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Weston - Charming townhouse near Weston center. Abundant natural light, detailed moldings and tall ceilings. Eat-in kitchen, two generous bedrooms, outdoor deck and parking for two cars. A must see!......................$345,000

Wellesley - You CAN have it all with this spacious, young Colonial! Bright, eat-in kitchen adjacent to fireplaced family room. Generous bedrooms, fabulous master. Central air, finished lower level..................$735,000

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Dover - Storybook four bedroom Cape, completely renovated and expanded off the back. Stunning new kitchen, mud room, fireplaced living room, office, exquisite master and more! Sweeping views of large backyard....... $1,199,000

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Wellesley - Exquisite stone and clapboard Colonial, impeccably designed and masterfully crafted! Tall ceilings, elegant details, two master suites, five fireplaces. Beautiful patio with outdoor fireplace..........................$2,795,000
The Green Scene
'Tis the season of myth, legend, custom, fable, and the Christmas rose.

10 Tips for Sprucing Up
Your Home for the Holidays
Before welcoming family and friends this holiday season, try some of our top tips to give your home a fresh face.

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

Business
It’s a bird, it’s a plane, it’s a social enterprise next generation business strategy.

Fitness & Health
The Wellesley Cancer Prevention Project (WCPP) and its group of dedicated volunteers strive to help families live healthier and cancer-free lives.

Good Works
Wellesley residents travel to Africa to help children in impoverished areas lead better lives.

Family Matters
Children and their parents can keep busy this winter thanks to a multitude of opportunities to explore arts and crafts in the local area.

Artist Profile
Panels created by renowned artist György Kepes make it out of the basement and into the stairwell thanks to the efforts of a group of concerned art lovers.

Books
Wellesley’s Nichole Bernier is a busy mother to five young children and now an acclaimed novelist with her first book, The Unfinished Work of Elizabeth D.

Food & Wine
All it takes is a little creativity to make special diet meals interesting, delicious, and nutritious.

Local Cuisine
The Land’s Sake Supper Club presents meals prepared by local chefs using the freshest local produce.

Excursions
Our visit to four New England resorts shows you that skiing is just one thing among a mountain of winter play.

Holiday Gift Guide
Wondering what to buy the special people in your life this holiday season? Consult our gift guide for ideas for men, women, and 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, we congratulate the Wellesley South Little League baseball team that won the 2012 state championship title.
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submit your ideas

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.

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the arrival of the holiday season always renews my enthusiasm to get back to the kitchen, try new recipes, and entertain friends and family members. Food has always been a favorite topic of mine, and apparently I’m not alone: According to a recent survey, more Americans watch the Food Network than CNN.

With so many people on special diets these days, it can be a bit daunting to create a meal that everyone will eat and enjoy. Fortunately, we live in an area with well-stocked grocery stores and gourmet specialty shops filled with a variety of food items that cater to all tastes. The addition of the Wellesley Farmer’s Market this year made eating “local” easier than ever, and Land’s Sake Farm in Weston continues to be a wonderful source of fresh produce. In our Food and Wine article on special diets, you’ll learn more about how to embrace a healthy eating plan that eliminates dairy, meat, sugar, wheat, or whatever it is that you need to pursue a healthy lifestyle. Don’t feel like cooking? Read our Local Cuisine article and discover the unique dining experience that Land’s Sake Farm sponsors at the historic Josiah Smith Tavern in Weston.

This is also the time of year when we ponder creative ways to ring in the New Year and celebrate in style. The Weston 300 committee has been working hard this year to make next year truly memorable as the Town celebrates its Tercentennial. In “Weston Turns 300,” you’ll get a sampling of the events that are planned throughout 2013 and discover how you can be a part of this memorable occasion. WellesleyWeston Magazine plans to keep you posted on additional Weston 300 events in our spring and summer issues, so stay tuned.

This time of year can also create a bit of excitement and anxiety as we search for the perfect gifts for the special people in our lives. To make things a bit easier, we consulted local merchants and added a “Holiday Gift Guide” for women, men, and children to our winter issue. I hope you’ll find this helpful and take the guide with you as you shop for “local” gifts.

Another recent addition at the magazine is our updated website that now features the entire current issue online. Just visit www.wellesleywestonmagazine.com, and enjoy. Also be sure to visit our blog, wwmblog.com, for a calendar of local events and current news, and “like” us on Facebook. If you have an event to add to our calendar or photos from an event you would like to post on the blog or in our “About Town” department, please e-mail Jill Nilsen at jill@wellesleywestonmagazine.com. We also welcome your business news submissions to our “Inbox” department located at the front of the magazine.

Here’s to a delicious and delightful holiday season and a celebratory New Year.
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over the past year, I have attended a number of inspirational special events supporting a variety of important causes. Each event was a lot of fun, thanks to the creativity of the organizers who know how to put the “fun” into fundraising. Much more important than the entertainment aspect, however, were the reasons for being there in the first place. Across the board, I was deeply moved by the stories told by the individuals who founded these organizations or whose lives were changed because of them.

Our About Town pages are much more than “party pictures.” They highlight local residents attending events for a variety of charitable organizations and supporting them financially as well as with their time. During the holiday season many of us think about doing more to help others, but as our About Town pages and the articles in this issue show, there are quite a few people in our midst who make service to others an integral part of their everyday lives. Their stories are interesting, inspirational, and sometimes heart-rending. Having an opportunity to publish profiles of these talented and special people is one of the most rewarding parts of my job.

Dr. Richard Ehrlichman is a case in point. A successful plastic surgeon, this Wellesley resident has always donated his time to those less fortunate with annual visits to Columbia to treat children with cleft lip and palate disfigurements. Three years ago, however, at age 54, Dr. Ehrlichman decided to pursue what many would consider unthinkable: he enlisted in the National Guard and was soon deployed to Afghanistan where he used his expertise as a physician to help the local citizens in that war-ravaged country. The stories he tells of his time spent in the combat zone are fascinating and heart-warming.

In our Good Works article, you’ll read about Janet Rose, Liz King, and fellow parishioners at the Wellesley Congregational (Village) Church who also decided to do something about events taking place in a faraway country. Concerned with the plight of impoverished children in Africa, they became involved with Communities Without Borders and adopted the town of Fumbelo in Zambia. The funds they raise sponsor children attending government schools, help pay for school lunch programs, and provide access to medical care. Also read about Eleanor Uddo and her work on behalf of Sleeping Children Around the World, an organization that donates bedkits to children in 33 countries.

I hope you enjoy all of the articles in this issue and that you will find many of them to be inspirational in a meaningful way. If you have story ideas or comments that you’d like to share, please send me an e-mail at jill@wellesleywestonmagazine.com.

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48 REASONS TO LIST YOUR HOME WITH US: Maryellen Behrend | Debi Benoit | Andrew Boles
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’tis the season of myth, legend, custom, and fable: kissing under the mistletoe, decorating a tree, and hanging an evergreen wreath. A fable centers around what is known as “the Christmas rose,” which is neither a rose or in bloom at Christmas. The story is that a young country girl accompanied the shepherds to the stable in Bethlehem where she shed tears because she had no gift for the baby Jesus. An angel took pity on her and touched the ground where her tears fell and pure white rose-like flowers appeared which the young girl gathered into a bouquet, her gift for the newborn.

*Helleborus niger* belongs to the Ranunculaceae or buttercup family and is not a rose, although it does resemble a single small one. Its common name is Christmas rose which seems odd for a white flower. Its roots are black and, as with many members of the Ranunculaceae family, it has poisonous parts. Hellebores have a long history of cultivation with a wealth of superstition surrounding them. They contain alkaloids and other chemicals that are quite poisonous but when used in small quantities are medicinally efficacious. Frequently found planted around old monasteries in Europe they are one of the four classic poisons along with nightshade, aconite, and hemlock. It was used in medieval times to purge the mind of melancholy and cheer the heart, as well as to keep evil spirits from animals.

In the wild, hellebores are native to southern and central Europe, growing on alpine slopes in stony calcareous soil. There are about 15 species of hellebores with *H. orientalis*, the Lenten
rose, and *H. foetidus*, the stinking hellebore, both hardy in our zone 6. Breeders have been interested in hellebores since the mid-20th century and the best features of the Christmas and Lenten types have been crossed to produce a vast choice of what are referred to as *H. hybridus*.

Flowering is prodigious and for a long period, with the white flowers of *H. niger* punctuated with gleaming yellow stamens and turning a lovely pink with age. The large (two- to four-inches across) cup-shaped, rose-like blooms on *H. orientalis* appear later in winter and provide a nodding array of colors from pink and white to purple, while those of *H. foetidus* are a shimmery greenish-white. The dark green leaves on all species have a sculptural quality, broad and leathery, divided into seven to nine segments. The foliage stays lower than the flowers and provides a lovely foil to the flower colors. Plant them in a shady sheltered location out of the wind in moist but well-drained and well-mulched soil. Cutting back the blooms after flowering will promote new foliage growth. The Christmas rose can be slow to establish, which is perhaps why folks find growing them to be difficult, but be patient and you will be rewarded. If guaranteed success is what you’re looking for, then start with the Lenten rose.

A quirky botanical fact is that hellebores protect themselves from frost by withdrawing moisture from their flowers when temp-
temperatures plummet below freezing, storing the moisture in their roots. As temperatures rise the moisture is returned to the flowers, which is why the flowers look so fresh emerging from snow and ice.

These herbaceous evergreen perennials are typically long-lived plants and usually do not need dividing; in fact it is healthier for the plants if you do not divide them, as they do hate to be moved. They do quite well in pots as I discovered quite by accident when I purchased a hellebore and did not plant it before winter; the ground froze and the pot went into the garage. It was the only time I had a Christmas rose bloom at Christmas, lasting well into the New Year and serving as a great addition to the seasonal bouquet. So chase away melancholy, plant a Christmas rose, and be merry.
10 tips for...

**Winter’s short days** leave plenty of long nights for holiday entertaining. Before welcoming far away family and friends, try some of these top tips to give your home a fresh face.

**one Focus on the front.**
The entryway is the first — and last — part of your home that guests will see. Give the front door a good scrubbing or even a fresh coat of paint. Add a bright new doormat or bold little area rug just inside the door for a pop of cheeriness.

**two Light it up.**
Shorter days and slippery walkways make exterior lighting all the more important. Lights warm and welcome guests arriving out of the winter gloom. Inside, candles provide flattering, cozy light and a crackling fire warms more than just snow-bitten hands. Treat your fireplace to a brand new screen, a new style of tools, or a fresh log holder.

**three Free the clutter.**
Before cracking open that freshly painted front door, walk through the house and repeat interior designer Mollie Johnson’s mantra: “Let spaces have some breathing room.” Put away piles of clutter, even if it’s only into a “sort later” box, and swap yesterday’s tangled cords for updated wireless holiday decorations and lights.

**four Clean it up.**
Look over high-traffic areas for signs of wear and tear. Touch up painted finishes, clean the fingerprints off the walls and the switch plates, and rent a steam cleaner to bring dingy sofas and carpets back to life. Don’t forget the guest room. Change the sheets; add a little basket for guests of often forgotten items (toothpaste and toothbrush, hairbrush, tissues, and the like) and a vase of flowers.

**five Make small changes for big impact.**
Judy O’Neil Labins of Shafer O’Neil Interior Design says to go for maximum impact in minimum space by painting or papering the guest bathroom. Replace the knobs on kitchen cabinets or update the faucet style to refresh the room. Switch artwork around or create a gallery of portraits with matching or complimentary new frames. “Finally,” says Labins, “if you have pets, buy them new collars. They will love you for it.”

**six Mix materials.**
Combine natural materials like moss or pine cones with slick metal or glass for visual and tactile contrast. Put out a bowl of glass ornaments for sparkle. Mix and match silver, glass, and wood candlesticks to create an interesting landscape.

**seven Be bold with color.**
Find ways to pop strong colors throughout the house, inside and out, to provide a festive and fresh look for the winter’s short days leave plenty of long nights for holiday entertaining. Before welcoming far away family and friends, try some of these top tips to give your home a fresh face.

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**seven Be bold with color.**
Find ways to pop strong colors throughout the house, inside and out, to provide a festive and fresh look for the
holiday season. Choose two to three colors and keep them consistent. Switch out pillows, accent fabrics, and table settings seasonally. The use of metallic materials in winter brightens a room.

eight Go green.
Use a mix of cut greens, colorful branches, and live plants for window boxes, planters, wreaths, garlands, and tabletops. “In addition to traditional pine branches,” says NatureWorks President Matt Gramer, “consider variegated holly leaf branches, juniper sprigs with blue berries, red and yellow twig dogwood stems, pine cones, and other unusual organic materials.” Keep cut plants in fresh water and use easy anti-desiccant products to retain moisture.

nine Use inviting scents.
“Let your nose know it’s the holiday season,” says Gramer. Place seasonal potpourri or scented candles near the entryway and throughout the house, bake cookies shortly before guests arrive, or use deliciously scented flowers in arrangements.

ten Keep it safe.
Replace old extension cords with the new UL rated cords — or go cordless. Route cords to minimize the chances that someone may trip on them. Keep candles away from curtains and other flammable materials and take the stockings down before lighting a fire in the fireplace. If you plan to have a live Christmas tree, check it for freshness, water it frequently, and keep it at a distance from fireplaces, candles, radiators, and portable heaters. Be sure that breakable ornaments and poisonous plants are out of the reach of young children and pets.

(DAWN DELIASANTA-SWANN writer)
Eric Barry Photography is pleased to announce the opening of its newly renovated studio on Washington Street in Wellesley. Eric is an award-winning photographer focusing on family portraits and weddings. Eric has traveled to Nevis, Hawaii, and throughout New England to capture weddings with his unique documentary style approach. His work has been used in national ad campaigns and regularly appears in publications such as Grace Ormond, Boston Magazine’s Weddings, The Knot, WellWed, Southern New England Weddings, and WellesleyWeston Magazine.

Kathryn Piscitelle, Psy.D., long-time Wellesley resident and graduate of Wellesley High School and Wellesley College, has opened Clinical and Educational Neuropsychology Services (CENS) in Waltham. Piscitelle and co-owner Jennifer White, Ed.M., Ph.D., offer comprehensive neuropsychological, academic, and psychological testing services specializing in children, adolescents, and young adults as well as school observations, program evaluations, parent workshops, and transition planning. For more information, please visit www.censneuropsychology.com.

For one-stop shopping, visit the Mall at Chestnut Hill, an upscale, two-level enclosed shopping mall located nearby in Chestnut Hill. A Simon property, the Mall is anchored by Bloomingdale’s in two locations, with the Women’s store and the Men’s & Home Furnishing store, and it offers an enjoyable and fashionable shopping experience with fine merchandise from over 60 specialty boutiques and new stores including Stuart Weitzman, Tiffany & Co., Ross-Simons, Apple, and more. Visit www.simon.com/Mall/id=766 and www.facebook.com/MallAtChestnutHill.

Teri Adler with Pinnacle Residential Properties has launched a real estate website, www.teriadler.com. This state-of-the-art site offers clients a fast and easy way to research homes for sale in the area as well as learn more about Wellesley and Weston and the buying and selling process. Potential home buyers now have all the information they need in one place. Teri Adler is Pinnacle Residential Properties’ top agent. For more information call 617.306.3642 or e-mail tadler@pinnaclehouses.com.

Pamela S. Gilman of Wellesley was recently selected by her peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® 2013. This marks the second year in a row Gilman has been named to The Best Lawyers in America directory. Gilman, a partner in the Boston office of Taylor Duane Barton & Gilman, has tried and won over 50 cases in her distinguished career, including medical malpractice, personal injury, premises liability, and products liability trials.

Paige Yates, a Weston resident and sales associate in the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Weston office, has been ranked among the country’s top 1,000 real estate agents and teams. Yates ranked No. 213 on The Wall Street Journal/REAL Trends list of top 250 real estate sales professionals based on sales volume, closing more than $42.6 million in sales in 2011. Yates can be reached at the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Weston at 781.893.4500 or at Paige.Yates@NEMoves.com.

Paige Yates

Dover Rug & Home and Dover Squash & Fitness recently sponsored the third annual “Showdown at Symphony III” at Symphony Hall in Boston. In front of a crowd of 1,000 spectators, the squash showdown featured a match between England (represented by James Willstrop and Nick Matthew) and Egypt (represented by Ramy Ashour and Amr Shabana). “Showdown at Symphony” donates 50 percent of the net event proceeds to SquashBusters, the first non-profit youth enrichment program to combine squash, academics, and community service.

left to right: Nick Matthew, Amr Shabana, Arshad Iqbal Burki, James Willstrop, Mahmoud Jafri, Ramy Ashour, Feroz Mahmood, and Paul Mathieson

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Members of the Kyle Alexandra team went to New York City for Fashion Week and attended several fashion shows for Spring 2013; they even made it onto the red carpet! Kyle Alexandra Wardrobe and Style Consulting is very excited about all of the spring trends for 2013 and you can find out more about their experience during fashion week by tuning into the Wellesley Community Channel. Visit www.kylealexandra.com.

Barbra Thomas is proud to announce she has joined Prudential Town and Country Real Estate. Formerly a real estate agent in Needham, she brings with her a strong background in sales and customer service as well as much insight into renovations and the construction process. A resident of Wellesley, Barbra is looking forward to working with homeowners and homebuyers in the Wellesley market and beyond.

On Saturday, December 8, do not miss Fabulous Four at Lux Bond & Green in their Wellesley store at 60 Central Street from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. What’s happening? From noon to 4:00 pm, Master Engraver Heidi Cockwill will personalize Simon Pearce glassware purchases. Plus, enjoy trunk shows including Raymond Weil watches, Italian designer Roberto Coin collection and Clara Williams jewelry, and taste treats from Simon and Pia Pearce’s Vermont restaurant cookbook. To pre-order Simon Pearce, call 781.235.9119. Visit www.luxbondandgreen.com.

The West Newton Hearing Center is holding an Open House November 27 through 29. Have your hearing tested by licensed audiologists who will check and clean your current hearing aids and allow you to “test drive” new technology with no financial obligation. All Open House services are provided free of charge. Experience for yourself what excellent service and professional hearing health care is all about. Call 617.332.7244 now to reserve your appointment.

The owners of Cafe Mangal have opened Muna, a gift shop that sells Turkish goods, next to the restaurant at 555 Washington Street in Wellesley. Berna Ozargun selects handmade items from her native Turkey including pottery, silk scarves, jewelry, pillows, and household accessories. She is available to educate customers and explain the origin of each item sold in the store. Muna is open daily from 10:30 to 3:30 or by appointment. Call 781.235.5322 for more information.

The offices of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New England recently collected and donated school supplies to The Guidance Center,
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$4,350,000
WELLESLEY
$3,495,000
WELLESLEY
$2,995,000
WELLESLEY
$1,875,000

WELLESLEY
$1,749,500
WELLESLEY
$1,650,000
WELLESLEY
$1,295,000

WELLESLEY
$1,289,000
WELLESLEY
$1,245,000
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a nonprofit organization that provides support services and programs to at-risk children and families in Cambridge and Somerville. Sales associates and employees of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage donated crayons, colored pencils, paper, notebooks, glue, scissors, backpacks, and other school essentials. The items were delivered to The Guidance Center’s main office in Cambridge. Visit www.NewEnglandMoves.com.

