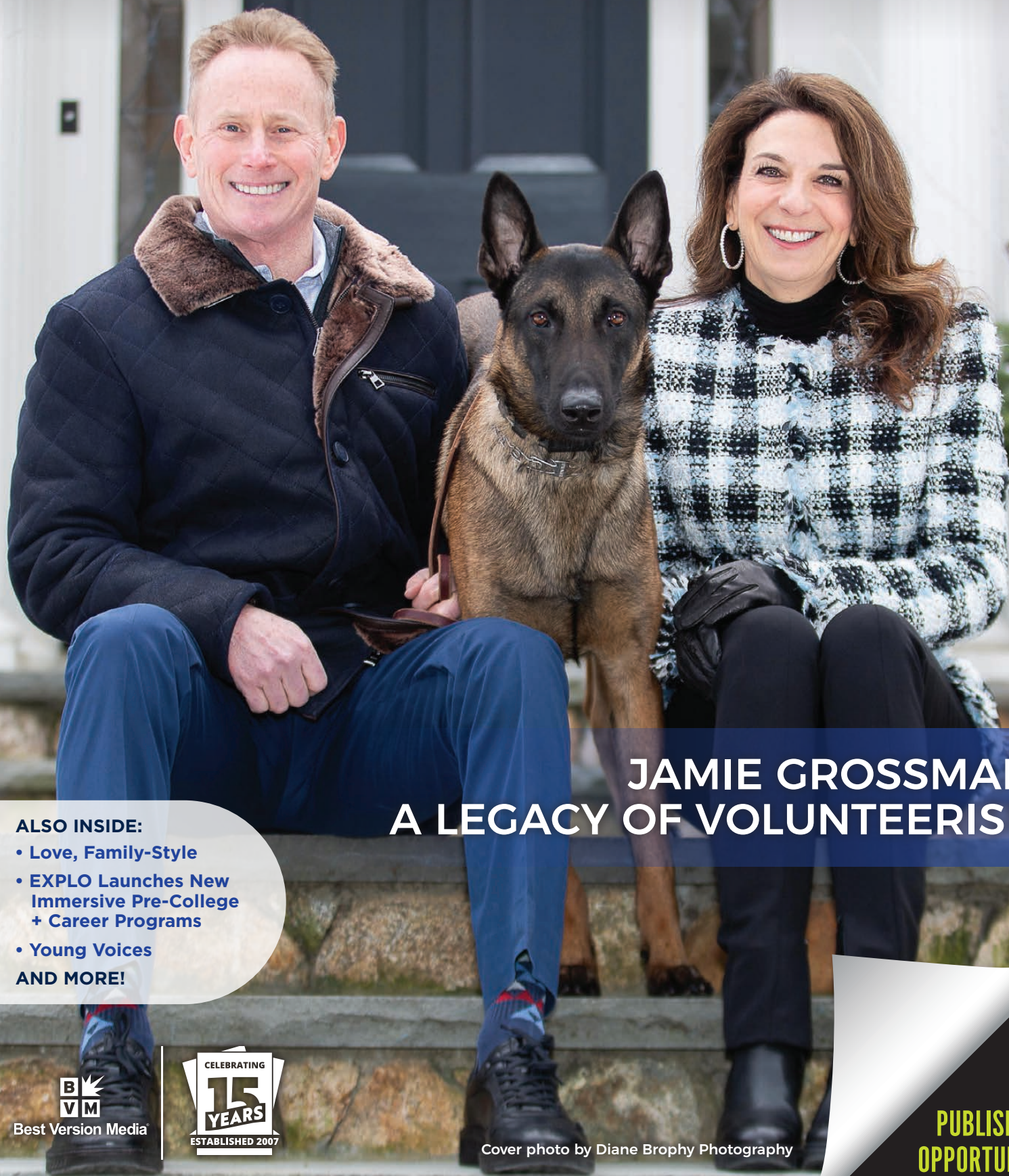


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JAMIE GROSSMAN: A LEGACY OF VOLUNTEERISM

ALSO INSIDE:

- Love, Family-Style
 - EXPLO Launches New Immersive Pre-College + Career Programs
 - Young Voices
- AND MORE!**



Cover photo by Diane Brophy Photography

**PUBLISHER
OPPORTUNITY!**

Details inside.



