs; the balance will be bonded. If all goes well, the facility will be ready for occupancy in 2020.

At a special town meeting in February, Weston voters approved the town’s proposed withdrawal from the Minuteman Regional District. Along with Boxborough, Carlisle, Lincoln, Sudbury and Wayland, the town of Weston now awaits approval of the withdrawal request from the Commissioner of Education.

Superintendent Bouquillon expects a surge in applications when the new facility opens, creating uncertainty about whether there will be places for Weston students applying out-of-district. Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)’s regulations give in-district students priority. However, other schools like Keefe Regional Technical School in Framingham and Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School in Marlborough could be options.

Statewide vocational education has been receiving increasing support. In January, Governor Baker proposed $83.5 million for vocational education, calling the proposal a worthwhile investment. He launched the Workforce Skills Cabinet to bring together education, workforce, and economic development strategies. A Workforce Skills Capital Grant Program in March dedicated $9.3 million in grants to 35 vocational training providers. Minuteman won $500,000, one of the two largest grants, to launch an advanced manufacturing and metal fabrication program, connecting students to careers in robotics, automation, engineering, and construction.

“At Weston High the reality is half the class is going to be in the bottom half of the class,” notes Bill Symonds. “If our goal for our students is limited to the academic, four-year college track, we cannot serve all our students well.”

“Nor can the community meet the complementary needs of employers that fuel economic growth,” he continues. “Vocational education is keeping pace. We need to increase our awareness of its value for Weston students and their value in contributing to a global-ready Massachusetts economy.”

Massachusetts Lt. Governor Karyn Polito was the keynote speaker at the Minuteman Program Advisory Committee’s Annual Appreciation Dinner.

education “a worthwhile investment”
MAURA DOLAN
Prior to working in real estate, Maura has worked in manufacturing and sales while residing in Wellesley for the past 18 years. Maura is an active volunteer for youth sports for her 4 children and has held various roles in coordinating fundraising events and team events. In addition, she has held board positions and for the past 3 years has coordinated the holiday event at a community center in Boston in the National Charity League, PlayBall co-chair for Friday Night Lights event. Maura is excited to be joining the Donahue and Maley team at Benoit Mizner Simon and helping you find your perfect home!

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Sue Rosenfeld-Laufer  Creating whimsical, larger-than-life, sweet portraits — out of jellybeans

ELIZABETH SUENEKY writer

what use does a dentist have for sugary sweet, stick-to-your-teeth jellybeans?

For trained artist and dentist Sue Rosenfeld-Laufer, the colorful candy is an exciting new medium for “painting” portraits — one of her favorite pastimes.

On a family visit to Dylan’s Candy Bar in New York City, Sue spied a portrait of the owner, Dylan Lauren, created out of jellybeans and thought, “I can do that.” It didn’t take long for Sue to prove herself right. With a BA in studio art (and biology) from Wellesley College and a year spent as a Studio Diploma student at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, she took a leap of faith and created a three-by-four foot jellybean mosaic of her daughter Izzy for her upcoming Bat Mitzvah celebration, then only a month away.
Without step-by-step instructions, Sue jumped right in. She called upon her experience with oil painting to guide her process, one that remains relatively the same today. Sue starts with a photograph of her subject, one that captures his or her unique personality. Then she enlarges the photo and prints it out in several rectangular tiles that she adheres with Mod Podge glue to medium-density fiberboard. Next she “mixes her palette,” selecting multiple jellybean colors to capture the lights and darks of the skin tone, hair, and eye colors. Sue doesn’t aim for a paint-by-number exact match; in fact, the colors in the photo have nothing to do with the actual jellybean colors she selects. Her subject’s personality directs the feel of the palette she creates.

Jelly Belly brand jellybeans are Sue’s medium of choice given their uniformity of size and range of available colors. Sue positions and repositions 8,000 to 10,000 beans in every creation. Throughout the process and before she secures even one single bean, Sue holds her camera high above the portrait to take photos of the mosaic in progress. These photos provide the perspective she needs to adjust bean colors to get the portrait just right. Once the color placements are to her liking, Sue carefully squeezes a strong adhesive (like Krazy Glue) over every jellybean mosaic piece before she applies a spray of polyurethane to ensure a colorfast finish.

Sue’s largest mosaic to date is of a boy named Noah whose parents ordered a four-and-a-half by five-and-a-half-foot portrait as a surprise gift.
for his Bar Mitzvah. Sue planned to meet Noah’s mom, Susan, a long-
time friend, halfway between her home outside Philadelphia and Sue’s 
in Weston, but the portrait, which had taken on a life of its own and 
ended up larger than planned, wouldn’t fit in her car. Plan “B,” Sue 
built a custom wooden crate in which she carefully packed the 80-
 pound mosaic, and she rented a truck from Home Depot to transport 
the mosaic to United Parcel Service in Southborough to ship to 
Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. Together with her husband and two 
teenage daughters, Sue hoisted the 205-pound crated mosaic into the 
rental truck. Just in case any beans became loose in transit, Sue also 
packed a “fix-it kit” with extra beans and glue.