Join Us! The Wellesley Chamber of Commerce will continue its $299 annual membership rate through the end of 2012. Take advantage of over $3,000 worth of new-member benefits, including 3% discounts on health insurance for small businesses, advertising in The Townsman and chamber e-newsletters, and networking events. The public is invited to bid for local merchants’ holiday gifts at the Shop Wellesley First Silent Auction to be held on November 17 at Babson Executive Conference Center. Call 781.235.2446 for more information.

Shafer O’Neil Interior Design welcomes you to join them for their ongoing “Design Discourse” guest series the first Thursday of every month.

On Thursday, December 1 join Judy O’Neil Labins and Sarah Horton for “Decorating for the Holidays” and receive a 10 percent discount for purchases throughout the evening. On January 3, join Jill Butler, author of “Create the Space you Deserve,” as she guides you to create your ideal living space through a personal journey.

Owners of the award-winning Adamas Fine Jewelry in Newton are expanding their admired brand with the new IMPULSE by Adamas Fine Jewelry showroom scheduled to open November 30 in Wellesley at 180 Linden Street, #104. The IMPULSE showroom will offer exclusive designer jewelry collections from well-known artists as well as newly discovered names and will feature an exclusive signature jewelry collection designed by store owners Anto Aboyan and Veronica Sagherian. For more information, please call 781.416.1800 or visit www.trustyourimpulse.com.

Nicole Carol Hair Studio, located at 141 Linden Street in Wellesley, is celebrating a grand re-opening after seventeen years in business with a new name. Owners Nicole Killilee and Carol Flynn welcome stylist Nino Martinez, a board-certified hair colorist formerly of Newbury Street, to their team. With over 20 years of experience specializing in corrective hair coloring and precision cuts, the team offers personal service and attention to detail in a relaxed and social environment. See their ad on page 187.

Amy Mizner, principal of Benoit Mizner Simon & Co. Real Estate has been named one of Banker & Tradesman’s Women of FIRE, an annual award honoring the key female players in the local FIRE (Finance, Insurance and Real Estate) sector. Debi Benoit, also a principal of Benoit Mizner Simon & Co. was, for a third year, ranked as one of the country’s top real estate agents according to The Wall Street Journal/Real Trends 2012 Real Estate Top 250 Sales Professionals by Dollar Volume. Visit www.benoitmiznersimon.com.

The Town of Wellesley received the “Green Power Community” award from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), becoming the first community in Massachusetts and only the second in New England to receive this designation. According
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to the latest data released by the EPA, Wellesley’s 11.4 percent voluntary renewable energy participation rate trails only Palo Alto, California (21.5 percent) and Portland, Oregon (12.7 percent) nationally.

Please join us for a series of free 90-minute informational workshops that address the new Massachusetts Alimony Reform Law and its potential effect on you. Family law attorney Howard Goldstein and associates will outline the major changes in the law and Certified Divorce Financial Analyst Gabrielle Clemens will offer financial solutions. Workshop dates are: November 14 and 28, December 5 and 12, January 9 and 23, and February 6 and 27. Please call 617.439.8528 for more information.

Westernacher & Partner Consulting, Inc., a global consulting firm in Wellesley Square, has just completed its first SAP Extended Warehouse Management (EWM) project in the Boston area. The project enabled their client, a $1.5 billion precision equipment manufacturer, to increase inventory turns by factor 2-3. From “Service Parts Optimization” in the automotive industry to compliance with “ePedigree” (track and trace) for pharmaceuticals, Westernacher combines American innovation with German engineering for game-changing results. For more information check out www.westernacher.com.

Shreve, Crump & Low has relocated its Boston flagship store to 39 Newbury Street. Located in a 100-year-old townhome, there is an architectural atmosphere of refined elegance to the space which houses diamonds and precious jewels on the first level, Swiss and German watches on the second level, and fine gifts and bridal registry on the third level. Discover the incredible at Shreve, Crump & Low now located at 39 Newbury Street in Boston, or at 232 Boylston Street in Chestnut Hill.

Wellesley Friendly Aid has created Wellesley Volunteers thanks to a grant from the Fund for Wellesley to promote volunteerism in the town by enabling Wellesley organizations to match their needs for volunteers with local residents interested in volunteering. Wellesley Volunteers will operate through use of volunteermatch.org, a long-established external website. The Wellesley Volunteers Task Force is a citizen group representing town nonprofits and town agencies. For more information, please contact Megan Burns at wellesleyvolunteers@gmail.com.

David Varela, Complex Manager and Vice President, Investments for Raymond James & Associates Inc., Member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC, is pleased to announce another addition to his complex of financial advisors. Mr. Mark W. Teed joins David from Wells Fargo and will work in David’s Springfield, Massachusetts branch. With this acquisition David, whose complex is based in Wellesley Hills, will have supervisory responsibility on almost $1.5 billion of investable assets. If you wish to consult with David about current stock market conditions and/or your portfolio please call 781.235.1391.

The Clever Hand Gallery welcomes photographer Gail Fischer as its newest member. Gail’s photos often illustrate a sense of humor or mystery, inviting viewers to take a second look at the image and question what they are seeing. A graphically interesting landscape could be a documentary shot, an intimate portrait, or a humorous image. Gail’s images are fine works of art printed on special handmade paper. Some are embellished with oil pastels. See our ad on page 197.

Renata Rosenfield and Rob Rosenfield.

Celebrating 40 years in Natick, Renjeau Galleries is one of the Boston area’s premier art galleries, offering a large selection of contemporary and traditional fine art from established and emerging artists. Conveniently located on Route 9 (79 Worcester Street) in Natick, Renjeau represents both local painters and artists from around the world. The gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and evenings by appointment. Call 508.655.5121 for more information.

Shawna Nehiley and Deborah Young

Body in Motion, creators of the barfusion™ total body workout, has expanded their class schedule and staff. The Linden Square facility now features over 45 barfusion and Pilates classes per week taught by experienced instructors, including new barfusionSTRETCH and barfusionAMPED. Their talented staff now includes 14-year Pilates veteran Shawna Nehiley and Power Pilates trained instructor, Deborah Young. Get back in shape this fall with

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Dr. Elsie Levin, founder of the Boston Breast Diagnostic Center, a Wellesley company, was the Grand Prize Winner of Boston magazine’s first annual Boston’s Best Businesses, an award program designed to highlight the innovative small businesses, leaders, and organizations making an overwhelmingly positive impact on the Boston community. As the top winner, Dr. Levin was awarded a year of travel for two on JetBlue.

Dr. Elsie Levin, founder of the Boston Breast Diagnostic Center

Donna Scott, a sales associate in the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Wellesley office, has once again been ranked among the country’s top 1,000 real estate agents and teams. Scott ranked No. 124 on The Wall Street Journal/REAL Trends list of top 250 real estate sales professionals based on sales volume, closing more than $54.1 million in sales in 2011. Scott consistently ranks among Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage’s top 25 sales associates. She can be reached at 781.237.9090 or via e-mail at Donna.Scott@NEMoves.com.

Long’s Jewelers is excited to launch the latest collections from Ivanka Trump Fine Jewelry exclusively at their 323 Speen Street, Natick location. Reflecting Ivanka Trump’s personal standards of style and elegance, her designs take inspiration from the poise and glamour of fashion’s most celebrated eras. Welcome to the return of romance, the reinvention of elegance, a sign of timeless glamour, and a symbol of a new tradition. Visit them at their convenient Natick location or online at www.longsjewelers.com.

Long’s Jewelers

Pine Straw celebrated its first anniversary October 1 and is now enjoying its newly expanded space, which will be home to apparel, bath/body, and accessories. The store is gearing up for the holidays with lots of great gifts for everyone (including great men’s items). Denimocracy, Pink Lotus and Green Dragon, and Roberta Freyman join their apparel department. LAFCO, Lollia, and Blithe and Bonny have a bigger presence than ever and Frasier Fir by Thymes is back in stock. Check out www.pinestrawshopwellesley.com for announcements on workshops and special shopping nights.

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Robert Damon is the new Executive Director of the Wellesley Historical Society. Damon comes to the Society from the Old North Church in Boston, where he served as the Historic Site Manager and Programs Director. During his tenure at the Old North Church Damon was responsible for the creation and implementation of significant new interpretive and educational initiatives. A former schoolteacher, he holds master’s degrees in public history from Northeastern University and in education from the University of Vermont.

The holiday season is here again, and to help get you started on your holiday shopping, Lyn Evans Potpourri Designs is offering a special "25-50-75 Promotion" to customers in the know. From November 15 through November 25, shop any full-priced items and enjoy $25 off $110, $50 off $200, and $75 off $300 purchases. Don’t miss out on these amazing savings. Visit Lyn Evans Potpourri Designs in Wellesley at 8 Church Street. Go to www.lynevans.com for more information and additional store locations.

Locally grown botanical artist Carrie Megan recently won the Ursus Award for Merit at the 15th Annual International Juried American Society of Botanical Artists Exhibition for her graphite drawing titled Northern Red Oak & Gray Birch. The drawing will be on exhibit along with 39 botanical artists’ works from around the world until November 21 at the New York Horticultural Society gallery in New York City. Megan has a Certificate in Botanical Art & Illustration from the Wellesley College Friends of Horticulture, where she currently teaches.

Stephanie Burns, one of Wellesley’s top-producing real estate agents, has joined Benoit Mizner Simon & Co. Stephanie has over 10 years of experience as a real estate broker and is the recipient of the prestigious Chairman’s Circle Gold Award. In her prior career, Stephanie worked as a real estate attorney and was general counsel to one of the largest developers in the Northeast. Stephanie’s real estate experience combined with her negotiation skills honed as an attorney have provided invaluable assistance to
Inbox

For more Inbox news, please visit www.mb.com

Wellesley interior designer Monique St. Germain has a newly renovated website that features a home page slideshow of her interior design projects and a weekly Design Blog that offers information on design tips and trends while showcasing her work. “A well-designed home brings peace and comfort to one’s environment,” says St. Germain. For more than 25 years, she has been bringing her expertise, talent, and eye for detail to create one-of-a-kind personal spaces. Visit www.interiorsbymonique.com.

Artefact Home I Garden recently hosted a workshop where guests learned how to create memorable first impressions for their homes from some of the area’s top home design experts. The presenters included renowned Landscape Designer Laura Kuhn; Steve Payne, of Payne I Bouchier Fine Builders; Andrew Sidford, principal of Andrew M. Sidford Architects; and interior designer Rose Ann Humphrey, principal of Home Life by Rose Ann Humphrey. Artefact Home I Garden is located at 1000 Pleasant Street in Belmont. Call 617.993.3347, or visit www.artefacthome.com.

Fillo Financial LLC, located at One Hollis Street in Wellesley, was voted “Best Place for Taxes” in the PATCH Readers’ Choice Awards for 2012. Wellesley resident Marie Taylor recently rejoined Fillo Financial LLC as office manager and will be assisting with social media and business development. Check out the firm’s new website at www.fillofinancial.com.

Eastern Insurance Group President and CEO Hope Aldrich has been named “Insurance Professional of the Year” by the Insurance Library Association of Boston. Aldrich, a Wellesley resident, is the second woman to earn the award, which is given annually to “outstanding citizens who have distinguished themselves through service to their industry and the community at large.” Aldrich was honored by Banker and Tradesman as one of the inaugural “Women of FIRE” in August 2011. For more information, visit www.easterninsurance.com.

Weston Wing is pleased to announce the recent hire of Marianne Maloney as the new Director, replacing Ione Nauseda, who retired after 33 years of service. Prior to joining Weston Wing, Maloney served for 10 years as an early childhood teacher, with a concentration in the sciences, at the Magic Garden Children’s Center in Lincoln. Weston Wing is a nonprofit nursery school/child care center dedicated to the emotional, social, physical, and intellectual growth of children. Log on to westonwing.com for more information.
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Soulful Memories of Holidays Past

Liz Suneby writer
Peter Baker photographer
do images of multi-course feasts and ribbon-topped packages come to mind when you hear the words "Christmas" or "Hanukkah?" That’s typically not the case for older people who grew up during the Depression. Their holiday traditions were often simple, and without an abundance of food or presents.

Several elders living at Norumbega Point and Sunrise Senior Living in Weston and Waterstone in Wellesley, as well as those participating in Wellesley Friendly Aid’s Friendship Circle shared stories of their Depression-era childhood holiday traditions. Without a touch of remorse, virtually all the men and women recounted modest celebrations. In fact, most were quick to point out that they did not feel cheated out of lavish holidays. "Without TV to see how ‘the other side’ lived, we were unaware of another way and content with our own. Before World War II, we were thankful for any gifts, even pajamas, or a woolen skirt," explained a resident of Waterstone. Perhaps the following stories of past holiday traditions focused on family and friends will inspire the making of new stories of your own.
As a child growing up in Worcester in the 1930s, Barbara Coburn welcomed Christmas early in the morning, opening her stocking filled with utilitarian items atop a single piece of candy and a precious orange. Her family pooled their oranges to make fresh-squeezed juice for breakfast, a seasonal treat in the days prior to frozen food making it readily available all year long. After breakfast, Barbara’s family cleaned up the kitchen and got dressed for the day before opening gifts under the watchful eye of her mother who dutifully recorded who-gave-what-to-whom so thank you notes could follow. Fond memories of squeezing juice from oranges found nestled in Christmas stockings motivated Barbara to continue that tradition with her five children. Barbara recently moved to Waterstone’s independent senior living community from Weston where she raised her family and taught second and third grades at the Brook and Country elementary schools.

Barbara’s neighbors at Waterstone, Mark and Estelle Clements, have no recollection of Hanukkah celebrations during the Depression. They did light the menorah with their children, but without exchanging gifts—not due to economic hardship, but because, “Hanukkah just wasn’t a big deal; it’s not even mentioned in the Hebrew Bible,” explains Estelle. Ruth Harriet Jacobs, who lives at Norumbega Point, concurs, “As a child, there were no gifts for Hanukkah. Just some ‘gelt’ or small change each night from my parents.” Ruth Harriet continued the same low-key gelt-giving Hanukkah tradition with her son and daughter, as well.

Sunrise resident Lorraine Livingston’s Swedish heritage shaped her family’s Depression-era holidays. On Christmas Eve she received a few
basic gifts from Tomte, the Swedish Santa. Early Christmas morning her family walked two miles to the Lutheran Church in Moline, Illinois to attend services before returning home to breakfast and time around their Christmas tree draped in the Swedish flag. Lorraine’s mother baked cookies, including the traditional pepparkaka or gingerbread, and had a pot of hot coffee ready to greet visitors all day long. For dinner, the family enjoyed Swedish-style sausage and potatoes and the traditional rice pudding dessert, risgrynsgröt. Lorraine carried on a simple Swedish-inspired Christmas with her husband and four daughters, preparing traditional foods for them just as her mother did for her.

Armando Salvatore Rossi’s Italian roots shaped his childhood Christmas, which he recounts with a twinkle in his eye as all about
“food, family, and friends.” True to Italian culinary tradition, on Christmas Eve his mother prepared fish, including salt cod or “baccala.” On Christmas day she served pastas and meats—ravioli, lasagna, meatballs, and sausage. Above and beyond the delicious home cooking, Armando’s most compelling Christmas memory is his father’s love of hosting family and friends at their home. “Setting up the crèche scene in our living room is one of the most pleasant memories I have of my dad, whom I adored,” says 92-year-old Armando who now lives with his wife at Norumbega Point. Each year Armando’s dad invited neighbors over to watch his family parade crèche figures throughout the first floor of their house and then listen to Christmas music and a rousing sermon from a 78 rpm record.

Like Armando, Mary Eavenson, who also lives at Norumbega, remembers her family’s generosity during the holiday season. Mary’s mother ran a soup kitchen and her veterinarian dad accepted all sorts of barter deals, including homegrown fruit and fresh-churned butter, as payment for his services when his customers didn’t have cash. Many of Mary’s cherished Christmas memories revolve around this spirit of community, starting with the towering twelve-foot trees that her older brothers would cut down from the forest at the edge of her grandmother’s farm and fresh venison for dinner from the deer they hunted days before. She recalls her mother leading extended family in a sing-

along after dinner, with Mary’s favorite tune not a traditional Christmas carol but “Turkey in the Straw,” an early 19th-century American folk song. And if it was a white Christmas, Mary’s dad would take friends and neighbors on sleigh rides pulled by his two grey horses. One Christmas, Mary’s brother, dressed as Santa’s helper, held a Shetland pony under the tree, waiting for Mary to dart downstairs first thing in the morning. Her pony lived to be thirty-eight years old, so Mary’s three daughters had the chance to ride it, too. While Mary couldn’t carry on her dad’s sleigh ride
tradition with her girls, she is proud that her grown daughters continue a tradition from her youth — the first gifts the parents open on Christmas morning are hand-made creations from their children.

Even though Caroline Wright, who now lives at Sunrise, was born post-Depression in the more prosperous post-World War II era, her favorite Christmas tradition revolved around the simple gift of song. Each year on Christmas Eve Caroline caroled house-to-house in Chestnut Hill. Along with her minister and a group of other children they performed a repertoire of popular hymns and songs including “O Come All Ye Faithful” and “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.” Not
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surprisingly, Caroline looked forward to serenading the one family who greeted the carolers on their porch with punch and cookies.

Baby boomer and Waterstone’s Life Enrichment Director Leslye Peterson ushers in Christmas with her college-age daughters with a modest tradition she started when they were toddlers. While her children napped and then were at school, she decorated their home for the holiday, hiding their favorite ornament — a small red cardinal — for her girls to find when they woke up or returned home. Whichever daughter discovered the cardinal first got a dollar, exactly the same amount the winner gets today.

Unfortunately, not everyone is free to celebrate holidays as they choose, even in a simple manner. Nell Kronrod escaped with her family from Russia to the United States in 1991 thanks to the help of one of her English students’ mothers who worked in the visa office. Nell was raised in Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, before World War II. To elude the invading Germans, she fled at the age of seven with her family to hide in the Ural Mountains that divide Europe and Asia, before settling in after the war. Nell’s family is Jewish, but they didn’t celebrate Hanukkah or any of the Jewish holidays for fear of persecution. Nell does remember celebrating a couple of secular holidays in Russia, including International Woman’s Day, International Worker’s Day, and New Year’s Day. To usher in another year, her mother prepared a festive meal of Borscht soup, cabbage and sausage, and turkey. New Year’s was the one time a year Nell’s family splurged to buy a turkey at the farmer’s market, and her mother found ways to make the expensive bird last for ten days.