New SIMS NIDO Toddler Classroom At SIMS Newton Corner in Jan 2022



NIDO at SIMS Newton Corner

SIMS Newton Corner proudly announces the opening of our Nido Toddler Classroom, serving the younger children ages 15 month - 3 years old.

The toddler classroom will open its doors in January, you may like to contact us at your earliest convenience to enroll.

We have limited space in our toddler classroom at Newton Corner and waitlist already in our other two centers (SIMS Newton Highlands and SIMS Newton Waban).

SIMS Newton Corner is also taking registrations in our Children's House Classroom for children 2.9 - 5 yrs of age. Please book a tour or contact us.

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PUBLICATION TEAM

PUBLISHER: Collin Tuchalski
CONTENT COORDINATOR: Peter Crisano
DESIGNER: Tom Zielinski
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER:
 Diane Brophy Photography
 www.dpbrophyphotography.com
CONTRIBUTING WRITER: Kelli Connelly

ADVERTISING/QUESTIONS

Contact: Collin Tuchalski
Email: Ctuchalski@bestversionmedia.com

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Content Due:	Edition Month:
December 10.....	January
January 10.....	February
February 10.....	March
March 10.....	April
April 10.....	May
May 10.....	June
June 10.....	July
July 10.....	August
August 10.....	September
September 10.....	October
October 10.....	November
November 10.....	December

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Hello fellow Newtonites.

It's February again! This is the month that always makes me question why I live in New England. It's a short month, but it is the middle of winter. I feel starved of sunlight and the warm sensation it brings to my skin. I am far less motivated to venture outside for any length of time, although I brave the cold for my dog. I'm sure many of you brave it for your dogs, family, job, or maybe your love of outdoor projects.

I am aware there are many avid skiers in Newton. We live so close to numerous great ski lodges in the north east. I did not grow up doing any skiing, so I am quite the novice myself. I enjoy the part of the ski trip that involves the fireplace and the hot chocolate. I also discovered the outdoor heated tub, which is a great experience if you have not done it. Submerge yourself in hot water like a potato, while snow freezes to your hair and eyelashes. Next time I might bring a snorkel so I can fully remain in the warm embrace of the toasty depths.

Since I write this in advance of the publication date, it is hard to know exactly what our snow total will be by time you read this. I am personally hoping for a mild winter, but I do wish to experience a few decent snowfalls. "Snow Days" were a great childhood experience for me and even as an adult I enjoy taking my dog to play in it. If you do not have to venture out, snow is a wonderful thing.

While you're enjoying your time indoors (mostly), please consider being a resident feature for our magazine. You can frame the copy and boast that you were on the cover of a magazine. Imagine telling your great grandkids you were on the paper version of Instagram.

Cheers,

Peter

Newton Neighbors Team

				
<i>Collin Tuchalski</i> Publisher	<i>Peter Crisano</i> Content Coordinator	<i>Kelli Connelly</i> Contributing Writer	<i>Tom Zielinski</i> Designer	<i>Diane Brophy</i> Contributing Photographer



JAMIE GROSSMAN: A LEGACY OF VOLUNTEERISM

By Peter Crisano

Photos courtesy of Diane Brophy and the Grossman family

I am so excited to feature our fellow Newtonian Jamie Grossman and her family this month. It could be likely that you already know her, as her career and longstanding involvement in local non-profit organizations give her quite a bit of local exposure.

Jamie is a licensed Realtor with Gibson Sotheby's International Realty. She has a reputation for providing the finest luxury service to her clients, whether they are selling their home, purchasing a new one, or hunting for an investment property.

For Jamie, real estate has always been a joy and a concentration. "I study home design, space, and renovations to improve and bring homes and properties back to life," says Jamie. She is no stranger to the home renovation game, having assisted and contracted many updates for clients, friends, neighbors and her own family.

You might think this busy realtor doesn't have much downtime, given her job, family responsibilities and volunteer work, and you'd be right. Though Jamie always prioritizes time for her family and friends, whom she treats like family as well.

