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The Green Scene
Evergreens are beauties that define the winter season with their majesty and grandeur. Ruth Furman highlights a few of her favorites.

10 Tips for Holiday Beauty
Our expert tips will help you toast the holidays with style.

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

Forum
Readers speak out on issues of importance to them. In this issue, Bob Damon provides some background information about the Wellesley Historical Society’s new home.

Business
Three international entrepreneurs look back at the paths that brought them to our area.

Fitness & Health
Local couples dealing with infertility have treatment options close to home.

Good Works
Containers2Clinics delivers sustainable health to the humblest parts of the world.

Artist Profile
The new art gallery at North Hill showcases established artists and provides older people with cultural opportunities.

Books
In her book Wellesley Wives, local author Suzy Duffy finds plenty of romance and humor in a familiar setting.

Food & Wine
Our holiday wine guide will help you select the wine that brings out the best in every holiday menu and delights every wine-loving guest.

Excursions
Join the growing number of adults who are combining learning experiences with travel to create truly memorable vacations.

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

Last But Not Least
This page gives our readers the opportunity to express themselves creatively with writing, art, and photography. In this issue, Patty Lenz Bovie shares her thoughts on one of her favorite places in Wellesley.
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DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A STORY you’d like to see featured in Wellesley Weston Magazine? Submit your ideas to editor@wellesleywestonmagazine.com, or via mail to: Wellesley Weston Magazine, 5 Vane Street, Wellesley, MA 02482. Please include your name, address, and email contact information with your correspondence.
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the timing of Wellesley Weston Magazine’s winter issue coincides with the onset of the holiday season when all of us are busy preparing for family gatherings and festivities. It’s always our hope that readers will be inspired by the articles and advertisements and will find the information useful during this action-packed time of year.

Of course in Wellesley and Weston, we’re used to having a lot going on. Our Inbox department is testament to just how much happens in our community all year long. This department has steadily grown in popularity throughout the years and, with this issue, we received a record number of submissions. We sincerely wish we could print every newsworthy item we receive, but are unfortunately limited by space constraints. I encourage you to read our blog, wwmblog.com, to see many more Inbox items that are not published in the print issue. I also invite you to “like” Wellesley Weston Magazine on Facebook to receive updates on community news and to learn about upcoming events that you may be interested in attending.

If you have a newsworthy item that you would like us to publish in Inbox, please send your submission to jill@wellesleywestonmagazine.com. All submissions should be 75 words or less and can be accompanied by a headshot that is at least 4” x 6” at 300 dpi. We are happy to edit your items and, while we welcome press releases for other magazine departments, Inbox items must be submitted in the appropriate 75-word format.

With Thanksgiving happening so late this year, our shopping days are cut short, so now more than ever is the time to “shop local.” Wellesley and Weston residents are fortunate to have a variety of spectacular stores at which to shop and get into the holiday spirit. Please use the pages of this magazine as a gift guide of sorts, and check out our advertisers who have all of the products and services you need for memorable holiday gifts for friends, family, and business associates.

This is also the season for giving back to others and helping out in the community. I hope you enjoy our article “Finding Meaning through Volunteerism” that profiles just a few of our neighbors who take time out of their busy schedules to help others all year long, making a difference here at home and throughout the world. I was also inspired by the advice the international entrepreneurs profiled in our Business article had to offer. I hope you’ll take their words to heart and perhaps even think about launching a venture of your own.

Enjoy the busy and beautiful holiday season and Happy New Year!
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are you old enough to remember the day President Kennedy was assassinated? I know I’m dating myself, but I recall the day fairly vividly. I was in the living room of my home playing quietly with my dolls while my baby brother napped. My mother was ironing and watching *Hawaiian Eye* on our black and white television set. I became very frightened when I heard my mother begin to cry after seeing the news bulletin on TV. I asked her what was wrong and she said, “Honey, President Kennedy has just been shot.” Chilling words that I have never forgotten.

Diane Speare Triant never forgot that day either. She remembers where she was and what she was doing when the President was shot and in the dark days, weeks, and months that followed that fateful day, she collected every bit of information she could find about the president, his family, and the details surrounding his death. The result was a trove of 1960s publications that included newspapers, magazines, books, quotations, stamps, and even a comic book. This collection was sitting in a box in Diane’s attic until now, fifty years later, when she shares her memories and memorabilia with you in her fascinating retrospective, “Four Dark Days in November.”

On a much lighter note, I have wonderful memories of very special outings with my mother when we would leave my dad and little pest of a brother and enter the magic world of opera. My mother, a classically trained singer, was (and is) an opera buff, and I was indeed fortunate to be exposed to this medium at a young age. The costumes, the drama, and the powerful voices were mesmerizing, even at age seven when I saw my first opera, *Madame Butterfly*. If you’ve never been to the opera, I have a feeling you’ll be inspired to do so after reading “Opera Stars in Our Midst” that features two talented singers, Alex Lawrence and Joanna Mongiardo. Alex and Joanna talk about their lives when they lived in Weston and Wellesley respectively, and describe their rise to the top of this very challenging art form.

’Tis the season, and this issue has plenty to help you get into the holiday spirit. Local residents of Scandinavian heritage discuss their holiday traditions and share some special recipes that you can try on your own. This is also the time of year to splurge a bit when selecting wines for holiday tables and for gifts. Our Food and Wine department consults local wine experts who provide their recommendations for special wines for festive occasions.

I hope you enjoy all of the articles in this issue and that your holiday season is a happy and healthy one.
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every season in New England offers up its own distinctive beauty, even winter. The stillness of falling snow, bare branches in sharp relief against a glittering white background on a cold, sunny day, and a silvery frosting on stately evergreens are just a few of winter’s delights that come to mind. For me, it is the evergreens in the winter landscape that define the season with their majesty and grandeur. While there are many tried-and-true that grace local gardens, there are some lesser-known varieties that I have planted and enjoyed getting to know.

At the top of my list of favorites is the primeval looking conifer Sciadopitys verticillata, the Japanese Umbrella Pine. The common name refers to the glossy dark green thick needles that radiate around its stems, similar to the ribs of an umbrella turned upside down. A slow grower, it eventually reaches 20 to 30 feet high and 15 to 20 feet wide, growing best in full sun. Close inspection of the bark, usually hidden by the tree’s dense foliage, reveals a surprising orangey-red in exfoliating strips. In its native Japan the wood is highly prized for its water-resistance and pleasantly spicy scent.

’Tis the season for holly and if you have longed for an English holly but haven’t had much success (they find our winters a bit too harsh), consider the false holly, Osmanthus hetero-
The green scene “a delightful addition to seasonal displays”

**Phyllus ‘Goshiki.’** New leaves emerge pinky-bronze then turn green but are flecked with cream, yellowy greens, and gray greens for quite a lovely effect. Hailing from Japan, its very name, ‘Goshiki,’ is Japanese for five colors and the foliage is a delightful addition to seasonal displays or wreaths, adding quite a dash that always gets a “what’s that?” from admirers. A slow grower, it reaches six to eight feet high by about seven feet wide with a nice compact habit. They do best in partial sun and are great in the mixed border or even in pots in their early years.

Another holly worthy of consideration — with *Ilex aquifolium*, the English holly, in its parentage — is *Ilex x meserveae* ‘Honey Maid,’ another Meserveae introduction. The variegated foliage is green with golden yellow markings. It makes a nice rounded form with dense foliage and its bright red berries in winter will attract the birds or perk up your holiday decorations. Like most of the Meserveae hollies it grows to eight to ten feet, but it can be pruned. It prefers full sun and fits easily into any landscape situation, from foundation plantings to the mixed border.

A real cutie that works well in today’s smaller gardens is a dwarf variety of the Japanese White Pine, *Pinus parviflora* ‘Kinpo.’ Twisted bluish-green needles densely cover this diminutive cultivar with a mature size of just two feet by three feet and small cones liberally spread over the plant for added interest. The habit is irregular, contributing to its charm as a unique evergreen that could do well in a container, mixed border, or an Asian-inspired design.

While yews might conjure up a more somber image there are two I really must mention. The first was discovered by a local Massachusetts nursery (Weston Nurseries in Hopkinton) and is *Taxus baccata* ‘Adpressa Fowle’ or the Midget Boxleaf English Yew. The needles are a stubby dark green with the horizontal branching typical of English yews for an overall effect that is unusual but quite handsome. A compact plant growing to about eight feet and almost twice as wide, it will do well in either sun or shade.

A more recent introduction, also from Japan, that provides a completely different look is *Taxus cuspidata* ‘Monloo’ Emerald Spreader. This Japanese yew has soft foliage with a low spreading habit and matures very slowly to two and a half feet high and about nine feet wide. It tolerates dry conditions and is content in sun or part shade.

These are just a few of my favorites for now, but I always have an eye out for more. Have a happy new evergreen year!
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10 tips for...

With your calendar full of festive get-togethers, you’re knee deep into the holiday party season. With these expert tips, you can face the endless champagne toasts with style.

**one Toss the mascara**

“Long, dark eyelashes not only emphasize the shape of your eye, but will also make the eye look fuller,” says Tracy Korby, owner of Forever Young Laser and Skin Center in Wellesley. Since most of us don’t have the time or expertise to apply fake eyelashes daily, lash extensions are rapidly gaining popularity. The treatment involves attaching synthetic lashes onto the natural eyelashes and the gorgeous result lasts four to six weeks. But this is not a last-minute extravagance. Lashes must stay dry for 24 hours, so it’s best to get them applied at least a day before your big event.

**two Indulge your hair**

If you have curly hair that’s a bit unruly, the holidays are the perfect time to try the Keratin hair straightening treatment you’ve been thinking about. Wellesley’s Dellaria Salon is offering a holiday special on the treatment, which typically lasts six to twelve weeks. If your normal hairstyle needs a bit of pizzazz for some party punch, a simple blow-out a few hours before your big event will give your hair the volume and shine to send you off in style. Wellesley’s The Candy Bar has a “Blow Bar” with stylist who will work with you to create a signature look.

**three Get ready for red**

“It’s all about red lips this holiday season,” says professional makeup artist Stacey Frasca. Bright and beautiful red lips will complete your festive holiday look and add drama and elegance. But while most women like the idea of red lips, many of us are not always comfortable with the boldness of the rich, red matte lipstick worn by runway models. If that’s the case, Stacey recommends starting out with a sheer texture red gloss like Studio 28’s Bad Bessie. Or simply use a lip liner as a stain. Studio 28’s Tawny Red is a good choice.

**four Put your best face on**

When it comes to makeup, choosing the right foundation formula is the key to achieving a holiday glow all winter long. Elizabeth Kosky of Elizabeth Renee Esthetics says “it’s all about creating a beautifully luminous finish.” Look for a lightweight foundation that melts into the skin and diffuses light, creating an illuminated complexion. Elizabeth Renee Esthetics’ Luminous Foundation has light-diffusing particles that soften facial lines, making your skin appear smoother and more youthful.
five Try a cat eye

"Women use eyeliner to make a more dramatic lash line," says Candace Evans Lucas, owner of The Candy Bar in Wellesley. "The cat eye adds even more glamour." The key to this look is using a felt tip eyeliner pen, such as Lucas’s favorite Kevyn Aucoin Precision Liner. "The precision really creates the drama," she adds. With a small point, it’s easier to graduate the line out from the inner corner of your eye to extending a bit past and winging up from your outer eye. She also suggests boosting your holiday look with Girlactik’s Sparkle Kit, complete with black cake liner, an angled brush, and glitter that adheres to the liner for a sparkly cat eye. And practice makes purr-fect.

six Turn your back on basic black

Wellesley stylist Judy Hereu is a huge fan of making a statement in color. "Red is very hot right now," she says. "There are so many wonderful classic hues like ox-blood, which is a dark burgundy that’s a great alternative to black." If you’re set on your Little Black Dress, up your glamour game with a splash of color. "If you fear wearing the ‘same old thing,’ add a touch of animal print in a belt, jewelry, or a handbag. Small animal prints look amazing against black and definitely change the look."

seven Dress it up

Do you have a favorite blouse from last season that needs a fun skirt to create a new look for a special event? How about your favorite pair of dressy black pants that fit perfectly but need a festive, fashion-forward top to create a dazzling outfit for your holiday party? Or maybe you have an amazing statement necklace that needs just the right neckline to show it off. Bring your favorite holiday clothing item to Lyn Evans Potpourri Designs in Wellesley and let the professional stylists go to work. They have the expertise and merchandise to create a wardrobe for every special occasion.

eight Get glowing

Treat yourself to a HydraFacial from Wellesley’s Bella Sante Day Spa. The HydraFacial is one of the most advanced, non-laser, skin resurfacing technology on the market today. It combines cleansing, exfoliation, extraction, hydration, and antioxidant protection in one treatment that will leave your skin looking radiant. This soothing, non-invasive treatment improves the appearance of fine lines, congested or enlarged pores, and even treats acne.

nine Retrieve your summer color

Make them wonder where you’ve been with a quick spray tan. The latest in safe tanning, this airbrush process is performed by hand in 15 minutes and is completely customized to your skin. Most airbrush tans last up to 10 days, so you can certainly squeeze at least one or two parties out of each sunless session. Wellesley’s Panoply Day Spa offers an all natural airbrush tan that dries quickly and will not make you look orange.

ten Wake up tired eyes

When dark circles prove your packed social calendar, thinly slice a potato and apply the slices under your eyes for 10 minutes. Potato juice contains the enzyme catecholase, which is used in cosmetics as a skin lightener. If your party clutch isn’t the only bag you’re carrying, try witch hazel to reduce puffiness. Keep a small amount in the refrigerator and soak two cotton pads in it. Apply one pad to each closed lid for five minutes. Or visit Elizabeth Renee Esthetics for an Emergency Eye Zone Treatment that allows you to snooze while your eye area is soothed and strengthened with a peptide solution.
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EverBank announced that Charlie Nilsen has joined the home lending division as Regional Sales Manager for New England. A longtime resident of Wellesley, Nilsen has strong relationships within New England and will open new offices, recruit local loan officers, and work with the real estate community. Nilsen has 30 years of experience in the mortgage industry and is former Chair of the Massachusetts Mortgage Bankers Association. More information on EverBank can be found at www.abouteverbank.com.

Wellesley resident and architect Jacob Lilley is pleased to announce the opening of his firm, Jacob Lilley Architects, Inc. (JLA). Located in the heart of downtown on Central Street, JLA looks forward to adding to the vibrancy of the Wellesley business community. With a straightforward and clean aesthetic, JLA relies on a collaborative and innovative approach to develop design solutions for custom homes, additions, and renovations. Please visit www.jlaarchitects.com.

AJ Rose Carpets and Flooring was awarded “Best of Boston 2013” for Flooring. In addition, the company also received the “Angie’s List Super Service” award for the fourth year. This award is given to the top five percent of companies on Angie’s List. This is strictly based on customer reviews. Visit AJ Rose Carpets and Flooring at 599 Worcester Road (Route 9 West) in Natick or 136 Cambridge St. (Route 3A) in Burlington or at www ajrosecarpets.com.

Visit Shreve, Crump & Low’s new watch salon at 39 Newbury Street in Boston this holiday season for the finest in Swiss and German timepieces from Audemars Piguet, Vacheron Constantin, A. Lange & Söhne, IWC, Jaeger Le Coultre, Baume & Mercier, Bell & Ross, Chopard, Zenith, Omega, Hermes, Carl F. Bucherer, and Longines. An entire level of fine timepieces awaits you. Discover something incredible at Shreve, Crump & Low.

The McGlynn, Clinton & Hall Insurance Agency will hold its annual toy drive for Toys for Tots. The contributions from local families to deserving children are larger every year, and if you would like to contribute, please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the McGlynn, Clinton & Hall office located in Mill Village, 365 Boston Post Road, Sudbury or to The Candy Bar in Wellesley at 20 Church Street. Contact Patti McGlynn at pmcglynn@mchinsure.com with any questions.

Jon Golden, owner of Tables to Teapots Home Consignment, notes that film and TV companies have been shopping at the store to buy props for productions shot locally. Local set buyer/decorator Amy Morrison has been at Tables regularly, shopping for feature films including HBO’s Olive Kitteridge, Sony Picture’s The Equalizer, and Hatfields and McCoys.

Wellesley Bank, a premier bank and wealth management company, announced that Helena Fonseca has been appointed Vice President, Office Manager of the Wellesley Lower Falls Office at 29 Washington Street. Fonseca will be responsible for the continued growth and oversight of the Wellesley Lower Falls office. Colleen Riley Eyges has been appointed as Vice President, Residential Lending for Wellesley Bank’s new Boston Office. In this role Colleen will be responsible for continued growth in the Residential Lending department.
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Long’s Jewelers has a new collection of rare, one-of-a-kind, and heirloom jewelry ideal for collectors and purveyors of precious gemstones. Hand-picked selections include unheated Burmese rubies, rare sapphires from the Kashmir mine, and a one-of-a-kind Malaya unheated peach garnet. All rare and fine gems are accompanied by a laboratory document which states any treatments and origins. Call Long’s at 508.650.2900 or email Natick@longsjewelers.com for more information or to make an appointment to see the jewelry.

France native Isabelle Beck has opened Your French Gift, a specialty gift store in Wellesley Hills offering a selection of products to bring the best of France to the area. After practicing law for 30 years in Lyon, Isabelle fulfilled her dream of living in the United States. With her passion for art and decoration, she imports fine accessories, unique home and lifestyle goods, plush children’s toys, and high-end beauty products.

Dan K. Gordon Associates, Inc. (www.dangordonassociates.com) and The Picot Company (www.picotcompany.com) are pleased to announce their support of an effort spearheaded by the Wellesley Hills Junior Women’s Club to restore damaged plantings at Elm Park in Wellesley Hills. Gordon Associates and Picot recently donated and planted a ‘Rutgers Stellar Pink’ Dogwood to further restoration of the historic gardens, damaged while the clock tower was undergoing repairs.

The Teddy Bear Club (www.teddybearclub.org) announced the inaugural opening of their brand new second campus at 239 Concord Road in Lincoln. The acclaimed French/English bilingual school, a Newton mainstay since 1993, offers a unique blend of European and American preschool programs for children ages two to five years. The Teddy Bear Club is a highly respected feeder to local private schools, preparing children for elementary school and beyond. For more information, call 781.259.0009 or email info@teddybearclub.org.

Metrowest Neuropsychology announced that Dr. Rachel Andaloro has joined their Wellesley office. Dr. Andaloro received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. As a graduate student, she received specialized training in neuropsychological assessment of adults and adolescents, and she completed her internship in clinical neuropsychology at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Andaloro also participates in Alzheimer’s disease and Autism research at the NeuroCare Center for Research. Visit www.MetrowestNeuropsych.com to learn more.