Unlike Nell, Ruth Harriet Jacobs has always been free to embrace the joy of sharing holidays with people of all religions and heritages. This former sociology professor, gerontologist, and author of many books, including Be an Outrageous Older Woman, captured her inclusive attitude in written prose, “I have eaten Thanksgiving turkey, Passover unleavened matzos, Christmas and Easter cakes, barbequed hamburgers and hot dogs on the fourth of July. I am willing to celebrate anyone’s holiday foods and customs.” True to her words, Ruth Harriet and her adult daughter look forward each winter to participating in a Christmas celebration at a Greek Orthodox Church in Watertown and spending Christmas day with her daughter’s goddaughter and family.

You can be sure Ruth Harriet brings along a traditional Jewish sweet to top off the Irish American Christmas meal.
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the procedure was a comparatively simple one: a burn contracture release and skin graft, completed in just over an hour. Dr. Richard Ehrlichman had operated on many such patients in his decades as a plastic surgeon in Wellesley. But this particular 13-year-old patient had no idea that Wellesley, Boston, or perhaps even Massachusetts existed. His name was Mohammed.

Three years ago, at age 54, Ehrlichman was an unlikely candidate to enlist in the National Guard; but he did exactly that. Perhaps the surgeon’s annual visits to treat children with cleft lip and palate disfigurements in Cartagena, Colombia motivated him. Or perhaps his early training at Brigham and Women’s Hospital under Wellesley’s Nobel Laureate, Dr. Joseph Murray – who performed the first successful human organ transplant in 1954 and whose early surgical experience involved treating World War II battle wounds – influenced the decision.

Ehrlichman says only that his decision was made as he reflected on his father, who was at the World War II German surrender at Reims, and then on all the young Americans after 9/11 who had passed up college scholarships and good jobs to join the Army, and thought, “It’s not fair for these kids to give up so much and I’ve given up nothing.”

Shipping Out
In fall of 2011, word came down that the doctor would deploy to Kabul, Afghanistan, as a Lieutenant Colonel with the Massachusetts 182nd Infantry, serving America since 1636. “We were part of the 26th
Thanks to Operation Outreach Afghanistan, Dr. Ehrlichman (right) has corrected Mohammed’s burn contracture, enabling full range of motion in his right hand.
Infantry Brigade," he says, “with most of the enlisted men in their twenties, most of the company commanders in their mid thirties, the senior staff in their forties, and I, certainly, the oldest one in our unit at age 57.”

The road to Afghanistan required several detours to ready the 182nd for combat-zone duty – a course title that had not appeared on Ehrlichman’s syllabus at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. First came special trauma training in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, followed by orientation in Fort Benning, Georgia. “There, you get your weapons qualifications and all of your equipment,” Ehrlichman explains. “That includes cold and warm weather gear, sleeping bags, gas gear, chemical gear, and a medic bag.” From Georgia, the Guardsmen and women boarded a cavernous C-17 transport to a US base in Kuwait where they became acclimated for several days to the bleak weather. The final leg carried them to Bagram Air Base in Kabul, followed by a 15-minute chopper lift to their multinational “Camp Phoenix” (British, French, Bulgarian, Canadian, Romanian, German, Mongolian, American). There, corrugated box-like housing awaited them, promptly earning it the title “Lego Land.”

The deployment was not lengthy – about four months – but in that time the unit was kept busy with its charge of providing security for various military outfits in Kabul, including the 3,000 troops at Camp Phoenix and the headquarters of NATO and ISAF (International Security Assistance Force). The latter was attacked in the fall and the base in the spring. Both times, the unit responded.

**Weathering Kabul**

In a city of six million, Ehrlichman quickly got the lay of the land. “Kabul is like LA,” he says. “It’s situated between two branches of the Hindu Kush Mountains, so it sits in a bowl. With numerous vehicles,
and millions of people in the habit of burning everything, you wake up in the morning and the air gets on your teeth. It’s filthy. The most common conditions we treated in the battalion aid station were respiratory related."

With the worst winter in 18 years routinely delivering two-foot snowfalls, no day was typical. “Once a week we would go out on patrol,” Ehrlichman continues. “ Everywhere we went, we went in convoys of armored Land Cruisers with full battle gear on. We had what was called the QRF (Quick Reaction Force), so if anything happened in Kabul, we rolled out.”

How did the native population view these convoys? “The people generally fear outsiders,” Ehrlichman observes. “They were always happy to receive clothes and food from us, and were happy that we patrolled their neighborhoods, but, in general, I don’t think they liked us very much.”

Three days a week, the Wellesleyite worked in the battalion aid station, where nearly 2,000 local citizens sought medical help – many for treatment of burns, acquired through cooking with kerosene. Disturbingly, other burns were the result of a local form of punishment: immersing recalcitrant children in hot water. “Afterwards, they’d drop them off at our front gate, figuring we’d take care of them,” Ehrlichman says, frowning.
As the only surgeon in a camp with limited medical facilities, Ehrlichman longed to put the full range of his skills to work. A supportive colonel arranged for him to spend one day a week at Afghanistan’s National Medical Military Center. For security reasons, the day of the week always varied and an armed escort accompanied him. Here, Ehrlichman felt the full impact of the war, operating on grievously wounded Afghan soldiers. “One had been dragged out of his car by the Taliban,” he says, “shot five times, and set on fire.”

Ehrlichman quickly earned the trust of local physicians who were developing the country’s first medical school, and helped them write the surgical curriculum. His full reward, though, came through an initiative run by the soldiers at Camp Phoenix. They called it “Operation Outreach Afghanistan.” The operation’s purpose was to gather and deliver school supplies weekly to impoverished schools (where Ehrlichman saw no girls in attendance), and to provide medical care to children without any.

Mohammed

It was through Operation Outreach’s visits to Marastoon Orphanage that the surgeon learned of Mohammed Ali, the 13-year old who had suffered acute burns at age eight, leaving him with a severe contracture in his right hand. Ehrlichman knew the condition was correctable, and – despite his unit’s
imminent departure home to Massachusetts – offered to operate. “I was planning on taking care of Mohammed at the Afghan hospital,” he says. “We even raised money to pay the OR fee.”

But in a perennially war-torn city, fate delivered a salvo of its own: on the day scheduled for Mohammed’s surgery, the Koran burnings by US soldiers took place. “Our base was attacked by huge crowds throwing rocks and firing bullets,” Ehrlichman recalls. “The neighborhood we were in was called Ud Kheil, kind of a tough area. All the roads went what’s called ‘black,’ which meant you couldn’t get out, because they couldn’t guarantee security. I thought we weren’t going to be able to perform the surgery.”

Despite the surrounding violence, rather than see the boy go uncared for, the team forged ahead with an alternate plan, facilitated by a Connecticut state trooper who was the NCO in charge of the station. “Through Sergeant Russell’s efforts, the US Army helicoptered in the surgical equipment we needed from Bagram Air Force Base to Camp Phoenix,” Ehrlichman explains. “Our Afghan interpreter was able to get through the closed roads to bring Mohammed into the camp. We turned our battalion aid station into a hospital, and operated on Mohammed there. This involved anesthesia as well as the surgery, and the cooperation of the base defense forces, local interpreters, and the entire medical staff.”

The procedure was a success. Although simple, it will change Mohammed’s life forever. Ehrlichman’s photos – taken during the operation and after – attest to this, showing a delighted Mohammed, able to stretch out his fingers with full range for the first time in five years. The orphan received rock-star status at the base, with everyone from cooks to commanders turning out to greet him. “It was one of those few things in life where everything works out,” Ehrlichman says, beaming at the memory of it.
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Now settled back in Wellesley, the doctor remains army-strong, still sporting a military haircut and wearing his keys on a “US Army”-imprinted lanyard. While enjoying reuniting with his children and wife Nancy, he recently joined the staff of the Brigham and Women’s Burn Trauma Service – echoing his treatment of Afghan burn victims. The military still remains in the forefront: “I think next year they want to send me to flight surgeon’s school,” he says with a boyish delight that defies his decades. “All the aviation from the Army, Navy, and Coast Guard will be centralized at Camp Edwards on the Cape. So I might get to learn how to fly, which is cool.”

Meanwhile, Ehrlichman relies on Facebook to keep in touch with his band of brothers from the 182nd, whose mission he says was “fully accomplished with no casualties.” He can’t shower enough accolades on the recruits who served with him. “The thing that impressed me the most about everything was the young kids in the battalion – how skilled they were. You’re flying around at night through mountain passes in pitch black or you’re driving these vehicles on narrow roads. It’s done by 20-year-old kids. And they’re phenomenal. These guys go out and risk their lives. They’re so focused, so good at what they do – dedicated and duty bound. It makes you very happy for the future of our country.”

DIANE SPEARE TRIANT is a writer in Wellesley Hills.
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the town of weston, incorporated on January 12, 1713, will turn 300 this year and the birthday party that is planned will last all year and incorporate all of the typical fun – plus so much more, according to members of the Weston 300 Steering Committee appointed by the town. Their goals have been to celebrate the heritage of the town, create wide and diverse participation in celebratory events, and create a commemorative legacy for the town.

The celebration will feature three major events in 2013 including: the Weston 300 Commemoration and Weston Winterfest in January, the Weston 300 Field Day and Grand Celebration Concert in June, and the Weston 300 Founder’s Day Fall Festival in October. In addition, Weston is fundraising for a Weston 300 Legacy Trail (see sidebar on page 68.)
To kick off the yearlong party, and to honor this 300-year milestone, the Weston 300 Committee is hosting an official Tercentennial Commemoration in the Weston Town Hall at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 12. The event will feature a town proclamation, commentary by town and state dignitaries, and a choral celebration. “The commemoration is a look at how far we’ve come in 300 years,” says Dusty Rhodes, Weston 300 Committee chair.
Weston Turns 300

The Reverend Dr. Thomas Wintle of First Parish Church in Weston, the large stone landmark in Weston Center, is organizing a simultaneous town-wide ringing of the church bells at 4:00 p.m. to signify the start of the commemoration. The First Parish Church was established in 1698, starting the town of Weston in the process.

Two special worship services, in the style of 1713, will be offered at First Parish as part of the town celebrations. The first will mark the town’s incorporation on Sunday, January 13, 2013, and the second will celebrate Thanksgiving on November 24, 2013.

“We’ll worship in the way of the Puritan settlers,” says Dr. Wintle. “The January 13 service will use our colonial communion silver now on loan to the Museum of Fine Arts. All residents of any denomination are welcome to attend.”

January 2013

Weston Winterfest

On January 12, immediately preceding the Commemoration, the Weston 300 Committee will host a Winterfest celebration for all ages complete with sleigh rides, games, and snowman making contests. There will also be an ice skating rink on the town common accented by music, a bonfire, hot cocoa, and a huge birthday cake – everything needed to bring the town together for some winter fun.

“We’re really hoping for some snow,” says Weston 300 Winterfest chair Diana Chaplin. “We will have some snow-making equipment on hand if need be.”
Chaplin's vision is to create an atmosphere similar in spirit to the winter Frog Pond concept on the Boston Common: “Obviously, we’re weather dependent here, but I’m optimistic and so excited to do it because no one’s ever done anything like this. We’re thrilled to be doing it, actually,” she adds with emphasis.

The Winterfest will continue on Sunday, January 13 across town at the Rivers School in Weston where there will be a Weston 300 Ice Skating Showcase. In the afternoon, there will be a reception for Weston 300 featuring the Weston Historical Society Exhibition at the Weston Public Library.

**June 2013**

**Weston 300 Field Day, Marketplace, and Concert**

On June 1, the town will gather again to celebrate – this time at the Weston High School. The Weston 300 Committee has designed a full day of free events and
activities for all ages culminating in a grand finale concert with fireworks, Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture, and...cannons!

Dee Frieberg, Weston 300 Field Day chair explains: “The field day starts with a road race and continues with the marketplace, food pavilion, family festival, wet paint auction, baseball game, and more. In the evening, Chris Memoli, Director of Music for Weston Public Schools, will be Master of Ceremonies for a Grand Celebration Concert featuring a 300-person town-wide choral group and combined orchestras.”

“The concert is a huge event on the football field, Pops style, where people can dine on blankets and enjoy the concert,” says Rhodes. “The event is free, but certain premium seats will be sold. We’re really excited about the concert. It will be the pinnacle jewel of the whole year.”
October 2013

FOUNDER’S DAY FALL FESTIVAL

To keep the celebration rolling, the Weston 300 Committee has planned a parade for Saturday, October 5, beginning at 11:00 a.m., starting on Boston Post Road and ending at the Town Green. Depicting Weston’s history with the theme “From Farm Town to Suburb,” units in the parade will come from all walks of life including civic and government organizations, schools, religious groups, and businesses. Weston Recreation Director Doug MacDougall, along with the Weston 300 Committee, “encourages town-wide participation in the parade.”

Weston’s neighbors in surrounding towns are heartily encouraged to participate in Weston 300 events: “We welcome the surrounding communities to come, participate, enjoy, and celebrate our extended community,” says Rhodes.

OF NOTE:
- WESTON GREAT GRAVESTONES AND WESTON 300 CHRONICLES: Re-enactors will take their places in the town cemetery and elsewhere throughout the year to present a bit of history. According to former history teacher Cheryl Maloney, look for Weston drama students who will be a part of this event. “It’s a way of telling the history that’s fun.”
- THE TOUR DE WESTON – SEPTEMBER 29, 2013: A bike ride course that will connect historic homes and farms of Weston. Registration fee.
- VETERANS DAY SALUTE – OCTOBER 2013: The Weston public schools will invite veterans to join a special event: “We’ll observe the participation of Weston residents in service to our country,” says Maloney.
- WESTON THANKSGIVING FOOTBALL GAME VERSUS WAYLAND: At home on November 28, 2013. Ceremonies that day will serve to conclude the celebration.
- COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS: Caps, blankets, calendars - available at the Gift Gallery in Weston and online.
- OFFICIAL PUBLICATION: The Farmers Precinct: Three Centuries of Weston History written by Pam Fox, produced by the Weston Historical Society in cooperation with Weston 300.

The committee is hoping to touch every household in Weston, inspiring them to participate and donate to the event. “Hopefully every family will find a way to enjoy and participate during the year,” adds Diana Chaplin.
And The Rest

Interwoven between these primary events will be countless educational, cultural, and historical opportunities for students, residents, and neighbors. “The schools are very happy to play a role in this exciting celebration,” says Cheryl Maloney, Superintendent, Weston Public Schools. “It’s an opportunity for students to appreciate the heritage of the town, to make contributions themselves to the history just by participating in the celebration, and to grow by participating in activities whether it’s taking photographs or reenacting some of the characters from Weston’s history.”

To learn more, consult the official website, www.Weston300.org for complete Weston 300 details.
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earlier this year, my 87-year-old stepfather Bernie died. He had taken a fall in the middle of the night and fractured his hip. Aware of the intense pain that he was in, his doctors advised my mother that he should have surgery to repair his hip, despite his age and his advancing Alzheimer’s. After several conversations, our family was on board with this recommendation and was hopeful that Bernie would be out of pain and on his way to recovery after the rather short procedure. Unfortunately, life threw us a curve ball at that point. Bernie’s heart gave out moments after the surgery and within minutes he was on life support. When it became clear that he would not be able to breathe on his own again, and that his Alzheimer’s would preclude him from being able to understand and adapt to what was happening to him, circumstances demanded that our family have a different conversation.

Fortunately, the conversation about Bernie’s wishes regarding the quality of his life and his medical treatment under various circumstances had already taken place years before. Together he and my mom, along with their doctors, a minister, lawyer, accountant, and financial planner, had considered various possible future scenarios for his health. Working with trusted experts, they translated his wishes into official documents and distributed them to those who would be impacted by decisions related to his health in the future, and to those that might be called upon to make those decisions. As a result, a difficult time was made easier.

“Good planning can minimize family misery,” explains Richard Feigenbaum, Esq., who practices estate planning in Wellesley. Indeed it did. Having had “the conversation” earlier in life, indeed many times, Bernie and my mother made it possible for his end-of-life wishes to be articulated and honored. Clearly knowing his intentions brought our blended family together...
during his final days, allowing us to ask specific questions of Bernie’s health care team regarding his prognosis, rather than arguing among ourselves by his bedside and from afar, to determine what we felt was best for him. It allowed us to focus on Bernie and to celebrate his life, while mourning his passing.

In a time and place when people are living longer and dying more slowly, being intentional about having these conversations can make it possible for each of us to proactively choose how we want to live our final days, which can extend, in some cases, over several years. It can also make it easier on the family members and friends that may be called upon to make our health care decisions for us. Unfortunately, too often there is a disconnect between the type of medical care that people want and the actual treatment they receive when they are faced with a dramatic decline in the quality of their life. The reason? Planning often takes place too late, in emergency situations, rather than when people have the time and space to thoughtfully digest the issues and consider the options.

“The barriers to effective planning are many, including the difficulty of the conversation, the feeling of being overwhelmed by the legal process, and simple procrastination,” Feigenbaum observes. Drawing from over 25 years of experience in helping families through this process, Feigenbaum will also tell you that, “It doesn’t have to be onerous; it can be a very positive, reassuring experience.”

When is the right time to begin these conversations? “Now,” says Ellen Goodman, the Pulitzer-prize winning journalist who recently helped launch The Conversation Project, a movement whose goal is to have every citizen’s end-of-life wishes expressed and respected. “It’s always too soon [to have these essential discussions] until it’s too late,” Goodman observes. By jumpstarting the conversation, primarily through storytelling, The Conversation Project, which Goodman co-founded along with Harvard’s Institute for Healthcare Improvement, was formed to make it easier to talk about a subject that is often considered taboo. “There is a conspiracy of silence around this issue which leaves too many people blind sided,” Goodman explains. “The fact is there is a 100 percent chance that we will all experience mortality at some point in our lives.”

But when should these discussions really begin? From a legal perspective, Feigenbaum suggests that people begin the conversation when they turn 18. While this recommendation may sound shockingly premature, here is the rationale: serious medical events can happen at any time. A famous case, Karen Ann Quinlan was 21 years old when she fell into a coma, and lived on in this condition for almost a decade. If the necessary documentation is not in place, adult children may not be able to have their families involved in their health care decisions should they become incapable of making decisions for themselves. In this scenario, medical decision-making is left to the discretion of the
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...
Wills vary from state to state, so if you live in more than one state it is important to make sure that the appropriate documentation is completed in both residences—and may be revoked at any time. Living Wills are not binding in Massachusetts; however, they can provide important guidelines for treatment.

As young people begin to accumulate assets, or if they have been named as a beneficiary of someone else’s assets—say, for example, a life insurance policy—they will want to create a Will, which will give them the ability to control the distribution of their assets in the case of their death. If they marry and/or have children, they often reflect that change in their Will and in the designation of the beneficiaries of their assets. They will also want to complete Guardianship forms to avoid having their children’s caretakers be decided by the courts in the event of the death or incapacitation of their parents, and consider trusts and other estate planning options.

As adults progress into their late fifties and early sixties, it can be helpful to engage an estate planning lawyer with an expertise in elder law with whom to consider additional issues associated with aging, illness, and incapacity including long term care insurance, Social Security, Veterans, or disability benefits, and financial planning for a well spouse. “Some children opt to hire this expertise for their parents, in the event that their parents are unable to pay for it themselves, to protect their own financial situation and to ensure that their parents are well cared for,” Feigenbaum explains.