Born in Philadelphia, Jamie's roots in the Boston area run deep. Her mother grew up in Brookline and when it was time for college, Jamie knew Boston as her second home. She spent much of her life in the Greater Boston area, even before her professional career began. Jamie graduated from Boston University with a bachelor's degree in Public Relations. She later advanced her studies at Harvard Business School's Executive Education program "Governing for Non-Profit Excellence." She leveraged this education to further contribute to non-profit and volunteer agencies in the local area and draws upon this in all aspects of her work.

Jamie is a legacy volunteer for Jewish Family & Children's Service of Boston, a human service agency based in Waltham, MA. JF&CS offers support services to various vulnerable populations, with a strong concentration on stabilizing individuals and families in need. She has served on the Board of Directors for over 20 years, including her recent service as Board Chair of the agency.

"JF&CS has long been my passion, but I also served as community volunteer for Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, the Rashi School when my daughters attended the school, Silent Springs Institute, Dana-Farber Women's Executive Council and I rode in the Pan-Mass Challenge for many years."

During her tenure at JF&CS, she founded Shoulder to Shoulder, a military family support program now called HomeFront Strong and housed with the Brookfield Institute. HomeFront Strong is a community peer support program that



networks military connected volunteers to service members, veterans, and their families.

It's no surprise that this generous mom raised three amazing daughters, and now happily includes two fantastic sons-in-law. The girls all share their mom's passion for volunteerism. The Grossman family legacy of love and volunteering is generational, as Jamie's mom, Joan Adess Grossman, was president of Jewish Family & Children's Service in their native Philadelphia.

The apples certainly did not fall far from the tree in many respects. All three of her daughters, Jessica, Dana and Lauren, are intelligent, incredibly talented, and productive members of the local community. Jessica is a Family Therapist. Her new husband, Brandon Fisher, is with Thermo Fisher Scientific. Dana teaches kindergarten at Stratton Elementary School in Arlington, MA and her husband Michael Kollaard works with Decibel at Medallia. Lauren teaches second grade at the Bridge Charter School in Roxbury, MA and is pursuing a Master's Degree from Boston College.

Jamie surrounds herself with unique and talented people. Her life partner, Bob Kinder, had a long and distinguished career in the military prior to meeting Jamie. Bob spent 24 years in the military and was a Special Forces Army Ranger with several tours in the Middle East and Panama.



Jamie and Bob at a JF&CS Family Table Food Pantry distribution day



A formal evening out for Bob and Jamie

He was Commander of Joint Special Operation's Command's Quick Reaction Force during US operations in Iraq.

Bob graduated from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and has a graduate degree from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He has a very distinguished professional career as well, currently Owner and Chief Executive Officer of Signal 88 Security, as well as founder and CEO of The Kinder Group, based in New England. These companies offer first-class, tailored security programs and services for houses of worship, residential

and commercial complexes, hotels and private clubs, and more. Bob's extensive military background as a Ranger clearly translated well into the security space and his trusted expertise is robust. I could certainly write an entire feature on Bob's eventful life and military service, as I am sure there is no shortage of interesting stories

Jamie and Bob love their local Newton community. Their neighbors and friends have lived here for decades, raising a new generation of children together. Jamie is passionate about the local area, "Newton offers so much - dining and shopping as well as culture, terrific schools, access to faith-based organizations and opportunities volunteer and participate."

As you might expect, this realtor and home renovator chose a dreamy treehouse with amazing potential, and then spent two years planning and executing a renovation to restore it to its 1920's design and stature. The house is situated high on a hill in West Newton, with quick access to Boston, Cambridge, and all of the western suburbs.

While her daughters have all moved out, you will often see their cars parked out front for their frequent family gatherings. And, Jamie and Bob have a relatively new addition to the family. Their Belgian Malinois, Ranger, is their constant companion on their daily walks. Jamie says that Ranger inspires them with his relentless energy and love of the outdoors. Ranger is aptly (and cleverly) named for Bob's service and time in special forces as a Ranger.

The energetic couple can be spotted with their pup around the neighborhood and take full advantage of the fabulous Commonwealth Avenue carriage lane. It's a great place to meet neighbors. After an evening walk you might find Jamie, Bob and Ranger out on their back deck during a late day sunset, enjoying the peace and quiet that West Newton provides. It feels as if they could be almost anywhere in the world in that moment.