First Known Jellybean Artist
Inspired by President Ronald Reagan’s celebrated love of jellybeans, artist 
Peter Rocha came up with the idea to create a jellybean mosaic portrait of 
Reagan in the early ’80s. Queen Elizabeth, Benjamin Franklin, Amelia 
Earhart, Laurel and Hardy, Elvis Presley, Larry King, and even the beloved 
cartoon character, Minnie Mouse are a few of the other famous personali-
ties Rocha captured in jellybean portraits. Many of Rocha’s mosaics hang 
in the Jelly Belly Candy factory in Fairfield, California, located midway 
between San Francisco and Sacramento. Of course, Sue and her family 
visited the factory, lugging 90 pounds of beans home with them in their 
suitcases and carry-ons.
The Jelly Belly Candy Company is a family-owned business now in its sixth generation of candy making. The family traces its roots to Gustav Goelitz who opened a thriving confectionery business in Illinois in 1869, three years after emigrating from Germany. The Goelitz family introduced jellybean candy to all of America in the 1960s and the first eight flavors of Jelly Belly mini beans in 1976: root beer, green apple, licorice, cream soda, lemon, tangerine, cherry, and grape.

So Many Flavors, So Many Colors

Early on, Sue often snacked on Jelly Belly beans when working in her studio. While the temptation has waned, her favorite flavor remains—chili mango!

The huge box arrived in one piece. “Is it a puppy, a giraffe, or a TV for my bedroom?” needled Noah who was banished into the house to ensure the portrait unveiled at his Bar Mitzvah would be a surprise. Susan and her husband carefully pried open the crate on their lawn under the watchful eye of curious neighbors. Noah’s parents also had to rent a truck to transport the mosaic to his coming-of-age celebration. The extraordinary effort was well worth it. Noah and his guests were mesmerized by the larger than life whimsical expression of the smiling 13-year-old.

What started as Sue’s one-of-a-kind gift to her daughter has grown into a commission business with a two-month lead time that Sue calls Jelly Bean Arts. Most often Sue creates portraits, but she also crafts other designs, including the Red Sox logo she made for a Children’s Hospital of Boston charity auction this year. Next on her creative agenda, producing portraits of dogs, babies, and seniors; experimenting with three-dimensional designs; and testing new media, including other foods, crystals, and even pills and capsules. Sue received an email out of the blue with a request for a portrait made out of multiple flavored Cheetos. (Who knew Cheetos came in different sizes and colors?)

For the time being, Sue finds peace and calm down in her basement studio surrounded by stacks of clear plastic containers filled with colorful jellybeans. Crafting one-of-a-kind realistic expressions, Sue loses track of time and disconnects from the hubbub of a hectic life as a dentist at the Hirshberg Dental Group in Boston and Wellesley, triathlete, mother of two teens, and wife of a busy doctor. What a sweet treat for all who have the chance to marvel at her creativity.
wellesley college  English professor and local children’s book author Susan Lynn Meyer has always loved books. As a child she dreamed of being a writer one day, devouring novels such as *The Changeling* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis, and *Black Hearts in Battersea* by Joan Aiken. “I loved being immersed in the worlds of these characters and thought writing would be a great career, but I needed to be practical too,” Meyer said.

After graduating from Johns Hopkins University, she went on to earn her master’s degree in English Literature at UCLA and her Ph.D. from Yale University. She began teaching English at Wellesley College where she wrote literary criticism, including her book *Imperialism at Home*, about the prevalence and impact of racial metaphors in Victorian literature. Penguin Random House published her first children’s novel, *Black Radishes*, in 2010. It is based on her father’s experience as a Jewish boy in Nazi-occupied France during World War II. *Black Radishes* won a Sydney Taylor honor award and was named a Massachusetts Book Award Must-Read finalist, and a Bank Street College of Education Best Children’s Book, among other honors.

The sequel, *Skating with the Statue of Liberty* (also published by Penguin Random House) just came out in April and has already been preselected as a Junior Library Guild book. *Skating* follows 12-year-old Gustave as he arrives in America in 1942 and experiences life as a French immigrant in New York City. He befriends September Rose, an African-American girl in his school class, and witnesses racism in America for the first time, mirroring his own
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experience with anti-Semitism. Explains Meyer: “While America has saved Gustave's life, he’s had these idealized expectations of the United States—a place where everyone is created equal—but he gradually realizes that it’s not the perfect place he always thought it was.” However, Gustave’s wartime experiences and his strong Jewish identity help him see the positive and fight for what is right as he finds his way in this new world.