As part of this planning, some adults begin to consider their preferences for their own funeral arrangements and some even prepay those expenses. “These moves are often precipitated by a desire to spend down assets [before attempting to qualify for Medicaid coverage],” explains Edward Doherty of the George F. Doherty & Sons Funeral Home in Wellesley. “But it is also a considerate thing to do for family members who will be overwhelmed by details when the time comes.”

Wellesley resident Joanna Dole is working overtime to help her parents put their affairs in order. One of the first things she did was to hire a good elder law attorney. After interviewing
several, she settled on one with whom she felt comfortable, that had years of elder law experience, and that charged by the document, not by the hour. “I wanted to be able to call and talk about what was going on and to not feel like the meter was running all of the time,” Dole says. “He has been invaluable, helping me to sort through so many excruciating details.”

How necessary is it to hire an estate planning or elder law attorney to work through this process given the abundance of information and sample documents available online?

“There are certain things you should not try to do on your own,” cautions Feigenbaum. “It can cost you everything that you are trying to protect.” He cites the readily available Power of Attorney forms that “sign away your decision-making rights immediately” as an example. “Your house can be sold right
Preparing for our journey’s end helps to fulfill our wishes, provide comfort to those we love, and allow time to celebrate a life.

out from underneath you with that document,” Feigenbaum cautions. A trusted advisor would likely recommend the Springing Power of Attorney document that assigns those rights only in the event that the grantor is incapacitated and only after two doctors have verified the grantor’s incapacity.

What other words of wisdom are there? “Don’t put your head in the sand,” Dole offers. “Start early and don’t be obtuse about the conversation.” Goodman would agree: “Make this a kitchen table conversation rather than one that takes place in an ICU. Our attempts to protect one another keep us from having this conversation and, as a result, we can end up alone and uncertain.” Feigenbaum adds, “we procrastinate, thinking this process is quite an undertaking, but the truth of the matter is everything that we are talking about here does not take that long to complete.”

Once the conversation(s) have been had and the associated documentation is in place, distribute copies to family members, doctors, and keep a copy in a readily accessible envelope—not in a safety deposit box. “You’ll need these materials within the first 36 hours of an emergency situation, when you won’t want the anxiety of trying to locate or sign these documents,” Feigenbaum advises. Finally, put your affairs in order so that you don’t burden your children with the task. “Planning or lack of planning will be the last message that you will leave your children,” Feigenbaum says. Dole is taking that advice to heart and is making sure that her own planning is complete along with that of her parents. “It’s a gift that I am giving my children,” she explains. “All I ask in return is that when the time comes, they make sure that I am actually gone and not just napping.”
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the scorching afternoon was cooling off into early evening. The lawn across from the Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills (UUW) was being readied for the most ordinary of summer activities, a barbeque for area students. Some teenagers were setting up tables and bringing food out of the kitchen while others were setting up croquet and volleyball. An easy camaraderie draped over the proceedings. As kids were dropped off, a chorus of greetings enveloped the new arrivals. It’s at check-in time, however, when an introductory circle of participants officially kicks off the evening’s activities and the unique purpose of the meeting becomes clear. Besides asking an icebreaker question, participants are asked to state their preferred gender pronouns. It is the start of the WAGLY weekly get together. WAGLY stands for West Suburban Alliance for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Youth.

The genesis of WAGLY began approximately two years ago when the Executive Director of the Greater Boston PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) received two phone calls from Wellesley mothers who had sons who had recently come out. These phone calls proved providential when they were forwarded on to Reverend Jack Lewis, the newly minted Director of Religious Education at UUW, and a gay minister looking for a role in helping area LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) youth. "These mothers were
looking for a supportive environment for their sons,” says Lewis. “They wanted a place to meet other people, to learn, to hang out, be educated.” Those early discussions resulted in the establishment of a group that now attracts youth from more than 30 MetroWest communities.

WAGLY calls itself “peer led, adult supported,” which underscores the critical importance of having youth involved in the conversation. It is, by design, a safe setting that allows for discussion, education, friendship building, and stories of shared experience. “The adults act as mentors in a room. We have ministers, we have therapists, we have teachers, we have a nurse. We have intentionally found adults from all ages and professional ranges across the MetroWest area,” says Lewis. In addition to social circles, WAGLY brings in outside speakers or facilitate talks on topics such as “Coming Out to Friends and Family” or “Religion and Sexuality.” Sometimes they will show a movie. And sometimes, “at the end of the day, they just want to hang out and play cards or just talk,” says Lewis.

The simple yet profound opportunity to hang out and talk with peers who are non-judgmental and accepting is sacred to some of the participants. “It really makes me less isolated and feel really accepted,” says Noah. “It’s still a straight-dominated world and when you are with a bunch of other queer kids, you don’t feel like an outcast.” The theme of isolation is one that is echoed by other WAGLY participants. “There
are a lot of people who will accept you at school but the more vocal ones are the ones who won’t,” observes Kaat. “It makes it hard to discuss the topics that we discuss here at WAGLY.”

Like every town across the United States, Wellesley and Weston have their share of LGBT residents. WAGLY’s existence gives encouragement to local gay and lesbian adults who can relate to the difficulties of growing up questioning their sexuality and the accompanying feelings of self-segregation. “Growing up, there is a lot of pressure to be seen as part of the group,” says Weston resident Allan Singer. “So any of us who have grown up being targeted as being different, particularly according to gender norms and behaviors, need to be able to bear our anxiety and to claim our esteem for who we are.” The people interviewed for this article universally pointed how the rocky boat of adolescence can be swamped by the additional feelings of sexual difference. “Let’s face it: I think junior high and high school can just stink,” says Julie Palen, another Weston resident. “You are dealing with a whole age group who doesn’t really know how to handle differences.”

Despite the recent validation that the LGBT community has received from Massachusetts with the passing of the Same Sex Marriage Act and anti-bullying legislation, the tough fact remains that LGBT kids are often victims of persecution and the target of very real and frightening abuse. “In the seventh grade, rumors were going around that I was gay and at the end of the school year, a couple of the kids thought it was a good idea to teach me a lesson at recess,” says...
Scott from Millis. “I was thrown to the ground and kicked in the ribs. The same day I was thrown into the street and almost run over by a car.” Every teenager interviewed for this story reported being bullied in some capacity. “It really hurts when I hear that kids might be feeling isolated or not accepted,” says Dr. Andrew Keough, principal at Wellesley High School. “I want every kid to feel as if he or she fits. It’s a constant vigilance. We work really hard to be an inclusive school.”

Both Wellesley and Weston High Schools have an active Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA). The mere fact of these clubs gives both a voice and a haven to students who might need space and support. “It is important we have a club and that we have adults kids can reach out to,” says Anthony Parker, principal at Weston High School. “It is where people can come and feel safe and talk about issues that are unique to them.”

Both Wellesley and Weston High Schools have openly gay and/or lesbian teachers who can be a resource for questioning students. “All students know they have gay teachers,” says Jack Lewis. “It’s not just the gay students who know. That’s helpful to know that they are living their lives, they are hired, which was not the reality in many places awhile ago.”

Though the necessity for a safe haven may seem obvious for teens, the need can be as profound for adults who live in our communities. Mary Shaw of Weston is the co-founder of the Weston Gay/Straight Alliance, which was established in 2001. “I would say at our peak that we had 60 to 70 people showing up at our events. This would include straight ‘allies’ as well as people from other nearby communities,” she says. The Weston GSA had three separate goals at its outset: to be a social outlet, to be a political lobbying organization, and to educate the community. The existence of the Weston GSA felt like “a breath of fresh air,” to Allan Singer. “It serves a purpose to have LGBT organization just so there can be a visible reference to the surrounding community, or if there is a same gender couple or someone is experiencing same sex attraction, the isolation can be dissipated by knowing there is a LGBT organization,” he says.

The Weston GSA has lost a bit of its vigor over the past few years, seemingly due to the increased acceptance of LGBT citizens and the “ho hum” reaction to the appearance of same sex families and individuals in town. “We’ve become the norm,” says Julie Palen. “Nobody cares. I have never had a single issue being a single, lesbian parent.” Attracted to Weston because of its excellent school system and rural ambience, she says she affiliates with other moms, not necessarily other same sex individuals. “My sexuality is only one facet of who I am,” she says. Indeed, those interviewed for this article can find the overarching perception

“My sexuality is only one facet of who I am.”
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Allan Singer's comfortable perch as a gay man in a committed relationship in an affluent, seemingly traditional town like Weston seems like a contradiction in terms to Scott at WAGLY. "In small towns, rich towns, preppy towns, you have a cookie cutter image to fit into, and not everybody does," he says. "The members of WAGLY and their adult mentors spend Monday nights working through some of the easy misconceptions that teenagers have about towns like Weston and Wellesley."

As a gay couple in a community, we need to come out of our own invisibility," says Allan Singer, who attended a private school. "It was a difficult process, but it helped me to be more comfortable being open about my identity." He moved to Weston in 1986, and his partner Emil felt the need to choose a property that offered privacy so as to keep their lifestyle private. When Singer moved to Weston in 1986, he and his partner Emil felt the need to choose a property that offered privacy so as to keep their lifestyle private, but because of the cookie cutter image of the town, they moved to their more exposed neighborhood. "I began to feel more isolated in our setting," he says. "I began to crave more of a community connection."

We are not a monolithic community," says Allan Singer, who attended a private school. "There are not one LGBT people only want the company of other LGBT people and that it is frustrating. "We are not a monolithic community," says Allan Singer, "there are not one LGBT people only want the company of other LGBT people and that it is frustrating."
In small towns, rich towns, preppy towns, you have a cookie cutter image to fit into, and not everybody does.”

these youth. Wellesley has a very active GSA and great adult advisors who are extremely supportive individuals.” It doesn’t mean there isn’t work to be done within the schools and wider community. “Are there kids who are struggling with identity issues and are afraid to vocalize them? I am sure there are,” says Anthony Parker. It is those students to whom WAGLY promotes its message of inclusion and acceptance.

Breaking free of the isolation of self-segregation is a journey that begins with the simple idea of peer support at groups such as WAGLY and the Weston GSA. “Many of us come from a sense of invisibility and shame-bound constructs because of the many negating aspects in our society, be they religion or politics,” says Allan Singer. “We have to find support out there in the world to transform shame into self-affirmation and esteem and that becomes part of our path to becoming visible to ourselves and to others.”
WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TERCENTENNIAL EXHIBITION CELEBRATES THE
Farmers’ Precinct

PAMELA W. FOX writer

PETER BAKER photographer / VINTAGE PHOTOS COURTESY OF WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
for the Weston Historical Society, Weston’s upcoming 300th anniversary will be a time not only for community celebration but also for reflection on the town’s evolution from rural backwater to affluent suburb. For more than a year, the society has been working on a major exhibition, “The Farmers’ Precinct: Three Centuries of Weston History,” scheduled for the Gallery and Community Room of the Weston Public Library from January 5 to 29. Subsequently, a traveling version will be on display for three-week periods in locations throughout Weston.

Work on the exhibition began in the fall of 2011, when a committee of six—led by society president Pam Fox and including Mary Gregory, Mary Marder, Tania Deary, Rebekah Gardiner, and Robin Reisman—began developing themes, choosing and researching objects, writing text, and raising funds. To ensure a first-rate exhibition worthy of a tercentennial, the society hired a professional exhibit designer, Will Twombly of Spokeshave Design, along with graphic designer Mary Orr.

In the first months of planning, Tuesday mornings felt like an Addams Family Christmas at the society’s headquarters at the Josiah Smith Tavern. Committee members opened storage boxes and searched through closets filled with historical oddities. They found jewelry made of human hair, the heel of a shoe reportedly dating from the Revolutionary War era, and a 1950s shopping cart thought to be from one of Weston’s first supermarkets. An early 19th-century ledger listed amounts earned for work; for example, in 1823, Jonas Hastings was paid $9.17 for making 11 pairs of short boots.
One box contained a large fungus removed in the late 1960s from the dying Burgoyne Elm, with this note: “SAVE ALWAYS. This precious growth on bole of the Burgoyne Elm was carefully removed for, and preserved by, the Weston Historical Society’s first president…” The Burgoyne Elm, which once stood just east of the Fiske Law Office on Boston Post Road, was revered for its associations with the Revolutionary War. The committee also searched through the society’s collections for maps, photographs, documents, newspaper articles, and books that would help to tell the story.

At the May 2012 Weston Town Meeting, residents voted to use Community Preservation Funds for conservation of objects to be displayed. Two paintings by major Weston artist Gertrude Fiske have been professionally cleaned. A large 1805 penmanship example by the minister’s daughter, Sophia Kendal, at “Miss Tufts School, Weston” was sent to a paper conservator to stabilize and remove yellowing scotch tape. The fragile frame was carefully restored.

Another conservation challenge was to clean and stabilize a plaid wool golf bag and set of clubs owned by prominent local resident...
William H. Coburn, a founding member of Weston Golf Club. Coburn family cow pastures on Church Street were part of the original nine-hole course constructed in 1894. Weston Golf Club is one of the oldest in the country.

A professional objects conservator, Nina Vinogradskaya, tackled rusty metal scales from Cutting’s landmark general store and a nine-foot-wide blacksmith shop sign. She instructed historical society volunteers in the proper way to vacuum artifacts using a special HEPA filter, or to clean them inch by inch with moistened Q-tips.

The “Farmers’ Precinct” is what Weston was called in 1698, when the first settlers in this westernmost part of Watertown petitioned to form their own church, now known as First Parish. In civil matters, Weston remained part of Watertown until its incorporation in January 1713.

By the late 18th century, Weston had six one-room schoolhouses, known as “district schools,” two on the north side, two in the center, and two on the south side. This arrangement continued for a century, although the buildings themselves were all replaced in the early 1850s.

The society’s photograph collection includes delightful images of children at district schools and at the centralized schools that gradually took their place. A highlight of the exhibition will be examples of needlework probably produced by young ladies at private academies, about which little is known. Students produced samplers and “family registers” recording birth dates of family members. The Livermore Family Register displayed in the exhibition is a particularly handsome example. Also on display will be student primers showing examples of meticulous penmanship.

One basic question to be addressed is: How did residents earn a living over the centuries? For much of Weston’s history, the answer was agriculture. Along the way, many farmers developed specialties in per-
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ishable products such as milk, strawberries, and flowers, where proximity to urban markets gave them an advantage. The society’s exhibit will include an early 20th century strawberry basket and milk bottles from half a dozen Weston dairies. Twenty-first century visitors would probably not guess the function of another item on display, an apple sorter used in the Ripley orchards off Sudbury Road. The simple wooden board has four round holes, the smallest less than two inches in diameter.

The exhibit will showcase stores and businesses important in Weston history, including G. W. Cutting & Sons general store, located in the town center for more than a century. Cuttings sold dry goods, food staples, kerosene, woodenware, agricultural tools, and virtually everything else that the average farm and household needed, except perishable items. It stood across from the Josiah Smith Tavern until the Town Green was created in the 1910s. Another business to be featured, Ogilvies, was established in 1919 and still supplies hardware, heating oil, and lumber to Weston residents after more than 90 years.

Like other New England towns, Weston had a variety of small mills and factories in the pre-Civil War period. The exhibit committee found examples of many products made in Weston, including calipers, a “butter and cheese drill,” and two skeins of thin yarn with the manu-
facturer’s paper label still attached. The drill is a simple two-piece metal item used to bore into wheels of butter or cheese to ensure that the inside is not rancid.

One exciting discovery was a mid-to-late 19th century double desk and two chairs made in Samuel Shattuck’s Crescent Street school furniture factory. The factory operated from 1854 through 1917, when it moved to Baldwinville. Desk boxes and seat tops were hauled on a two-horse cart to Boston, where they were finished and packed for shipment all over New England.

Also on display will be earthenware examples made at the Hews pottery on Boston Post Road. Hews is the only pottery known to have manufactured redware products for more than a century and a half without interruption. In the 1860s, flowerpots made by hand on a potter’s wheel replaced jugs and milk pans as the company’s most important product. A skilled worker could make hundreds in a day. In 1871, the company moved to a large new factory in North Cambridge.

Most of Weston’s other small factories also closed in the late 19th century or moved to locations more suited to industry. An exception was the Hook & Hastings Company organ factory at Viles Street near North Avenue, where church and concert hall organs were manufactured from 1889 until the mid-1930s. The society will display photographs, tools, and wooden organ pipes made at this nationally known company.

After the Civil War, Weston became a favored location for country estates owned by wealthy Boston bankers, merchants, and manufacturers. They were attracted by the picturesque scenery, convenient location, low population density, and low tax rates. Some were “gentlemen farmers” who grew their own food and raised livestock. The estate
display will include butter molds from the Oakridge estate of Charles Augustus Dean, who owned 117 acres on both sides of Oak Street at the turn of the century. Dean employees made butter pats embossed with either “Oakridge” or “Myakka,” the name of his Florida yacht. In winter, the “Myakka” butter was shipped south by train.

Those who could not afford their own country house could stay at the Drabbington Inn on North Avenue, where guests enjoyed golf, tennis, croquet, and other amusements or walked along the shaded streets of the Kendal Green neighborhood. On the south side, Glen House and Cottages on Glen Road operated from the 1870s through the 1920s. City folk came to Weston in summer because of the convenience and “healthful air.” A major attraction was canoeing on the Charles River, and thousands of canoes were once stored in boathouses in the Weston-Newton-Waltham stretch of the river known as the “Lakes District.” A highlight of the “summer pleasures” section of the exhibition will be a four-foot-long panorama photograph showing hundreds of canoeists gathered for a “Gala Day” celebration in 1919.

After World War II, Weston grew exponentially. The town was known for its excellent school system, relatively low tax rate, and reputation as a well-managed town. By the mid-1950s, Weston stood at the junction of two major highways. The “Farmers’ Precinct” was transformed into a modern suburb. The exhibition will cover this period through photographs, maps, and graphs showing rapid growth in housing starts, roads and infrastructure, and school population. Five new schools were built between 1950 and 1969.

“The Farmers’ Precinct: Three Centuries of Weston History” is being funded by private contributions with assistance from the Weston Public Library Trustees, Friends of the Weston Public Library, and the Weston 300 Host Committee, as well as donations of supplies and labor. Display panels will be constructed using 64 hollow core doors. The Peabody Essex and Concord Museums donated exhibit cases. The Historical Society welcomes donations and new memberships, both of which help support this and other Weston Historical Society projects for the tercentennial year. Membership forms and information about Weston history is available at the society’s website, www.westonhistory.org. The site also includes the full exhibit schedule and information about gallery talks and special events.
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3 Viles Street, Weston $969,000
watching a doe and two fawns sprint across my yard, it’s hard to imagine these gentle creatures at the center of heated local debate. And yet they are. Are white-tailed deer pests or welcome visitors? Is deer hunting a time-honored tradition and a way to limit increasing problems or an inhumane response to exaggerated threats?