Both Bob and Jamie enjoy the fresh air and serenity that nature provides, but sometimes they need a little more of it. The couple heads west every summer to do some fly fishing in the

pristine rivers of Montana and Wyoming. There's nothing like getting away from the hustle of the east coast, to enjoy some peace and quiet in big sky country.

The extended Grossman family also does an annual vacation together, including Jamie's active 89-year-old father. They have continued this tradition for decades, making a commitment to all spend time with one another. As the family has grown, the group has gotten much larger.

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Resident Feature



Brandon Fisher, Jessica Weintraub, Dana Kollaard, Gibby Grossman, Jamie Grossman, Lauren Weintraub, Michael Kollaard



Jessica, Jamie, Dana and Lauren

Despite everyone's busy and active lives, family has always been a priority for Jamie.

"Our family is very close. Our dining room chairs are full every holiday and most weekends with the various combinations of my daughters and sons-in-law, friends, and other relatives. The girls were raised to cherish each other and celebrate family and it's so evident as adults they are carrying out this devotion to each other and those we all love."

Jamie is clearly a proud parent and how could she not be. She witnesses first-hand the palpable love and joy that the kids have for one another. Her daughters are spreading that

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I love you because no two snowflakes are alike, and it is possible, if you stand tippy-toe, to walk between the raindrops."

— Yolanda Cornelia "Nikki" Giovanni

message while teaching young children in their formative years or providing essential mental health services to those who may have less access.

I asked Jamie about the family motto, which she shared with me, "Kill'em with kindness." Appropriate for a family with volunteering in their blood. She also has a personal motto of "Say yes to everything – there is opportunity everywhere" and a professional motto, "If you love the house, buy the house." If you've been a buyer in a competitive real estate market, that one will resonate with you, like it did with me.

If you see Jamie, Bob and Ranger in the neighborhood, be sure to say hello! ■

For more information on the volunteer organizations featured in this article:

www.jfcsboston.org

www.brookfieldinstitute.org/homefront-strong

Questions about your home or next move?

Contact Jamie any time: jamie.grossman@gibbonsir.com or 617-519-5333.

Please contact us if you, or a family you know, is interested in being featured as our cover story in one of our upcoming issues. We'd be delighted to add you to our family feature list. Email us at pcrisano@bestversionmedia.com.

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LOVE, FAMILY-STYLE

By Tina Damon



The sort of love that I'm most in touch with these days is love of family. It began in the dawn of my consciousness before I was even verbal. It is "prehistorically old" in terms of my selfhood. It gives me identity and a place where I belong irrefutably. It gave me my name. All my earliest experiences took place within it. I certainly haven't outgrown it and I never will. It gives me a core and a skin, it has to do with my internal essence and the lens through which I perceive and process the world.

I'm sure it has come into focus because of my mother's death a few years ago. (My father died 40 years earlier.) It was a timely death as she was 97 ½. Her passing was a big deal for me. I had become something of a spiritual caretaker for her; I took on the role of encouraging and providing her with recreational and social activities to the extent that this was possible given her declining health and advancing dementia. She had been a major influence on me and was always a big part of my life, for better or worse.

After her death, my two sisters and I, who were close in age but in no other way, were obliged to work together to settle her affairs, deal with lawyers and so forth, from the most gut-wrenching decision of when to terminate her life support to

the mundane but equally emotional task of dividing furniture, photographs, dishes and what-have-you, which all had to be moved from the family home where we grew up and where she lived for 60 years.

During this time, which stretched into two years, we had to collaborate and tolerate each other's unique temperaments, priorities, and schedules, which were often in conflict. It was stressful and trying. I remember that one day at my banking job we had to complete a questionnaire devised by a consulting company for the bank to assess itself in terms of employee satisfaction. One question stands out in my mind: it was "Do your co-workers feel like family?" My first thought was "No, thank God!" I didn't particularly like my teammates but being at work provided a respite from the drama, strife and upheaval going on in my personal life.

Thankfully, that phase is over (as is the job), and I'm now closer and on better terms with both sisters than I ever have been as an adult. We came through the crucible and are left with a rare appreciation of each other that we probably never felt before and, if we did, certainly saw no need to express. I have worked hard to make this sparse tribe work for myself. It's just us now, and they are both precious to me.