As a frequent writer of historical fiction, Meyer loves doing research. She uses multiple sources for inspiration, including personal memoirs, which deftly paint a picture of a certain time. “Memoirs provide details about everyday life that don’t often get into the history books,” she says. As a professor at Wellesley College, Meyer also has access to academic libraries, which offer even more resources than public libraries. For Black Radishes, she watched footage of a German propaganda newsreel set in France during the 1940s that showed what the girls were wearing and what the streets looked like. For Skating with the Statue of Liberty, she read a memoir of an 80-year-old man who described an automat with a golden dragon head spigot that dispensed hot coffee. By reading a memoir by Madeleine L’Engle describing life in New York in the early 1940s, “I found out that a cup of coffee cost 5 cents and a cup of hot chocolate cost 10 cents,” Meyer says. These types of details help Meyer create a rich, historically accurate world into which the young readers can transport themselves. From finding out what a train car from the 1940s looked like to learning that there was segregated seating in some movie theaters even in New York city, Meyer is adamant about getting her facts right.

One of six children, Meyer grew up in Baltimore. As a child, she was confused for a while and thought that whites were the minority population in the country because they were in the minority in the city where she grew up. For a while she was a scholarship student at a Quaker school with progressive pacifist and anti-racist curriculum that helped shape her beliefs today. Plus she was a daughter of parents who brought their children to civil rights and peace rallies in the 1960s and 70s. “A lot of my beliefs came from understanding what my father had gone through as a Jew in Nazi-occupied France and seeing the connections between anti-Semitism and racism,” she says.
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Meyer weaves the Double V movement — which stood for Victory and liberty at home and abroad and was the precursor to the civil rights movement of the 1960s — into her plot, and her character September Rose idolizes Josephine Baker, a real-life African-American singer and dancer of the era.

Meyer also has published two picture books. Matthew and Tall Rabbit Go Camping (Down East Books) is a delightful story of a boy who is nervous about sleeping in a tent and brings his stuffed animal along to keep him company. New Shoes (Holiday House Books) follows Ella Mae as she goes to buy a new pair of saddle shoes with her mother in the 1950s, but isn’t allowed to try them on because of her race. Together with her friend, Ella Mae finds an inventive way to resist Jim Crow laws and helps other black people in her community buy new shoes without suffering humiliation. This book won 10 different honors, including the NCTE Charlotte Huck Honor Book for Outstanding Fiction for Children, and it was one of only five children’s books nominated for a 2016 47th NAACP Image Award. “It’s been very meaningful for me to get such recognition,” Meyer said. “Racial tensions in our country are so high. It’s a writer’s job to get inside their characters’ heads and imagine what it’s like to be them. But it has to be supported by research.” To ensure credibility, she had several black readers review New Shoes before it went to print to get their reactions. According to Meyer, her earlier view of Ella Mae’s mother was “wrong.” One black reader explained that based on her ancestors’ experience Ella Mae’s mother would not have expressed anger to her daughter about not being able to try on shoes — instead she would have put a positive spin on it — trying to protect her daughter from the pain of racism. Meyer altered the book accordingly.

While Meyer teaches full-time at Wellesley College and has a family at home, she still manages to squeeze in time to write, as well as visit schools, participate in writing panels, and critique peer manuscripts. She works best in the morning or after a long walk when she can clear her head before sitting down to pen her beautiful, lyrical words. “I enjoy spending time with my husband and daughter, kayaking, ice skating, walking through the New England woods, waiting for rare books to arrive for me through interlibrary loan, and searching every fall for a perfect, just-dipped caramel apple,” she says.

Despite her professional success, Meyer remains very humble — just happy to be “doing what she loves.” Her books are captivating stories about children who are advocating for the things we all want in our lives: fairness, freedom, and friendship. To find out more about Susan Meyer, visit her website at www.susanlynnmeyer.com.
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the most memorable restaurants are often the product of great influences that have come before them and flourished around them, taking their finest characteristics from a fellow groundbreaking kitchen or an extremely well run dining room. Take, for example, Red Bird in Waltham. Under the wing of chef/owner and Wellesley resident Daniel Stokes, this newcomer has come into its own as one of the area’s most esteemed restaurants—thanks to the influence and experiences Stokes has had elsewhere.

After sharpening his knives as chef at the two locations (in Boston and Gloucester) of the beloved and legendary Franklin Café, Stokes moved on to two New York spots: the neighborhood restaurant, Harrison in Tribeca; and Pace, the Manhattan Italian restaurant that inspired him to move to Florence and cook under renowned kitchen wizard Benedetta Vitali. Meanwhile, Red Bird also benefits for being located in the space that used to house the extremely popular and award-winning Tuscan Grill.
Within minutes of walking into the building, Stokes knew he could turn the influences of the Franklin Café and Tuscan Grill into something remarkable at Red Bird. “It was obvious it could work,” he recalls. He had just decided to strike out on his own with a new place—one that would continue the Franklin Café tradition of creating a welcoming, fun, unpretentious neighborhood environment, in an intimate space.