Lux Bond & Green Wellesley store manager Nancy Haas presents a check for the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC)/Jimmy Fund to Tiffany Ortiz and Debbie First, PMC riders on Red Sox Team 9. Funds were donated by Lux Bond & Green customers who participated in “Free Battery Fridays,” with 100 percent of the proceeds from batteries purchased on Fridays in July donated to the PMC Jimmy Fund.

Brookline Bank has named Sasha Liang as new Branch Manager of its Wellesley Lower Falls Branch located at 5 Washington Street. Liang has been with Brookline for seven years. Michael McGinnity has joined Brookline Bank as Mortgage
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The Wellesley Free Library Foundation has appointed a new slate of officers. Pam Stirrat, a Wellesley resident of 32 years, will serve as President. She is joined by Amanda Kennedy, Vice President; Darcey Bartel, Treasurer; and Lynne Brady Wagner, Clerk. The Foundation also welcomed two new directors: Diane Savage, an attorney who lives and works in Wellesley, and Phil Minervino, owner of Lower Falls Wine Company.

Dr. Ilya Sherman attended the 2013 Conference of IACA (International Association of Comprehensive Aesthetics) in Calgary, Canada where highly qualified professionals from all over the world meet annually to share the latest in dentistry. Dr. Sherman’s Health and Beauty Dental has been providing the Wellesley/Weston area with advanced technology in cosmetic dentistry for over a year and is currently offering a new patient special. Call 781.235.6616 to schedule an appointment or visit www.healthandbeautydental.com for more information.

Pine Straw, located at 466 Washington Street in Wellesley, is ready for the holiday season. Owner Tracy Cranley has been stocking the store with...
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many great holiday gifts, seasonal décor, and beautiful apparel. With only four weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Pine Straw staff will help you tackle your holiday list and, as always, gift wrapping is complimentary. Stressed about what to wear to all of those holiday parties? Pine Straw now offers personal stylist appointments. Visit www.pinestrawshopwellesley.com.

Terrascapes Landscape Design has initiated a fine gardening division of the company. As many of Terrascapes’ design clients expressed interest in having their gardens maintained after installation, it made sense to include this service. Terrascapes now employs three lead gardeners with strong horticultural backgrounds, as well as three assistant gardeners. “We are planning to increase this level again next year, and are looking forward to maintaining beautiful gardens throughout the MetroWest area,” says owner Susan Opton. For the past seven years, Mr. Spoto has been on the Board of Directors of the Better Business Bureau chapter that encompasses Eastern Massachusetts, all of Maine, Vermont, and Rhode Island. Spoto is co-founder and co-owner of Pinnacle Residential Properties, a full-service residential real estate company headquartered in Wellesley.

Pinnacle Residential Properties is pleased to announce that Vincent Spoto has been appointed Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of one of the Better Business Bureau’s largest chapters.

V2max Elite is joining the V2max family in Needham. Bringing Elite personal training, nutritional counseling, and yoga to the brand, V2max Elite has no equal. Founders Matt and Jessica Dupee, originally from Weston and Needham, have spent the last two years developing the unique concept of Train like a Boxer! No big machines. No heavy weights. Nothing that plugs in. V2max Fitness and V2max Elite get the job done.

Wellesley architect and resident Jan Gleysteen AIA recently presented at “For the Love of Old: Restoring and Creating Heirlooms.” The design salon is part of an ongoing series for homeowners that features local designers, builders, and artisans. The event was held at Trefler’s in Newton and hosted by Design New England. For more information please visit www.jangleysteeninc.com or contact Jan Gleysteen Architects, Inc. at 781.431.0080.

The West Newton Hearing Center is holding an Open House December 11 and December 12. 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.

Craig Tanny, Partner and VP at Mortgage Equity Partners (MEP), welcomes Dave Holding as new Sales Manager. Dave is a 22-year veteran in the mortgage industry and is responsible for managing the company’s sales offices in Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire. Mortgage Equity Partners has been in business since 2009 and now has over 30 employees with an average of 12 years of experience. The company specializes in origination of residential home mortgages.

The Collaborative Companies and Benoit Mizner Simon & Co. have teamed up to sell Belclare Wellesley, a high-end condominium project consisting of 25 luxurious homes. They are pleased to announce their newest team member, Cindy Dwyer, who will take on the role of Sales Director. Cindy has nearly 20 years of new construction sales experience in both urban and suburban markets. Belclare is scheduled to open late fall 2014. Visit them on the web at www.BelclareWellesley.com.

Drs. Ali and Ali and the caring team at Wellesley Dental Group are happy to report that

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their offices have been renovated and expanded. The completed facelift includes an extra treatment room to balance increased demand, and added picture windows to create more natural light. Their goal is to create a warm and inviting exterior to mirror the comfortable, state-of-the-art dental facility inside. Call 781.237.9071 for an appointment and visit www.wellesleydentalgroup.com.

> Florentine Frames owner Salvatore Micciché announced the opening of his new art gallery offering over 600 square feet of wall display. The gallery features many local artists and will be a good venue to promote interest in arts in the community. The original art varies from traditional New England landscapes and seascapes to contemporary art. Florentine Frames is located in Weston Center since 1982. For more information, email florentineframes@aol.com and see their ad in the Artist Profile on page 169.

> Joel Bagnal Goldsmiths & Jewelers is celebrating 34 years in Wellesley. The holiday season is the perfect time to stop by and see their jewelry collection or have one of their designers create a one-of-a-kind custom piece for you or your loved one. Joel Bagnal also appraises and repairs jewelry on site, and buys and sells gold and estate jewelry. Visit Joel Bagnal Goldsmiths & Jewelers at 101 Central Street in Wellesley, call 781.235.8266, and visit www.joelbagnal.com.

> Cachet, located at 16 Church Street in Wellesley, is ready for the holiday season. Owners and former Bloomingdale’s executives Bob and Ginny Otto are celebrating their 38th anniversary year in Wellesley, and they have stocked the store with many great holiday and hostess gifts, seasonal décor, and table settings. Look for items from master artisans including MacKenzie-Childs, Simon Pearce, and Juliska, and luxurious nightwear by Pjamas. Call 781.237.5516, visit www.cachetwellesley.com, and see their ad on page 123.
John and Laura Meyer of Meyer & Meyer, Inc. Architecture and Interiors are featured in New England Home magazine’s Fall 2013 Kitchen & Bath Issue for the renovation of a Wellesley kitchen originally built in the 1930s. The new light-filled kitchen features blue lower cabinets with windows above, bright white walls and ceiling, and the reuse of bricks from Boston’s historic Old North Church for the pantry and behind the stove.

Judy Gamble Whalen has been promoted to Director of Residential Design of Roomscapes Luxury Design Center. Judy first joined Roomscapes in 2008 and quickly built a great following among clients and allied professionals. With over 20 years of experience in the industry, Judy has a vast knowledge of construction, design resources, and custom cabinetry, allowing for a multi-dimensional approach in marrying clients’ needs with the most innovative design solutions.

The Women’s Community League of Weston’s Holiday House Tour 2013, “A Neighborhood through the Ages,” will celebrate 300 years of Weston. The tour will be held on Saturday, December 7 from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm and will feature a collection of antique, mid-century, modernist, and newly constructed Weston homes decorated for the holidays. Tickets are $45 and can be purchased online at www.wclweston.org/holiday_house_tour.html. Or go to the Gift Gallery at 464 Boston Post Road in Weston Center.

This fall Century Bank, New England’s largest family-run bank, will open its newest branch in the new Chestnut Hill Square alongside other fine establishments including Wegmans and Equinox. Marshall M. Sloane, who founded the Bank in 1969, will officiate at the Grand Opening celebration. Discover why Century is the bank families rely on for personal attention. For free business and personal checking accounts, easy online banking, and convenient mobile access, experience the Century difference. Visit www.CenturyBank.com.
Montrose School in Medfield will host an Open House at 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 16. Prospective families will hear from Head of School, author, and senior scholar at BU’s Center for Character and Social Responsibility (CCSR) Dr. Karen E. Bohlin and learn more about the Montrose difference. Montrose strives to cultivate powers of mind through academic rigor and teaching excellence; to develop faith, reason, and timeless virtue; and to shape tomorrow’s leaders by unleashing students’ potential. Visit www.montroseschool.org.

Jennifer Pline of Wellesley is the new chair, Board of Trustees, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Needham. She has been a member of the Board since 2005 and most recently served as vice-chair. Pline is Managing Director and Chief Trust & Gifts Officer at Harvard Management Company. She is a graduate of Boston College, where she also received her MBA, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Concord Academy and North Hill.

Bob and Phyllis Totaro, owners of J. Todd Galleries of Wellesley and Chatham, are seeking prospects interested in acquiring their nationally known Wellesley art gallery business. After three decades, the couple has put forth their plan to transition gradually toward retirement over the next couple of years. The gallery is one of the largest and longest operating in New England, with national reach, a highly respected brand, and unique positioning in the regional art market. Email gallery-inquiry@aol.com or call 617.435.3434.

Jill Blondek of Future Shapes would like to thank all those who participated in the Future Shapes shoe drive and donated their slightly worn athletic shoes to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Boston. The effort was very successful, and Jill was happy to present the donation in October. Visit Future Shapes in Wellesley at The Fitness Club for Women, 200 Linden Street, to get proper training goals and nutritional tips to get you through the holiday season. For more information, call 781.237.9785.

Dr. Jeannie Chung is celebrating her first year in her new Wellesley offices at 40 Walnut Street, #202. Dr. Chung is a double board-certified facial plastic surgeon with over ten years of experience in the Boston area. Her aesthetic philosophy is a simple one: to provide patients with a natural, rejuvenated look. For more information, visit www.drjeanniechung.com or call 781.235.3223 to schedule a consultation. Please see their ad on page 199 in About Town.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is pleased to announce that Louise Tarsy is now affiliated with the Coldwell Banker office in Wellesley as a sales associate. Louise has been a residential real estate broker in the western suburbs of Boston since 1984, and will continue to provide residential real estate services in Wellesley, Weston, and the surrounding communities. Louise can be reached at the Coldwell Banker Wellesley at 781.237.9090, on her cell at: 781.710.2289, or by email at louise.tarsy@nemoves.com.

Please send your interesting news items to jill@wellesleywestonmagazine.com. E-mail submissions only please; jpeg photos are welcome at 300dpi.
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in 1925 a group of eight dedicated Wellesley residents came together to found a new organization in their community. A mission statement declared that the organization was “desirous of preserving for future generations material concerning the town of Wellesley and its inhabitants, also to collect and preserve articles of historic interest including those which show the handiwork, home furnishings and habits of our forefathers.”

They called their organization the Wellesley Historical Society.

Eighty-nine years later, the spirit of those eight founding members and the organization they created lives on at the Dadmun-McNamara House, a small white building tucked into the back corner of the parking lot at the Wellesley Community Center, at 229 Washington Street. The modest outward appearance of this 1824 home belies the historic treasures contained within its walls: over 15,000 historic photographs and images, 2,400 beautifully preserved butterflies and insects from the Denton Family collection, 2,800 historic maps and plans, a 1,500-piece clothing and costume collection, the only complete original copy of the Wellesley Townsman, and much, much more.

What began as a small group of individuals who met to share a common interest in history has matured into an invaluable historical and cultural resource for the town of Wellesley. Thanks to innumerable Wellesley residents who have donated their family historical treasures to the Society, the collection has outgrown its 1,400 square foot home at the Dadmun-McNamara House. The demands of properly caring for this historical legacy have required the Society to dedicate most of the space in the building to collections care and storage. There is little or no space for the Society to exhibit its collections. The collections, although well cared for, are still waiting for the opportunity to share their stories with the community. That opportunity has finally arrived with the Society’s purchase of 323 Washington Street.

A New Home at 323 Washington Street

In 1916 a young doctor named Frederic Stanwood and his wife Jeannette built their new home at 323 Washington Street in Wellesley Hills. “Dr. Fred,” as he would come to be known, first came to Wellesley at the age of 14. He had moved there from Columbus, Ohio with his mother and younger brother following his father’s death in 1894. He attended Wellesley High School for several years before being accepted as a student at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine in 1898. After graduating from Bowdoin in 1902, Frederic returned home to live in Wellesley while attending Harvard Medical School.

Sometime during those medical school days he met Helen Jeannette Snare, a Dana Hall student from New Jersey. Helen graduated from Dana Hall in 1907, the same year Frederic finished medical school. They were married four years later. Their house at 323 Washington Street had been designed by
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The purchase of the former Stanwood House at 323 Washington Street is an important milestone for the Wellesley Historical Society. Not only does this purchase and renovation complete a long-time vision and plan by the Society’s leadership to grow the organization’s physical presence, the new building offers nearly 5,000 square feet of new space, allowing the Society to build state-of-the-art archives, permanent and rotating exhibits, and a local history research room, as well as meeting and office space for the Board, staff, and members of the community. Second, the highly visible and accessible location on Washington Street provides an opportunity for the Society to be a more visible and accessible part of the community through this new, central location.

**A Cultural Center for Wellesley**

During the course of its multi-year search to add to and improve its facilities, the Historical Society has had the opportunity to carefully consider its institutional “identity” in light of its primary mission to serve as the historic resource center for the town of Wellesley. The Society is working closely with Patrick Ahearn to design new operational headquarters at the Stanwood House which reflects the Society’s mission and are financially viable and sustainable. “As an architect specializing in historic reinterpretation, I feel strongly that the Society’s goals can be incorporated with the Stanwood House in a way that respects the past, but allows the Society to function for many years into the future,” stated Patrick Ahearn.

Ultimately, the Stanwood House will provide the citizens of Wellesley and surrounding towns with the opportunity to access and interact with the history of their community in ways that they have not had previously. As Society President John G. Celi sums it up: “While the Historical Society owns the archives and the objects that tell the stories of Wellesley’s past, Wellesley’s history belongs to the people who live here.” We are looking forward to sharing Wellesley’s history with the community from our new headquarters at the Stanwood House very soon. In the meantime, you can access Wellesley’s history inside the little white house at 229 Washington Street.

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Boston architect Luther Greenleaf, and was specially equipped with a separate side entrance, a small waiting room, and an examination room for the young doctor’s fledgling local medical practice.

This summer, the Historical Society embarked on planning the renovation of the Stanwood House in partnership with noted architect and Wellesley resident Patrick Ahearn. Patrick was delighted to be asked to assist the Society in the transformation of the Stanwood House. His keen sense of historicism coupled with a strong appreciation of the society’s goals and objectives blend wonderfully with the task at hand in creating a truly dynamic master plan.

“As a long-time supporter of the Historical Society, Patrick understands the organization and its needs,” says Society President John G. Celi. “We are delighted to have his many years of residential and historical architectural design experience guiding and informing the master plan for the renovation of the Stanwood House.”
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an interview with dr. david lussier
Over the past 15 years, David Lussier has made stops in nearly every school district in the Commonwealth, spent a year in the White House, crisscrossed the United States, and peered over the Afghan border.

For the last year, Lussier, 44, has been based in a first-floor office in a nondescript building on the grounds of the Wellesley Middle School. And, as Wellesley’s Superintendent of Schools, he says he is right where he wants to be.

In 1999, as a 29-year-old social studies teacher at Andover High School, Lussier was selected Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. Nothing has been the same since.

After spending a year coaching teachers and consulting with professors from Nantucket to the Berkshires, Lussier went from teaching history to watching it being made. As one of 15 White House fellows appointed by President Bill Clinton for 2000-2001, he served as associate director of domestic policy. But the program also exposed him to other functions of government, such as foreign policy. That’s why he was on a trip that took him to India and Pakistan, where his group traveled to the Afghan border just months before 9/11.

Unlike most Americans, he didn’t need a crash course in the dangers of Al Qaeda. He had already heard about the threat posed by Osama bin Laden from top US security officials.

Lussier’s term overlapped the first year of the Bush administration. On the day of the inaugural, he went to Andrews Air Force base to see off Clinton and that night attended one of the balls in honor of Bush. Not bad for a Dracut boy whose father worked in distribution for the Lowell Sun and whose mother waitressed at a Chinese restaurant.

From the White House he went to work for an educational nonprofit in nearby Arlington, Virginia. In his five years in the Washington area, he often stood out as the only teacher in the room. Rather than fueling ambitions to become part of the power elite, the heady atmosphere of the nation’s capital left him eager to
get back in the trenches. “You are at 5,000 feet, and the air is thin. You miss the tangible rewards of seeing the impact of what you do; you feel like a man without a country,” he says. “I desperately wanted to get back into a school district to be engaged in a single place and have more ownership.”

You can get a sense of Lussier’s life and values by looking at the walls of his office. While he has photos of himself with Clinton and Bush, what stands out is a poster-size portrait of Abraham Lincoln. “This has been with me since I was in the classroom,” he says. He admires Lincoln for his ability to make tough choices without burning bridges with those on the other side of the controversy.

On the wall opposite Lincoln is a print of a painting by Boston schoolchildren. It’s called Head, Heart and Hands of Leadership, a phrase he used in the introduction of his draft strategic plan for Wellesley schools. “Too often we only think about the cognitive aspects, the head, which is important, but we can’t lose sight of thinking about the heart,” he says. “We want kids to be moved by a beautiful piece of music or art or be outraged at injustice. And the hands are about…having an impetus to act.”

The original painting hangs at the Harvard School of Education, where Lussier earned a doctorate through the Urban Superintendents Program. As part of the program, Lussier was sent to Austin in 2006 to serve a residency as special assistant to the school superintendent in Austin, Texas. “He allowed me to see his practice in all its aspects,” says Lussier, whose six-month residency turned into a six-year stint when he was hired as a senior administrator. The Harvard program required him to file periodic memos second-guessing his mentor’s decisions. Today, Lussier regularly gets such memos from the vigilant residents of Wellesley. He calls them “my critical friends” – a phrase that might have applied to Lincoln’s second guessers.

Throughout Lussier’s office are photos of children. “I love to have pictures of kids around me as it reminds me of what we do,” he says. Among them are pictures of his three children, all of whom attend Wellesley schools: two at the middle school and the youngest in kindergarten. To avoid potentially awkward situations, his wife, Colleen, takes the lead role with the children’s teachers.

> Building a Leadership Bench

At the outset of his tenure, Lussier was faced with filling an unusually large number of principal and other administrative positions. Everyone he hired was from outside Wellesley. Now, he is building a leadership
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bend, offering interested teachers training and other developmental support to prepare them to become administrators or mentors for younger teachers.