Family has been a refuge for me, although in my youth it was also a trial. As the youngest, I was often short-changed of attention, overshadowed, and dominated by my older sisters. But the "ugly stepsisters" who blighted my childhood have for the moment receded like ghosts into the mist of the past.

I am a shy person and not trusting of others. Family love comes without the conscious investment involved in growing beyond the family, in putting yourself out there and widening your circle, and the risk of indifference or rejection. It is one of my goals to be able to push myself outward toward the world and to give myself the opportunity to take in love from other sources. I also hope to spend more time on activities that bring me joy and connection, whether solitary or in tandem, because this is one of the best ways, I know to nurture self-love. ■

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Some Resources for Enlightenment, Entertainment and Education

SAT. - SUN., FEB 12 - 13

Winter Fest

@Hyde Playground/Cold Spring Park/Newton Centre Green
Newton Community Pride presents Winter Fest 2022. Two days of winter activities! All activities are outdoors. The fun starts Saturday at Hyde Playground at 5:30pm with soup and live music. There is a guided winter walk at Cold Spring Park on Sunday at 10am. Finally, Newton Centre Green will host Ice Sculptures, a winter pop up market, plus special guests.

Time: 5:30 - 8pm/10 - 11am/1 - 5pm

Cost: Free

newtoncommunitypride.org/winterfest

TUE., FEB 8

Celebrating Voices of Color - Poetry Reading & Open Mic

@Virtual (Newton Free Library)

Join us for virtual readings in this year's poetry series. This month we will feature the voices of black and brown poets. An open mike follows with a limit of one poem per person, limited slots are available. Sign ups for the open mic will happen during the actual session. The series is facilitated by Doug Holder of Ibetston St. Press. Check back for the names of this month's featured poets.

Registration for this program will end two hours before the start time. The Zoom login information will be sent just after registration closes. Please be sure to check your spam folder in case it lands there.

Time: 7 - 8pm

Cost: FREE

newtonfreelibrary.net

THU., FEB 10

Historic Newton Presents: Half America - The Epic Story of Black Americans Fighting WWII

@Virtual

For Black Americans World War II was about not only America's standing in the world but also about how much actual freedom would exist in the United States. Black troops fought bravely in combat and they formed the backbone of the U.S. military's supply effort, all while fighting in a segregated military. Black veterans returned from the war and kept fighting white supremacy at home. Drawing on his upcoming book, historian Matthew Delmont explains how World War II raised questions regarding race and democracy that remain unanswered more than seventy years later. This is an inspiring history of bravery and patriotism in the face of unfathomable racism. This event is part of the

Newton History Series co-sponsored by Historic Newton and the Newton Free Library.

Time: 5 - 6pm

Cost: FREE

newtonfreelibrary.libcal.com

SUN., FEB 13

Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston

@Allen Center for the Arts

Pro Arte's unique cooperative is comprised of musicians equally at home as soloists and chamber musicians as they are within the chamber orchestra. The Salon Series presents an opportunity for members of the cooperative to showcase their craft in various chamber groups performing a variety of exciting works. For Salon 3, one of Pro Arte's regular string quartets joins forces with the Janelle Gillchrist Dance Troupe for an interdisciplinary exploration of Wynton Marsalis's first string quartet.

Time: 3pm

Cost: \$50/\$25

newtonculture.org



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TUE., FEB 15

**Newton Free Library Presents:
The Navigation Case**

@Virtual

Join author John Happ as he recounts the discovery of an aged and glossy leather briefcase in his family house. Learn how the contents of that case revealed the true-life saga of his father's participation in fascinating but deadly cadet training and violent air missions in New Guinea! Happ's book, *The Navigation Case*, reveals the drama and sacrifice expended by America's pioneering pilots' first ever demonstration of air superiority, during the greatest campaign in U.S. Air Force history. The narrative flourishes into an incredible story giving the context for all the Pacific war stories from Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Midway Island, and Iwo Jima, up to the avoidable catastrophes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

John E. Happ is a contributing author to the *Journal of the American Revolution*, has written for the World War One website *The 75th Artillery C.A.C.*, and the adventure magazine *Atlantic Coastal Kayaker*.