“The physical size of the Franklin was similar to the Tuscan Grill,” he says of the 75-seat room. “Small kitchens are difficult—you have to have worked in one to know what you can generate from it. This was right in my wheelhouse with a very functional layout, nice bar, and the small kitchen was up my alley.” Invoking the down-to-earth, friendly energy of the Franklin Café seemed entirely doable in such a space.

For the neighborhood, it was also an ideal time to transform the Tuscan Grill into a new incarnation. It had been a staple of the community for 22 years, yet Stokes says, “By the time I bought it, it was time for a change there. People recognized that. They felt it needed revitalization, so it wasn’t like we were going in and taking over something that was in its prime. So diners welcomed that.”

From the get-go, those diners eagerly became regulars—and there are even more of them now that the restaurant has won awards and media accolades since opening halfway through 2014. Drawing hungry folks from of course Waltham, but also Wellesley, Weston, Newton, and Concord, the New American bistro is buzzing almost every night of the week. (Its small size dictates that most tables are reservation-only. However, a cluster of tables is held back for walk-ins.)

And what are they all here for? Largely, for the seasonally inspired comfort food that has been a hallmark of Stokes all along. Settled into the dimly lit, cushy banquettes set against brick walls, they happily tuck into soul-warming dishes such as mussels in smoked tomato broth, revved up with bacon and roasted fennel—one of the few dishes on the menu that has never been taken off. Or in winter, the kitchen will spotlight the likes of duck confit with root vegetable hash and Hollandaise sauce. In summer, Stokes leans on local farms for specials that dramatically highlight fresh, just-picked salad ingredients.
Throughout the year, he features a celebrated pan-roasted chicken breast with rapini, new potatoes, and cipollini in a sherry mustard pan jus. And there are always some carefully selected local cheeses, too—hand-picked gems from Wasik’s Cheese Shop in Wellesley, which get served with a sweet-savory smorgasbord of pear butter, blood orange and black pepper marmalade, olives, and walnuts jacked up with sugar and spice.

The nuances of all those flavors speak to Stokes’s experiences as a chef—and to the kinds of cooking he truly adores. “At my heart, I’m a saucier,” he says. “I love making soups, stocks, and sauces. I love to braise a lot of foods that are slow-cooked and fork-tender in the winter. I love textured foods that have crispier, crunchy elements mixed with greens. I like sweet and salty combinations—the whole Italian idea of Agrodolce.

These Italian sensibilities Stokes counts among his strongest influences—gleaned from his time in Florence under Benedetta Vitali. “I came away from my time living in Italy for years with a tremendous respect for regional Italian cuisine,” he says. Diners can appreciate this respect at dinnertime in the form of fresh, handmade pastas like rigatoni with a simmered ragu of braised pork shoulder, sweet sausage, pancetta, and mozzarella.

But as much as the food itself is the fulcrum of Red Bird’s identity, it’s also the overall experience of eating said food that Stokes has brought in from his experiences as a chef at other establishments. “At this point in my career,” he says, “my inspiration is coming from my overall path that I’ve formed over the years.” That means, above all, creating an atmosphere that’s approachable. “I like to think I’m genuine,” he says. “So I want Red Bird to be the same. That’s why I wanted a kitchen that’s exposed. The Franklin had a small window into the kitchen, whereas here it’s even more open. And at some point everyone has to walk by the kitchen on the way to the bathroom, so there’s an

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“respect for regional Italian cuisine” local cuisine
interaction with almost every guest, which I love. People are always walking up to the kitchen, talking to us, giving us instant feedback, and I find it so rewarding when you’re cooking food for people who are talking to you. That’s my vision and my dream. That’s what it’s all about for me.”

So how does he want people to feel after dining at Red Bird? For starters, by the time his customers are finished eating and leaving the restaurant, Stokes tries to meet them on the way out the door. “I like to be at the front of dining room when people are leaving,” he says. “Again, that really speaks to making people feel welcome and having those personal interactions.”

But his favorite part of the night may be when he sees people not really wanting to leave at all. “I love seeing this,” he says, chuckling. “When people linger at their table. After they’re done eating, after the bill has been paid, and they’re just having a great time and talking, and enjoying themselves. To me that’s a great sign that they feel comfortable in the space I’ve created, and that I’ve helped make them feel at home.”
Visiting Paris with Young Children

NAZ SIOSHANSI writer

When people think of traveling to Paris, they do not often imagine doing so with two young children. Admittedly, I did not consider this as a top destination with our two- and six-year-old daughters, until the opportunity presented itself. There was a family reunion in Europe, and Paris would be a good place to end the trip.