Over the past year, Weston residents and town officials wrestled with these complex issues. At the Board of Selectmen’s request, the Conservation Commission sought to determine if the town has deer-related problems and, if so, what to do about them. Local citizens were surveyed online. Three public forums were held to hear from residents, wildlife management experts, and Lyme disease specialists. The Commission’s report, posted at www.weston.govoffice.com, determined a deer management program is needed. They recommended permitting licensed archers to hunt on town-owned land. On July 16, the Selectmen voted to approve the program.

Weston’s 2012 hunting season runs October 15 to December 31.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) biologists estimate there are twenty to thirty deer per square mile in Zone 10 (suburbs west of Boston, including Weston), well above the six to eight deer considered ideal. David Stainbrook, DFW’s Deer and Moose Project Leader, said wildlife experts first noticed the deer population expanding in eastern Massachusetts back in the 1990s. “Suburban areas provided great bedding areas and food resources (deer love edge habitat)
“and no hunting,” he says. “When deer are allowed to grow over what the habitat can support, we see tremendous damage to the forest, which affects biodiversity and many other species that rely on the dense understory, not to mention deer starvation.”

Nationwide, states rely on a regulated hunting season and allocate a certain number of antlerless permits to manage deer numbers at levels that assure the positive values of deer, such as viewing and hunting, while minimizing the undesirable habitat alterations and deer-vehicle accidents, he says.

Lyme disease is one of the problems. Risk for Lyme disease is directly proportional to tick density, which is a function of deer density, says Sam Telford, professor of Infectious Diseases, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts, who has worked on Lyme disease since 1984. Tick larvae are ‘born’ uninfected. They pick up the bacteria that cause Lyme disease when they take their one larval meal by feeding on small rodents, such as white-footed mice and chipmunks, or certain birds. When larvae become nymphs, their one blood meal is taken from anything warm-blooded, potentially transmitting the disease. They are only out from the end of April through mid-July but they’re so small that most people don’t recall a tick bite when they get sick. “Nymphs are responsible for more than 85 percent of all cases of Lyme disease,” he says.
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When nymphs become adults, they look for deer for their third and final blood meal because, typically, small hosts cannot provide enough blood. Here’s where the deer are pivotal.

Without a full meal, adult female ticks cannot lay eggs. For each adult female that does not lay eggs, 200 tick larvae will not be hatched the following year.

Michele Grzenda, Weston’s Conservation Administrator, spends a lot of time in the Massachusetts woods. “Lincoln and Weston are the worst when it comes to ticks,” she says. “I’ve come out of areas here with 40 ticks on my pants.”

Deer are herbivores, plant eaters, who often go after young growth, she notes. “When I walked in Weston conservation land with a state wildlife specialist, we saw no oak or maples under seven feet tall. If it continues unchecked, it will change the nature of our conservation areas and forests. If there’s a major storm or fire, there wouldn’t be anything to regenerate the forest.”
Although firearms can be more effective than bow hunting deer, Conservation Commissioner Brian Donahue says they considered shotguns “unsafe and uncomfortable for public land devoted heavily to other recreational use.” And while contraceptive darts are used to slow herd growth in free-ranging populations, primarily on islands, that method is labor intensive, requiring enough female deer to be captured and treated every year to be effective. “Bow hunting won’t have an immediate impact but the Commission found no other feasible way to deal with the problem,” says Donahue, a professor of environmental studies at Brandeis and a founder of Land’s Sake Farm. Actually they found multiple problems.

“Crop damage has run into tens of thousands of dollars on commercial farms—pumpkins, squash, greens,” he says. “Deer will graze just about anything and fencing is both expensive and a lot of work.” Moreover, some 30 deer-related vehicle accidents are reported to the Weston Police every year. “Collisions are often fatal to the deer and potentially to humans. Those of us who work outside are at risk for Lyme disease. I’ve had it and so have my kids. What we know is that when there were no deer, there was no Lyme disease.”

It’s an exaggeration, say opponents including Weston resident Diane Anderson who worries about safety and what bow hunting teaches our children. Anderson researched the
issues independently. She maintains hunters use arrows that can travel the length of a football field. In designated areas with trails and sections that border backyards, “People are up in trees and their accuracy shooting is not always reliable,” she says. “The specialists the Conservation Commission consulted are bow hunters and DFW people who are interested in sport hunting. They have been coming into communities and alarming people about Lyme disease but they have an ulterior motive. They want to hunt.” She anticipates fewer deer eating low-lying brush will mean taller grass along the trails, putting humans and pets in contact with more infected nymph ticks.

“People are upset about deer eating their hostas,” says Anderson. “A more humane way to deal with this is to find out which plants are more deer resistant. Bow hunting is an incredibly cruel way to manage wildlife. What are hunters going to do if a deer is hit but doesn’t die right away? Will they follow it into someone’s yard and shoot again from the ground? Is the town prepared for kids and other residents to see dead and dying deer? What does this teach our children about being kind and caring about the environment?”

Donahue and Grzenda said applicants for permits underwent background checks and were required to demonstrate their proficiency so deer will be taken as quickly as possible. “No hunting
is allowed from ground level,” says Donahue.

“They shoot from temporary stands that they strap, not nail, to the trees and which they must remove at the end of the season. The trajectory is downward and range is only 20 to 25 yards. If wounded deer wander onto private land, state game laws specify hunters must contact the state Environmental Police, who also periodically check that hunters have proper licenses and permits.”

Noting that every year in Weston hunters on private land kill about 20 deer and 30 or more die on the roads, the Commissioner estimates that, given state regulations on hunting limits, altogether 50 to 100 deer will die from human hands in Weston in 2012.

“[It’s] not enough, but it’s a good start,” says Donahue, who is not a hunter but added, “Virtually all the hunters I’ve met are thoughtful and responsible people who love nature. They tend to be great conservationists. We really, really need them back in the environmental movement. Hunters and fishermen were great supporters of the key air and water pollution legislation of the 1960s and ’70s, and we aren’t going anywhere with issues like global warming unless we can rebuild that coalition. I really believe there is a lot more at stake here than just a few deer.”
do you ever feel like you're going in a hundred different directions at once? Do you struggle to find that ever-elusive quiet time? Are you looking for a fresh—or deeper—approach to life's daily challenges?

Then consider the power of a labyrinth. Often confused with a maze, a labyrinth is a walking meditative path, and serves as a moving alternative to sitting meditation. “A labyrinth is a metaphor for life,” explains the Reverend Kathy Musser, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care at the Wellesley Congregational Church (also known as the Village Church). A typical prearranged path, with only one entrance, requires no “figuring out,” so one can simply walk a labyrinth to its center, traveling its bends and turns, while allowing the mind to quiet.

And there is no right or wrong way to navigate a labyrinth. “The ancient pattern of the labyrinth has crossed time, cultures, and religions throughout history and has become a universal metaphor of peace, harmony, contemplation, and healing,” Musser says.

Reverend Musser has facilitated a labyrinth ministry at the Wellesley Congregational Church for almost a decade, including monthly walks and various workshops. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Labyrinth Guild of New England, which educates people about the origin of labyrinths, and brings meditative walking experiences to churches, schools, and hospitals throughout New England.

“It's a simple way to demonstrate that, as humans, we are all on the path of life,” adds Beth Burnham Mace, a cohort of Musser's and a co-founder of the Labyrinth Guild. “We all have a beginning and end, but life can take a circuitous path.” Mace points out that there are no dead ends in a labyrinth—all paths lead to the center.

“The way we teach people to walk is to start at the beginning, follow it at your own pace and rhythm, and if you stay the course, you'll come into the center,” she says. “I call it the ‘path of shedding,’ because it's a chance to slough off the distractions in your day-to-day world and come into a quieter mindset. When you arrive at the center, it can be a moment of insight into yourself or others.”

Labyrinth designs have been found on ancient coins, embossed on pottery, etched onto cave walls, and embedded into tile floors from Roman times through the Renaissance. Perhaps the most famous labyrinth in the world today is found 50 miles outside of Paris at Chartres Cathedral, which fills the Cathedral’s nave and is open to the public. Other notable labyrinths are found in Glastonbury, England;
Labyrinths

Gotland, Sweden; and in San Francisco (the Land’s End labyrinth, which overlooks the Golden Gate Bridge). A database of historic and modern labyrinths around the globe is found via the Worldwide Labyrinth locator (labyrinthlocator.com).

“The lessons are deep, but very obvious with every step we take,” informs Musser. “We’re all on this path together; we may not walk at the same pace, and often we may feel like we are going in different directions, sometimes in step with each other, sometimes alone. But ultimately all of us are on the same path.”

A Labyrinth that Connects the Past to the Future

The newest labyrinth to be found in the Boston area—in fact, the only one on public land—is on the Rose Kennedy Greenway near the North End. The 62-foot-wide labyrinth at Armenian Heritage Park consists of nine concentric circles with a single path leading to the center and back out. The labyrinth is part of a half-acre parcel that is a gift to the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from local Armenian-Americans, built at no cost to taxpayers.

Armenian Heritage Park is located between Faneuil Hall Marketplace and Christopher Columbus Park, and is notable not only for the stone labyrinth, but for its landscaping, seating, and an abstract sculpture positioned over a reflecting pool that will change shape.
each year (with the help of a crane) to represent the evolution of the immigrant experience.

Musser says that the inclusion of the labyrinth at Armenian Heritage Park invites all expressions of faith, culture, and ethnicity to walk the path of a diverse community together. However, the chief architect of the park, Donald J. Tellalian, AIA, says, “From my point of view, the biggest kick I get when I pass by is to see kids with their arms outstretched, racing around the labyrinth paths and squealing with delight.” he enthuses. “For me, that’s just as important as the thoughtfulness of walking the labyrinth.”

Tellalian collaborated with a committee of a dozen varied citizens, from a university student to clergy members, a poet, and other architects including Stantec, a civil engineering and landscape architecture firm in Boston, to devise the layout of the grounds.

Large pieces of granite set in lawn form the pathways that lead visitors to the center of the labyrinth, where a single jet of water and a symbol of eternity can be found. “Within the context of the park and the celebration of the immigration experience, it’s entirely appropriate to have a significant element like a labyrinth that represents the journey of life,” Tellalian says.

In fact, Mace has been facilitating monthly walks at Armenian Heritage Park’s labyrinth. “Every experience is so different,” she says. “It’s wonderful to see a stone design embedded in grass come alive and be so dynamic, when 20 people are walking it at a time. You can see the energy and the curiosity of not only children, but the adults as well.”

At a recent organized walk, it wasn’t only tourists on their way to the North End or Faneuil Hall who traversed the labyrinth. “One participant had a flashback into a childhood memory of walking with her
mother in Armenia when she was little,” Mace recalls. “This person was quite affected by it.”

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Among their many forays, Musser, Mace, and their colleagues have brought a canvas labyrinth into a women’s prison for two-hour workshops. “It has been a very profound and humbling experience,” Mace says. “I have felt privileged to be able to offer the inmates a place of quiet and reflection that they may not have access to otherwise.”

During one exercise, the incarcerated women were asked to write down on paper something which no longer served them, walk that paper into the center of the labyrinth, and leave it there. The inmates were also asked to think about what they would need once they were released—courage, a plan of success, or support systems, for example. After each one concluded her labyrinth walk, the group gathered to discuss the experience.

“The response from the inmates is so appreciative, and often we’re able to witness moments of peace and insights into their own lives,” Mace reflects.

Another notable labyrinth in the Boston area is the Memorial Labyrinth on the cam-

“Labyrinths have long been a symbol of life’s journey...”

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pus of Boston College, a 50-foot-wide stone circle dedicated to 22 BC alumni who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Located behind Burns Library (at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and College Road), its 600 bluestones form a copy of the 13th-century labyrinth found at Chartres Cathedral. BC’s version is encircled by the names of the lost members of their community, inscribed around the outer ring.

“Labyrinths have long been a symbol of life’s journey, and in medieval times they became associated in the Christian religious imagination with the pilgrimage to Jerusalem,” says University President William P. Leahy, SJ. “Our labyrinth was built in loving memory, and may it forever be a place of healing, consolation, and peace.”

Aficionados are quick to point out that the journey to a labyrinth’s center isn’t the end point of the experience—by following the same path back out, it’s hoped that individuals can bring their own insight or peace back into the world. “People might find the same sort of quiet and peace when they walk in the woods, engage in yoga, or within a religious setting,” Mace points out, but “a labyrinth is simply another way for individuals to get into that sometimes elusive deep space.”
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This conviction, combined with the belief that people can and will successfully meet their own challenges when given the opportunity, fueled the birth of Village Forward, a nonprofit that successfully combines the efficiency of the marketplace with the social impact of philanthropy to deliver safe drinking water and economic opportunity to impoverished communities.

“We believe that markets and charity alone cannot solve today’s most pressing problems,” explains Village Forward’s founder, David Elliott. “Instead we try to blend the best of business with the best of philanthropy to create sustainable social change.”

Locally manufactured clay pots combined with effective sawdust-based filters, supplemented with small-scale franchises and charitable donations, are at the heart of Village Forward’s success. Here’s how it works: Funded by individuals, corporate donations, and a grant from the Rotary Foundation, Village Forward helps to identify and train entrepreneurs to manufacture and distribute low-cost water purifiers, or Aquasifs, in their surrounding communities. Using locally available clay and sawdust, these budding entrepreneurs manufacture the Aquasifs, which they then market and sell for $5 per unit, an affordable price for people at or below the poverty line, especially given the Aquasif’s durability—six years or more to date. In addition, Village Forward provides entrepreneurs with ongoing technical and business training and short-term funding to help them build robust micro businesses.
As a result of this business model and talented and dedicated leadership, Village Forward is saving lives and creating viable economic opportunity: clean water reduces the spread of germs—water purified through the Aquasif meets the World Health Organization’s tough standards for safe drinking water and tastes natural and chemical free—and franchisees retain 100 percent of the profits from the sale of additional Aquasifs. What is more, by fostering these for-profit franchises, Village Forward is developing an essential commercial industry, which can be sustained with limited future donor contributions, maximizing Village Forward’s scalability and long-term impact.

Over 82,000 people are currently using the Aquasif household water treatment system in Nepal and eight micro franchises have been successfully incubated to date. Having proven the success of the model, over the next year Village Forward will be expanding into India, joining forces with an established nonprofit. They will also be introducing a portable version of the Aquasif that will have an even lower price point and be able to be mobilized in emergency situations.

“Working with others to improve and empower their lives is a great joy—and a realization that we are all, in fact, one family,” explains Elliott.

Village Forward is part of the social entrepreneurship movement that has gained significant momentum in recent years. Like traditional business entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurs are catalysts and innovators. As Bill Drayton, CEO, chair, and founder of Ashoka, a global nonprofit organization dedicated to developing the field of social entrepreneurship explains, “Social entrepreneurs are not content just
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to give a fish or teach how to fish. They will not rest until they have revolutionized the fishing industry.” To do so, social entrepreneurs think differently, identifying, developing, and implementing new approaches to address challenges in education, health care, poverty alleviation, economic development, energy, sustainability, and more. Ignoring the traditionally defined roles of nonprofits, businesses, and governments, social entrepreneurs often collaborate with multiple entities across sectors in pursuit of their goals and establish social enterprises, like Village Forward, that blur the line between business and philanthropy.

“The idea of the social enterprise is to build capacity in the social sector by applying business practices and managerial disciplines to drive sustained, high-impact social change,” says Weston resident Laura Moon, Director of the Social Enterprise Initiative at Harvard Business School (HBS).

Traditionally, philanthropy has operated quite differently from business; motivated by compassion and filled with good intentions, it has placed limited emphasis on quantifying outcomes. Business, on the other hand, has focused primarily on economic value creation; “doing good” has taken place largely through corporate social responsibility efforts and by having employees serve on nonprofit boards. But in recent years, there has been a shake-up in these delineations. Donors have been demanding more accountability, trans-
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business “there is no shortage of issues facing society”

parency, and urgency. Businesses have begun to see that it is often in their interest to tackle social challenges that may affect their operations and market opportunities.

As a result, today there are nonprofit organizations like Village Forward that take advantage of for-profit structures to create social value—in this case saving lives and generating jobs. There are for-profit companies that act as philanthropists, like TOMS, that for every pair of shoes purchased donates a pair of new shoes to a child in need. There are multinational companies like ExxonMobil that collaborate with other companies, governments, private individuals, charities, and non-governmental organizations to tackle seemingly insurmountable challenges, like the eradication of Malaria, a deadly disease that kills one million people a year and costs Africa alone as much as $40 billion annually in lost work days. There are strategic givers that collaborate with other funders and across sectors to broaden their impact, looking to build efficient and sustainable organizations and ecosystems rather than exclusively funding short-term projects.

“Social entrepreneurship is becoming less about organizational form and more about impact,” Moon suggests. “Its real purpose is finding new ways to effectively and efficiently address societal problems.”

Cheryl Yaffee Kiser, who heads the Lewis Institute for Social Innovation and the Social Innovation Lab at Babson College, contends that the key to finding new ways of looking at societal problems is a mindset, “a way of acting our way into a new way of thinking.”

Toward this end, Babson employs The UnCommon Table™ methodology, a process through which the community “cultivates relationships and curates interactions between the usual and unusual suspects” to address a particular social dilemma. “New technologies, policies, and game-changing ideas come from these experiences because social innovation is really resource driven, rather than goal driven,” Kiser observes. “Convening multiple audiences in a collaborative environment where they are able to draw on their abundance of strengths and unique experiences brings new perspectives to bear on a situation; it works every time.”

Social entrepreneurship is certainly in vogue, but does it have staying power? Kiser and Moon believe so. “There is no shortage of issues facing society that require creative approaches to solve,” Kiser replies. “Many of these issues directly impact businesses, especially in a highly interconnected world.” Moreover, many of these challenges are too complex to be adequately addressed by any one entity or sector.

Moon offers an interesting perspective, “While there is much buzz surrounding social entrepreneurship today, it has actually been around for a while.” Indeed, the first dean of HBS stated that the school’s purpose was to “educate leaders who would make a decent profit, decently.” If businesspersons created value for society, then they could keep value for themselves. Social enterprise and innovation is about reclaiming that social contract.
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At the Wellesley Cancer Prevention Project, It’s Not All in the Name

KERI LYMAN writer

here’s something most people don’t know about the Wellesley Cancer Prevention Project (WCPP), which has been around since 1997: Contrary to its name, its goal is to help you and your family live healthier, not just cancer-free lives.

Over the past few years, the WCPP has partnered with local, statewide, and national health and civic organizations to broaden its focus. According to Linda Griffith, president of the nonprofit organization, the current mission of the WCPP is to “promote educational and public safety activities regarding the environment, the incidence of cancer, and health-related issues. Our goal is to reduce health-risk factors for families of Wellesley and surrounding communities.”

In fact, if you take a look at the WCPP’s extensive and informative website, you will find information not just about cancer, but about how foods, stress, and the environment can affect your child’s health. It also includes facts about healthy drinking water.
Even though its focus has grown beyond cancer prevention into other health concerns, Griffith says they didn’t consider renaming the organization because the name of the WCPP is too well known in the community.

