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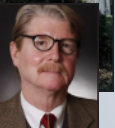
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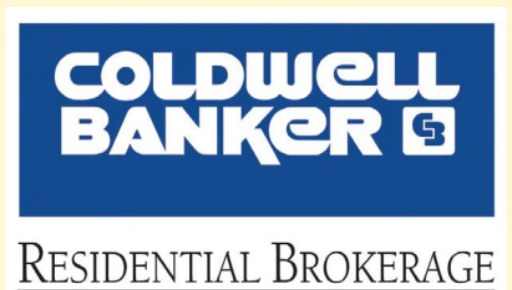
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ON THE COVER



This South Orange home was designed by architect Milton Klein. Photo by Julia Verderosa. Story begins on page 10.

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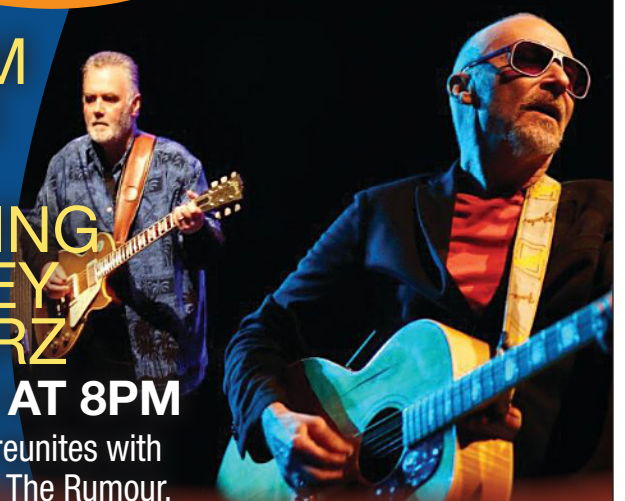
10TH ANNIVERSARY

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GRAHAM PARKER DUO FEATURING BRINSLEY SCHWARZ

FRI, APR 8 AT 8PM

The British rocker reunites with his bandmate from The Rumour, Brinsley Schwarz. Expect an eclectic—and electric—mix from The Rumour, and Graham Parker's solo career.



AN ACOUSTIC EVENING WITH JOHN HIATT

SUN, MAY 1 AT 7:30PM

One of the most respected singer-songwriters in the business, Grammy Award-winning John Hiatt continues at the top of his game with his new CD *Terms of My Surrender*. Always a keen observer of life's flings and foibles alike, usually mixed well together, Hiatt's insights and skills at sharing them have only sharpened over the years.

ARLO GUTHRIE'S "ALICE'S RESTAURANT" 50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

WED, MAY 11 AT 7:30PM

Come and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of one of the most iconic, and hilarious, songs in American music. Hear Arlo weave the tale of actual events that precluded him from military service in 1966.

JUSTIN HAYWARD: THE VOICE OF THE MOODY BLUES

SUN, MAY 22 AT 7:30PM

Justin Hayward's voice has been heard the world over and is a talent that has helped soundtrack more than a generation and created a legacy that remains undimmed.

ATLANTIC CITY BALLET'S CARMEN

SAT, APR 9 AT 8PM

The classic tale of passion, betrayal and murder set to the seductive score by Bizet, with breathtaking choreography by Artistic Director Phyllis Papa.

RITA WILSON

FRI, APR 29 AT 8PM

Though well-known as an actress, Rita Wilson is also a gifted singer. Her second album, *Rita Wilson*, releases this month.

JUAN DEMARCOS & THE AFRO-CUBAN ALL STARS FEATURING MEMBERS OF THE BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB

SAT, APR 30 AT 8PM

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Brotherly Love

Celebrating siblings on April 10

BY KAREN DUNCAN

Years ago, while visiting the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, I first saw the Eugène Carrière painting *La Grande Soeur*. It brought me to tears. The young girl seated at her mother's feet is being lovingly embraced by her baby sibling. *The Big Sister* was then and remains my favorite painting. Ever.

I am a big sister. Three times over. My youngest brother was born when I was 13. He had severe medical and learning issues. My parents were remarkable and while faced with enormous challenges provided an extraordinary life for him right up to the very end of his short 26 years. My other brothers and I were our baby brother's defender, his protector, his teacher, his champion. We taught him to swim, to ride a bike, to tie his shoes, all which took him till he was nearly 12 to comprehend. The bond between siblings is more pronounced when one of them has a lifelong illness or a disability.


Siblings Day was started in 1997 by Manhattanite Claudia Evart after losing both her sister and brother at an early age. She wanted to honor the special bond she felt with her siblings. The Siblings Day Foundation is a public nonprofit charity devoted to perpetuating and celebrating Siblings Day on April 10. It advocates sending our sibling a card or gift; making a phone call or dinner invitation; performing a good deed, favor, errand or chore; and in cases of deceased siblings, consciously holding them in our memory.