The more I thought about the concept, the more it appealed to me. In many ways, childhood is a perfect time to visit Paris. So many of the books my daughters read are set in Paris, from the ever-popular *Madeline* to *Eloise in Paris*. The Eiffel tower and terms such as *bonjour* and *très chic* adorn my children’s shirts. So why not let them see these sights and hear the phrases for themselves, if the opportunity is presenting itself?

However, it was not without some trepidation. My children can take the Wellesley Toy Shop apart in a matter of minutes. My oldest cannot walk by Wasik’s Cheese Shop without pinching her nose at the smell of *fromage*. Their “indoor” voice is non-existent. Would we spend
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is where time stands still.

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the majority of the trip getting frowns from storekeepers and fellow diners as we embarrassedly reprimanded our children? Would the girls really enjoy the trip, which comes at a considerable cost? Would we?

In the end, we went for it, and it was well worth it. My husband gave lectures about manners. I spent hours reading travel blogs. We checked out a lot of children’s books from the library that are set in Paris.

After scouring different rental websites, we finally settled on a small apartment in the 6th arrondissement (district) through VRBO vacation rentals. Having rented houses on the Vineyard, with varying levels of cleanliness, I was skeptical. I was even more skeptical when we were instructed to mail the check to a bank in Malta and were told that a representative would meet us at the apartment two hours after our flight was due to arrive. (Wasn’t there a movie that started like this?)

However, it worked out beautifully. Our flight was on time. The representative turned out to be a young American studying in Paris, who was earning some money by letting American renters into the apartments they rented.

The building was lovely. It was on a side street in St.-Germain-des-Prés, with large blue doors that had once ushered in horses and carriages. There was an idyllic courtyard and our apartment was on the second floor with floor-to-ceiling windows that opened up onto the street below. The rooms were clean and uncluttered. The washing machine worked (even if the dryer was nonexistent).

In addition, one of the best “disasters” to happen to us was that we forgot our stroller and were forced to rent one. While I was busy taking deep inhales upon realizing my packing mistake at Logan, my husband Googled a stroller rental company that even had double strollers—something we did not. This was one item that saved our trip. Our youngest child napped in the stroller regularly in the afternoon and was refreshed and ready to have late dinners. Our oldest was too tall to nap in there, but she enjoyed riding in it, allowing us to walk most places.

Another lucky coincidence was that we were in Paris during the first week of August, when the Parisians have left the city for vacation. It was the perfect time to introduce our young children to the city—
Our expertise is houses. Our specialty is homes.
excursions “sitting in the sun with our lattes”

and steer a double stroller, which barely fits on the empty sidewalks. The lack of crowds and the presence of English-speaking tourists made it less foreign. The drawback was that many stores and restaurants were closed. It will be nice to revisit at a different time in the future and have our children experience Paris with the Parisians in it.

We started each morning by stopping at Eric Kayser, the famous bakery, for an assortment of croissants and lunch sandwiches that we packed into our expansive stroller. We then headed to the Jardin du Luxembourg where we rented a wooden boat with a stick for each child to guide around the pond for the allotted 20 minutes. Each boat had a different flag allowing the girls to identify theirs. My husband and I alternated sitting in the sun with our lattes while the other helped the children guide their boats.

After driving the boats, we would alternate between visiting the playground or carousel in the same gardens. There was a small fee to enter the playground, but it was worth it. The playground was expansive and creative. We noticed that European playgrounds favored creative zip lines that my girls loved. The other benefit is that the playground is where our children encountered and played with Parisian children. In their own way, they negotiated the lines and rules of the playground. There was an elaborate climbing structure that was designed to look like the Eiffel Tower, which was fun for the oldest to climb. (There was also a clean bathroom to use!)

It should be noted that the carousel opening time varied. “It’s August,” the Parisians we asked explained with a shrug. The carousel at the Luxembourg gardens dates back to 1879 and is the oldest in Paris. Each child is given a small baton before climbing on his or her favorite vintage wooden animal. While the carousel is in motion, children use the batons to try and catch the brass rings held by the carousel attendant.

Unfortunately, we never made it to a puppet show at the famous Les Marionnettes du Luxembourg. Most of the shows were later in the afternoon when we were too hot and tired to return. From the gardens, we would head to our destination for the day, whether it be the Tuileries Garden, the Eiffel Tower, The Avenue des Champs-Élysées, or Le Marais. On our first day, we did not buy lunch sandwiches with our breakfast. Our children became hungry faster than we expected and we ended up stopping at a mediocre café that cost more than we cared to have spent. From then on, we picnicked at different parks and had stroller snacks handy.