Griffith, a breast cancer survivor who became the WCPP president in July of this year, says that the organization’s main focus is on living a healthy life with the minimum exposure to toxic chemicals, which can cause cancer, as well as other health risks. Griffith stresses that only eight percent of cancers are caused by genetics. The other 92 percent are caused by environmental factors, many of which we can monitor and control.

“When people think of toxic chemicals,” says Griffith, “they think of serious poisons, not window cleaners with ammonia and harmful chemicals, but they should.”

The WCPP sponsored a booth and presentation at the Wellesley High School Eco-Expo about chemicals in personal care products.
Sara Frost Azzam, who was president of the WCPP from 2003 until this past summer, refers to the problem as our exposure to the “chemical stew” around us: This includes chemicals that are added to personal care products (makeup, shampoo, soap), those used in insecticides, or toxins in car exhaust. She says we need to be more educated consumers to cut down on the “stew” around us. For example, she notes, she loves the facial cleanser she uses, but it contains chemicals she would rather avoid. So, she cuts down on her total chemical exposure in other areas by using safer personal care products on other parts of her body and also using natural cleaning products in her home.

Azzam, who lost her father to cancer, points out that, “Once upon a time cigarette smoking and asbestos were okay. Today, these are known carcinogens, and that is how we should think about chemicals in our environment now. The more educated we are about them and the harder we try to eliminate them, the healthier we will be.” She notes that a website where you can research personal care products is www.cosmeticsdatabase.org.

Griffith points out that it’s easier than many people think to avoid toxic chemicals. The group’s website provides an extensive list of steps to take. According to the site, one step is to consider avoiding products that contain Phthalates, which are widely used in personal care products, plastics, paints, and some pesticides (you can click on the WCPP website to
get a wallet-sized card that will tell you what chemicals to avoid); staying away from products containing Bisphenol A (BPA), a plastic frequently found in the linings of canned food, water bottles, and baby bottles; and using alternative methods of dry cleaning to avoid the chemical perchloroethylene, or “perc,” as it is more commonly known.

Both Griffith and Azzam say that the United States has been slow to get on the bandwagon against chemicals: In the European Union there are 1,100 chemicals that have been banned from personal care products, as opposed to just 12 in the United States. They note, however, that it is changing. A 2010 study commissioned by the Obama administration voiced concern about exposure to chemicals, and more recently Johnson & Johnson, maker of Aveeno and Neutrogena, agreed to phase out chemicals that can cause cancer and harm our health.

Azzam, who was named by the MGH Cancer Institute as one of the 100 most influential people working in cancer prevention in 2010, says, “After reading the president’s cancer study, we at the WCPP had to pat ourselves on the back a bit. That’s what we’d been saying for 13 years.”

One way the WCPP educates our communities is through town-wide forums, which it started holding in 2000. Since then the WCPP has sponsored forums three times a year, which are free and open to the general public, to help increase our communities’ awareness of potential environmental health risks. This upcoming school year, the WCPP will hold three forums at the Wellesley Free Library under the theme “The Year of the Woman.”

Griffith hopes to increase alliances with other local nonprofit organizations to get the word out about what the WCPP does and to co-sponsor more forums. It’s a great way for the organization — which is 100 percent volunteer and counts on donations to survive — to “increase our reach without increasing our costs and resources,” she says.
Azzam stresses that the main focus of the WCPP has always been on prevention. When it was founded in the late 90s, Wellesley had “statistically significantly elevated” levels of prostate and breast cancers, as well as multiple myeloma (a type of bone cancer). Azzam is quick to point out that the increased numbers definitely could have been due to an educated community that had annual mammograms as well as regular prostate screenings. Due perhaps in some part to the WCPP’s efforts, the occurrence of these three cancers has decreased in Wellesley.

The WCPP has achieved many notable results, including successfully lobbying for the creation of a Town Pesticide Awareness Coordinator, publishing many articles in The Wellesley Townsman about the risks of toxic chemicals, and helping create Wellesley’s Integrated Pest Management Program that prohibits using toxic pesticides on school grounds.

One very important variable, says Griffith, who comes from a corporate background, is the community itself. “I have found Wellesley to be a town that’s very receptive to learning more about staying healthy, and that’s key,” she adds.

To learn more about the WCPP, to get information about town-wide forums, or to find out how to donate time or money, you can explore its website at www.wcpponline.org or find it on Facebook and Twitter.

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Three Things You Can Do to Avoid Toxic Chemicals

According to Azzam, here are three easy steps you can take to help reduce toxins in your life.

1. **BECOME A MORE EDUCATED CONSUMER.** Do your research before you assume a chemical is safe.

2. **IF YOU INVITE A COMPANY TO YOUR HOME TO CLEAN** – including carpet cleaners and house cleaners – or to provide lawn care, ask them what chemicals they are using. By law, they must provide you with a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) that says what chemicals are in the products they are using. If they won’t give you an MSDS, don’t use them.

3. **REMEMBER THAT WE LIVE IN THIS HUGE “CHEMICAL STEW.”** What you do affects others. This is true with second-hand smoke, but it also true if you wash your car at home with a toxic cleaner or use pesticides on your lawn. These substances can run off into the water supply or onto your neighbors’ property.

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To learn more about the WCPP, to get information about town-wide forums, or to find out how to donate time or money, you can explore its website at www.wcpponline.org or find it on Facebook and Twitter.
out of africa come many images of children with too little of what they need to survive. The children's beautiful faces reflect joy and strength, but, for many, their lives are dominated by scarcity — too little food, medical care, and opportunities for schooling and work.

On a Sunday morning in 2007, Janet Rose spoke to her fellow parishioners at the Wellesley Congregational (Village) Church about her concern for the children of Africa. Through the Reverend Christina Braudaway-Bauman, associate pastor at the Village Church, Rose was introduced to Communities without Borders (CWB), an international organization headquartered in Newton.
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CWB was founded in 2000 by Richard Bail, MD, who had seen firsthand the very limited education available to many Zambian children, especially those orphaned by parents who died of AIDS. With its mission to educate vulnerable children while building community-to-community relationships, CWB aims to have a positive impact on children today, their families, and future generations.

Liz King of the Village Church and others came on board. “We sat down with CWB and they offered us a village they described as ‘the poorest of the poor,’” Rose recalls. “That was Fumbelo. We took it.” Fumbelo is an unplanned settlement on the outskirts of Lusaka, the Zambian capital, with a growing population of somewhere between 5,000 and 20,000. The Wellesley team formed Friends of Fumbelo (FOF) to operate under the CWB 501(c)(3) umbrella and began fundraising for their Zambian partners.

Like other successful non-governmental agencies (NGOs) that distribute mosquito nets, vaccinate children, or build wells, CWB focuses on a single objective: getting kids into school. Government schools in Zambia are free but students need a uniform, shoes, a backpack, and school supplies to attend. Few children can afford to attend. For a gift of $100, CWB can provide a child with the necessities to attend primary school; for $300, secondary school.

When Rose, King, and the FOF team first visited Fumbelo, they were concerned that many children receiving their school kits would have difficulty learning because they were hungry and sick. “We decided we were in for the long haul and our mission would be all-encompassing,” Rose says. FOF currently sponsors about 150 children annually in government schools. Additionally, FOF funds a school lunch program at the community school and twice-monthly visits to the settlement from a medical doctor and nurse.

For the past five years, FOF has sent a team to Fumbelo in June when the school year here concludes. Teams have ranged from six to seventeen members who spend their days in the settlement. They arrive with trunk-loads of school and medical supplies, clothing, and sports equipment that the local NGO, Society of Women and AIDS in Zambia (SWAAZ) will distribute. Relationships have grown deep because the core group visits annually and English is the language taught in school. (Zambia was a British colony until 1964.)

About 45 people have made the two-week visit to Fumbelo. Sarah Bradach, a senior at Wellesley High School, has visited twice, most recently in 2012 and in 2010 with her dad Jeff Bradach, a founder of The Bridgespan Group and an expert on strategy and scale for nonprofits. Sarah loves being with the people of Fumbelo, especially teaching and reading to the children. “Some kids have never seen a book. They’re amazed to turn the pages,” she says.

FOF creates incentives to stay in school by awarding a certificate and a dictionary to students who pass the 7th grade exam and a bicycle to 9th graders who pass the country-wide test to enter 10th grade.
Some of the first children FOF served will soon graduate from high school, and the Wellesley partners are thinking about what’s next. “The kids there are so motivated,” Bradach says. “They all want to be doctors, lawyers, and teachers but that’s tough to hear because it’s not a reality when the University of Zambia is $1,000 a year.”

FOF has a waiting list of children for school and high school graduates who would like to attend trade school. FOF has raised $125,000 in five years, from the sale of donuts at coffee hour on Sunday morning to individual gifts and foundation grants. “Our yearly budget is $26,000 and there is so much more we want to do. It’s a constant struggle to fund our programs,” says Rose.

In late summer 2010 attorney Eleanor Uddo got a call from a professional friend, an accountant, who asked if she would be interested in setting up a 501(c)(3) for a well-established Canadian charity, Sleeping Children Around the World (SCAW). Uddo agreed. By late October she had the US arm of the highly respected organization up and running.

SCAW was founded in 1970 in Toronto by Murray and Margaret Dryden, whose dream was that every child could have a comfortable night’s sleep. In more than 40 years, the charity has raised $23 million (with no government grants), and has distributed more than 1,240,000 bedkits to children in 33 countries.

All bedkit items are sourced locally or from neighboring countries. No bedkit donations are used for administration and, like FOF, volunteers pay their own travel expenses. Bedkits generally include a mat or mattress; pillow, sheet, and blanket; mosquito net where needed; T-shirt and shorts or skirt; khaki fabric to make a school uniform; backpack; flip-flops; and a water bottle and school supplies. A bedkit donation is $35 Canadian.

In April 2012 Uddo was one of six members of a SCAW team of volunteers who travelled to the West African nation of Togo. Volunteers supervised the distribution of 5,000 bedkits in ten
villages near Lomé, the capital city. SCAW is assisted by a local volunteer group, AED-Togo (Action Enfance et Développement Togo) that identifies the villages and children to receive aid. Since 2007 SCAW has distributed 25,000 bedkits in Togo. In 2011 SCAW distributed 70,000 bedkits to children in ten countries in Africa, Central America, and the Central Pacific.

How can so much material be distributed in such a short time? SCAW stays focused on the mission. “They have it down to a science,” says Uddo. “When we arrive in the village, the local AED team has the children lined up, wearing their new T-shirts, holding their kits, and wearing the biggest smiles you have ever seen.” Villagers welcomed the visitors with singing and dancing, and hugs and grateful “Mercis.” Photos were taken to send to donors.

Uddo’s team also visited an orphanage and checked on the construction of a school and some wells for two other nonprofits. “Growing up you are taught that it’s better to give than receive,” says Uddo. “Never have I experienced the truthfulness of that statement in such a pure form.”

Throughout Africa, the needs are unlimited. Women want to start businesses and teens need skills for life. Teachers need more education. In Fumbelo FOF sees the need for a clinic building, a library, and electricity. King and Rose hope to bring a more sustainable, independent life to their Zambian partners in the coming years. Uddo hopes to make a future trip to India with a SCAW travelling team. There are many ways to make a difference at all levels of involvement, and the gifts between community partners, no matter how wide the ocean between them, are always reciprocal.

If you would like to donate to Friends of Fumbelo, make your check payable to Communities Without Borders and note Fumbelo in the memo line. Mail checks to Wellesley Village Church Attn: FOF, 2 Central Street, Wellesley, MA 02482. For more information contact Liz King at kingswell@comcast.net or visit www.communitieswithoutborders.org.

For more information about Sleeping Children Around the World or to donate, contact Eleanor Uddo at emu@elderlaw.com or Robert Barclay at robertpbarclay@rogers.com or visit www.scaw.org.
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last october, Wellesley resident and artist Laura Fragasso had an idea. Noticing the empty storefronts in Wellesley, she saw an opportunity to fill the vacant shop windows with local art.

“I saw the space and thought, ‘Let’s be nimble, let’s be quick,’” Fragasso says.

With the support of local property owners, artists, and the town of Wellesley, Fragasso founded the Wellesley Community Art Project (WCAP). Within a year, some 17 exhibitions had been displayed in the town’s center and a town, whose artistic community traditionally had lacked the visibility afforded by open studio weekends or large art centers, suddenly had a rallying point.

And rally Wellesley did, spawning visual arts initiatives and casting light on an artistic community that, like the artistic community in Weston, could sometimes seem shuttered and isolated despite efforts of local artists and craftspeople to connect. Since then, some suggest, Wellesley is going through something of a renaissance.

One driver has been the recently formed Wellesley Women Artisans, a group of female artists whose mission includes bringing a more public presence to visual arts in the Wellesley community.

Prior to the establishment of the group a year and a half ago, Wellesley Women Artisans founder and textile artist Abby Glassenberg was not atypical of visual artists in the community: she sought support for her work outside town lines.
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family matters “it’s very alive and very refreshing”

“For many years, I really did work without knowing any other artists in town. I have a very closely connected arts community online and that helped me grow as an artist. But then once I started this group with Elizabeth [Cohen] who’s a potter, the group grew really fast. Everyone thought, ‘Oh, my gosh, I thought I was the only one.’"

Since exhibiting their work through the WCAP initiative in the vacant shop windows of the former Rugged Bear location last spring, Glassenberg and others in the group have felt an even greater interconnectedness. Not only did the display result in several commissioned works, but the group has begun planning more art initiatives, recently securing a grant to stage a public art experience at Wellesley’s Wonderful Weekend in the spring.

Comments member and illustrator Jenny Schneider, who moved to Wellesley two years ago from Cambridge: “I’m very excited to be starting a creative movement with my friends. It’s very alive and very refreshing. In Cambridge, everything was already around me. You would just stumble upon something creative. Here, we’re bringing something new to the community.”

That’s not to say that artists and crafters have not been present in Wellesley or that visual artists have not found support locally in the past. The Wellesley Recreation Department offers art classes for adults and students. Wellesley College has a well-respected program and boasts the Davis Museum. Wellesley
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schools have active arts programs. Not coincidentally, all four institutions have been instrumental in the WCAP exhibits in town.

Also instrumental have been property owners EDENS and Linear who provided the retail space to WCAP, and they’re not alone among Wellesley’s commercial enterprises supporting local artists and crafters. The Clever Hand Gallery Artisans’ Cooperative sells local crafts. Quincy-based jeweler Louise Doty says of the cooperative and the support network it provides, “It’s particularly helpful to me.” J. Todd Galleries, AZ Fine Arts, and The Gifted Handed also sometimes include local artists in their collections.

Meanwhile, a variety of Wellesley businesses provide instruction in arts and crafts. The Wellesley Needlepoint Collection – which sells hand-painted canvases and threads – offers classes, private rentals for parties, and what owner Cindy Matthews affectionately calls “stitch and bitch sessions where we’ve been solving all the world’s problems on Wednesday nights for 17 years.”

Also steadfast in its Wellesley presence is Sarapaan Beads. Established in Wellesley in 2006, the shop offers a vast selection of beads and jewelry, as well as classes and a beading venue for children and adults. “Beading is very soothing,” observes owner May Conti. “Some people say it is better than a therapist. They can string it and, the next day, they also have something to wear.” And for the crafter who likes to work with paper, Paper Source has a series of stationery and card-making classes, as well as crafting parties.

Wellesley’s Sew Easy and Linx have developed programs exclusively for children. According to owner Lauren Grisolia, Sew Easy’s after-school and vacation classes teach children more than the fine art of sewing. “I try to instill wisdoms to enhance self-esteem. Perfecton isn’t a word that’s allowed,” she says. Linx, meanwhile, offers a wide selection of camps and classes in art.
Where to go for art classes and support:

- **THE CLEVER HAND GALLERY ARTISANS’ COOPERATIVE**
  www.cleverhandgallery.com
- **IN STITCHES**
  www.institchesweston.com
- **LINK**
  www.linx-usa.com/pages/Wellesley Classes
- **MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**
  www.masshort.org
- **PAPER SOURCE**
  www.paper-source.com/cgi-bin/paper/locations/ma_wellesley
- **SARAPAAN BEADS**
  www.maysjewelry.com
- **SEW EASY**
  www.seweasy.org
- **WELLESLEY COMMUNITY ART PROJECT (WCAP)**
  www.wellesleycap.blogspot.com
- **WELLESLEY NEEDLEPOINT COLLECTION**
  www.wellesleyneedlepoint.com
- **WELLESLEY WOMEN ARTISANS**
  www.facebook.com/WellesleyWomenArtisans
- **WESTON ARTS AND CRAFTS ASSOCIATION**
  www.westonartsandcrafts.org
- **WESTON CLAY STUDIO**
  www.westonclaystudio.com
While arguably enjoying less of the renaissance that Wellesley seems to be undergoing, Weston, too, has long offered support and instruction in the visual arts and crafts.

The Weston Arts and Crafts Association (WACA) is the most visible forum for the town’s artists. “Weston has a number of artists hidden in the woodwork,” points out WACA member and landscape artist Larry Grob. “The reengagement of artists is one of the agenda items [of the Association],” he adds. Two years ago, Grob was the artist-in-residence at Weston community farm Land’s Sake. “I like to use art to build connections with the land,” he remarks, stressing the connections that art can forge and noting that Land’s Sake is home to many sculptures. “You have to look for them but they’re there.”

A perennial home to the work of some of Weston’s artists is the Josiah Smith Tavern. WACA organizes two annual events at the historic landmark: an arts and crafts holiday show in early December and the Spring Awards Show – a juried event that includes the works of Association members and students from Weston’s respected school art programs.

For those seeking instruction in pottery, a well-known studio in town is Weston Clay Studios. Established 20 years ago by potter Phyllis Biegun, the studio offers children’s and adult’s classes privately, semi-privately, or for parties and bridal showers. Knitting aficionados, meanwhile, can sign up for classes at the Weston Public Library, or at In Stitches, a retail store that serves a long-standing clientele of knitters and needlepointers. Weston’s Recreation Department also offers art classes in a wide range of media to children and adults.

Both towns have active garden clubs that offer workshops in floral design and flower arranging, an often less-noted art form that nonetheless can be competitive. “Through garden clubs, you can do workshops and learn different techniques,” says Weston resident Jessica Pohl who, with a team of other Weston residents, recently won first place at the New England Flower Show and has shown her work at a number of exhibitions, among them Art in Bloom at Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts. In addition, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in Wellesley offers classes in floral design, as well as botanical painting.

No matter the medium, artists stress the benefits that come with making local art a more visible and vibrant force in the community. “Putting up art that people are making is a good thing to do to connect the community. It’s a way to communicate,” says WCAP’s Laura Fragasso. So what would she tell the area’s established and aspiring visual artists? “Put a nail in the wall. Look at it while others look at it. Art doesn’t always inspire beauty. It’s something to respond to.”

family matters “a good thing to do to connect the community”
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art restoration and conservation drive a popular discussion, especially lately after the recent botched “restoration” of a fresco at a church in Spain. Around the world, heads were shaking in disbelief when an elderly parishioner at the church took it upon herself to make alterations to a 100-year-old painting.