This year, the district is implementing a new evaluation system for teachers. Instead of administrators popping in for a couple of classroom visits each year, they will be making more frequent observations. And they will be basing those observations on a more uniform view “of what good teaching looks like.” By calibrating expectations, Lussier says, “whether I go into a classroom or you go into a classroom, we’re going to have similar expectations and provide similar feedback.”

Lussier says that he had conducted experiments in which he presented a short video of a teacher in action and then asked viewers to grade the performance. “It’s amazing,” he says. “Even among educators, you’ll see a range from A to D.” The high grader praised the teacher for having firm control of the classroom, writing pertinent information on the board, and asking students an orderly sequence of questions. The low grader panned the same teacher for asking the students superficial questions and failing to engage them in the material in a meaningful way.

“My job isn’t to make everybody happy; I think it is to be very clear about the reasons we’re making certain choices.”
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Evaluators traditionally would zero in on the teacher; now they are watching the students, too. “One example would be looking at questions and questioning styles, which is a real skill,” Lussier says. Effective questions, he explained, spur students to think more deeply and critically. The teacher should act like a coach or moderator, generating class-wide discussion by asking students to comment on one another’s answers.

Lussier aims to visit each of the district’s schools at least twice each month, spending 90 minutes to two hours observing classes and meeting with the principals. “One of my measures of success will be how little time I spend in that chair,” he says, pointing to his desk, “and how much time actually in the schools.”

The day before his interview with WellesleyWeston Magazine the superintendent visited a half dozen classes at the middle school, accompanied by the principal. After sitting in for six or seven minutes, the two chatted in the hallway about what they saw. “That’s a chance for us to calibrate our expectations,” Lussier says. One observation they discussed was how the teacher accommodated students’ varying learning styles. For example, writing key phrases on a word wall helps engage students who are more visually oriented.

Enter the iPad

Lussier sees tablet computers as a powerful tool for tailoring lessons to the individual students and helping teachers assess progress. Students could be learning the same lesson, but with different software applications. Those having trouble mastering the material would no longer bear the stigma of being seen using a more elementary textbook.

To better integrate computers into overall instruction, the district last year piloted the “One-to-One” initiative in several fifth grade classes. Teachers received special training in using the tablet in their lessons and students were issued their own iPads. Lussier says the first couple of times he visited the pilot classes, he was surprised to find nobody using an iPad. Rather than being disappointed, he was delighted. The teachers had the students use the iPads only when it was appropriate. “It may be that they spent 15 minutes checking in on something, but [afterward] they’re working together,” he says. “That’s the ideal situation.” This year, all fifth graders are being issued iPads. Given financial constraints, Lussier expects that in the future parents will be asked to supply their own tablets or purchase them through an installment plan.

The computer itself has become a lesson subject. In surveys and forums, the district found that parents vastly underestimated how much time their kids were spending online. “We know that they are really good at what we call passive social media, using Instagram,
Facebook, and texting; what they’re less skilled at is using those tools for productivity and learning,” he says.

Besides helping students become more proficient with computers, teachers are stressing their responsible use—both for safety reasons and to head off cyber bullying.

**Earning Trust**

Lussier has said from the start that transparency is a top priority. “There were some real trust issues when I arrived,” he says. His predecessor had resigned amid a furor over how the district managed its finances. Last spring, administrators came under fire after deciding to reassign the popular conductor of the high school orchestra to work with elementary students. School officials said because it was a personnel matter they could not reveal details of why the change was made. “I agree it runs counter to the sort of transparency we’re trying to create, and yet we simply can’t talk about those things in public,” Lussier says. But according to Lussier, what went unreported was that staff talked with students about the change “to provide some faith in who the new instructors would be and how there wouldn’t be a loss of opportunity in terms of the quality of the teaching.”

The district is facing another test of transparency as it decides how to handle overcrowding at the elementary level. “We’re going to have some sort of redistricting because what we’re doing now just is not sustainable
“We want to prepare kids to be college ready, but we really want to prepare kids to have options.”

in terms of class sizes and maintaining equity,” he says. “My job isn’t to make everybody happy; I think it is to be very clear about the reasons we’re making certain choices.”

Through community forums and advisory groups of students and teachers, Lussier is sounding out his various constituencies on a host of issues. Among them is the school calendar, which now has students getting out in late June, a week or more later than in many other communities. It’s been the source of lively conversation among his student advisors, who range from fifth graders to seniors. Their initial opinion was that school should end earlier, but not start before Labor Day. Lussier invited them to talk about other options, such as eliminating certain holidays and shortening vacation weeks. “For them to see some of the complexity is great,” he says, adding that he hoped to build their problem-solving and leadership skills.

Redefining Success

One day last year, Lussier took a group of his administrators to the Cambridge Innovation Center in Kendall Square, an incubator for startups. For a half day, they talked with entrepreneurs about the skills they valued most.
Four attributes came up again and again: the ability to communicate clearly, comfort with collaboration in settings real and virtual, adaptability, and a willingness to take risks. That last quality poses a challenge for communities like Wellesley, with its high expectations for success. “There’s a real discomfort with any sort of failure,” Lussier says. “It’s hard [for me] to hear to someone say, ‘Gosh, I’m interested in taking that course, but I don’t want to get a bad grade. …’ If that’s the prevalent theme, then we failed as a system.”

As he oversees the drafting of a new strategic vision for Wellesley schools, Lussier hopes to broaden the definition of success. Not every student should feel as if he or she should shoot to get into Harvard, Yale, or another Ivy League school. “We want to prepare kids to be college ready, but we really want to prepare kids to have options, knowing that they are going to have an infinite number,” he says.

To that end, he added, the high school offers students a variety of pathways, be it in-depth study of art or of math or science. Students can take accelerated courses or go off campus or online for college classes. For those who are adept with their hands, Lussier pointed to the woodshop program in middle school and the photography and jewelry labs in high school.

According to Lussier, “Great teaching can exist in what has sometimes been seen as non-academic settings.” He was particularly impressed when he watched instructors guiding students who had never held a power tool. “I think that ignites a passion in some kids,” he says, marveling at how they went in one year from carving spoons to building Adirondack chairs.

Lussier was hired on a three-year contract. If the job he’s doing still suits the school board and himself, he hopes to continue beyond 2015. While his office on Kingsbury Street is a long way from Pennsylvania Avenue, he relishes being in a position to bridge the gap between those who set policy and those who make it work.
on the afternoon of Friday, November 22, 1963, I was a teenager on my way home from school. Mom was driving me, and she had the radio on. It was then that I heard shocking news: our president had been shot. Just three years previously – during his run for office – I had received a firm handshake from John Fitzgerald Kennedy on his Hyannisport lawn. Now, he was fast losing his grip on life. Over the weekend, our family – like most in the land – did little other than sit by the TV or radio, mesmerized by the disturbing events unfolding before a worldwide audience. The scenario of those four days has been forever burnt into the psyche of those alive to witness it:

11 ★ 21 ★ 63

- **PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND FIRST LADY JACQUELINE KENNEDY** set out on a two-day campaign swing through Texas prior to the 1964 elections.
They take a flight to Love Field, Dallas, where Mrs. Kennedy is presented with a lush bouquet of red roses.

The President and First Lady join Texas Governor John Connally and his wife in an open convertible as part of a 10-mile motorcade through downtown Dallas en route to a luncheon.

As the motorcade passes the Texas Book Depository building in Dealey Plaza at 12:30 pm, gunshots ring out. A description that best conveys the enormity of this chilling deed is found—surprisingly—in “The Illustrated Story of JFK,” a comic book: “Unseen, the hidden watcher with his deadly weapon coldly sights in on his unsuspecting target – the man in the slow-moving car. The crosshairs of the telescopic sight pin the proud head against the green grass beyond. The carbine instantly spits death.”

Mrs. Kennedy cradles her husband as he is hit in the neck and head by the sniper from an upper-story window of the Depository. Governor Connally is also injured. The convertible picks up speed and races to Parkland Memorial Hospital.

At 1:00 PM, President Kennedy is pronounced dead.

At 2:38 pm, Lyndon Johnson takes the oath of office on Air Force One, which will transport President Kennedy’s body back to Washington.

The sniper, Lee Harvey Oswald, is arrested, after also killing Patrolman J.D. Tippit who had attempted to hinder his escape.

“She remembers the roses. Three times that day in Texas they had greeted her with the bouquets of Yellow Roses of Texas. Only in Dallas, they had given her red roses. She remembers thinking, ‘how funny – red roses for me;’ and then the car was full of blood and red roses.”

Presidential Journalist Theodore H. White
ON LIVE NATIONAL TELEVISION, as Oswald is being escorted from the police station to the county jail, a man in a fedora steps out of the crowd and shoots him at point-blank range. The assailant is strip-club owner, Jack Ruby, an ardent Kennedy admirer. Two hours later, Oswald is pronounced dead, also at Parkland Memorial Hospital.

He taught himself to read before he started school. But the withdrawn, bookish kid never quite fit in. He only discovered his passion when he opened a volume by Karl Marx. “Das Kapital is what I had been looking for,” he later said. “It was like a very religious man opening the Bible for the first time.” And so, in 1959, Lee Harvey Oswald made his way to the Soviet Union, where he renounced his American citizenship. He joined a rifle club and became an expert marksman. But the defector soon become disenchanted with the strictures of Communist life and returned to the USA with a Russian wife and daughter. After a series of failed jobs in four cities, Oswald secured one at a book depository in Dallas. It was just the platform he needed to carry out the most heinous crime of the century on American soil. But his notoriety was short-lived. Jack Ruby turned the tables, quickly reducing the hunter to the prey.
11·24·63 (continued)

- **A CORTEGE ESCORTS KENNEDY’S FLAG-DRAPE CASKET** to the Capitol Rotunda, where he lies in state for 21 hours as 250,000 people file by.

11·25·63

- **ON THIS NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING**, the president is laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, where his widow and his brothers, Bobby and Ted, light an eternal flame at his grave. 

At Jacqueline Kennedy’s direction, the details of her husband’s funeral services— from the drapes in the White House East Room to the horse-drawn caisson carrying the president’s casket—were modeled after the funeral of Abraham Lincoln. The cortège featured a riderless...
horse carrying empty boots reversed in the stirrups to signify the death of the commander. A veiled widow with her two fatherless children led the funeral march. When John F. Kennedy, Jr. (known to many at that time as ‘John-John’), who had turned three that very day, stepped forward at his mother’s encouragement to salute the flag that draped his father’s coffin, photographers caught the moment that came to be engraved in the hearts of those who watched. At the gravesite in Arlington National Cemetery, hundreds of blooms surrounded by a white picket fence succeeded in creating the feel of an intimate family plot, despite three million mourners passing by. The assassination inspired public eloquence from 100 heads of state. Even Nikita Khrushchev – so recently stared down by Kennedy in the naval blockade of Cuba – responded:

“I am deeply grieved by the news of the tragic death of an outstanding statesman … I shall remember my personal meetings with President J. F. Kennedy as a person of broad outlook who realistically assessed the situation and tried to find ways for negotiated settlement … The Soviet government and people share the grief of the American people over this great loss and express the hope that the search for settling disputed questions … would be continued in the interests of peace, for the benefit of mankind.”

★ Nikita Khrushchev, Premier, Soviet Union

“President Kennedy died as a soldier, under fire, for his duty and in the service of his country … I salute this great example and this great memory.”

★ Charles de Gaulle, President of France

“The loss … is incalculable. Those who come after Mr. Kennedy must strive the more to achieve the ideals of world peace and human dignity to which his presidency was dedicated.”

★ Sir Winston Churchill, Great Britain

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Perhaps it was my impressionable age that led me to become fixated on the events of those days—days in which the words of an ominous William Butler Yeats poem seem to have come to pass: “Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world…”

“So now he is a legend, when he would have preferred to be a man… He knew such a share of [sorrow] in his life; but now he will never know more—not age, nor stagnation, nor despair… His high noon kept all the freshness of the morning—and he died, then, never knowing disillusionment. He has gone among the radiant.”

★ Jacqueline Kennedy at the one-year anniversary
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My attempt to make sense of the anarchy loosed upon America during that fateful fall weekend manifested itself in a mania of buying and saving. I began hoarding written accounts of the assassination, seeking copies of any publication issued “in remembrance” of the tragedy (not so simple in a pre-online era). I stuffed a carton with an eclectic collection of newspapers,
On the afternoon of his death, President Kennedy was to speak at a luncheon at Dallas’ Trade Mart. Although his final words were never to be heard in his unmistakable Boston accent, their type-written content carried a typical Kennedy message, beseeching Americans to shoulder the responsibilities of democracy:

“We in this country, in this generation, are – by destiny rather than choice – the watchmen on the walls of world freedom. We ask, therefore, that we may be worthy of our power and responsibility – that we may exercise our strength with wisdom and restraint ... That must always be our goal – and the righteousness of our cause must always underlie our strength. For as was written long ago: ‘Except the lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.’”

★ John F. Kennedy, the undelivered speech in Dallas

news magazines, hardcover books, commemorative pamphlets, stamps, and even a comic book. I convinced Mom and Dad to fly to Washington (my first time on a plane) to visit Arlington National Cemetery, and added my Brownie Starflash photos of JFK’s gravesite to the collection. In 2013 – after 50 years – I climbed up to our Wellesley attic and retrieved that carton, now musty and tattered from the passage of time. Its contents have awakened dor-

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Four Dark Days in November

“John Kennedy’s name can now be mentioned without tears forming and throats catching.”

But the feelings of hopelessness and helplessness, which were experienced by many across the nation when those publications were first issued, have been replaced by more balanced perceptions provided by hindsight. John Kennedy’s name can now be mentioned without tears forming and throats catching. He has quietly taken his place in the pantheon of US presidents, particularly recognized for civil rights legislation, a nuclear test ban, and inaugurating the Peace Corps. And the chaos of that Sixties era is now viewed in a wider context. We have come to understand that American democracy is resilient—that the “centre” did, in fact, hold—and likely will continue to do so.

Perhaps sharing photos and quotes from my trove of 1960s publications will remind us all of what we have lost—and the perspective that we have gained—on the 50th anniversary of those four dark days in November.
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“meaning Is Healthier Than Happiness” — that’s the title and conclusion of an article from the August 2013 issue of *The Atlantic* magazine that explores the happiness craze taking the country by storm. The story questions conventional hedonist wisdom — that happiness lies in feeling good. Instead, it credits Aristotle and the virtue ethicists who posit that feeling good is not enough — that people need meaning to thrive. And, it draws upon new scientific data published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) to back up Aristotle’s theory. The PNAS study shows that “people who are happy but have little-to-no sense of meaning in their lives have the same gene expression patterns as those who endure chronic adversity.”

If the scientific data and the theories presented in *The Atlantic* article prove to be valid, then Femina Ali, Pat Gowdy, Angus McQuilken, and Victoria A. Budson are all certainly thriving. These local volunteers dedicate their valuable time, boundless energy, and creative talents to make our communities and the world a better place. Not one of these giving people is motivated by what they receive from their substantive volunteer activities, but instead by the meaning they bring to the lives of others.

**the value of volunteerism**

Anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Femina Ali understands that helping others seems to be part of her genetic make-up. Given her family legacy, perhaps it is. Femina credits her mother for instilling in her the value of volunteerism. Even though Femina’s father died at an early age, her mother welcomed people in need into her very large home. Once Femina and her siblings had grown up and moved out, her mother made the ultimate gift to her community — donating the family’s mansion and having it converted into a nursing home.
Since moving to Wellesley in 1997 and opening Wellesley Dental Group with her husband, Femina has been a magnanimous member of her new community. Over the years, her philanthropic initiatives have been broad and deep—from serving as the president of the Women’s Business Network, board member of the Wellesley Chamber of Commerce and the Wellesley Hills Junior Women’s Club, Wellesley High School’s PTSO president, to founding member of the Fund for Wellesley. Ali’s Wellesley Dental Group runs the renowned around town annual post-Halloween candy drive for American soldiers serving overseas. And her office co-sponsors the eagerly anticipated fireworks during Wellesley’s Wonderful Weekend.

Despite the wide array of Femina’s volunteer activities, she is most passionate about efforts that promote health education. “I never decline an invitation to teach about oral health,” explains Femina, who speaks regularly at local nursery and elementary schools and mentors college students in the Wellesley College Pre-Dental Society, as well as dentists from Pakistan and India who have recently moved to the area to help them acclimate. Femina certainly finds meaning in helping as many people as she possibly can: “I have trouble saying no. If I can, I will; if I can’t, I will find someone who can.”

boundless philanthropic energy

For the past 20 years Pat Gowdy has found satisfaction flexing her organizational and creative muscles on volunteer initiatives that support Weston residents. Countless students and parents have benefitted from Pat’s commitment to her town. As Weston High School’s Boosters Club president and one of three parent advisors to her daughter’s graduating class of 1994, she helped the kids run a concession stand at the school football games, organize an auction to fund their Grad Night and class contribution to the school, and decorate the Town Hall for the prom. In addition, she co-chaired the school’s “Grad Night All Nighter,” an event for graduating seniors that is a tradition in Weston, Wellesley, and in school systems across the country, as a way to keep kids safe while celebrating their big day.

Wellesley Dental Group, located at 5 Seaward Road, is a permanent drop-off location for Cradles to Crayons. Founded in 2002, Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12, living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive at home, at school, and at play. They supply school supplies, toys, and clothing free of charge by engaging and connecting communities that have with communities that need.
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Pat has also held various roles in Weston’s Women’s Community League that have increased participation in town-based activities. She was the league’s chairwoman and spearheaded several groups, including a Computer Club, Investment Club, Singles Group, and Empty Nesters Group to engage new constituents. Today Pat is active in the Community League Garden Club and is the originator and chair of the October scarecrow event, the organizing force behind the seasonal decorations that grace lawns and storefronts across Weston for all to enjoy. “Frankly, I make a lousy follower, so more often than not, I’m in charge of a project, or at least part of one where I can organize and be creative,” explains Pat of her boundless philanthropic energy.

advocacy as an effective means for change

Weston native and Wellesley resident Angus McQuilken finds meaning advocating for gun violence prevention, for cancer research and survivor support initiatives, as well as for political candidates who share his values. A supporter of gun violence prevention efforts for over 20 years, Angus felt a moral obligation to do more after the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut took the lives of 27 people in December of 2012. In February of 2013, he served as the convener of the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and has coordinated the Coalition’s meetings and activities ever since. This umbrella organization brings together over 30 organizations and institutions to “educate, advocate, and hold those in power accountable for bringing about substantive change that will lessen the likelihood of a loved one becoming a victim of gun violence.” “While Massachusetts has some of the strongest gun laws in the country, and correspondingly the second lowest gun fatality rate in the nation (second only to Hawaii), there is still room for improvement,” explains Angus of his determination.