My children became carousel, playground, and croissant connoisseurs. Their stroller talk was a comparison of which one was their favorite. The carousel near the Eiffel Tower
would move up and down but had no ring to
win. The playground at the Place des Vosges
in the Marais was too small. The vote for the
best chocolate croissant was never decided.

One of the other highlights for them was
the amusement park at the Tuileries Gar-
dens. Every July and August, there is the
Fête Foraine du Jardin des Tuileries. It was a
more rickety version of Story Land in New
Hampshire. They raced cars, rode the rides,
played games—and pretty much exhausted
themselves. (I will say that the Ferris wheel
did provide some great views!)

After lunch, a natural quiet time would
occur. The youngest would nap, and the old-
est would squeeze into her seat and relax.
That is when my husband and I would start
to walk where we wanted to go. We checked
out different neighborhoods, went shop-
ing, and stopped for a cold beer or pastry,
depending on our mood.

After our adventures, we would head
home for showers, and another nap (if time
allowed). This is the time we most enjoyed
our apartment, opening the window and
looking below with a glass of wine or box of
juice. Because of their siestas, our children
were awake and ready to eat at 8. We had a
long list of restaurants to try, but we soon
abandoned the list for what we scouted on
our walks home. Our youngest would share
a meal with us and our oldest was interested
in trying new food. Once the children fin-
ished their meals, we would pull out an iPad
for them with minimal shame, having seen Parisians do the same, and we would relax and enjoy the rest of our time at the restaurant.

One aspect of the trip that we planned poorly was our visit to the Eiffel Tower. Getting tickets to go up the tower requires a Disney-planning mindset. These tickets have to be reserved weeks to months in advance, which we failed to do. We tried to suggest that the joy of seeing the Eiffel Tower is enough, but my girls would not accept that. According to my oldest, “We came to Paris to go to the top of the Eiffel Tower.” Fair enough.

Excursions “relax and enjoy”

Bakeries

- LADURÉE
  www.laduree.com/en_int/
  No trip to Paris would be complete without a visit to Ladurée. My children just enjoyed being inside the shop, and one of them still uses her Ladurée box to store small “treasures.” Famous for their double-decker macarons, this bakery won our family’s personal taste test.

- MAISON KAYSER
  www.maison-kayser.com/en/
  There are a number of shops throughout Paris. Most people come here for their signature breads, but everything is delicious. Be sure to try the “Baguette Monge.” We got our croissants and lunch sandwiches here most days.

- PIERRE HERMÉ
  www.pierreherme.com
  72 rue Bonaparte, 75006 Paris
  Dubbed the “Picasso of Pastry” by French Vogue, Pierre Hermé’s croissants were runners up in our croissant tasting contest.

Restaurants

- LE HIBOU
  www.lehibouparis.fr/en
  16 Carrefour de L’Odéon, 75006 Paris
  This place was suggested to us by family members, and it turned out to be near our apartment. The food was amazing. We sat outside, people watched, and enjoyed a delicious chicken dish. The hostess was so nice that she even surprised our children with a big bowl of chocolate mousse.

- LE RELAIS DE L’ENTRECÔTE
  www.relaisentrecote.fr/
  This is a very popular chain in Paris. There is only one thing to order here—the entrecôte (steak), and it is amazing. The only choices you make are how it is done, your drink, and dessert. Very child friendly—even has crayons!

- MARIA LUISA
  2 rue Marie et Louise, 75010 Paris
  This out-of-the-way pizza shop is well worth the taxi fare. It was one of the few places where we saw French children out at dinner. The pizza is delicious, and it has a relaxed atmosphere. There can be a long wait, so go early.

Rental Agency

- BABYTEM
  babytems.com/
  If you need to rent a stroller, portable crib, high chair, car seat, or other necessities for babies or small children, this is the place to go. They will even deliver your rented items to, or pick up from your rental property or hotel.

Shopping

- BOUTIQUE PSG
  www.boutiquepsg.fr/en
  27 Av. des Champs-Elysées, 75008 Paris
  If your children are soccer fans, stop in and buy a Paris St Germain jersey with their name on the back.

- LOUIS LOUISE
  www.louislouise.com/en/
  Rue du Cherche Midi, 75006 Paris
  A sweet boutique with adorable and fashion-forward kids’ clothes.

- MERCI
  www.merci-merci.com/fr/
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- MONOPRIX
  www.monoprix.fr/
  This is Paris’s answer to Target, with a great children’s area that even sells Petit Bateau.

- TARTINE ET CHOCOLAT
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So, on the second night that we were there, the girls were in exceptionally good spirits at 10 p.m., post dinner. They were fueled on chocolate, and we were fueled on red wine. We decided to go for it. The Eiffel Tower is magical at night. The girls waited patiently in line for a little less than two hours and we were lucky enough to be on the last ride up to the top. The girls thought that the tower looked like gold with all the lights. Waiting in line was also a strangely wonderful experience. We met all sorts of people. There was a newly married couple on their honeymoon from Argentina. They were doing a crazy sprint through Europe in a month. The wife had two small Eiffel Tower rings on her hand and gave one to my oldest daughter who thought the ring and stranger were equally beautiful. It was one of those experiences where you are with a set number of people for a long enough time that you have conversations.