“There is no surer way of evading the world than by Art; and no surer way of uniting with it than by Art,” Johann Wolfgang von Goethe once wrote. Value placed on art is as subjective as the opinion of what art is, but in the case of the Spanish fresco, one doesn’t need to be a fan of a particular style to recognize when history is being saved or destroyed. In describing a piece of art, ‘feeling connected’ is a term often used and, thus, when the art is damaged or even destroyed there is a sense of loss that transcends culture, religion, and language.

Closer to home, a group of concerned art lovers have banded together to save a collection of art by György Kepes. The Wellesley Kepes Panel Committee’s mission is to showcase and maintain the work of this renowned artist as well as to preserve the rich artistic history of the town.

György Kepes was a painter, filmmaker, photographer, and writer. In 1937 he left his native Hungary and came to the United States to work as head of the Light and Color Department of the Institute of Design in Chicago and, with fellow Hungarian László Moholy-Nagy, founded the New Bauhaus movement (www.chicagobauhausbeyond.org). In 1946 he moved to

**The Light of Day**  The Kepes Panels Make it Out of the Basement and into the Stairwell

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Cambridge to teach at MIT as an associate professor of visual design and became full professor in 1949. In 1967 he founded the Center for Advanced Visual Studies (CAVS) at MIT. He cannot be categorized as belonging to any art movement; rather, he is often described as a “universal artist” creating in several different movements, including abstract expressionism.

In 1956 architect Carl Koch commissioned Kepes to work with him on the design and building of the Wellesley Free Library. The utilitarian enamel panels were to function not just as decorative art, but were to provide a form of insulation for the building. Forty-two years later, Dante DeGrutolla, a retired professor of Fine Arts at Mass Bay Community College, stood before the Wellesley Library Committee and persuaded members to stop the complete demolition of the building and to save the 81 Kepes panels that were part of the building’s exterior.

“If I was to say to you ‘Pollock, de Kooning, or Picasso,’ we wouldn’t be having this discussion. The name Kepes may not carry the same cachet as these three artists, but I implore you to stop the total demolition of our old town library and allow me to explain the importance of this internationally acclaimed artist György Kepes,” professor DeGrutolla pleaded.

Knowing that construction of a new library building was inevitable, professor DeGrutolla established the Wellesley Kepes Panel Committee to educate citizens about György Kepes’ contribution to the art world and to ultimately find a permanent home in Wellesley for the panels. In addition to DeGrutolla, the members of the Committee include two former MIT students of György Kepes, George Roman and Dr. Robert Murphy, along with Wellesley residents Joel Slocum, Tory DeFazio, and Sylvia Hahn-Griffiths.

As a result of the Committee’s efforts, the Kepes panels were carefully removed from the old library and fifteen panels were chosen to adorn the exterior of the new library.

More recently, some of the Kepes panels were given another look with the construction of the new Wellesley High School building, and on April 29, 2012 a ceremony dedicated the panels with an unveiling of a György Kepes plaque. These panels are located on a stairwell that connects the visual arts classrooms to the first floor performing arts rooms. However, there are still more than fifty panels that continue to collect dust in the basement of the Wellesley Free Library.

The heavy rectangular panels are painted in the recognizable style that has come to define Kepes’ abstract work. The muted, earthen colors of
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the Wellesley panels swirl with the same colors found on a fall day along the Fuller Brook Path. A treasure of this town, many believe that the panels must remain in Wellesley and should remain together as a set. In 2001, consultants from, MIT, the MFA, the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, and Harvard University concurred. The committee has met with the Hungarian consul in Boston, Dr. Gábor Garai, who suggested that a foundation be created in order to generate funds that will assist in the restoration and display of the panels. Possible sites have been considered such as the Fuller Brook Path, the Wellesley stops on the commuter train, and incorporation into the landscape of the new high school.

Due to a shortage of town funds, minimal progress has been made to prepare the remaining panels for ultimate display and a permanent home. The growing popularity of Kepes has brought increased interest from the international art community. Kepes’ work currently can be viewed in the new wing of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MoMA, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Bauhaus Museum in Berlin and, most recently, the György Kepes Museum, which opened in March 2012 in the wine country of Hungary. In conjunction with the museum opening, The Alpha Gallery on Newbury Street held a reception to celebrate and display Kepes’ art. Kepes scholar and Budapest Museum of Fine Arts curator Márton Orosz visited with the Wellesley Kepes Committee in 2011 to request that the library panels become a part of the permanent collection in Hungary.

This past December, the Wellesley Kepes Panel Committee was invited to attend Vision & Projections, an event celebrating the legacy of the Center for Advance Visual Studies (CAVS) at MIT. In attendance was György Kepes’ daughter, Julia, who gratefully supports the efforts of the Wellesley Kepes Committee.

The Kepes Panel Committee members continue to safeguard the panels and believe that eventually they will find a permanent home in Wellesley. It is the belief of the committee that there is an absence of public art in Wellesley and having contemporary art panels that are a part of the town’s history should be seen and enjoyed by all.

left: Two owl panels adorn the Wellesley High School Visual Arts stairwell. Owls were a signature of Julie Kepes, who painted the owls into the panels her husband created. above: Commemorative plaque presented at the dedication ceremony at Wellesley High School on April 29, 2012.
writing is a solitary process. No one knows this more than Nichole Bernier, a Wellesley resident who has recently published her first novel, The Unfinished Work of Elizabeth D. (Crown Publishing Group, 2012).

“I felt like a crazy woman in the attic for the six and a half years that it took me to write and rewrite my novel. It is not like a typical job. You can’t shut the door and talk to friends about your stressful day at work. What would I say? ‘You won’t believe what my character did today!’” she says with a laugh.

As such, her first formal book reading at the Wellesley Free Library in June felt like an unveiling. She was able to formally invite friends, family, and the larger Wellesley community into her “attic world” and show them what she had spent over half a decade creating.

“It is wonderful to share what I have been doing in isolation,” she states simply.

When one listens to Bernier talk about her novel, her passion for her characters and plot line grows obvious. The idea for the story grew loosely out of a friend’s tragic death during the September 11th attacks. While reading her obituary, Bernier started to think, “Is this how she wanted to be remembered?” The idea stuck in her head and grew, as she continued her own professional work as a contributing editor to Condé Nast Traveler and personal life as the mother of five.
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“I found myself coming back to this thought: There can be such a contrast between how a person is viewed by friends and how she views herself.”

In the novel, Bernier uses journals as a way to juxtapose how her character, Elizabeth D., the mother of two, wife of an ex-golf pro, and play date ring leader, really views herself. Elizabeth bestows her journal on her good friend, Kate, the other main character. When reading the journals, Kate is surprised to learn that the confident Elizabeth she saw struggled with motherhood, the absence of a professional life, creating friendships with other mothers, and, most surprisingly, the legacy of her troubled upbringing.

With the journals, Bernier also introduces another question: What comes of these personal artifacts when they outlive the author? What did Elizabeth want Kate to do with these journals? As Kate struggles under the burden of this question, she has to hold Elizabeth’s husband at bay. He is angry that such a personal part of his wife’s history was not given to him. Why did his wife not deem him to be the proper recipient? Was there something she was trying to hide?

With these questions, the novel expands from fiction to mystery. The name of an adolescent crush is reintroduced into Elizabeth’s journals, and her husband, who read his wife’s last journal, is plagued with what this man meant to his wife. He, in turn, is more resentful that Kate has the full archive and can piece together the puzzle of his wife’s life. Meanwhile Kate, who struggles under the pressure and pleasure of this gift, reads through these chronological entries while undergoing a period of uncertainty in her own marriage.

The novel is a superb act of controlled timing. As one reads the book, no word seems unintentional. It is not surprising when Bernier talks of her extensive rewriting. She wrote out Elizabeth’s journals from ages 12 to 38 and then she edited them down, getting rid of 80 percent. But by then, Elizabeth was a living person in Bernier’s mind.

In fact, all the characters became live people for Bernier. When she talks of her writing process, she not only admits the isolation that she felt, but the borderline obsession that she experienced.

“It became my one hobby. I had to give up all my other hobbies—working out, golf, etcetera—to dedicate my non-Mom hours to the book. I was and am out of step with contemporary culture. But I don’t regret it. When the time would come to write, I could feel myself run-
ning up to the computer, causing skid marks as I turned corners. Being a mother of five beats the procrastination out of you.”

“My social life centered on writing as well. I became good friends with Jenna Blum at Grub Street, a writing program in Boston, and through her met other authors. I would host book signings and events at my home. I founded the literary blog BeyondtheMargins.com, which now includes 12 local authors.”

It was not only passion that drove Bernier, but also faith. “I never knew that the book would be published for sure. I was not writing this for a paycheck as I do with my freelancing work. I was taking valuable time away from family to do this…and yet, I felt compelled to.”

Clearly, when one looks at Bernier’s personal life, it is obvious that these six-plus years were not solely committed to her novel. Her two youngest children were born during this time. She has made a great effort to include them in the process of her book’s publication and the subsequent readings. All five children, ages three to eleven, were present at her Wellesley reading, snapping photos of their mother speaking.

“I think that they all truly believe that this is their book. My kindergartner made his own copy of the book’s cover. At one reading, he actually got in line for me to sign his book.”

As for what’s next, Bernier admits that she has an idea for a second novel—a piece of historical fiction set in 1980s Russia. But, until then, she is enjoying the revelation of her current work. She has loved her book tours, having traversed the country.

“It is amazing to talk to people who have read the book or to receive e-mail from folks who have inherited letters and diaries and can relate to my story.”

“While I am grateful that the book has gone into a fourth printing in the first two months, the most unexpected gratification has been how much I’ve enjoyed traveling and talking about the book. I wasn’t sure how much I could sustain extended periods of being extroverted and energetic, but it’s been very fulfilling, a real pleasure.”

In reading this book, one concludes that it was worth the six and a half year wait.
when it comes to food, one menu does not fit all.

Many people’s dietary choices are driven by medical necessity. Approximately fifteen million people in the United States have food or digestive allergies — an 18 percent increase between 1997 and 2007 — according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Other people choose to eat special diet foods for health, weight-loss, environmental, and/or ethical reasons. The Vegetarian Resource Group estimates that about five percent of American adults are vegetarians who eliminate meat, fish, seafood, and poultry from their diet. And half of these vegetarians are vegans who also avoid all animal products such as dairy, eggs, and, for some, even honey.
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Not surprisingly, consumers face an ever-increasing array of food selections at grocery stores and at restaurants. Items may be: nut-free, gluten-free, sugar-free, sodium-free, lactose-free, fat-free, preservative-free, locally grown, vegan, organic, and omega-rich, yet finding special diet foods that do not compromise on taste is the proverbial “nut to crack.”

Many local food purveyors are working hard to meet the challenge. Wasik’s Cheese Shop of Wellesley toiled to create a recipe for gluten-free sesame crackers that meets their high-quality standards. “We wouldn’t sell it if we wouldn’t eat it ourselves. Lots of gluten-free options taste like cardboard,” says Brian Wasik. Off Center, a neighborhood café and caterer in Weston, also prepares healthful options that please customers’ palettes. You’ll find many whole grains including quinoa, spelt, brown rice, farro, and couscous on their menu. They are using a lot more leafy vegetables, including spinach, chard, and the new “it” vegetable, kale; as well as vegetarian stocks in their soups, thickening with parsnip and potatoes instead of cream and flour. “If you make it taste good customers don’t care if its fettucini or farro,” comments Off Center co-owner Joanne Baron.

Dorset Café in Wellesley prides itself on carefully preparing foods safe for people with food allergies. The café and catering business has a separate dedicated gluten-free kitchen in which they make desserts including cheesecake, coconut torte, and chocolate ganache torte, available for sale at their café, as well as at Whole Foods supermarkets in Wellesley, Legacy Place, and Newtonville.

Despite heightened consciousness of food allergies, parents of young children with allergies are understandably anxious when their kids eat outside the home. Jessica Rosenbloom’s son Michael is allergic to dairy, eggs, and peanuts. Her first concern has always been Michael’s health, but she also doesn’t want him to miss out on fun due to his dietary restrictions. Ask any elementary school student about their favorite school lunch, and you’ll likely hear “pizza day.” When Michael was a student at Sprague Elementary School in Wellesley, Jessica arranged with Peter’s Pizza of Wellesley to prepare pizza with soy-
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based cheese for Michael. Every week on pizza day, Jessica delivered the cheese to Peter’s and Peter’s delivered pizza to Michael. “Peter’s was incredible. They even suggested I supply a month’s worth of cheese that they would freeze for safekeeping so I wouldn’t have to run over every week. And they reminded me to bring more cheese whenever the supply was diminishing.” Jessica also relied on Quebrada Bakery of Wellesley’s vegan cupcakes – prepared without eggs or dairy — for her son’s annual Red Sox opening day party. “With a Red Sox logo on the top, the cupcakes were always a hit,” Jessica says.

Brett Barenholtz of Weston remembers being “the kid with food allergies” who couldn’t eat PB&J or tuna sandwiches with his friends, and the only kid at overnight camp who had to eat cold cuts while the rest of the campers feasted on a Maine seafood dinner. Brett is allergic to peanuts, tree nuts, fish, and shellfish. Today when he eats out at a restaurant he follows his meal order with a clear warning, “If any of these dishes have nuts or fish in them, please let me know because I am going to die.”
Ming Tsai, chef/owner of Blue Ginger restaurant and father of a child with multiple food allergies, is acutely aware of the seriousness of food allergies from both a professional and a personal perspective. In collaboration with the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN), Ming worked hard to get a food allergy safety bill passed in Massachusetts in 2009. He also helped FAAN develop a “Welcoming Guests” guide with practical tips and protocols for diners and restaurant workers that he calls an absolute must-have. “Everyone in the food service industry should read this guide – it could save a life,” explains Ming.

Restaurants and food purveyors aren’t the only establishments sensitive to the needs of people with food allergies. Many Catholic churches including St. John the Evangelist and St. Paul of Wellesley offer gluten-free hosts for communion. Weston’s St. Julia’s offers a provision for parishioners requiring gluten-free foods to receive communion from the cup, and Father Evans of St. Julia’s

Beyond allergy-safe cuisine, local shops are responding to customers’ preferences for healthful options, including vegan dishes.
food & wine  “I like knowing that I don’t hurt animals”

Food Allergies Abound
Eight foods — milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, wheat, and soy — account for 90 percent of all food-allergic reactions.*

Milk
Milk allergy is a reaction by the body’s immune system to one or more milk proteins and can be life threatening when just a small amount is consumed. Milk allergy most commonly appears in the first year of life, while lactose intolerance occurs more often in adulthood. 30 to 50 million American adults are lactose intolerant.** 2.5% of children younger than three years of age are allergic to milk, but most will outgrow it over time.*

Eggs
1.5% of young children are allergic to eggs, but an allergy to eggs is one of the most likely to outgrow.*

Peanuts
Allergy to peanuts appears to be on the rise and can trigger a severe reaction. One study showed that from 1997 to 2002, the incidence of peanut allergy doubled in children.* (Note, peanuts are not nuts, but legumes.)

Tree Nuts
1.8 million Americans have an allergy to tree nuts, including walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts, cashews, and pistachios. Allergic reactions to tree nuts are among the leading causes of fatal and near-fatal reactions to foods.*

Fish & Shellfish
2.3% of Americans — that’s nearly 7 million people — report allergy to seafood, including fish and shellfish. Salmon, tuna, and halibut are the most common kinds of fish to which people are allergic.*

Wheat
Celiac disease – a genetic digestive disorder involving intolerance to gluten – affects more than 2 million people in the United States, or about 1 in 133 people. People with celiac disease should not eat most grains, pastas, cereals, and many processed foods.** On top of that, many people report gluten sensitivity even though they are not celiac.

* The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN)
** National Institutes of Health

Important Resource for Families with Food Allergies
The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN) provides information and educational resources about food allergies. Learn more at www.foodallergy.org.
suggests use of a personal cup to avoid cross-contamination.

Beyond allergy-safe cuisine, local shops are responding to customers’ preferences for healthful options, including vegan dishes. Vegan Melissa Golembewski Wilson of Wellesley values Yama and Lemon Thai for the plant-based selections on their menus and their graciousness in accommodating her special requests. “We’ve asked Yama to eliminate the fish from one of their specialty rolls made with asparagus and mango so many times that they’ve named the vegan version a ‘Melissa’ roll to make it easier for us to order.” She also appreciates Peter’s Pizza, Deluxe Pizza, and Comella’s willingness to cook vegan pizzas with cheese she supplies.

Melissa initially became a vegetarian when she developed an aversion to meat while pregnant with her son Kai. “We joke that it was his decision for us to change our lifestyle, because from the moment of conception, the smell and taste of meat made me nauseous. As the primary cook in the family, I prepared lots of legumes, grains, and vegetables,” she explains. Over time, and after careful consultation with doctors, Melissa and her husband Kip decided to have their family embrace a vegan lifestyle. Eleven-year-old Kai admits that it’s hard to be at birthday parties and not eat doughnuts, cake, or pizza unless he brings his own, but he’s supportive of his family’s choice. “I like knowing that I don’t hurt animals by eating them,” he says.

Embracing a special diet is far more common today than in years past. Vegans, for example, are no longer just “tree huggers.” They hail from all walks of life, including President Bill Clinton, actress Ellen DeGeneres, Olympian Carl Lewis, as well as Twitter founder and Wellesley High School graduate Biz Stone. It’s also easier than ever before to maintain a special diet thanks to a variety of food choices and recipes to keep meals interesting and delicious. Whether for health, environmental, or ethical reasons, special diets really can be special. 

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“It is delightful to gather with a community of friends and new acquaintances in the historic Josiah Smith Tavern on the green in the center of Weston. Tonight, we will enjoy a meal prepared with the freshest, most local produce possible, crafted into a fascinating meal by a gifted chef.”

—Welcome toast by John Marchiony at Land’s Sake Farm Supper Club

approximately four years ago, Grey Lee, the then executive director of Land’s Sake, paired up with his childhood friend, Sam Hunt, a chef at 15 Walnut in Hamilton to create the Supper Club. Their goal was threefold: to bring the community together, to highlight Sam’s skills as a chef, and to introduce people to the farm and the farm’s produce.

They secured permission to host the dinner at the historic Josiah Smith Tavern in Weston Center, which adds to the pastoral ambience of the event. Diners are welcomed to the main room of the Tavern and are seated family style at a long, rectangular table. The table is laden with Mason jars full of farm flowers and each diner is assigned a seat based on registration. Occasionally, each diner is sent home with a small gift from the farm, whether it is a...
local cuisine  “from the start, the supper club was popular”

sample of honey or syrup. A few lucky diners, those who have an “X” under their name card, will also leave with a bouquet of farm flowers from the table.