“Frankly, I make a lousy follower, so more often than not, I’m in charge of a project, or at least part of one where I can organize and be creative.”
“I wasn’t even a cyclist in 2008 when I was diagnosed with cancer, but I made a resolution after my recovery to give back.”

Angus’ steadfast resolve for stronger gun laws matches his unwavering determination to raise money and support for cancer research and survivors. “I wasn’t even a cyclist in 2008 when I was diagnosed with cancer, but I made a resolution after my recovery to give back. I just rode in my fifth Pan Mass Challenge (PMC), and have raised over $40,000 to support the efforts of the Jimmy Fund at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.” This past summer’s PMC ride was especially challenging and poignant for Angus. An August 1, 2013 article in The Boston Globe explains why:

When Angus McQuilken walked out of his family’s home in Wellesley and toward his green Ford Expedition early last month, he noticed that his preferred set of

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wheels was missing. The white 2009 Trek 1.5 bicycle he had strapped to the back of his SUV the night before was gone… The bike had greater value to him than whatever its 62-centimeter frame and components held on the market. It was a gift from his wife, Victoria A. Budson, five years ago, not long after he was released from Newton-Wellesley Hospital following colon-cancer surgery… Though he may be without the bike on which he completed his first four PMC rides, the joy of celebrating a fifth year of health far outweighs the sentimental loss. At the five-year cancer-free mark, McQuilken said, a survivor has a significantly reduced chance of a recurrence.

In addition to raising funds through his PMC ride, Angus raises awareness of cancer survivor concerns and needs as vice president of the New England Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NECCS). Its mission is to educate, advocate, and empower those whose lives have been affected by cancer in New

The Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence supports the following principles:

- Universal background checks for all gun purchases, including private sales
- A strengthened background check system
- A suitability standard for all gun licenses; with discretion for local licensing authorities
- Prohibition of military assault weapons and high-capacity magazine clips
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Volunteerism

England: “The Coalition believes cancer survivorship begins at the life-altering moment of diagnosis and continues as the patient, their family, friends, and caregivers live with, through, and beyond cancer.”

Angus’ predilection for advocacy as an effective means for change started back in the late 1980s. “My mother got me started when she had me hold a sign for Walter Mondale in the rain.” Since that auspicious day Angus has shaped his career around advocacy and public service. He held positions as a field organizer for Bill Clinton’s 1992 presidential campaign, deputy communications director for the Democratic National Convention Committee, and chief of staff for Senator Cheryl Jacques. After being diagnosed with cancer in 2008, Angus decided to apply his skills in a new arena — advancing science to improve human health. He moved from politics to assume the role of vice president for communications & marketing at the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center.
healing the world

Victoria A. Budson dedicates both her professional and personal life to advancing gender equality. As a child growing up in Wellesley, Victoria remembers thinking it arbitrary that society divided the sexes and that, for example, girls played field hockey and boys football. To her it felt as random as mandating that blondes could only play football, and brunettes only field hockey. But it was at age 20, when Victoria spent the majority of the year on bed rest recovering from a spinal fusion, that she realized that healing the world—a Jewish value she had learned from her family and at Temple Beth Elohim—was how she wanted to shape the value of her life. “If society is to be truly actualized, then men and women must have the ability to be unconstrained by societal gender norms,” explains Victoria of the importance of her mission.

Beyond her job as the Executive Director of the Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard’s Kennedy School for the past three-and-a-half years, Victoria has served in a volunteer capacity on the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. She was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick and recently reelected for a third year as chairperson. The commission’s purpose is to advance women toward full equality in all areas of life and promote rights and opportunities for women. Four times a year, Victoria and other members of the Commission listen
to women testify about important issues impacting their lives. Taking into account what they learn, along with data from key sources including the census, the Commission makes policy recommendations to the administrative and legislative branches of the state government.

Victoria also serves on Mayor Menino’s Women’s Workforce Council, striving to close the wage gap between women and men. While women in Massachusetts are the most educated of any state in the country, the Commonwealth is only 37th in the country in closing the wage gap.

Victoria explains the reason: “Being highly educated does not eliminate the wage gap. Professional positions in which salary is influenced by management, not an hourly wage, allow systems with less transparency and more discretion to express cultural bias through managers, exacerbating rather than closing the gender wage gap.” In addition to advocating for gender equality at the state level, Victoria serves our country advising the Obama Administration on national gender policy issues, as well.

Victoria greets each day with a personal mantra: “I wonder what wonderful thing could happen today?” Given the substantial philanthropic efforts of people like Angus, Pat, Femina, and Victoria, we should be asking ourselves: “I wonder what wonderful things these giving members of our community will be contributing to society today?” We are all the beneficiaries of their meaningful lives.
Richlen & Yates Team

Paige Yates
617-733-9885
Paige.Yates@NEMoves.com

Kathryn Alphas-Richlen
781-507-1650
Kathryn.Richlen@NEMoves.com

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SOLD and UNDER AGREEMENT in 2013
by Kathryn Richlen & Paige Yates.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sold in 2013</th>
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555 Concord Road, Sudbury
$3,495,000

58 Oakdale Road, Weston
$2,495,000

415 Concord Road, Weston
$2,295,000

45 Cliff Road, Weston
$2,199,000

61 Parker Road, Wellesley
$1,779,000

153 Church Street, Weston
$1,699,000

47 Westerly Road, Weston
$1,595,000

141 Montvale Road, Weston
$1,485,000

261 Merriam Street, Weston
$1,095,000

405 South Avenue, Weston
$969,000
opera has evolved from its beginnings in the late 1500s through Baroque and Bel Canto productions to modern and contemporary styles. Through four centuries, this art form, which combines text or libretto with a musical score, continues to fascinate singers and audiences alike. Today in Boston there are many resources for those who love to attend or want to learn more about opera. In Wellesley and Weston, students in theater and music programs gain exposure to musical genres that have led some to pursue a career in opera.

To be an opera singer requires talent, training, and commitment. Vocal maturity is reached in one’s thirties and continues into middle age. Two of today’s rising stars, Alex Lawrence and Joanna Mongiardo, have the
passion it takes. We spoke with them about their formative experiences growing up in Weston and Wellesley and how they were led to this ultimate expression of the classical Western music tradition.

Baritone Beginnings
Baritone Alex Lawrence is a member of the ensemble at Opernhaus Zurich. His professional credits include appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Gustavo Dudamel and Tanglewood Music Center conducted by James Levine. As far back as he can remember, Lawrence sang at home as a young child in Weston. He recalls having a distinct appreciation for certain singers’ voices and trying to emulate them. He first ventured into rock and pop music and studied with Donna
A mes at Rivers Music School. Many will remember Lawrence from his roles in musicals at Weston Middle and High Schools.

Lawrence also participated in choral music in the Weston schools. His most memorable performance was the baritone solo in the Fauré Requiem, assigned to him by choir conductor Therese Provenzano. The chorus toured the piece to St. Peter’s Church near the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan. He says, “9/11 was still very fresh, and it was a powerful experience emotionally and artistically.”

During a performance of Carl Orff’s Carmina Burana, Lawrence had his first direct exposure to opera singing. The baritone soloist Arturo Chacon-Cruz was a student at the Boston University Opera Institute and Lawrence was, in his words, blown away by his voice. “I knew when I heard him that I wanted to sound like that, or at least try to!”

Provenzano arranged for Lawrence to have a lesson with Chacon-Cruz. Lawrence recalls the pivotal moment. “He immediately changed my technique to the throat position, relaxed and low, that would release my sound. Out it came!” Chacon-Cruz told Lawrence that he could make a career of opera, and the high school senior began the process of auditioning for university opera programs.

Hitting the High Note

Wellesley’s coloratura soprano Joanna Mongiardo sings to international acclaim from Geneva to Shanghai, and from Lincoln Center to Mexico City. Like Lawrence, Mongiardo can’t remember a time when she wasn’t singing. Her parents loved Broadway musicals, and from their hometown in New Jersey they could easily reach Broadway. From the time she was five, Mongiardo accompanied her parents to the theater, where she sat at the edge of her seat. After school she played favorite recordings like Annie and Evita and sang along at the top of her lungs.

Mongiardo attended the Performing Arts Elementary School in Montclair, New Jersey, a magnet program where she appeared in school productions and in community theater. She studied piano and ballet. In a community theater production of The Sound of Music...
When she was 12, she met the classically trained teacher Donna Jeanne Turnell who took her under her wing.

At her first formal voice lesson, Mongiardo vocalized up to a high C. “Opera found me,” she says. She discovered she has a naturally high voice that moves very fast, a coloratura, and opera is the best outlet.

Mongiardo and her family arrived in Wellesley just days before her sophomore year began at Wellesley High School. She played field hockey and participated in the drama program. That was fortunate, because not all opera singers get to study acting, she notes. During a performance of “Glitter and Be Gay” she met mezzo-soprano Leslie Holmes and began private lessons. Holmes encouraged her to give up Broadway and work toward opera, giving her many of the pieces she sings to this day.

“During my time at Wellesley High, I did amazing things,” she says. “Teachers like Tom Megen, Carol Devendorf, and Janis Wightman encouraged me. I was even able to conduct a choral piece.” She participated in the Wellesley High School Canticles Select Choir and District Choir and traveled to Disney World. At the Wellesley Village Congregational Church Mongiardo performed with a group of musically inclined teens (including television star Jay Harrington and film writer and actor Tim Dowling) that staged productions including Vision in Self Defense. She appeared as soloist with the Wellesley Symphony Orchestra in performances from Lucia, Manon, and The Magic Flute.

Turning Points

At Northwestern University in Chicago, Lawrence reached a turning point. At age 19 he decided to pursue a career in opera. He stopped taking musical theater and journalism courses and dropped out of his a capella group to focus on classical technique and repertoire. “Opera is the ultimate embodiment of music, drama, and spectacle and takes a fierce amount of talent,” he says. That was everything.
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At Northwestern, Lawrence studied with the great American baritones Sherrill Milnes and Bruce Hall. Lawrence continued to study with Mr. Milnes at his summer program in Florida for several years, and that is where he met his current singing teacher, Trish McAffrey. Lawrence continued his training at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia where he earned an artist diploma under Bill Schumann. Lawrence also studies with Arthur Levy at the Mannes School in New York.

Lawrence credits John Minigan, chair of the Weston High School drama program, with teaching him what acting is all about. As Lawrence explains, “Opera can be a great dis-
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- New England Light Opera
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traction to the underlying drama at times, because there are so many other concerns with the voice and the music, but the elements that John made me aware of remain in the fiber of my being.”

Mongiardo chose Johns Hopkins University where she could study political science and music at the Peabody Conservatory. Her principal teacher was Marianna Busching. “I went into college with the idea that if there was anything else that would make me as happy as opera, I should do it,” she says, “but by sophomore year opera was too much a part of who I was.”
Opera Singers in Our Midst

In the summers after freshman and sophomore years she studied opera performance at the New England Conservatory Opera Studio. Mongiardo earned a masters degree from the Yale Opera program where she studied with artistic director Doris Yarick Cross. That performance-based program gave Mongiardo important stage experience.

Mongiardo moved to New York City and began her studies with the late Dodi Protero, who she considers the most influential teacher for the technique and singing she does today. She currently studies with mezzo-soprano Penelope Bitzas at Boston University when she is in the Boston area.

Voices of Encouragement

Operatic voices mature over time, and both young singers had their family’s unfailing support through their early 20s. Lawrence has been the recipient of several prestigious prizes and grants, among them the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the arts, a two-year financial grant for young artists of extraordinary talent that helps to cover artistic and living expenses. Mongiardo won the Sullivan Award in 2003.

After Yale, Mongiardo moved to New York City where she supported herself as a temp and nanny. After five years of freelance work...
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while she continued to mature as an artist, Mongiardo won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 2001. That changed the trajectory. Bel Canto Global Arts picked her up and represents her today.

“My parents have been incredible from the beginning,” Mongiardo says, by taking her to singing lessons, helping a bit when she was short on rent in New York, and now backing her up with child care. “They were the voice of encouragement and positivity when other voices could get negative.”

In 2011 Alex Lawrence married Carin Gilfry, a mezzo-soprano he met at New York’s Glimmerglass Festival. Her father is the well-known opera singer Rod Gilfry. “Things have come full circle,” Lawrence notes with a smile. “My father-in-law had the same job as I have in Zurich in the 1990s. And I have a wife who really understands the business.”

Mongiardo met her husband six months before she was scheduled to leave for Dusseldorf to be a fest singer in the Dusseldorf Opera. They currently live in Europe because of her husband’s work, and that gives her easy access to opportunities on the continent without a trans-Atlantic flight. “Dreux is supportive of my work and travels to be with us whenever he can.”

Opera today is a fascinating mix of old and new. The instrument, the human voice, is as basic as you can get, inherited and developed over many years. Repertoire spans the centuries, from classic and bel canto to newly commissioned, black-box productions. Successful opera singers today need to be patient as their voices and careers develop, and nimble enough to embrace social media and modern travel and communications.

By sharing their stories, Lawrence and Mongiardo give us a look behind the curtain at what it takes to become a successful opera singer in the 21st century. Their stories leave us marveling at the passionate attraction to this timeless art form.
dram during the month of September in 1990, the Town of Wellesley was doing some soul searching. A grim incident involving rookie Celtics newcomer Dee Brown and town police officers had unfolded in front of the Wellesley Hills Post Office. In what was a disastrous case of mistaken identity, several officers surrounded Brown’s car with guns drawn, ordering him out of the vehicle and forcing him to lie on his stomach with his hands behind his back. The
case made national headlines and left residents reeling. Nearly 200 citizens packed a meeting of the Board of Selectmen later that week. People attended candlelight vigils and signed petitions. Many had to answer the same question from far-flung friends and family: “Do you live in a racist town?”

Longtime resident Richard McGhee, an African American who had deep roots in the civil rights movement, was aghast. The incident prompted a chorus of calls for reform within the police department and other areas of governance. McGhee was asked to join a committee with two selectmen “to see what we could do to make things right,” he said. “Out of that we got a police relations committee and they set up a study committee to see whether the town needed a Human Rights Committee. Historically, that was the first multiethnic
group in town,” he recalls. Deeply disappointed that the town passed on establishing a Human Rights Committee, McGhee was determined to see something positive emerge from the dark days surrounding the Brown incident. He met a kindred spirit in Tere Tedesco, a resident originally from the Philippines, who had begun sketching out an idea for a new kind of organization, one that would promote and celebrate diversity. McGhee joined with Tedesco to help further hone the nascent idea. With only a vague notion of how it would evolve, the World of Wellesley was born in 1991.

In the beginning, the World of Wellesley, or WOW as it is commonly known, began as series of small multicultural festivals and symposiums held at different area colleges. But by 1994, WOW exploded in the scope of its activities and promotion. That year the festival was held at Babson College and featured a day-long symposium on race, a fashion show, ethnic food vendors, poetry readings, and dramatic performances by the Wellesley Players—in short, a town-wide extravaganza that promoted the values it wanted to see embodied in the community.

Since then, WOW has expanded from a small core of hard-working volunteers into a 501(c)3 with a formal board comprised of 11 members and a comprehensive town advisory board that includes the presidents of three local colleges, religious leaders, business owners, and town administrators and educators. “WOW has made our community stronger and more accepting,” says Terri Tsagaris, a member of the Board of Selectmen and of the WOW Advisory Board. “Its commitment to respecting all individuals and the free exchange of ideas and opinions is inspiring.”
Not surprisingly, given WOW’s mission to explore and celebrate “many cultures, religions, and ways of life,” the organization has partnered with virtually all of Wellesley’s institutions, including the library, Babson College, Wellesley College, MassBay Community College, the Wellesley Public Schools, and local houses of worship. It has sponsored vast and varied programming that aims to challenge citizens to peek over the walls of their own leafy neighborhoods to explore some of the colorful, complicated cultures and issues that impact our world.

“It’s a really noble mission,” says Elise MacLennan, assistant director of library services at the Wellesley Free Library who also liaisons with WOW to plan joint programming. “I can’t imagine a town that doesn’t need an organization like WOW.” MacLennan and her counterparts at WOW co-sponsor approximately six events a year. Many are family programs, complete with international music and food, where others might be a lecture on a new book that explores issues of diversity or a foreign film series. “We try to mix it up. The great thing about Wellesley is that people love learning about almost anything,” she says.

The idea is to instruct through entertainment. “You can’t just lecture to people,” says Melissa Clemence, the current Chair of the Board of Directors of WOW. “It is the perennial problem of finding the right mix of consciousness raising and education and entertainment.” With this in mind, WOW works hard to get its message across in as many venues and mediums as possible. For instance, here is a partial list of programming for the coming year:

- **THE LEARNING TREE**, a series of TV programs currently airing on the Wellesley Cable Channel that explores issues of diversity in our community
- **A LECTURE ON THE “CIVIL WAR IN BOSTON”** co-sponsored by the Wellesley Historical Society
- **A CELEBRATION OF IRISH MUSIC**
- **A MUSIC PROGRAM** with Crocodile River, which will explore African music and its influence on world music
- **A NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE PROGRAM**
- **DIVERSITY TRAINING** for parents co-sponsored with the library
- **A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION** on race through a series of lectures on the book *The Pact* at the library and at MassBay Community College
- **THE ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BREAKFAST**

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast is one of WOW’s marquee events. Since 2001, it has been a well-attended celebration complete with bold face names acting as keynote speakers and performances by high-energy school groups. It’s a true gathering of all ages, nation-
“I felt the MLK, Jr. Breakfast was very special,” says Jennifer Lim, a former board member of WOW. “I loved the speakers who would talk about their work. It was very inspirational.” The MLK, Jr. Breakfast is WOW’s only event that charges an admission fee. Every other event is offered free of charge to the public. To be able to co-sponsor events, WOW relies on the proceeds from advertisements from the events booklet that is published annually. It is distributed with The Wellesley Townsman and is available for free at different venues around town. The proceeds that are raised from advertising usually total between $21,000 to $25,000 annually.

It is easy to make facile assumptions about the demographics of Wellesley. Yet there are bright bands of differences threaded through the community that can go unnoticed. Indeed, since the time of WOW’s inception, Wellesley’s percentage of minorities has more than doubled from an anemic 7.2 percent in 1990 to a more robust 16.4 percent in 2010. To accommodate some of these international newcomers, WOW, along with many other organizations, co-sponsors “Wellesley ESL,” a library program offered free of charge to those who live or work in town. There are 93 patrons from more than 28 countries who are learning English as a second language, and most of those are residents. “The program is doing brilliantly here,” says Clemence. “It can make such a huge difference for someone to be able to communicate effectively.”