This program is being co-presented by Newton Free Library and Ashland Public Library, the Newton Department of Veteran's Services and the Norfolk County (RSVP) Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Time: 7 - 8pm

Cost: Free

newtonfreelibrary.libcal.com

WED., FEB 23

**Newton Free Library Presents:
Racism Not Race with Joseph L. Graves and Alan H. Goodman**

@Virtual

Authors Joseph L. Graves Jr. and Alan H. Goodman will discuss their book *Racism, Not Race: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*. The science on race is clear. Common categories like "Black," "White," and "Asian" do not represent genetic differences among groups. But if race is a pernicious fiction according to natural science, it is all too significant in the day-to-day lives of racialized people across the globe. Drawing on evidence from both natural and social science, Graves and Goodman dismantle the myth of gene-based racial difference and demonstrate that the ideology of racism created races. *Racism, Not Race* shows readers why antiracist principles are both just and backed by sound science.

Joseph L. Graves Jr. is a professor in the Department of Biology at North Carolina A&T State University. He is a fellow of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His books include *The Emperor's New Clothes: Biological Theories of Race at the Millennium* (2001) and *The Race Myth: Why We Pretend Race Exists in America* (2005). Alan H. Goodman is a professor of biological anthropology at Hampshire College and a former vice president for academic affairs. He is a past president of the American

Anthropological Association and codirects its public education project on race. He is a coauthor of *Race: Are We So Different?* (second edition, 2019), among other books.

Time: 7 - 8pm

Cost: Free

newtonfreelibrary.libcal.com

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Hebrew College winter/spring community learning classes are open for enrollment! Classes range from Hebrew language (beginner through advanced) to Jewish film, from spiritual practice to medieval poetry, from Talmud to Torah, and so much more. Generous financial aid is available. For more information, visit hebrewcollege.edu/winter-spring-courses





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EXPLO LAUNCHES NEW IMMERSIVE PRE-COLLEGE + CAREER PROGRAMS AND A RETURN TO WELLESLEY COLLEGE FOR SUMMER 2022

By Mayee Smith

EXPLO Pre-College + Career programs are an unparalleled opportunity for students to get an elevated pre-college academic experience by working side-by-side with industry experts while building a community with peers and mentors.

Exploration Learning (EXPLO) announced last December 15, 2021 a new immersive Pre-College + Career Programs for students in Grades 10-12 that will be based on campus at Wellesley College this summer. The new programs mark EXPLO's return to the Wellesley campus where it had previously run other summer programs for 40 years.

EXPLO is a non-profit organization that specializes in personalized academic enrichment programs where smart, curious students in grades 4-12 from around the country and the world step outside of their comfort zones, grasp the power of their potential, and embrace their ability to shape the future.

The Pre-College + Career program, which was piloted at Colby College in Maine last year, allows students in grades 10-12 an opportunity to earn college credit from Sarah Lawrence College - a top-ranked liberal arts college that the Princeton Review hails for its excellence in teaching and academic rigor - while they explore a subject they're most curious about. This exploration happens not through textbooks and lectures, but with real-world projects created exclusively for EXPLO by the thought leaders shaping the future of the profession.

Working side-by-side with industry experts, students will get an elevated pre-college experience while building a community with their peers and mentors. This exposure will give students a better understanding of the professions they may be interested in before they make critical decisions to pursue their fields of study in college.

In addition to the Pre-College + Career



Program at Wellesley College, EXPLO also runs EXPLO Junior, a program for students in grades 4-7 at Wheaton College in Massachusetts, and EXPLO Senior, a program for students in grades 8-10 at Sarah Lawrence College in New York.