“The Supper Club is an ideal solution for Weston, which does not have a formal restaurant in the center of town. Once a month, my wife and I will invite a few couples to dine locally with us at the Supper Club, introducing them to Land’s Sake,” says John Marchiony, an ex-Board member of the farm.

Because the space is limited to 40 diners, the dinners fill quickly. “From the start, the Supper Club was popular. During the first year, it was mostly guests of Lee’s and Hunt’s families as well as some key supporters, such as myself,” remembers Marchiony.

“Today, approximately 50 percent of the people who attend have been before, 25 percent are invited by a friend, and 25 percent are Land’s Sake members who are trying it for the first time,” says Ed Barker, Land’s Sake’s new executive director who started last June. “This is one of our key ways to introduce new people to Land’s Sake. People who have school-age children are exposed to the farm through school activities for their kids, but this is a means for those without children to experience Land’s Sake.”

“We promote the Supper Club through our newsletter, but most importantly through word of mouth. A couple attends one month, enjoys the experience, and then decides to invite another couple to join them the next month,” explains Barker.
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Since 1997, Laura has resided in Wellesley with her husband and 3 children who all attend the Wellesley public schools. Previously, Laura worked at a Wall Street Investment Bank as a stock trader and later as an entrepreneur, where she created a unique childrens’ footwear product and ran all aspects of her company. Laura’s extensive business background and creativity are among the many strengths that she brings to her buyers’ and sellers’ real estate transactions.

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At each dinner, there is a short speech about what is new at the farm. The speaker rotates between farm staff, executive staff, board members, and occasional outside guests. In June, Melanie Hardy, the farm manager, spoke about her excitement for the upcoming season. She says that donors’ recent investments in the farm have allowed them to build a new greenhouse, which she felt was sure to lead to a great tomato crop.

“We try to limit the speaking part as much as possible and rotate speakers. The goal is to connect our diners with what is happening in town or at Land’s Sake. For example, World Food Day is in October. At our October Supper Club, we will have someone from Oxfam speak about World Food Day,” Barker says.

The other key speaker at the event is the chef. For the first two years, the chef was Sam Hunt. Land’s Sake is currently working with Chris Chung and Christian Tousche at AKA Bistro in Lincoln. Chung will address the diners and speak about the night’s meal, its preparation, inspiration, and what was provided from Land’s Sake, in terms of produce.

“It is a great opportunity for our guests to learn how to prepare different vegetables…such as kohlrabi or radishes,” says Barker.

Even during the winter, Barker says, the chef will use a lot of the farm’s produce. “More of our food is used than you might think. We provide a lot of vegetables from the root cellar, including beets, squash, potatoes, and such.”

Some of Marchiony’s favorite memories of the Supper Club come from the chef’s notes. He remembers when Hunt thought it might be interesting to smoke the meat in fresh straw, to add a brassy aroma, and then flash sear it by lighting the straw at the end.

“Hunt laughed that it didn’t work…but it was great to hear of the different experiments chefs do,” says Marchiony.

Because the Josiah Smith Tavern does not have a commercial kitchen, most of the food is prepared by the chefs off site and heated at the Tavern. Last minute prep work is done in the kitchen off the dining room. (It is important to note that the chefs can accommodate food allergies, as long as they are made clear when one registers for the dinner.)

“The Supper Club is at a pivotal point,” says Barker. “The town is looking at different proposals for the Josiah Smith Tavern, including proposals to turn the tavern into a café, bed and breakfast, and condos. We don’t know if it will be six months or six years until these changes are decided upon…but we are exploring new options for the next iteration of the Supper Club.”

While Barker would not share what the options are, he was adamant that Supper Club would continue in some form. “It is too popular for the town and too important for us.”

As a recent attendee, I can add that Land’s Sake Supper Club is something that you would dream of a town like Weston having. It combines community, farm, food…and a hint of nostalgia that, perhaps, the Tavern or the family style seating add.

To register for the Supper Club please visit www.landssake.org/events. The cost is $70 for non-members and $55 for members. It is BYOB.
it’s a skier’s world. It is at least in New England during the snowy months. Mention of your inability (or lack of desire) to ski elicits gasps of disbelief, eye rolls, and even the occasional “you’re kidding” responses.

No, you aren’t kidding. Having a New England address doesn’t automatically mean you want to hit the slopes. If you’re willing to don the down but not the skis, there are many local destinations for enjoying what winter has to offer while keeping your skiing family members and friends happy at the same time.

Tell those schussers to hush, as you dog sled, hit the spa, take a cooking class, or zip along the treetops. Vacations to these four New England resorts will show you that skiing is just one thing among a mountain of winter play.

**Omni Mount Washington Resort**

“Whether you’re a skier or not, you’re looking for a winter experience,” says Craig Clemmer, director of sales and marketing at the Omni Mount Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. “Skiing is the engine that pulls the train in the winter time. Since you have
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multiple generations coming up, they might be too young [to ski] or maybe they’ve left their better skiing days behind them. There should be every activity level for anyone pursuing their passions.”

Although Omni can accommodate 5,000 skiers on a busy Saturday during ski season, the resort will certainly entertain any and all non-skiing visitors with a laundry list of to-dos. Think slopeside climbing walls, ice skating, or the 25,000-square-foot spa for massages, facials, and newly introduced “rituals” featuring botanicals and nutraceutically charged juices from Omni’s fresh hydroponic herb gardens. There’s nothing like a hydro-massage shower or a dip in an air-jet color therapy tub to soothe away the day. You might even see a skier or two soaking after a tough run.

The most popular activity outside of skiing at Omni is dog sledding. Imagine gliding across a winter wonderland pulled by a team of Alaskan Huskies. These high-drive dogs are actually sled dog rescue pups, some with an Iditarod or two under their collars. The experience is half hands-on, half riding through open fields and rolling hills (like a rollercoaster sans motion sickness).

Or go for some literal horsepower with sleigh rides from the equine center, two hours of dashing through the snow for photo ops and quiet moments. Omni’s Canopy Tour forgoes the hush-hush tree-lined serenity for a thrill-seeking zip across treetops and high-flying suspension bridges. Keep your eyes open for a new tubing facility and family snowmobiling center at Omni.

Families with little snow bunnies turn to Omni Kids to busy them with activities like the spa’s Princess Package, Cookies & Critters DIY stuffed toy making, or the Kinderwoods Playground with its carousel and mini zip line. There’s also babysitting for when the parents are the ones hitting the slopes.

Topnotch Resort and Spa

“We hope to make non-skiers more welcome in a skier’s world,” says Topnotch Resort and Spa’s Concierge Carol Crawford. “We encourage everyone to enjoy our beautiful Vermont winter.” Near the Vermont village of Stowe, the resort is in the heart of the Green Mountains and is listed in Travel + Leisure’s list of the 500 World’s Best Hotels.
Although it’s a premier destination for skiing, both Alpine and Nordic, that’s certainly not the only reason to visit.

An intimate and friendly year-round resort, Topnotch offers a wide array of indoor and outdoor pursuits on a 120-acre estate at the foot of Mount Mansfield, the state’s highest peak.

Something you wouldn’t think of enjoying during chillier temps, the Topnotch Tennis Center is award winning. Ranked “#1 in the Northeast” and one of the “Top 10 US Tennis Resorts” by Tennis magazine, it boasts a full menu of lessons and clinics available all day on four indoor courts year round. Seems like a great way to keep up on your serve for summer play.

Its spa is also considered one of the world’s top resort spas by Spa Finder, Condé Nast Traveler, and Travel + Leisure. This 35,000-square-foot haven offers fitness enthusiasts a full cardio and weight room, while those who want to relax have their choice of over 120 spa and salon treatments. The inside solarium features a whirlpool/Jacuzzi, cascading waterfall massage, heated pool, sauna, and steam rooms. With a backdrop of mountain views, you can swim or soak year round amidst the sparkling sky (or snow) in the property’s two outdoor heated swimming pools and hot tub.
The on-site Nordic Barn Recreational Center specializes in hiking and snowshoeing on the Topnotch Trail System or the Stowe Recreation Path. Sleigh rides are available, as their 'Gentle Giants' take guests across the resort’s moonlit meadows.

Of course there’s nothing wrong with just chilling when it’s cold outside. Topnotch has lots of cozy living room space, a big fireplace, and great views of the mountains. And what’s a winter’s night without an outdoor fire pit for s’mores?

**Stowe Mountain Lodge**

Maggy Dunphy, director of the Spa and Wellness Center at the nearby Stowe Mountain Lodge, oversees the resort’s recreation department and works to ensure there’s plenty to do for the active non-skier, from spa services to Zumba and every yoga class in between. “And one can always choose to actually relax, enjoy the serenity of Vermont, and sit in front of our fireplaces snuggled up with a good book,” she adds.

They’ll help you discover a quiet afternoon through ice fishing or the jingle of bells on a horse-drawn sleigh. Take in the serenity of the local hardwoods and open pastures on a winter horseback trail ride, or see the tops of those trees on Arbor’s Wild Winter Ride, a zip line canopy tour through dense Vermont mountain forest. Satisfy your need for speed with a dogsled ride to a remote lake called Little Elmore, with doggie treats for your new furry friends and hot chocolate or tea for you après-ride.

The starlight snowshoe tour and yurt dinner is another unique way to celebrate winter in style. Explore Mansfield State Forest on a guided snowshoe tour lit only by the stars and headlamps. As you emerge from the forest, you’ll be greeted by a warm fire outside an elegantly rustic yurt where dinner awaits.

But don’t think a trip to Stowe means you have to stay in Stowe. With the guided day trips, you can tour the town, the state, or even another country. While your travel partner is making his or her ski run, make your own run to the border with the Montreal Day Tour, a full day spent in the romantic Canadian city. You can also keep it local with the popular Taste of Vermont Tour, a fantastical journey for your taste buds, to Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream Factory, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Cabot Cheese, Cold Hollow Cider Mill, and Lake Champlain Chocolates.

The youth programming at the Lodge is bar none, where kids have fun while leaving their parents to do boring adult stuff. They can join a circus with the Circus Camp and Show (complete circus skill lessons and an evening performance) or become a world-class outdoor adventure seeker with Tracking Where the Vermont Wild Things Are.

In the works is a 1.7-mile recreation path, the lodge’s eventual go-to place for snowshoeing, family hiking, dog walking, and scavenger hunts. “The sky’s the limit,” says Dunphy. They’re also in the beginning phases of the Spruce Peak Community, with future plans to include an adventure center, teen center, and ice rink.

**Sugarloaf Mountain Resort**

Some places are just synonymous with ski vacations. As the largest ski
area east of the Rockies, Maine’s Sugarloaf Mountain Resort is surely on everyone’s lips when the topic turns to downhill destinations. But even with this distinction, there are plenty of activities to dig up that don’t involve black diamonds.

“It can take a bit of initiative to take advantage of all the various available activities [for non-skiers],” says Ethan Austin, Sugarloaf communications manager. “Sugarloaf is a ski resort, first and foremost. Nearly all of our visitors who book winter vacations here do so in order to ski, but frequently there’s part of the family or group that doesn’t ski and is looking for activities to keep them busy. We’re always working to offer more off-mountain activities to keep families busy after the lifts close, and to offer non-skiers things to do.” He’s speaking of adventures in snowshoeing, ice skating on their new lighted NHL-sized outdoor rink, swimming, and their brand new arcade.

Topping the list of non-skiing activities at Sugarloaf are flying down the on-mountain tubing hill, zip lining, and snowshoeing. But don’t discount the things to do inside when the weather outside isn’t so delightful. The Sugarloaf Sports and Fitness Center has weights, racquetball, volleyball, cardio machines, an indoor swimming pool, hot tubs, and saunas. Take things down a notch at the center’s spa with a mani/pedi treat or a full-body Sea Salt Glow and Body Butter Rejuvenation massage. At the base of Sugarloaf, you’ll find the Carrabassett Valley Antigravity Complex, a 20,000-square-foot facility that features a full basketball court, 30-foot climbing wall, trampolines, weight room, spin room, and the largest indoor skate park in Maine.

To celebrate winter in Maine, Sugarloaf even has fireworks scheduled throughout the season. Because who doesn’t like a little sky light sparkling against a snowy mountainside?

It’s time for non-skiers to also celebrate the snowy months. Get your head out of the snowdrifts and embrace this charming (and fun) season in New England. There’s actually more just for you than you think.

“You just have to ask, ‘What can I do today?’ They’ll come up with 100 things for you to do and only two of those are skiing,” says Clemmer.
HOLIDAY SHOPPING SEASON is here, and our local stores are filled with wonderful gift items for all of the special people in your life. We've created a Holiday Gift Guide to provide you with some great ideas to make shopping easy and fun. Happy Holidays!

1. Martini Set Diamond Earrings
A.M. DePrisco, Wellesley

2. Sterling Silver Necklace with Semi-Precious Stone
Muna, Wellesley

3. Lauer Fleece Gloves
Lyn Evans Potpourri Designs, Wellesley

4. Limited Edition Shadow Box with Mosaic of Preserved Cerulean Butterflies
Trove, Weston

5. Gurhan Silver and Gold Stacking Rings
Long's Jewelers, Natick

6. Sterling Silver and Gemstone Bangles from IPPOLITA
Lux Bond & Green, Wellesley

7. Bella Santé Spa Gift Card
Bella Santé, Wellesley

8. Graze Gift Box Brings the Best of Vermont Directly to Your Door
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9. Platinum Emerald Cut Sapphire and Diamond Ring
A.M. DePrisco, Wellesley

10. Lafco House and Home Candle
Pine Straw, Wellesley
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1. Alex Giant Weaving Loom
   Magic Beans, Wellesley

2. Pink Roadster Pedal Car
   Pollywogs, Needham

3. Initial Shirt
   Pollywogs, Needham

4. “Vegan” Faux Leather Backpack
   with Laptop Compartment
   Trove, Weston

5. Animal Face Matching Game
   Wellesley Books, Wellesley

6. Collection of Children’s and Young Adult Books
   Wellesley Books, Wellesley

7. Tokyo Bay Watch
   Pine Straw, Wellesley

8. Monkeys by Jan Willett,
   Monkey Shine Studio
   The Clever Hand, Wellesley

9. Moncler Red Down Vest
   Kenzie Kids, Wellesley
holiday gift guide

1. Antica Model Bell Tower
   Shafer O’Neil Interior Design, Wellesley

2. Bitters “Spirited History” Book
   Pine Straw, Wellesley

3. Horn-Handled Bar Set,
   Two Items from Set of Four
   Shafer O’Neil Interior Design, Wellesley

4. Edwin Jagger Shaving Accessories
   Roosters Men’s Grooming Center, Wellesley

5. Antique Chest with Rosewood
   Veneer and Mother of Pearl Inlay
   Trove, Weston

6. Van Gogh Starry Night Pen
   by Visconti Pens
   Long’s Jewelers, Natick

7. Peter Millar Sweater
   E.A. Davis, Wellesley

8. Eighteen Karat Enamel and Ruby
   Frog Cufflinks and Eighteen Karat
   Crocodile Embossed Money Clip
   A.M. DePrisco, Wellesley

9. Raymond Weil Gent’s Maestro
   Chronograph Automatic in
   Stainless Steel and Rose Gold
   Lux Bond & Green, Wellesley

10. Sonos Play 5 Wireless
    Music System
    Elite Media Solutions, Wellesley
about town

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

Wellesley Historical Society Annual Meeting

1 Polly Gardner, Kathleen Fahey, and Dwin Schuler
2 Amanda Chabot, Bob Chabot, Kim Dow, and Jim Marcotte
3 Keith Marden, Bob Morrow, and Waddy Stone

VNA of Boston Meeting

Linda Hope-Springer, Beth Furman, and Loriann Meagher

Wellesley Weston Magazine’s blog is the talk of the towns with the latest event photos, calendar listings, and conversations for the people who make things happen in Wellesley and Weston. Log on today and you might see yourself in our expanded About Town 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.

MiniLuxe Wellesley Grand Opening

1 Michele Santell, Anthony Belmonte, Jackie Belmonte, Lou Belmonte, and Sue Thirlwall
2 Julie Dennehy
3 Maura O’Brien, Siobhan Conlon, Kathy Thomas, and Bryan Furze

Race Wellesley First 5k/10k Challenge

1 (standing l to r): Arpie Dilan, Gina Diminico, Anna Reyblat, Tony Nuzzo, Maura O’Brien, Jillian and Mark Jurilla (holding twins); (kneeling): Debby Chui and Andorio Foster
2 Abby Ackerman and Peter Ackerman
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2009 Best of Boston Builder, West
about town (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 188)

Boston Symphony Orchestra’s 132nd Opening Night Gala

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

North Hill “Summit Club” Reception

Chamber Golf Tournament at Wellesley Country Club Golf

Mom’s Day Out – Wellesley Square Merchants
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Room to Dream Foundation Golf Tournament

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Wellesley Teen Center

Joy Kant Fine Art Opening at Susu Bakery Boutique

1 Les Hiscoe, Dave Goucher, Kevin Sullivan, Tom Goemaat, Damon Amendolara, and Stefan Nathanson  2 Jane Scammon, Joanne DiFrancesco, Jodi Petrillo, and Jenn Nash

Wellesley Teen Center fans

1 Westley, Gretta Luxe Shop Dog  2 Faith Friedman and Lynne Wiessel  3 Brittany Pierce, Georgia Jenkins, Nichole Ethier, Guest, and Alexis Van Thilburg  4 Katie Faessler, Jen Myrdal, and Kelly Leisman

1 Tim McBride and Michele LaCamera  2 Dan and Yolanda, Tisi Farrar, Bunny Aylward, and Marlowe Farrar  3 Susu Aylward, Tom Howard, and Joy Kant  4 Linda Lago-Kass, Joy Kant, and Kathi Aldridge

(Continued from Page 190) (Continued on Page 196)
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about town  (C O N T I N U E D  F R O M  P A G E  1 9 2 )

Newton-Wellesley Hospital HopeWalks

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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.

Babson College “Green Power Partner” Award

Richard Sullivan, Ellen Korpi, Richard Joyce, Mary Rose, Ira Leighton, and Shelley Kaplan

Wellesley Mothers Forum 20th Anniversary

1 Judy Beswick, Maureen Boux, Lisa Macalaster, Kelly Barry 2 Meghan Thompson, Debbie Leibole, and Tara Lawrence 3 Melissa Coyle, Katie Griffith, Denise Schenkkel, and Erin Devine

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Next Level Personal Training Studio Bodies by Melody Team

Lovelane Hoedown

1 Mike Casey, Lisa Hughes, Jeff Lazzarino, Teri Adler, Rob Shanahan, Carol Hudson, Matt Hudson, Sarah Williams, and Landen Williams 2 Allyson DeNoble, Debby Sabin, and Kim Palotta 3 Mason Smith, Teri Adler, Jennifer Hunnewell, and Lidney Motch

PHOTOS BY BRIGITTE VOELK

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the wellesley South Little League team won the state championships and represented Massachusetts in the New England Regional Finals. Here they are with their coaches John Simon, Blake Bentley, and David Rosenblatt being honored at the State House with Governor Deval Patrick and Representative Alice Peisch.

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