It is for this reason that volunteers on the WOW board get involved. “I have lived in Wellesley since 1975 and back then I would only see white faces and hear one language spoken,” says Phyllis Gimbel Schnitman, EdD, an associate professor of educational leadership at Bridgewater State University and former Chair of the Board and President of WOW. “As time has progressed, the town has begun to have a different complexion and I find that very exciting.” All of the
board members interviewed for this article expressed a deep desire to keep diversity at the forefront of the community’s conversation. “Understanding is the building block of tolerance,” says Je’Lesia M. Jones, the current President of WOW, “but we have a ways to go. For instance, young black women from Wellesley College will patronize businesses on Central Street and they will still be treated differently or there will be an incident.” It is these kinds of injustices that keep this small band of board members energized. But as the US enters its fifth year of having an African American president, the question of WOW’s relevancy is one that needs to be addressed. “I think people today see a president of color and perhaps think all is right with the world,” says Professor Gimbel Schnitman, “but we need a WOW to keep knocking us on the head to remind us that we are still not there yet.”

The WOW Essay Program is another way of reminding us that we are not there yet. Every year, 400 fifth graders complete an essay on the theme of diversity. The topics raised in these essays reflect the acute awareness that young people possess about the damage that every day prejudice can inflict. It is of the essay program that Richard McGhee is most proud. “We engage young people at a time when it is important for their development,” he says. “We aren’t going to change any old heads so we need to start with the young ones.”
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the Scandinavians certainly know how to light up the long, dark days of winter. With the five Nordic countries reaching above the Arctic Circle, it’s no wonder that these Northern Europeans orchestrate their Christmas celebrations to spread cheer over several cold, dusky days. Many of Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Iceland’s traditions are similar given their intertwined histories and northerly geographic location. As Wellesley resident and Stockholm native Maria Davidsson explains, “Scandinavians are light-deprived during winter, and so our holiday festivities are all about light.”

A month before Christmas, Maria brightens up her home with electric lights, a row of candles, and her children’s eagerly anticipated Advent calendar. When Maria and her family moved to the United States three years ago they didn’t bring much with them, but she made sure to pack her family’s beloved holiday decorations. Swedes often light a candle with the start of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas, and then again every Sunday until the 24th to mark the coming holiday.

Lise Wedel of Weston grew up in Copenhagen, Denmark and has lived in many countries since 1973 when she and her husband moved to the United States for him to study at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Due to Lise’s husband’s work, over the past 40 years she has resided in England and Germany, as well as Marblehead and San Francisco, before settling in Weston. No matter her location, Lise’s Christmas celebrations remain constant—they are Danish through and through. “With four to five months of cold, dark weather in Denmark, a Danish Christmas is all about creating cozy family times. We light candles, bake, and eat traditional foods including goose, caramelized potatoes, red cabbage, and rice pudding. We even dance...”
around the Christmas tree and sing carols before opening gifts on Christmas Eve,” proclaims Lise.

For many Norwegians, Swedes, Danes, and Swedish-speaking Finns, Saint Lucia Day on December 13th — the shortest day of the year according to the pre-1753 calendar — is an important Christmas festivity. Lucia, the Queen of Light, wears a bright white dress with a bright red sash and a crown of glowing candles atop her head as she leads a procession of several boys and girls holding candles in their hands. The children serenade with seasonal songs and serve baked goods and coffee. In family celebrations, Lucia is typically the eldest girl, but in day care, school, church, and workplace celebrations, every girl who wants a turn gets a chance to be Lucia.

Historically in Scandinavia a new day started in the evening, so it’s not surprising that the biggest Christmas celebration for Finns, Danes, Swedes, Norwegians, and Icelanders occurs on Christmas Eve day. While the Christmas meal varies somewhat country by country, you’ll find some preparation of marinated and cured fishes, meatballs, ham,
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potatoes, rice pudding, mulled wine, and beer. Karin Södervall, who moved to Wellesley from Sweden in 2008 but typically returns there for Christmas, lists the abundant array of dishes in her family’s Julbord (Christmas smorgasbord): Jansson’s Temptation (potato, anchovy, onion, and cream), ham, herring in different sauces, salmon, meatballs, small sausages, deviled eggs, sillsallad (herring, potatoes, boiled egg, apples, onions, red beets, and cream), vörtbröd (rye bread), cheeses, beer, and spiced schnapps. “We sing when we drink schnapps. That’s what Swedes do at Christmas, Midsummer, Easter, and crayfish parties when schnapps is served.”

After the mid-day feast, most Scandinavians exchange gifts brought by Santa called Jultomten, or by gnomes or elves called Tomte or Nisse. Karin describes the excitement at her household, “As it’s getting dark outside, Santa can be expected at any moment. That’s when an uncle or grandpa sneaks out to ‘buy the newspaper’... and unfortunately misses Santa when he comes to deliver the gifts. I love it when the kids sit in the window, trying to see if Santa is coming.”

If you are game to find your inner Scandinavian chef, prepare the following recipes to add a few Nordic treats to your traditional holiday spread.

**SWEDISH MEATBALLS**
(adapted from Swedish Food, by Wezäta Färlag, first published in 1947)

- 3/4 lbs. beef, ground
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 1/4 lbs. pork, ground
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 1/3 cups bread crumbs
- 1 1/4 tsp. white pepper
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup cream
- 1 Tbsp. onion, finely chopped
- 2 to 3 Tbsp. butter for frying

Sauté onion in butter until golden brown. Combine water and cream, add crumbs, and soak. Add beef, pork, onion, and seasonings to crumb mixture and mix thoroughly until smooth. Shape into very small balls, using 2 tablespoons dipped in cold water. Fry in butter until evenly brown, shaking pan continuously to make balls round. Serve hot or cold as Smörgåsbord dish.

**LUCIA GINGER SNAPS ~ LUCIAPEPPARKAKOR**

- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 2 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 1 1/4 cups dark syrup
- 1 Tbsp. ginger
- 1 Tbsp. lemon rind, grated
- 2 Tbsp. baking soda
- 9 cups flour

Whip cream, add sugar, syrup, ginger, lemon rind, and baking soda and stir for 10 minutes. Add flour and work until smooth. Cover and leave in cool place overnight. Turn onto floured baking boards and roll out thin. With floured cutters, cut out shapes. Brush with water and bake on greased cookie sheet in 250˚ oven for 15 minutes. Leave on sheet to cool.
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You don’t have to be Swedish to enjoy festive Scandinavian traditions or delicacies in and around Boston.

SATURDAY KAFFESTUGAN: The Café at the Scandinavian Living Center located at 206 Waltham Street in West Newton is open to the public on Saturdays from September through June from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Enjoy delicious open-faced Scandinavian sandwiches, including shrimp, salmon, and meatballs with pickled cucumbers, as well as homemade waffles, cookies, and cakes along with a cup of coffee or tea.

CHRISTMAS JULBORD: If you’d like to experience the culinary delights and traditions of a Swedish Christmas, the New England chapter of the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce (SACC) sponsors a holiday dinner in early December that is open to the public. Held in the Performing Art Center at the Scandinavian Living Center located at 206 Waltham Street in West Newton from 6:00 pm to about 9:00 pm on Saturday, December 14th, the cost is $50.00 for adults and less for children.

Make sure to come hungry. The evening begins with traditional Swedish glögg, a mulled red wine, followed by the Lucia procession and Christmas songs sung by Lucia girls in the candlelit Nordic Hall. The smörgåsbord follows, complete with three kinds of Swedish herring; Swedish baked ham; Jansson’s Temptation, a potato, anchovy, onion, and cream dish, home made liver paté; Swedish meatballs; gravad lax smoked salmon; cucumber salad; red cabbage; three kinds of Swedish cheeses; hard breads; and Princess Tårta for dessert. Scandinavian exchange students in college and universities around Greater Boston who are not able to go home for the holidays are invited to attend.

I love it when the kids sit in the window, trying to see if Santa is coming.

– Karin Södervall / Swede
Manse from Sweden stays in Wellesley for the holidays and is grateful that Americans expect Santa on the 25th, not the 24th. “Here in the US an American neighbor dressed as Santa comes to our house on the 24th to hand out the gifts. For years, my girls believed that he was the real one, and the ones in the mall were fake,” chuckles Maria.

Holiday traditions are such an important part of the Scandinavian culture that they endure with Americans of Scandinavian descent. Lisa Housman Tellander is third generation Norwegian and her husband third generation Swedish, yet their grandparents’ traditions shape their Christmas. The Tellanders decorate their home with customary red Dalarna horses; straw angel, heart, and star-shaped ornaments; red gnomes; and painted candlesticks. Christmas eve is when they serve their big holiday meal with a Norwegian-style smorgasbord of Kjottkaker (meatballs), Nokkelost (spice cheese), herring in sauces, Fiskeboller (fishballs), Tyttbaer (lingonberry sauce), Knekkebrod (bread), Julekage (Norwegian Christmas bread made with cardamom), various cookies, and, of course, Aquavit. “Luckily there’s IKEA to help me continue my husband and my grandparents’ culinary traditions,” admits Lisa.
the first thing you notice about Lynne Smith when you meet her is color: she’s wearing bright-red glasses with Red Sox decals, multi-colored shorts, and an orange shirt. And then there are the fingernails, each one painted a different color and some with Red Sox logos. After talking to her for a few minutes, you learn that her personality is as vibrant as her clothing.

Lynne is well-known throughout Wellesley for her charitable involvement and the creative, sometimes outlandish, outfits and hats that she wears to local and Boston-area events. But she is probably best known for her love of the Red Sox. In fact, the ball club actually named her their number one fan in 2012 during its 100th anniversary. Because of her Red Sox connection, she has been featured in a book called Fenway Fanatics, in the magazine Sports Illustrated, and on the TODAY show. Lynne and her husband, Gary, go to some of the ball club’s spring training games, around 50 to 60 games—including some away games—during the regular season, and all of the post-season games.
Number One Fan

She received the award on the field at Fenway, with her family by her side, wearing her famous Fenway hat that has made her a sought-out personality at the games. The hat, which was made in 1999 for the All Star Game, is a mini replica of Fenway Park including the green monster and a light up CITGO sign. “I wear it to make people smile,” says Lynne. “I’m often asked 25 or 30 times during a game to have my picture taken. Over the years, there have been thousands of pictures taken of this hat.”

At Wellesley Weston Magazine, we thought it would be fun to take a peek into Lynne’s house and closet, especially to see the famous hat and some of the outfits that have made her so well-known locally.

When you walk into her modest home, she says, “Welcome to the silly house,” and she’s
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There’s no such thing as an insignificant detail
right. Every space is filled with some kind of original memorabilia with a story to tell. Her family room features whimsical, life-sized glass portraits of Lynne and Gary mounted on the walls. Her portrait has a clown’s face with a red nose, which acknowledges the time Gary bought her a chance to be a clown in the Ringling Brothers Circus at a charity auction. Her dining room features chairs also bought at charity auctions that are designed and painted to look like Mickey Mouse and John Wayne are sitting in them. There’s even one that looks like Lynne herself.

Lynne and Gary, who met in third grade and have been married for 47 years, have lived in their Wellesley home for four decades and raised four children here. “Wellesley is a great place to have kids. I love the community feel,” she says. Before they moved to Massachusetts from Michigan in 1969, they were big Detroit Tigers fans.

The porch off her dining room is officially the Red Sox room, although team memorabilia is on display throughout the house. This room features items such as a bat decorated by the Red Sox players’ wives with Swarovski crystals, a wooden carving of Curt Schilling found at a yard sale, and a baseball-shaped chair that Lynne found at the Wellesley dump and later refurbished. “I like to look for bargains,” says Lynne. In this room is the famous hat, stored in a heavy plastic bag to keep it safe. Also on display is a long denim Red Sox embossed raincoat that Smith wore...
to Fenway for the 2004 and 2007 World Series. Lynne and Gary have been to 26 out of 30 national ball parks, following the Sox around the country. She notes, however, that the Fenway hat has only been to 25 of the parks; she was afraid to take it to Yankee Stadium out of fear that it could be damaged.

In keeping with the Red Sox theme, just down the hall is the Fenway bathroom that is painted with a 360-degree image of the ball park. Everything in it from the toilet to the sink fits the theme.

Lynne Smith has more than 100 custom-made jackets that she wears to special events.
As we head upstairs to look at the wardrobe that has made Smith a local celebrity, we spot the first of a number of racks of clothing. It features over 100 custom-made jackets that she has worn to special events, including those for her favorite charities: Boston Children’s Hospital, the Rodman Celebration for Kids, the Jimmy Fund, Raising a Reader MA, and the Ellie Fund. On the rack, there are decorated blazers, chef’s jackets, and jean jackets for every occasion.

Then we step into a bedroom that has one wall lined with a seemingly endless number of hats. There’s a red straw hat with wooden spoons attached to it for a Lovin’ Spoonfuls charity evening. For an event called a Pearl of an Evening there is a hat with rows of pearls. Lynne also displays a silver spray-painted hat with plastic hockey players that she wore to a Frozen Fenway hockey game. At the end of one row is a big yellow felt hat, which Gary wears when he and Lynne read Curious George books to kids with cancer at Children’s Hospital. Lynne wears one of her Curious George dresses or coats when they do their reading trips.
Lynne’s bedroom features many colorful and creative hats and decorated coats embellished with all kinds of photos and memorabilia. It is a tribute to how many charitable occasions the Smiths attend each year. Lynne says she buys jackets on eBay and at thrift stores and often puts clear plastic pockets for photos on them so she can change them up from year to year. For example, when she and Gary attend the Ellie Fund Oscar party, she decorates her jacket with photos of the nominated movies and actors. That’s how she decorated another coat she wore to a Clinton White House event that she and Gary were invited to by mistake. They were there along with celebrities like Barbara Streisand and Shirley MacLaine waiting for someone to tell them they didn’t belong. Instead, the Clintons were charmed by them and invited them back for another evening.

“I take over the whole house,” Lynne notes, as she shows off her collection of Christmas and Hanukkah jackets and sweaters, an elf outfit, and a Red Sox tablecloth made into a vest. This evening the couple is going to the “Battle of the Burger” at the Black Falcon Cruise Terminal in South Boston. She plans to wear a chef’s jacket decorated with placemats.

Also on display in her bedroom are ceramic necklaces made in the 1970s and 80s that are now collector’s items. There are literally hundreds of them on every possible theme, including sunflowers, clowns, chefs, and bowling pins. She picks out a necklace to wear for each occasion. She also has a huge selection of pins and earrings she wears. It’s her tradition to wear an earring with a picture of the starting pitcher in her right ear at each Red Sox game she attends. She also has programmed a special watch to play “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” when Sox games begin.

It is, as Lynne says, the “silly house,” but it’s all for a good cause. “Ultimately, we feel very blessed and want to give back. We really try to support the Boston charitable community.”
for Hannah Kelsey, Greg Fligor, and Ryan Rosencranz, snowboarding isn’t just a fun way to spend winter days with friends.

“During the winter, I go to school, and I snowboard, and that’s all I do,” says Kelsey, 15. “I want to make sure I get better every single day I’m on the hill.”

Kelsey spends winters at a private school in New Hampshire, which allows her to hit the slopes nearly every day of the week. Rosencranz, 19, takes the winter quarter off at Denver University so he can keep up with his training. Fligor, 17, squeezes snowboarding into a schedule packed with other sports as he finishes up at Weston High, and he’ll soon have to decide whether he wants to make the sacrifices necessary to continue competing.

All three have already made noise in national snowboarding competitions. And all three still have something more to prove.
Hannah Kelsey  Age 15

When the final results posted at last winter’s 2013 national snowboarding championships at Copper Mountain in Colorado, Hannah Kelsey wished she could have her run back.

She’d competed in her age group in slopestyle—an event that allows snowboarders to show off their most impressive tricks on a run down a terrain park—and while her rail slides and jumps were good enough for sixth place, she knew she’d held back her best stuff, held back the trick that might have gotten her the gold.

She’d decided not to do a back flip.

“I wanted to, but my coach was like, ‘Eh, it’s not really worth the risk,’” says Kelsey, who also placed twelfth in boarder cross, a racing event that sometimes features collisions. “It was a little bit iffy. I’m not 100 percent sure how it would have gone, because I hadn’t tried one on at nationals yet.”

“I wish I had done it,” she says. “Now I’m kind of fine with it. But at first I was pretty upset. I didn’t really want to talk about it.”

Kelsey’s mother, Lea Kelsey, says she leaves it up to her daughter to decide whether she’s ready to perform a trick in competition. “It’s a little scary, having someone who’s willing to fling themselves up in the air over snow and ice, with their feet strapped to a board. But it’s great to see her so enthused and so passionate about something.”

That passion comes with a price. Two years ago, Hannah Kelsey decided to enroll in a private school in New Hampshire during the winters—attending class in the mornings and snowboarding in the afternoons—while reenrolling in Weston schools in the fall and spring.

She says Weston school officials are none too fond of the arrangement, but that it’s the only way for her to practice, since her weekends are booked up with competitions.

Kelsey says it would be “awesome” to one day compete in the Olympics, but for now she’s focused on the smaller steps of boarding in the near-elite Revolution Tour and Grand Prix competitions.

And she has an eye on a better performance at this winter’s national championships. “This year, I’m going big jump back flip,” she says. “I’m going all out this year.”

Want to carve up the slopes yourself? There are plenty of places to learn within driving distance—here’s a sampling.

**Wachusett Mountain Ski Area**  
Princeton, MA  
www.wachusett.com  
- 52 miles from Wellesley/Weston  
- 1,000-foot vertical drop  
- 30 percent beginner trails  
- $89 Learn to Turn package includes lesson, equipment rental, and lower-mountain lift ticket

**Mount Snow**  
West Dover, VT  
www.mountsnow.com  
- 131 miles from Wellesley/Weston  
- 1,700-foot vertical drop  
- 15 percent beginner trails  
- $106 first-timer Learn to Ride clinic includes lesson, equipment rental, and learning-area lift ticket

**Pats Peak**  
Henniker, NH  
www.patspeak.com  
- 89 miles from Wellesley/Weston  
- 710-foot vertical drop  
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**Sugarloaf Mountain Resort**  
Carrabassett Valley, ME  
www.sugarloaf.com  
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Greg Fligor Age 17

Greg Fligor has won national championships in both the slalom and the giant slalom.

He just can’t seem to win both in the same year.