As with any vacation, our trip ended far too soon. We left with great memories and a long list of places that we hope to visit another time.

In retrospect, I feel lucky that the opportunity presented itself and that we didn’t shy away from it.
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about town

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

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

Lunch with Kate Walsh

1. Evelina Taber, Pat Clark, Mariann Youniss, Jill Creevy, Jessica Rosenbloom, and Nancy Nash
2. Florence Koplow, Laura Fowler, Tracy Cranley, Becky Ivey, Beth Furman, and Wendi McKenna
3. Nicole Chapman, Pattie Bishop, and Kate Walsh

Wellesley Library Miniature Golf

1. Janeen Hansen, Bruce Epstein, and Lou Metzger
2. O’Connell Family
3. Bill McNamara and Lynne Brady Wagner
4. Beth Cook, Beanie Spangler, Patty Mitchell, and Liz Carpenter
5. Connelly Family
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about town (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 192)

Wellesley Historical Society Annual Dinner

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

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New England Leading Agent Panel

front: Deena Powell, Deborah Gordon, and Lisa Drapkin
back: Tom Aaron, Rob Kilgore, Matt Freeman, and Erminio Grasso

Debi Benoit’s 11th Annual Toy Drive to Benefit MassGeneral Hospital for Children

1 Kevin Narbonne, Dr. Ejaz Ali, Dr. Femina Ali, and Martin Padley
2 Suzanne Frederick, Jared Parker, and Nancy Hoffer
3 Nan Morrow, Robin Gaynor, and Kim Dow
4 Suzanne and Buck Frederick

1 Debi Benoit, Jerod Mayo, Chelsea Robinson, Lara O’Rourke, Katherine Bell, and Kathleen Seeley
2 Cindy and George Smithy
3 Paula Santangelo and Jerod Mayo
4 Liz Corcoran and Jerod Mayo
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WWW.GLAW-LLC.COM
about town (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 194)

Coldwell Banker Awards Reception

1 Dyanne Lynch, Melissa Dailey, Jon Lynch, Jennifer Madden, Kathy Vasil, and Bobby Morgenstern
2 Melissa Dailey and Mert McIntyre
3 Jeff and Bobby Morgenstern
4 Spencer Lane, Lauren Lane, Maggie Currier, Diana Chaplin, Mert McIntyre, and Barbara Currier
5 Jon Shore, Carole Milott, and Jon Dipietro

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

Wellesley Historical Society Holiday Party

1 Karen Celi, Melissa Padley, and Mike Heffernan
2 Keith Marden, Shirley Marden, and Meredith Stokes
3 Erica Dumont, Bob Brown, and Deborah Brown
4 Helen and Dick Hegblom

Florjin Home Event to Benefit the Wellesley Hills Junior Women’s Club

1 Ashley Hirsh Cristina O’Brien, Emily Nardone, and Emily Whittmore
about town (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 196)

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

Riverside Community Care Blue Jean Ball

1 Governor Charlie Baker  2 Marylou Sudders
3 Sara Underwood  4 Scott M. Bock

For the Love of Yourself Event – Jesamondo, Lyn Evans & SuSu's

1 Tanya Backer, Morgan McDonald, Stacey Frasca, Susu Aylward, and Georgia Jenkins
2 Georgia Jenkins and Lyn Evans  3 Courtney Mathews, Poppy Lonigro, and Tanya Backer
4 Susu Aylward and Gretchen Johnson

Benoit Mizner Simon Luxury Portfolio Summit

1 Leslye Fligor, Traci Shulkin, David Bromstad, Debi Benoit, and Lena Voloshin
2 Debi Benoit, Sheryl Simon, and Amy Mizner
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Omar El Abd, MD
**about town**

(continued from page 198)

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

Wellesley Chamber After Hours at Wellesley Books

1 Maura O’Brien, Judy Cosimini, John Conlon, and James Quinn
2 Lorna Ruby and Gillian Kohli
3 Ivette Mesmar, Wendy Doyle, and Lori Johnson

Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Spring Line Preview

1 Janet Bosworth (seated), Chris Norcross, Dr. Deb Norcross, and Amy Bressler
2 Lynda Holich
3 Jane Braley

Big Sister Fashion Role Model Fundraiser

1 Mariann Youniss, Lisa Hughes, Amy Lund, Susan Kingsley, Janet Horelick, Val Butler, Pattie Bishop, Stephanie Coughlan, and Cheryl Cuddy
2 Amy and Mark Lund
GRAND OPENING SALE