Registration for all summer programs is now open. For more information or to apply, visit www.explo.org/neighbor

"Our summer programs are designed to unlock our students' creativity, confidence, and critical thinking - so they can take strides to achieve their wildest dreams. We are excited to house this program at Wellesley, a part of the Greater Boston/Cambridge ecosystem that is known the world over as a global innovation and education hub", said Moira Kelly, President of EXPLO

Concentrations for the Pre-College + Career Program include:

- Artificial Intelligence
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- Crime Scene Investigation + Forensic Science
- Global Health + Medicine
- Medical Rotations
- Orthopedic + Sports Medicine
- Psychology + Neuroscience
- Surgical Interventions + Biomedical Engineering
- Trial Law + the American Justice System

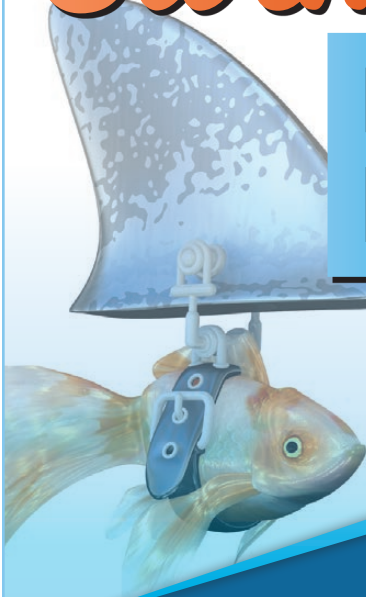
EXPLO's alumni have gone on to incredible ventures. The 2022 Forbes 30 Under 30 List includes five EXPLO alumni: Author, Cole Brown; Crypto Partner at Tribe Capital, Jared Madfes; Co-founder of Wagr, Eliana Eskinazi; Senior Sports Partner Manager at Twitter, Kelsey Taylor; and Co-founder

and Head of Business Development of Umamicart, Wendy Wang. In total, there have been more than 60 EXPLO alumni featured on the Forbes 30 Under 30 List. Other notable alumni include: Co-Founder and former CEO of Instagram, Kevin Systrom; Scientist in the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab and Forbes 30 Under 30, Katie Stack Morgan; Grammy Award Winner and Tony Award Nominee, Celia Rose Gooding; and Yale Law Professor and Pulitzer Prize-winning Author, James Forman, Jr., JD.

Founded in 1976 as a non-profit startup out of MIT, EXPLO has benefited from decades of entrepreneurial leadership since day one. The mindset that created a community of intellectual adventure beyond traditional academics has propelled EXPLO's evolution from the first hybrid summer program for high schoolers to a multi-campus summer program for students in grades 4-12 to a sought-after resource for student engagement and innovative teaching and learning worldwide. ■



Swim with the **BIG** Fish



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YOUNG VOICES



Collected by Kelli Connelly

Observations

By Jillian, Grade 2

Looking up, clear blue sky
Looking out, trees blanketed in snow
Looking around, birds flutter for food
Looking down, two almost frozen feet

Winter Attire

By Aidan, Grade 4

How well bedecked the trees become
When dressed in winter's gown.
They wear snowflakes upon their branches
And reflect sun rays beaming down.

We are excited to bring you poems, reflections, short stories, or artwork by young voices in our community. If you have some pieces for consideration, please let us know by contacting us at pcrisano@bestversionmedia.com.

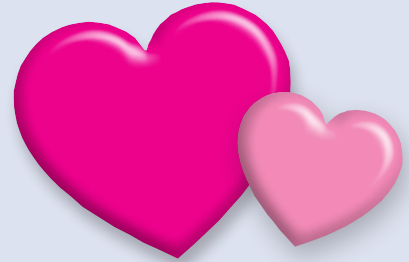
February, My Favorite

By Robert, Grade 3

February is so wonderfully weird
Less days than all the others
Usually 28, sometimes 29 days

Cold and icy, brown and gray
The light is short but getting longer
And yet -

February, is accepted as - it - is - different from all others
Thanks to St. Valentine, February reminds us to celebrate LOVE.
Yes, February is my favorite!



Snowflake Bentley

By Micheala, Grade 6

On his Vermont farm
In this snowy place
Willie Bentley
Watched falling lace

On dark mittens
He could see
Only seconds long,
Immense beauty

Melting right before his eyes
How could he show these great delights
Camera could catch what he did spy
And project this lace with strong bright lights

To show the world disappearing masterpieces
Willie Bentley did passionately strive
And until 1885 brought the beauty
Of unique snowflakes alive

*"I found that snowflakes were masterpieces of design. No one design was ever repeated. When a snowflake melted... just that much beauty was gone, without leaving any record behind."
~Willie Bentley.*

Read *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and illustrated by Mary Azarian. Write your own poem and send it to us.

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