In 2011, when the flu colluded with altitude sickness to weaken him, he still managed to win the title in the slalom, but collapsed during the giant slalom. (The slalom features two racers making sharp turns through sets of gates set up on parallel courses. The giant slalom utilizes a longer course that facilitates higher speeds.)

In 2012, Fligor fell in both events, which he attributes to an over-inflated ego.

Then, last winter, (2013) Fligor won the giant slalom. He had a couple of days off before the slalom, so he went snowboarding in Vail, where he fell off a catwalk—a narrow, gentle trail that connects one slope to another.

“I went from being a national champion snowboarder to falling off a catwalk,” he says, acknowledging the absurdity of the situation.

He landed in a ravine 15 feet below, bruising his hip on a rock on the way down, and had to be carried out by eight ski patrollers. He tried to race in the slalom but couldn’t do it.

This winter, Fligor has his eye on gold medals in both events. “I’ve won each of them once, and now I want to put them together to really be successful,” he says.

Fligor also wants to race in a series that might qualify him for the Junior World Championships.

Fligor says he’s always been attracted to racing, rather than performing tricks. “I really liked the idea of, if I go down faster than the other kid, I win,” he says. “It’s not a judgment call. It’s a fact.”

For all his success, Fligor still hasn’t decided how far he wants to take snowboarding. Instead of enrolling in a private school where he can snowboard during the week, he’s remained at Weston High, where he wrestles and plays football and lacrosse. And he’s leaning toward attending college on the East Coast, rather than the snow Mecca of Colorado.

If he does compete as an adult, Fligor says he’ll likely come back to the sport once he’s done with school. “I’m not positive yet,” he says. “I’m leaving a lot of options open.”
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Halfway through the biggest race of his life, Ryan Rosencranz knew he'd made a fatal mistake.

During the giant slalom at the Junior World Championships in Turkey last winter, he over-rotated his shoulders on a turn and ended up getting spun around. He went through the next couple of gates slowly, forced to ride switchstance, and by the time he righted himself, he'd already lost too much time to be competitive.

His race in the slalom was better – good enough for twenty-first place – but he still wasn’t happy with his performance. “I gave it my all and did my best, but I just wasn’t smart in the course,” he says.
“I just made little mistakes that kept me out of the finals.”

Rosencranz started snowboarding when he was five years old, began competing when he was six, and won a national championship when he was in the eighth grade. The win helped him convince his parents to let him enroll in a private school where he could snowboard every afternoon.

He now trains in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, along with most of the top snowboarders in the country. Taking the sport seriously doesn’t mean he’s stopped having fun, though.

“There’s definitely times when I get very frustrated with how I’m riding, because I know I want to be riding better,” Rosencranz says. “But at that point, you just have to take a step back and realize the only reason we’re training for all this is because we love the sport. The better I get, the more fun it keeps getting.”

Rosencranz wants to perform better this winter at the Junior World Championships. But ultimately, he’s aiming to race in the Olympics in 2018 or 2022. “It’s always been my dream,” he says. “When you look at third grade homework – what do you want to be when you grow up – it was always, I want to be an Olympic snowboarder.”

Rosencranz notes that snowboarders typically peak in their late twenties. “There’s so much for me to learn in these next couple of years,” he says.
to some, Wellesley and Weston appear to be communities well rooted in the past: family-owned businesses are handed down from generation to generation, children attend the same elementary schools their parents once did, and century-old stone walls mark meandering property lines. But, look closer and you’ll see that’s only part of the story. Wellesley and Weston are home to some of the most successful entrepreneurs in the region, many of them coming from across the globe to build their businesses right here. Some come for opportunity, some come by chance, and some even come for true love. But once established, these international entrepreneurs find a community that supports their dreams and allows their businesses to flourish. Here, three local business owners look back with gratitude, and a touch of surprise, at the paths that brought them to the area.

Four decades ago Mahmud Jafri, the owner of Dover Rug & Home, left his native Pakistan to attend business school in the United States. After graduation he stayed in the country and

“The only criteria to do well is hard work.”

– Mahmud Jafri / Dover Rug & Home
worked in finance, envisioning a successful career as an investment banker. But after several years in the competitive field, Jafri realized that if he really wanted to succeed, he needed to draw upon what made him unique, rather than try to fit in with everyone else. “I realized that if I worked with a product that represented my heritage, my culture, and my background, and I had the ability to control the supply side of the business, that may give me an advantage in the marketplace,” says Jafri. He began importing rugs directly from looms in Pakistan, eventually opening a 350-square-foot retail store in Dover in the late 1980s.

From the beginning, Jafri was absolutely focused on providing a superior quality of product. He traveled back and forth from Pakistan to the US, no matter the political climate, so that he could personally oversee the design and production of his rugs. Customers came calling. So many customers, in fact, that within a year Jafri outgrew his tiny store in Dover and moved to a larger retail space in Wellesley. But Jafri did not stop there. Dover Rug & Home now occupies a custom built 36,000-square-foot building on Route 9 in Natick. The store carries the fine hand-knotted rugs that made it famous, but also carpeting, window treatments, and flooring options. Oh, and there’s also a busy squash academy attached to the store. Why squash? Well, squash is a favored sport in Pakistan, Jafri grew up playing the game, and he sees it as another way to bring his culture to America.

Jafri’s built a thriving company and considers himself fortunate to have found his calling. The production of fine rugs connects Jafri to his heritage, allows him to express his creative side, and indulges his love of travel. “I essentially found America to be what I had heard about,” reflects Jafri. “It’s a land of opportunity where, if you work hard, you don’t have to come from a certain blood line or progeny, you can make it happen.”

“Immigrants tend to be very self-reliant,” Jafri continues. “A lot of them come from developing countries. They don’t have the financial resources or the government benefits that will protect them if something happens, so they work hard, they rely on the system, and they respect the system. Consequently, they also have the ability to take risks. In some ways, your downside risk is well defined...The worst case is you go back to your homeland. But the upside gain is tremendous, which gives you the impetus to take risks because you do not have that far to fall. Sometimes the more you have, the more conservative you become because you have that much more to protect.”

It was 2009 when the international consulting firm that Miriam Christof was working for asked her to move from her native Germany to the United States. Christof agreed, envisioning a stay of two years,
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maybe three. She happily settled her family in Wellesley, where the
company was located, and enrolled her two children, who spoke
no English, in the Hardy Elementary School. A few months later,
Christof’s children were fluent in English, but Christof herself was
beginning to wonder whether the business development job for
which she had uprooted her family was the right fit. Like so many
working parents before her, Christof was faced with that big question
of: What now?

Christof eventually left her job, but she wasn’t quite ready to move
back to Germany. Nor was she ready to start another corporate job
that would entail many hours away from her young children. So she
volunteered to co-chair the Hardy auction, applying the passion and
skills she had for social media, marketing, and technology to the
school’s fundraiser. The result was a sold out event that achieved a 170
percent revenue growth from the previous year, exceeded everyone’s
expectations, and launched Christof’s new career. Because as Christof
worked with local vendors in support of the auction she realized
something: these businesses needed exactly the kind of help that she
could provide.

With that inspiration, Christof launched Just Jump Marketing, a
consulting company focusing on marketing strategy and process-
driven marketing mainly in the digital world. Eventually, Christof
began to target mid-size businesses and she now has a large client list
that includes international companies. While she sees Just Jump
Marketing as an international brand, Christof credits much of the
company’s success, and even its very existence, to her time in the
Boston area. “People here are willing to work with you based on the
ideas, concepts, and strategies you share,” says Christof. “In the US
there’s a culture of: Hello world, here I am, and here’s what I can do.
In Germany, it’s much more based on your experience or projects you
have done. I would have never been able to start a company like this
in Germany.”

Which is not to say Christof has left her past behind. Christof’s
German roots are ever-present in her day-to-day business activities.
“Germans are very process-oriented and structured,” reflects Christof.
“This is actually our sweet spot when we consult because we take
a data-based, analytical approach to marketing.” On the flip side,
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Christof has had to learn to temper her personality to meet American business norms. “In Germany, we communicate very directly, and for Americans that can seem rude,” she says. “So what I had to learn is to soften my language in a way that’s not offensive.” But being the entrepreneurial type that she is, Christof has spun this personality trait to her advantage. “I can get away with a rough edge in an email or ride people a little more and they’re not offended because they think I don’t know any better. But I know better,” she says with a grin.

Salvatore (“Tony”) Micciché was twenty years old and working in a frame shop in Florence, Italy, when a beautiful American girl crossing the Piazza della Repubblica caught his eye. Her name was Karen and she was studying abroad in Florence while attending Georgetown University. Micciché spoke no English and had never been outside of Italy. But that’s the thing about love, it works in mysterious ways. Two years after their first meeting, Micciché found himself married to Karen and the owner of a tiny frame shop on Boston Post Road in Weston. He named the shop Florentine Frames and went to work.

“When you’re young, the world is your playground,” says Micciché. “I thought if the store doesn’t work, I can always go back to [Italy]. But I always thought I would succeed.” Micciché was right. He did succeed; it just took him a little longer than expected. When Florentine Frames opened in 1982, American consumers wanted sleek, metal, and linear. Micciché was selling heavy, ornate, and gilded. “Those first years we lost everything,” recalls Micciché. “I had to start from zero and readjust to the American market.” But Micciché persisted, learning about his consumers and changing his buying patterns. Then in the 1990s a Tuscan decorating craze hit and Florentine Frames was off and running.

Through these ups and downs there are two things that never changed: Micciché’s absolute commitment to quality and his dedication to his customers, both of which he attributes to his Italian heritage. Florentine Frames is a place where people come in, chat about their children (many of whom Micciché has watched grow into adults), and maybe stay for a shot of espresso. They leave their valuable pieces of art work for framing without even asking for a receipt. “I love people so much,” says Micciché. “I’m here because the customers are here. They’re doing me a favor by being here, not the other way around. My upbringing was customers first, always.”

“Believe in yourself, go after your dreams, and never give up.”

–Salvatore Micciché / Florentine Frames
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having more local options when coping with infertility can help relieve some of the stress during a very emotional time, says Deborah Issokson, a licensed psychologist who has a private practice, Reproheart: Counseling for Reproductive Health & Healing in Wellesley. Infertility treatment requires frequent medical visits, Issokson explained, so even when the appointments are brief, taking time off work, fighting traffic, and finding and paying for parking can all add to the frustration and exhaustion.

"Being closer to home can certainly help," she said.

That’s why more and more medical providers are bringing specialty care to community hospitals like Newton-Wellesley or establishing practices such as the Fertility and Reproductive Health Department within suburban branches of Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates. Board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist Grace Lee, MD, is the specialist in reproductive endocrinology and infertility who sees most of the patients at Harvard Vanguard’s office in Wellesley.

New patients there are told how infertility affects nearly 15 percent of couples during their childbearing years. The diagnosis can be due to female fertility factors, male fertility factors, or a combination of factors from both partners. The causes of female infertility may include ovulation disorders, blocked fallopian tubes, and other problems with the uterus or cervix. Male infertility is most commonly related to sperm abnormalities.
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All basic fertility testing takes place at Harvard Vanguard, where the team includes Lee, two fertility RNs, and two fertility medical assistants. “In undergoing such an intensive process as fertility treatment, it is important that we have staff who are familiar to and trusted by patients,” Lee said.

Harvard Vanguard provides in vitro fertilization (IVF) services and coordinates Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) care at Reproductive Science Center in nearby Lexington. These treatments may include sperm donor insemination, preimplantation genetic diagnosis, donor oocyte (egg) cycles through a cryopreserved egg bank, and egg cryopreservation (freezing).

“This ensures continuity of care and allows us to provide one of the highest single embryo transfer rates in young patients in New England,” Lee said.

Individualization of treatment is the hallmark of her team’s practice, Lee said, and involves counseling with other professionals such as a geneticist, if appropriate. “Realistic expectations of treatment and a discussion of individual goals are very much a part of our counseling,” she said.

Despite these advances, there are still about one in four couples seeking medical intervention that receive a diagnosis of “unexplained infertility.” Other estimates have it as high as one in three, says Rachel Ashby, MD, Partners Reproductive Medicine Center at Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

“We make an exhaustive effort to make sure we have the diagnosis… [that] we have all the data points.”

– Rachel Ashby, MD / Partners Reproductive Medicine Center at Newton-Wellesley Hospital
MARK GOODSTEIN
A former practicing attorney for residential and commercial real estate law, Mark received his BA from the University of Vermont and his JD from the Washington College of Law. A licensed real estate broker, his expert listening and negotiation skills along with contract knowledge make him uniquely qualified to assist you in all your real estate needs. In addition, Mark possesses a strong understanding of the local real estate climate, both from a buyer and seller’s perspective. He currently resides in Newton with his wife Sherri and their two daughters, Elizabeth and Samantha.

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“We make an exhaustive effort to make sure we have the diagnosis … [that] we have all the data points,” Ashby said. She works with a team of doctors to review each case and then collaborates with the patient about next steps, be it further IVF cycles, various ART procedures, or other avenues for building a family.

“What I tell my patients is that there’s not a clear decision tree, that there are many other options such as adoption, egg donations, surrogacy… it’s a dialog over time,” she said.

Ashby helps patients understand that infertility is a medical condition first and foremost. “It is not a sign that they are not meant to be parents,” she said, or are somehow being punished for behaviors such as voluntarily having terminated a pregnancy in the past.
Sometimes science can help the body complete a process it has been unable to do on its own. Using ART, Ashby said, “is not going against nature any more than giving insulin to a diabetic is."

There are people who get pregnant against incredible odds, Ashby said, and then there are those for whom every avenue seems to be exhausted. “There are many ways to have a family— with and without children. It doesn’t mean that family is going to be any less valuable because [it’s] built in a different way.”

That’s where peer support groups can be invaluable. Doctors Ashby, Lee, and Issokson all refer patients to RESOLVE New England, a nonprofit based in Waltham that supports couples on the many different paths to parenthood. Support group topics range from current treatment options, to adoption, to dealing with friends and family, said Erin Lasker, RESOLVE New England’s executive director.

Grappling with these issues is deeply personal, Lasker said. It can take a lot of time and support to move from understanding to acceptance of what, for many, seems simply an unacceptable situation.

“Everyone takes it differently,” Lasker said, but hearing how others have coped and moved forward with their lives can provide hope during a very complicated time.

For those in Wellesley, Weston, and other high-achieving communities, Lasker said infertility is sometimes the first problem that
simply working harder or accessing the best resources can’t “fix.” And that’s where the language needs to shift from “success” to “fortunate” in terms of fertility treatment, Lasker said, because it’s vital not to see oneself as “a failure or somehow less than” because of how one’s family is formed.

In addition to hosting support groups, conferences, and acting as a clearinghouse for information, RESOLVE New England lobbies at the state and national level for better insurance coverage for the treatment of infertility, as well as advocating for more equitable adoption benefits to be offered by employers.

Marymichele Delaney is a RESOLVE New England volunteer who helps people with insurance questions during regularly scheduled phone-in hours. Her day job is Associate Director and Benefits Manager at Wellesley College, so she knows the ins and outs of how insurance companies make their decisions.

Dealing with insurance, Delaney said, “is just one more high mountain to climb in this process of trying to create your family.” But patients must advocate for their care, Delaney said, and work with their doctors to understand the statistics and outcomes of different types of treatments.

“Massachusetts has the best health insurance in the country…[and] New England has the best doctors,” she said, but health insurance is a business. Delaney advises people to remain professional when appealing denial of coverage. “Go armed with data points,” she said, “not tears.”

And sometimes the medical reality is just going to be a tough one to accept. Delaney gave birth to a son, now a teenager, after many difficult years of ART treatment. She also has a pre-teen daughter adopted from Korea. She advocates for employers to extend benefits to defray the adoption expenses to make that route a more viable alternative for some couples.

She said there is a big misconception out there that much of infertility treatment is using up huge amounts of health care dollars. When you look at the actual dollars spent “it’s about equivalent to podiatry.”
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CHERYL B. SCA PARROTTA writer

if there’s one word that describes the experience of working as a humanitarian aid worker in Cambodia and Africa, it’s “heartbreaking.”

So says Elizabeth Sheehan, a Massachusetts native who worked for a decade in clinics, hospitals, and minefields for international organizations The HALO Trust and Doctors Without Borders.

“More often than not, I was heartbroken by senseless deaths occurring because clinics weren’t open, and medicine or staff wasn’t available,” she recalls. “I watched children die from simple dehydration and I was deeply moved. Health is a human right, and every person should be able to access simple primary health care services.”

This has become a lifelong cause for Sheehan, who has garnered resources, talent, and added a dash of innovation to start up Needham-based Containers 2 Clinics (C2C), a nonprofit that provides medical care for people in the developing world. C2C uses philanthropic funding to manufacture, ship, and place the clinic where needed, as well as to cover start-up costs and revenue shortfalls until clinic revenue begins to cover annual modest operating costs.

“We partner with patients and we’re proving that with philanthropic help to get started, even very poor communities can sustain a primary health care clinic without the need for continued philanthropic support,” explains Dawn Belizaire, C2C’s director of development and communications.

This past summer, C2C opened a modular clinic in northern Haiti, where patients can pay a small fee for services, such as $1.50 for a round of antibiotics. But the difference is that the
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The typical C2C clinic offers primary health care for entire communities.

clinic is staffed by local personnel who have been trained to operate them now and into the future. This clinic is in addition to a flagship location in Port-au-Prince which C2C opened in 2010 after the devastating earthquake in that nation.

“By creating self-sustaining primary health care, we’re providing lifesaving care,” says Sheehan. “Our plan is for the long-term. While the philanthropy dollar is great, communities are more empowered when there’s a partnership and a conversation about working together to rebuild the systems that will benefit them in the long-term.”

The Wellesley resident and mother of two describes her role at C2C as “president, founder, board member, advocate, and fundraiser.” Well-known Boston philanthropists such as Jack Connors and Gerald Sheehan provided initial funding for the organization’s latest project in Haiti.

But what drives Sheehan is a passion for basic human dignity. “This issue is in my DNA—I feel that health is a human right and everyone should have access to primary health care,” she emphasizes. “When I talk to women who tell me of being treated poorly by the doctor, in terms of being spoken down to, not told what their diagnosis is, and receiving shoddy medical care, that goes to my core. I say we can do better. We can provide dignified, high-quality health care where it’s needed most.”

Sheehan’s interest in medicine is linked to her diagnosis of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis at the age of ten. “I watched my worried parents seek medical care for a somewhat rare disease at the time,” she recalls. She grew up to become a physician’s assistant and public health practitioner, working in emergency rooms in New York City and in the rural south for a decade. “I witnessed how the poor suffered from lack of access to medical care, either due to cost or lack of services,” she says.