15 3rd Avenue
Burlington, Massachusetts
about town (cont inued from page 200)

New England Conservatory Gala

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

Wellesley Education Foundation Chair Ceremony

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

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

VNA Heroes in Healthcare

Visit the WellesleyWeston Magazine Blog

1 Linda Chow
2 Suzanne Chmielinski and Donna Arcudi
3 Dr. David Lussier

1 Joan and Michael Yogg
2 Linda and Peter Ross
3 Deb Hanley, Chris Mitchum, and Doreen Donovan Corkin

1 Dr. Mallika Marshall and Jason Hurd
2 Andrew and Ellen Braunstein, Renee Picard Walsh, and Michael Walsh
3 Dr. Robert Tepper, Kevin Starr, Mark Levin, and Barbara Belony
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Weston’s True Rulers

STEVE MAAS  writer

This year, more than ever, writing with any certainty about politics is a risky business. Still, I’m willing to go out on a limb and predict the outcome of one Weston race even though I’m writing this story two months before the election.

The measurer of lumber is an office of such importance that three people share it. And, not just anyone can be a measurer of lumber. The job requires tact, an unusual fashion sense, a yardstick (well, actually, that’s optional), and a sense of humor.

Assuming no surprise challengers, Weston voters will return its three incumbents for another year in office.

What, you may ask, does a measurer of lumber do?

The answer, to paraphrase the town website, is to crack down on unscrupulous purveyors who misrepresent the size, grade, and quantity of their lumber. Compare it to the role
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of the guy who sticks that stamp on the gas pump certifying that a gallon is a gallon.

Back in colonial days, every municipality was required to have measurers of lumber. As they’ve streamlined government, some more radical towns—Wellesley, for example—have abolished the position. Weston, too, has eliminated a number of vestigial posts, including field driver (held by Jerry Remy in 1985) and fence viewer (John Havlicek, 1989-2006).

In the 1700s, towns typically had 30 or more officers who enforced sturdy fences, orderly livestock, and honest lumber. These positions also served as a proving ground for future leaders, according to Emerson W. Baker, a professor of history at Salem State. “It was almost like a pecking order,” Baker said. “Your hog reeve is your 20-something guy newly married. It’s his first step in responsibility in the community.”

The hog reeve, for example, was responsible for policing wayward swine. The word “sheriff,” Baker notes, is a contraction of shire (county) and reeve.

Robin Peakes Coutts has served as measurer of lumber in Weston since 2012. The senior member of the trio, Coutts was a natural for the position—the maternal half of her family tree has been in the lumber business in Maine since the 1800s. “I have strong roots,” she said.

She has strong roots in Weston, too. Some old-timers may recall her grandfather Peakes, who would regularly walk to Silver Hill Station with his pet pig. So far as we know he was not a hog reeve.

As measurer of lumber, Coutts has spoken out at town caucus in favor of buying local wood, from dealers such as Land’s Sake Farm. She warns of the danger of inadvertently importing non-native insects that might hitch a ride with out-of-state wood.

Another of Coutts’s causes: that the lumber measurers wear lumberjack shirts when appearing in their official capacity. This is not a job for those who prefer French cuffs.

The other measurers—Cameron Peters and Jim Barry—say Coutts encouraged them to come aboard.

At a fateful caucus three years ago, they nominated one another to the post. “I don’t remember the exact order,” Peters said, who jokingly acknowledged that “clearly a lot of collusion and deceit was going on.”

Asked what he has achieved in the post, Peters paused at length and then said, “That’s a very hard one because I can’t point to a single accomplishment, let alone a major accomplishment.” He added, “If you look at the job description, our hands are tied. We are only responsible for lumber that is imported into the town of Weston by water.”

Barry, too, says he comes up a bit short in the achievement department. However, he vows that he stands at the ready: “When called, I shall serve.”

Before you contact The Boston Globe Spotlight team, I should point out that measurer of lumber is an unpaid position. Candidates, however, must file campaign finance reports, which the incumbents assured me they have faithfully done. They said they had neither raised nor spent any money, though Peters did talk about posting campaign signs (“Don’t knock wood” was among the slogans he considered).

The measurers, however, are a bit cagey about whether they have complied with the open meeting law. Coutts spoke vaguely of the three having wine together, but denied that their judgment may have been impaired as a result. She could not produce the required minutes.

As to potential issues that may arise in the course of carrying out their duties, the measurers—all of whom own fireplaces—would like to see the town ban artificial fire logs.

Peters refused to be pinned down regarding veneer. “That’s a philosophical question,” he said.

And none of the three appeared anxious to investigate the ubiquitous two-by-four, which in fact does not measure two inches by four inches.

“There you go,” as Professor Baker said, “true politicians.”
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