Getting to Yes

Sheehan had her “a-ha” moment for C2C five years ago, when she realized that merging surplus used shipping containers with gently used
medical equipment could perhaps make an impact on the huge global need for a health care delivery system in a simple, efficient way.

C2C aims to keep margins low. “We only want clinics to break even—we’re not trying to make a profit,” Belizaire emphasizes. “We conducted door-to-door surveys in northern Haiti, and we discovered that many people spend 50 to 60 percent of their income on health events, which includes the cost of travel to other parts of the country where they can obtain care. It might mean paying for a taxi or motorcycle ride, plus the additional cost of seeing a physician and for pharmaceuticals.”

With C2C’s financial model, patients pay much less, without having to journey far from home.

Sheehan says what differentiates C2C from other charitable organizations is the long-term commitment and presence on the ground. “Philanthropic dollars have a finite runway,” she points out. “From the big USAID grants to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, they have a short memory. There’s a big initial push by these types of organizations to build a hospital or school, but as soon as a need is found elsewhere, that philanthropic money leaves and there’s no way to cover day-to-day costs.”

Belizaire adds, “We want to bring high quality care and make it affordable, and continue to offer that care without constantly going back to donors to keep it running.”

Currently, in addition to the two locations in Haiti, C2C maintains a location in Namibia. The process starts with two eight by twenty feet shipping containers, which transform into fully-stocked, fully-equipped health care clinics upon arrival. The typical C2C clinic offers primary health care for entire communities, with an emphasis on specialized care for women and children. The air-conditioned facilities have adaptable water and power hook-ups, two private examination rooms, space for a pharmacy and laboratory, and are movable—they can be re-loaded onto flatbed trucks if disaster strikes.

Meanwhile, back in the Needham office, a team of five women who all excel in different areas such as business and operations, development, and communications, devote their efforts to C2C.

The Ground Truth

Sheehan’s decade abroad taught her, if nothing else, that there needs to be community buy-in. “For our model in Haiti, we hire local citizens before the clinic even opens,” she explains. “They educate their fellow

Local citizens educate their neighbors on basic issues like proper hygiene.
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neighbors on basic issues of hygiene and treatment. That’s no small feat in a place where people think they can get by on dirty water.”

Another goal is to introduce health education to the population. “That’s why we have community workers specifically focused on education and health-related issues,” says Miriam Christof, a member of C2C’s board. Christof believes C2C earned credibility and trust in Haiti by inviting local priests to meet with them, learn of their mission, and spread the word throughout the populace. “These community leaders were instrumental in the recruitment process,” says the Wellesley resident, who plans to travel to Haiti in 2014 to see the clinic firsthand, accompanied by her two school-aged daughters.

The type of feedback C2C received from these meetings was powerful. “The underlying message we heard from women in Haiti was ‘our babies are as important as yours and so is our health,’ ” says Sheehan. “It’s true — if the mother isn’t well, or dies, there’s a higher percentage the child will not be vaccinated or go to school, and we know they won’t thrive.”

There were also some riveting stories of what some Haitians had to endure to receive adequate health care. “We had a woman come from almost two hours away by a local taxi, because she heard there was good care for HIV-positive patients at our clinic,” says Sheehan. “This woman was a sex worker, and she was pregnant. She couldn’t be seen in her community because of the shame around that, but she really cared about health of her baby, and she came to us to get the medicine she needed.”

Another woman who had pre-eclampsia lived only a quarter-mile from C2C’s Haiti clinic, but she didn’t know it existed. C2C health workers saw her swollen ankles and brought her in immediately, due to her high risk. She was transferred to a specialty clinic and had a Caesarean section, which literally saved her and her baby’s life.

“Women are coming earlier to C2C because they know it’s there and they are becoming proactive about their health,” says Belizaire. “This is the building block of a community.”

C2C’s future endeavors are looking bright, and while the need can seem overwhelming, the organization is focused. “We are looking at deploying a cluster of clinics in northern Haiti, within 50 to 60 miles of each other,” says Sheehan. “There is also tremendous need in Central America, specifically Honduras and Guatemala.”

In addition, there are many potential partners, both public and private. “If there is a private enterprise or foundation that is interested in Southern Africa, that’s ripe for us as well,” Sheehan says.

The social model and business skills that C2C brings each underserved, rural community only begets positive ripple effects.

“Together, we all lift the waters,” Sheehan says. “We’re in it for the long term, with a sustainable social business model that can be replicated.”
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the acclaimed artist Helen Meyrowitz envisions graffiti all over the walls at North Hill, the senior living community in Needham on the Wellesley border. And that graffiti is not vandalism, but art — high art; and potentially the theme of a future exhibit at the community’s gallery that formally debuted in its expanded space earlier this year.

“It’s a showcase opportunity for established artists,” Meyrowitz says of the gallery space that resides just past the main entrance. Its high ceilings, natural light, and ample space allow for flexible and creative mountings of paintings as well as other media such as photography, sculpture, and perhaps even designs spray painted on the walls.
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As one who has strived to push viewers out of their comfort zones throughout her career, Meyrowitz enjoys the idea of juxtaposing what’s considered a young person’s form of reckless expression—graffiti—within the walls of a senior living community. Meyrowitz is frank in saying that, for many, when older people live together—be it called a retirement village, nursing home, elder housing, whatever—it simply conjures up an image of no creative expression at all. Meyrowitz takes pleasure in the idea of an exhibit that challenges viewers by having these two stereotypes of age collide.

A native New Yorker, she relocated with her husband, Sidney Meyrowitz, to North Hill more than a decade ago. The move was prompted by the realization that her husband was beginning to show early signs of memory loss, but it also brought the couple closer to their daughter and grandchildren who reside in a nearby town.

“You can get meals sent up to your rooms here, but people are encouraged to dine together,” Meyrowitz says. Until his death in 2009, her husband continued to shower and dress for dinner most every night, even when he could no longer truly participate in the conversations. All the while, Meyrowitz was able continue to live a full and active life under the same roof, taking part in a wide array of the community’s physical, cultural, intellectual, and artistic pursuits.

North Hill has a dedicated art room for classes and individual work, but Meyrowitz has always used her apartment’s second bedroom as her studio space. The idea for an on-site gallery was almost immediate upon moving in, she said. “Without art, where would we be? It is the whole history of mankind.”
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Meyrowitz holds a Master of Arts degree from Long Island University and over the years her work has been exhibited at the Brooklyn Museum, the Heckscher Museum, the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, the Portland Museum of Fine Arts, and others. Closer to home, her work is in the collection at the Danforth Museum of Art in Framingham. She had a solo show there in 2011 titled “The Unconscious Voice: Wind Beneath My Wings and Site/ing Folio.”

“Wind Beneath My Wings” was an emotional record of the pain she experienced when her husband succumbed to Alzheimer’s—a tribute to their enduring relationship and the healing power of art as an expression of deep feelings. “Site/ing Folio” communicated her confused longing for the home and studio she left behind when she and her husband first moved to North Hill.

**Art appreciation among residents**

Many of North Hill’s residents are passionate about art and have deep connections to Boston’s cultural scene. Beth Wells, Irene Wright, and Sandy Boyd have been very active in the art gallery committee, and they were instrumental in the success of the inaugural exhibit that featured Ilana Manolson’s mixed media “Fragile Navigation.” The committee is also quick to credit the North Hill executives with embracing the idea of a gallery.

“They are fully committed to truly making North Hill a vibrant, exciting continuing learning community,” Meyrowitz says, taking time to single out Paul Duffy, the community development director for North Hill. “Paul is our go-to man. Bring him an idea and he makes it happen.”

One such idea was the solo show in 2011 that featured Boston photographer Debby Krim, as well as the “Boston Painters, Boston Painted,” that just concluded. That exhibit featured prominent local artists David Wells Roth, Richard Raiselis, Sean Flood, and George Nick, a professor at Boston University who is now well into his
eighties. Nick has exhibited widely, including shows at the Boston Athenaeum, the Peabody-Essex Museum, Yale University Art Gallery, and the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington.

When Nick’s protégé Sean Flood, a local artist in his mid-thirties with a growing reputation, was invited to join in September’s show, he hesitated at first when he heard where the gallery was located. Had it not been for the strength of the others exhibiting in the show, Flood said he may not have taken the opportunity seriously.

Audrey Pepper as the curator for “Boston Painters, Boston Painted,” was also a big draw and caught his attention, Flood said. Pepper is an independent art consultant and current chair of the Weston Cultural Council, and has been very active in promoting the arts in Metrowest area. From 1993 to 2008, she operated Pepper Gallery in Weston.

Flood said he is very glad he participated in the show and even brought his grandmother, who is 90, to the opening. “She was thrilled to come,” says Flood. “It was just perfect for her.”

Gallery volunteers have been prepared for push-back from serious artists when they first hear the concept of a world-class gallery not only in, mockingly, an “old folks home” but also deep in the suburbs. But they stress that such is the nature of how demographics are changing. Their generation, one that grew up with a deep appreciation of the arts, does not want to be isolated from a full and rich cultural life as they get older. As it gets harder to go to cultural events offered elsewhere, why not bring the events closer to home?

The exhibit currently on display features members of the Boston Print Makers whose work represents a variety of different print techniques in use today. For a listing of artist talks and special events associated with the art gallery, visit www.northhill.org. Most events are free and open to public.
“When I write a novel, I want it to be like eating ice cream...something you want to devour and enjoy.”

—SUZY DUFFY, author of Wellesley Wives

If that is Suzy Duffy’s standard for a good book, Wellesley Wives achieves her expectations. The reader finds herself attached to the four strong female characters — each with a different feat to overcome, whether it is the death of a beloved spouse or dealing with an unfaithful one. Throughout the book, these women, who span the age spectrum, realize their own strength and the importance of their friendships. But the book is also interspersed with comical situations, such as when one of the characters is stuck at a swingers’ resort in an effort to appease her husband.

“I believe that life is full of romance and humor — and so I try to write my books to reflect my view,” shares Duffy.

The idea of the book struck her one day when she was driving in Wellesley and saw a beautiful Goldie Hawn lookalike driving a red Ferrari.

“As I looked from this woman around to my own SUV, filled with bickering children, smeared in peanut butter and jelly, accompanied by the soundtrack of Barney, I was filled with envy… Aaaahhh...But then I started to think, ‘What if her life isn’t so great? What if her husband was about to drop dead or they were about to lose all their money? What if she had two grown daughters who seem perfect but have horrible lies that they hide?...Thus, started
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the thought of Wellesley Wives, which I literally open with a woman test driving a red Ferrari on her birthday.”

However, Duffy emphasizes that this incident is the only item that is based in reality. “Everything else is purely made up—other than the fact that I believe Wellesley women are strong.”

In fact, this is a point that is important to Duffy. “I feel that the word ‘wife’ has been hijacked by the media. All of these reality shows, such as The Real Housewives of Orange County, are demeaning the word. Wife should be a noble word and I want to reclaim that word through my books. Wives often sacrifice a lot for their husbands’ and children’s well-being. For example, many of the women in Wellesley probably gave up city life to move here for the schools.”

Being a wife is something that this Dublin native knows well, agreeing to support her husband’s career by moving her brood of five children to Wellesley. And yes, the school system played heavily in their choice of where in the Boston area to settle.

“At first, I was opposed to the idea of a transatlantic move. I didn’t want to leave Dublin or our family. The children were all for the move, and so I started thinking about it as an adventure and agreed. Now four years in, we all consider this home.”

Wellesley Wives is Duffy’s fifth novel and her first American one. Her first book reached number two on the Irish best sellers and her second reached number one. Wellesley Wives was on the Amazon top 100 books in the first ten days after it was published, and she is currently negotiating for it to be translated into Norwegian and possibly Greek.

Wellesley Wives is followed up with Newton Neighbors, which was released in September, and Duffy is currently writing Lincoln Ladies. Like Wellesley Wives, the other two books explore the friendships and tribulations of women across an age spectrum. Like the swingers scene,
Suzy Duffy's books all 'come good' but I want them to have a 'punch' too. I simply think it is good to wrap the 'punch' in pink fluff!” laughs Duffy. “In this town, I think there is a lot of pressure to read highbrow books. And while that is important, I think it is good to escape someplace in your mind and read something fun. It is important to laugh out loud.”

Laughter is what keeps this mother of five sane. That and “rushing,” jokes Duffy. “I rush to drop off, I rush home to write, I rush for pick up...basically I manage by rushing! My husband works crazy hours, I work crazy hours. But we do what we love and we find the humor in things.”

For all the craziness, she does try to keep a schedule to each day. “I write new material in the mornings, am a full-time mom in the afternoons, and edit in the evenings after everyone has been fed.”

Prior to becoming an author, Duffy was a radio and TV presenter in Dublin. For one of the TV shows, Hit the Road, she would do different adventures — such as jumping out of a plane or going swimming with dolphins. When her first child was born, she was on the air ten hours before delivery and back on ten days after. But when her second was born, she realized how fast the time passes and decided it was time to find a new passion.

“While writing may seem different from being an on-air personality, I think they are quite similar. They all fall under the category of being a communicator and making people laugh and escape from their own lives for a while.”

And her communication skills are truly incredible. Talking to Duffy is like reading her books, or eating ice cream. It is so good you don’t want it to end.
A Wine Guide for Celebrating the Holidays

ROBERT DWYER writer

for many wine lovers, the season influences what they drink and when they drink it. With the arrival of the holiday season, social gatherings mean more opportunities to savor and share. But amidst seemingly endless shopping lists — and commitments we all have — selecting amazing wines for each holiday celebration can be overwhelming. With a little foundational knowledge and familiarity with recent trends, anyone can select wines that are sure to delight.

Building a Foundation

Selecting wines for the holiday season is a bit different than the rest of the year. Throughout the year, many are looking to find wines that maximize quality to price ratio, offering value in their preferred categories. In contrast, the holidays are shared occasions and the perfect excuse to open those wine splurges for all to enjoy. Even so, the gracious host doesn’t want her generosity to overshadow the importance of conversations and connecting with family and friends. Most guests don’t want to spend the majority of their time pondering the intricacies of the wines being served. Hosts want the wines served to provide a delicious, utterly enjoyable backdrop for a memorable gathering. Those wines find the perfect intersection of recognizable quality, broad appeal, and a bit of that “wow” factor.
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From all of us at Dover Rug & Home…our sincere wishes for a happy and loving holiday.
**Bounty in a Glass**

Traditionally Thanksgiving is the most food and wine driven holiday. Done right, it’s a celebration that can last all day and into the weekend. Approaching the celebration in phases may provide some much-needed pacing over the course of the day.

The first phase of the day, when guests are snacking or watching football, is a time for “comfort” beverages. A good host offers guests what they like, whether it’s their favorite beer, a nice Napa Cab, or a sparkling white to start on a light note.

When it comes to meal time, the assortment of flavors on a typical Thanksgiving table call for versatile food-friendly wines. Austin Moran, owner of Nine East Wine Emporium in Natick, suggests Pinot Noir from Oregon or France (Burgundy), as both are earthy and will complement the variety of flavors on your holiday menu. French Beaujolais, made from the Gamay grape, is a light, somewhat fruity red that also works well with turkey, stuffing, and cranberry sauce.

Wellesley native Mike O’Connell Jr. of Needham Wine & Spirits encourages customers to be creative and adventurous in their Thanksgiving selections. “Last year on Thanksgiving I served an off-dry, frizzante Lambrusco from Emilia-Romagna out of chilled mason jars. It was totally casual and it was the hit of the evening. Drink what you like. If someone is going to criticize you for pouring a Napa Cab with your turkey, ask them to wash the dishes.”

Chris Minervino of Lower Falls Wine Co. in Newton has been helping customers through this process for more than two decades. Many of his customers go all-American for the holiday. He often suggests Oregon Pinot Noir and a juicy California Zinfandel. “On the off chance the roast turkey is a tad dry, the fresh red fruit found in a domestic red Zinfandel can play really well. Think red fruits instead of the purple or black fruits you’d find in a Napa Cabernet Sauvignon.”

For white wines he suggests Pinot Gris or Gewürztraminer over Sauvignon Blanc. And for those who want to keep it
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local, he recommends Turtle Creek in Lincoln or the sparkling wines of Westport Rivers. Another suggestion of Minervino’s is to open the wines all at once. This allows guests to choose their own pairing depending upon the varying flavors on their plate.

Selections for the Holiday Table

Austin Moran says that festive holiday gatherings should always start with a sparkler. French Champagne and Spanish Cava are nice toasty and dry choices, or if you’re in the mood for a touch of sweetness, Italian Prosecco will do the trick.

Holiday comfort foods like roasted red meats lend themselves well to those special bottles of big red wine. Napa Cabernet Sauvignon, aged Bordeaux, and bold Tuscan reds like Brunello are the order of the day. This can be a time to break out big recognizable names like Cakebread, Caymus, and Silver Oak that are best shared on a special occasion. But it can also be a time to introduce family and friends to producers they may not have experienced before that they’ll also enjoy. For example, Napa Cabernets like O’Shaugnessey Howell Mountain, Chappellet Pritchard Hill, and Revana Napa Valley.

Moran likes a Chateauneuf-Du-Pape with beef, but if you’re serving ham or pork, you may want to consider a dry rosé, which would be unexpected but beautiful on your holiday table.

Making thoughtful wine selections doesn’t mean wine discussion needs to dominate the occasion. Like the décor or food, it’s part of the overall experience. Provide a description of what you’re pouring and why and move on to other points of conversation, keeping in mind this is a holiday gathering—not a wine tasting.

Mike O’Connell Jr. agrees. “There’s enough tension this time of year as it is, so why worry about whether or not the ’92 Burgundy will pair better with the goose than the ’96? In the long run, your family will probably appreciate your company more than the exquisite Late Harvest Gewürztraminer you paired with Auntie Lisa’s sweet potato casserole.”

Bring it in With Bubbles

Chris Minervino notes that in recent years his customers in the western suburbs are opting for smaller, more intimate gatherings for New Year’s Eve rather than large parties or evenings out. This provides the
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food & wine  “splurge a bit for New Year’s”

perfect occasion to open the very best bottles of wine, both sparkling and still.

This is an occasion to splurge and open a bottle of wine from the high end of a familiar category. In my home, this means a fantastic California Pinot Noir from producers like Kosta Browne, Sea Smoke, or Radio-Coteau.

New Year’s is also, of course, a time for bubbles. It’s a perfect time to seek out a bottle that costs less with higher quality than the big brands. As Mike O’Connell Jr. observes, “Most people like to splurge a bit for New Year’s and buy a really nice bottle of bubbles. The biggest mistake they make is waiting until the ball drops to pop the cork. By midnight, you’ve probably already had a few cocktails or glasses of wine and that special bottle won’t be appreciated. My advice is to plan on serving the good stuff with a first course like caviar or oysters when you can really enjoy it. Then buy some inexpensive Cava or Prosecco to open at midnight. If it sprays around the living room, that’s okay. Try breaking away from the big names and ask your wine guy or gal for a grower’s Champagne. You won’t see the bottle in the next James Bond film but you’ll be getting a better bang for your buck.”

Austin Moran recommends thinking outside the box when selecting sparkling wines for New Year’s celebrations. There are some absolutely delicious options that may not be household names. A couple of world-class Champagnes to consider are Billecart-Salmon Brut Rosé and Pol Roger Brut.

Put a Bow on It
Perhaps more than any situation, traditional
gift lists call for recognizable brands rather than obscure value-oriented gems. Big brands come to mind – even if better wines can be had for the dollar. They are long-standing recognizable brands for a reason and for many recipients the brand denotes quality.

Regardless of the gifting selection, try to find a relatable story to reinforce why you chose it. Was it a trip to wine country, France, or Italy that you hope the wine would remind the recipient of? Or a prior experience you shared together that you enjoyed?

O’Connell Jr. encourages customers to take a different approach and have the courage to seek out small, quality producers. “Generally speaking, big recognizable brands are more in demand during the holidays for good reason. Either you want someone to know how much you spent on a bottle of wine or you gravitate towards a specific brand because of the familiarity, label, or rating. Personally, I’d rather someone go out of their way to find a unique, small producer that over-delivers for the price. Something with a great story behind it, because those are the wines that stick with you.”

But beware: Wine preferences are a very personal thing. What sounds great to one might not be appreciated by the gift recipient. If the recipient isn’t a particularly close friend or relative and has strong personal opinions and knowledge of wine, consider a gift card to the recipient’s favorite retailer so they can get exactly what they want.
While Dining Out

During the holiday season restaurants like Chef Ming Tsai’s Blue Ginger in Wellesley are jamming. Corporate parties and groups of friends gather to celebrate the season, and some do splurge. “We’ll add more sparkling wine to the list and our December wine dinner is traditionally Champagne focused. There’s definitely a trend towards smaller houses that produce outstanding Chamapgne, like Henri Billiot, Jean Lallement, and Rehusanet, for example,” says Tsai. But larger brands like Crystal and Billecart-Salmon Brut Rosé are still popular and are also favorites.

There’s also an uptick in signature cocktails at the holidays. Last year the bar featured a Hot Fig Toddy, which was very popular. This holiday season, they’ll be serving up a Ginger Pomegranate Kir Royale. While wine is easily served at home, cocktails require more ingredients and mixing technique. Dining out is the perfect opportunity to try something new — even for a wine devotee.

Choosing Wine with Style and Substance

Chef Tsai sums it up nicely when he says, “When you’re trying to match food and wine, the wine has to be good, and the food has to be good. Neither should overpower each other.”

And similarly, the wine itself shouldn’t overshadow the company. Mike O’Connell Jr. suggests we “choose something extremely versatile and stress free and sit back and enjoy family.”

Like with anything else, it’s important to know your audience. Tailor your selections thoughtfully with your guests in mind then sit back and enjoy each other’s company.

The holidays provide a tremendous opportunity to share special wines with family and friends. “Cheers” to a healthy, happy, and festive holiday season.
Not one. Not two. But THREE!

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“I’m bored with the Caribbean,” a friend told me recently. I know, poor baby. But she’s not alone in wishing for a different kind of vacation.

What have you always wanted to do? Work beside archeologists at a dig? Learn to build a wooden boat? Discuss the composer’s work with performers at a classical music festival? Do you long to master techniques of French or Asian cooking? Or study birds at a remote field station in Maine? Well, you can. Learning experiences for adults ranging from weeklong workshops to small-group travel are not hard to arrange. Choose an adventure that speaks to you.

Want to go somewhere that used to be off-limits, just because now you can? That’s how I ended up in Havana hearing a former Cuban diplomat give his no-holds-barred, sometimes anti-American, perspective on the history of US-Cuba relations.

When the United States recently lifted its restrictions on travel to Cuba, it was my chance to taste previously forbidden fruit while learning about a country that’s close to our shore.
and locked a half century back in time. To travel there legally, Americans no longer have to be affiliated with an academic, arts, or government group. But, as average citizens, we are restricted to so-called “People-to-People” tours that are not classified as tourism. That means unlike the Canadians, Italians, and French who flock to the island’s (reportedly) gorgeous beaches, those sand and surf resorts are off-limits to us. But as I discovered last June, our ability to learn about Cuba is more rewarding because tour operators are required to weave conversations and Q&A sessions with Cubans throughout our daily schedule of cultural and educational visits.

The trip was fascinating. On a hot day this past June, Camilo García López-Trigo, a 20-year diplomat, spoke to our diverse group of 12 Americans from all walks of life. We were intrigued, irritated, and puzzled by his frank views. He recounted “many lies and misrepresentation by the US Department of State,” as well as chapters we remembered from news accounts and from school, adding yet another dimension to what in preceding days we had heard from Cuban artists, musicians, botanists, private business owners, educators, an athlete, and chefs about the realities of their lives under communism. Our tour operator, Gate 1 Travel Discovery Tours (www.gate1travel.com or 800.682.3333), had designed an itinerary that fulfilled the US government’s “People-to-People” mandate by arranging some fifteen of these exchanges in seven days. His mix of history and politics was not the only time we heard a less-than-friendly view of our country. It stimulated great conversations.

No book or news coverage beforehand fully prepared us for a country that looks and feels stuck in a time warp, circa 1959, but is simulta-
neously on the cusp of change. To appreciate the political climate and what it means to do with limited or none of today’s basic necessities (cell phones, Internet access, toilet paper...) you have to be there. It was better than any semester-long political science course.

“People-to-People” tours to Cuba are also available from a growing number of nonprofit and for-profit licensees, some with a special focus such as art or historic preservation. Search online for options.

“People who are well-traveled have done the sitting-on-the-beach and great-cities-of-Europe vacations and now they want something more meaningful,” says Donna Bruno, president and co-founder of uVisualize Travel in Needham (www.uvisualize.com or 781.898.2014). Among her clients are some who want to use their time off to serve others; they help rebuild communities devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, or repair schools in Guatemala. Others want to expand their knowledge in particular ways. She advises them, “Think about what brings you joy and we can help translate that interest into a trip. If your passion is ballroom dancing, it can shape a visit to Russia, where all forms of dance are celebrated.”

**Consider these possibilities for learning**

**COOK LIKE A PRO:** If your typical week is like mine, squeezing cooking or wine classes into the mix can be tough. Savor the experience without distractions at a Culinary Institute of America Boot Camp. Full-immersion programs, at three CIA locations—in St. Helena, California; Hyde Park, New York; or San Antonio, Texas—include more than a dozen courses in baking, cooking, or wine. You could devote two days to hors d’oeuvres or skills development, or five days focused on Mediterranean, French, or Asian cuisine. You’ll learn proper technique from chef-instructors and wine faculty, dine on the dishes you prepare, and sit down to meals in the renowned CIA
restaurants. A nice souvenir: you’ll receive two chef coats, pants, neckerchief, and toque to underscore your new expertise.

**Culinary Institute of America:** Call 800.888.7850 or visit [http://enthusiasts.ciachef.edu/boot-camps](http://enthusiasts.ciachef.edu/boot-camps)

- **Hear the Genius:** Because Tedd Martin and his wife love classical music, every year they travel on expert-led tours to festivals held in Europe’s finest concert venues featuring world-class performers. “They will usually have a group leader who has a certain amount of musical expertise and will give pre-concert lectures or lead discussions about the music we just heard,” he said. “On our last trip to the Schubertiade in Schwarzenburg, Austria, our leader was the music director of Atlanta’s leading chamber music venue. When I asked him if Schubert’s piano sonatas were the logical continuation of Beethoven’s, he explained how Maurizio Pollini (a famous pianist) explained to him that while Beethoven created tension using the interval of the fifth, Schubert did it with fourths. To a music lover, this kind of insight is golden…information that sheds light on why the music sounds the way it does and adds to an appreciation of the genius that went into making it.”

There’s more. “On our Kirker trip to Aldeburgh, England,” he continued, “we toured the home of Benjamin Britten, one of the 20th century’s leading composers. We learned about his life, viewed some of his original manuscripts, and gained an appreciation for his creative process just before hearing his music performed.” Additionally, tour leaders often have special relationships with the music festival or some of the performers. In a couple of cases, the Martins met performers, and one time a prominent Russian pianist joined them for dinner.
Chrissie Lawrence

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He recommends these two London-based companies that also offer architecture, art, geology, garden, and other specialized travel:

**Martin Randall Tours** ([www.martinrandall.com/tour-theme](http://www.martinrandall.com/tour-theme))


**DIG INTO THE PAST:** Since 1928, the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, Maine, has conducted research on Native American history and culture, particularly that of the four Wabanaki tribes. Once a year, in August, their one-week Archaeology Field School welcomes 12 non-professionals, age 17 and older, to work beside archaeologists excavating and recovering artifacts at a field site in Maine. No experience is necessary but you must be physically able to do moderate work, such as lifting and digging.

“What’s most special about the Field School is you get to do archaeology and also learn how it relates to contemporary Wabanaki life,” says Julia Clark, curator of collections, who runs the program. “We have lunchtime speakers. This year, George Neptune (Passamaquoddy) sang songs for us that are 2,000 years old and relate to the artifacts we’re finding at the site, Tranquility Farm, which was occupied from 2,500 years ago through the arrival of Europeans.” Enrollment often fills early. The next session is August 4 through 8, 2014.

**Abbe Museum:** Call 207.288.3519 or visit [www.abbemuseum.org/research/archaeology/field-school.html](http://www.abbemuseum.org/research/archaeology/field-school.html)

**Programs farther afield:** Call 978.461.0081 or visit [www.earthwatch.org](http://www.earthwatch.org)

**BUILD YOUR OWN BOAT:** If your heart swells at the sight of a classic wooden hull, a one- or two-week course offered by WoodenBoat School in Brooklin, Maine, or their affiliate, Chesapeake Light Craft in Annapolis, Maryland, may launch your next adventure. Choose from a boatyard of options including fundamentals or advanced boatbuilding.
small boat repairs, or start-to-finish workshops. After a “Build Your Own” course, you’ll have a Northeaster dory, shearwater sport kayak, Penobscot 13 lapstrake daysailer, or other fine craft to proudly add to your fleet.

**WoodenBoat School:** Call 207.359.8920 or visit www.thewoodenboatschool.com

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**Gain Special Museum Access to Study Fine Art:** The Art Institute of Chicago, which rivals our Museum of Fine Arts, now partners with Road Scholar, the lifelong learning program formerly called ElderHostel, to offer five-day seminars at the museum. Explore galleries with curators on private tours and learn from art historians. Dine and stay downtown at the historic Palmer House, steps from the museum, where each day from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm experts will guide you to insights on treasures of the Art Institute or Ancient Worlds and Empires. Conversations will delve into artists’ ideas, techniques, and accomplishments. An evening on your own in Chicago is a chance to enjoy the city’s great restaurants.

**Art Institute of Chicago:** Call 800.454.5768 or visit www.artic.edu/learn/adults/lifelong-learning/road-scholar

We’ve just scratched the surface. There are learning vacations worldwide for birders, photographers, writers, dancers, violinists, and letterpress printers, you name it. Do your homework and see what you find.
about town

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

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

**Massachusetts Horticultural Society’s**  
**Downton Abbey Garden Party at Elm Bank**

1 Brittany Pearce, Georgia Jenkins, Lisa Olsen, and Jason Olsen  
2 Michelle Herman, Nina Jung, Abigail Fiske, Gerald Baker, Melissa Holster, Jessica Leonard, Evan Gallivan, Amanda Hoffman, and Tyler Hoffman  
3 Kathy Macdonald, Lucile Hays, Elaine Fiske, and Betsy Carroll

**Wellesley Free Library Tenth Anniversary Celebration**

1 Amanda Henshon, Beanie Spangler, Beth Cook, and Amanda Kennedy  
2 Janet Pattillo, Emily Hunnewell, and Frank Hunnewell  
3 Elizabeth P. Powell, Luisa Hunnewell, and David Powell  
4 Heather Sawitsky, Suzanne Bates, and Drew Yanno
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Wellesley Service League’s 86th Annual Meeting

1 Beth Shedd, Diane Hart, Jennifer Wigon, Penny Darcy, Kathy Skelly, Jean Piazza, Christine Duivivier, and Nancy Gonder
2 Laura Wilson, Jane Callanan, Lisa Buff, and Robin Swanberg
3 Gretchen Morrison, Johnnie Dole, June Bernhard, Barbara Compton, and Gini Gogan
4 Nancy Brady and Monique St. Germain

Greenway Carousel Grand Opening

Weston 300th Anniversary Celebration

1 The pie contest table
2 Colleen Lucas and Frederick Wisss

1 Jesse Brackenbury and Martin Lynn
2 Eve Brackenbury
3 Henry Brackenbury

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

Holiday Portraits
about town (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 196)

Julie Fund Benefit at National Jean Company

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

Weston Dads Foundation Annual Meeting

1 (front row, l to r): Alok Kapoor, Greg Moeller, David Varela, Joseph Scaparrotta, Chris Koenig, Olof Ingare; (back row, l to r): Zachary Kano, Sean Thomas, Bob Emmert, Fadi Badlissi

2 David Varela

3 Charlotte Weeple, Tami Solomon, Amanda Rapp, and Kelly First

Natick VNA at Lyn Evans and Candy Bar

1 Stephanie Goldberg, Bonnie Jurasit, Sue Brady, Peter McAvinn, and Beth

2 Candace Lucas Evans and Prue Hay

3 Lauren B. Schiffman, Arlene Taros, and Margaret Cowart

4 Pam Harris, Nancy Eldridge, and Betsy Cross

5 Evelyn Corbett and Melissa Magnone
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about town (continued from page 198) For more information on these events and additional photos, visit wwmblog.com

Wellesley Historical Society Gala

1 Nancy Hoffer, Susan Frederick, and Jo-Ann Holland 2 Tony DeFazio, Chad Harris, Mike Hefferman, Melissa Clemence, Luisa Hunnewell, Bill Cadigan, Jared Parker, Emily Martin, John Schuler, Martin Padley, and Stan Pratt 3 Jared Parker, Sandy Joseph, Bob Damon, and Danielle Boudreau 4 Jeff Peterson, Rick DeLorie, and Bill Cadigan

Debi Benoit’s 100 Fabulous Women’s Luncheon

1 Ashley D’Amour, Debi Benoit, and Danielle Heaps 2 Cindy Connelly, Jennifer Dube, and Elizabeth Licata 3 Joan Armsworth, Peg Hildreath, and Suzanne Skolnick 4 Laurie Roberts and Moira Lown
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Elm Bank Media's Summer Solstice

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

1 Lubov Pishchik, Elizabeth Humber, and Cheryl Scaparrotta  2 Rich Kuong, Diane Speare Triant, and Beth Furman  3 Beth Furman and Jill Nilsen  4 Elizabeth Wilcox and Allison Ijams Sargent

Dunkin’ Donuts and Baskin Robbins Opening in Wellesley

1 Dunkin’ Donuts and Baskin-Robbins celebrated their grand opening at 98 Central Street in Wellesley  2 Dunkin’ Donuts surprised Wellesley resident Debra Renzella (center) with a $1,000 check
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SUZANNE KALAN
about town (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 202)

Land’s Sake Harvest Dinner

Golden Ball Tavern Antique Show

Boston Cup Classic Car Show Pre-Show Cocktail Party

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

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

1 Heather Shrimpling, Laura Melsheimer, Elizabeth O’Connell, Charlotte Weeple, Megan Balbale, and Carolyn Corbe
2 Aaron Lefland, Ned Rossiter, Melanie Hardy, and Stephanie Andrews
3 Michelle Hipwood and Ed Barker

Deena Powell, Elly Pendergast, and Chappy

Debi Benoit, Amy Mizner, and Sheryl Simon

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ANNE REMIAN
Anne comes to Benoit Mizner Simon & Co. via Nantucket where she has worked in real estate since 1999. She is thrilled to be working in the primary residential real estate market and adding that to her experience in the resort and secondary sector. Her enthusiasm and genuine desire to advocate for her clients’ best interests make her a fine addition to the Benoit Mizner Simon team.

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when the boredom breathes heavy in our home and the bickering begins, my two girls, ten and seven, and I head to the Wellesley Public Library. The ride over usually escalates to a potpourri of pinching, punching, and all-out bawling. I roll up the windows, step on the gas, and count the minutes till we can get there.

As soon as we walk through the revolving door, library cards dangling from my daughters’ necks, the mood lifts. We are greeted with bright splashes of color from a local artist’s work and the gentle hum of library murmurs. A bubbling fish tank marks the way into the children’s room and a friendly librarian, who now knows our faces, if not our names, smiles.

My ten-year-old heads straight to the Harry Potter section, plops down on the floor, and begins to eat up J.K. Rowling’s words, as she has done over and over again, while my seven-year-old peruses the seasonal books that are on the display. If it’s summer she flips through *Clams All Year or One Morning in Maine*. If it’s winter she peeks at *What Snowmen do at Night* or the classic *Snow*. But one thing is certain: My girls’ whines and screams have wilted into whispers. Their minds have forgotten their frets. And they have escaped into the worlds of wizards and snowstorms and long stretches of beach as they soak up the adventures of children very much like themselves. In this safe and tranquil oasis, I tug one of my favorites off the shelves.

Maybe *From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. Maybe *The Secret Garden*. Or maybe *A Long Way From Chicago*, which the smiling librarian touts as “her favorite.” Then I sink into a comfy chair, flip through the pages, and remember what life was like when I was a kid.

After a while, my girls meander back to me, like boomerangs that eventually find their way home, with a towering pile of books and DVDs in their hands. They carry and check them out on their own, without a squeak of protest—unlike the gallons of milk I’ve asked them to haul in the past.

As I pull out of the parking lot and wait for the screaming to begin again, I hear only silence. My girls are so engrossed in their new books that they have forgotten to fight. So I roll down the windows and take the scenic route home, thinking how lucky we are to have this amazing library in our town. I guess the old adage is true. The best things in life are free, after all.

**PATTY LENZ BOVIE** is a freelance writer and aspiring children’s book author. She lives in Wellesley with her husband and two children.

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**An Oasis for All Seasons**

PATTY LENZ BOVIE  writer

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**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@wellesley-westonmagazine.com.

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