For the past three years the Siblings Day trend has gone viral on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and, for the first time last year, Google+ and Tumblr! It featured those who honored the day by

posting comments and pictures of their families, all in a jubilant, celebratory mood. Some of the photos are hilarious, some are beautiful.

The governors in 49 states (with the exception of California, a bit ironic to me as both my brothers live in California) have formally recognized celebrating a National Siblings Day. There have been supporters in Congress and the White House since the late '90s. Siblings Day has the backing of many celebrities and is noted worldwide in 35 countries in 21 languages.

A sibling is often your first friend, your first enemy. Many are best friends, as I am with my two brothers. They are the glue in my life. I have loved them from the day they were born, even if I was perhaps initially a bit disappointed, three times, that none of them was a girl. My brothers and I talk often and see each other as frequently as we can given that we live 3000 miles from each other. Our parents are now gone and we enjoy reminiscing about them and our long-gone baby brother. We will celebrate Siblings Day with a group call, and to toast our father whose birthday just happens to be April 10 as well.

And if I ever get back to Paris, I will visit my painting. I will always be my three baby brothers' big sister. They are three of the most precious gifts in my life. 

Center: Karen Duncan with her three younger brothers, 1971; and with her two brothers in California, 2014. Top: Eugène Carrière's La Grande Soeur in the Musée d'Orsay, Paris.



The Buzz



South Orange Performing Arts Center, One SOPAC Way, South Orange, unveils the latest in its rotating series of visual art exhibitions in the **Herb & Milly Iris Gallery** at SOPAC. On view through April 30 is *SPIRITED*, an exhibit featuring paintings by artists Alberte Bernier and Ritch Gaiti and curated by Micha Hamilton. This exhibition is a celebration of the energy, enthusiasm and determination of character, outlook and mood beyond the perceived limitations, and often opposing ideals, of nature vs. nurture. The artwork on exhibit is for sale with partial proceeds supporting SOPAC. For more information call 973-313-2787 or visit sopacnom.org.



Apache Dawn by Ritch Gaiti is part of the *SPIRITED* exhibit at the Herb & Milly Iris Gallery at SOPAC.

The 16th Annual **New Jersey Jewish Film Festival** will feature 18 new international films at

JCC Metrowest in West Orange and other local theaters from March 26 through April 10. The selections for this year's festival are more diverse than ever, with documentaries and feature films from seven countries. Many films will include post-screening discussions, such as *How to Win Enemies*, the opening night caper, whose star, Carla Quevedo, is

Molly Matters

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A Tale of Love and Darkness, starring and directed by Natalie Portman, will be part of the New Jersey Jewish Film Festival starting March 26.



invited to appear. Other highlights include *Rabin in His Own Words* on April 3 and *Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Shalom Aleichem* on April 6. Moviegoers can choose from evening and matinee screenings at the JCC, 760 Northfield Avenue in West Orange or other area venues including Bowtie Cinemas in South Orange, where *Firebirds* will be screened on March 30 and acclaimed Israeli melodrama, *The Kind Words*, on April 6. See complete listings at jccmetrowest.org/njiff; to purchase tickets call 973-530-3417 or visit boxofficetickets.com/jccmetrowest.

SOMSD parents and guardians, March 29 at 7 p.m. at Columbia High School. Parents will learn how to 'plan backwards' to help get their students where they want to be as seniors. The workshop offers proven strategies for early college planning as well as examining other post-high school paths, special education and how to manage the demands of sports. The Coalition's next date in the Coffee House Discussions, an ongoing series to engage residents in timely small-group discussions on issues related to race, will be March 31 at 7 p.m. at the Rack, 1844 Springfield Avenue, Maplewood. On April 19 at 7 p.m., Dr. Khyati Joshi, editor of *Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice*, will be the presenting speaker at the Community Cultural Competency Workshop on the value and celebration of cultural differences and the development of personal and interpersonal cultural awareness. Dr. Joshi's areas of expertise include immigrant and second-generation Americans in K-12 education, religion in schools, multicultural education and race in America. For more information call 973-761-6116 or visit twotowns.org.

The South Orange-Maplewood Adult School presents *Likely Stories: Actors and Short Stories Onstage* on March 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Columbia High School Auditorium, 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood. Formerly known as *Celebrity Readings*, *Likely Stories* is an evening of storytelling that was inspired by Isaiah Sheffer's *Selected Shorts at Symphony Space*. The written words come alive when "performed" by great actors. Actors Emily Zacharias (who will also direct), Ami Babson and Charlie Pollock will all be performing. To register, call 973-378-7620 or visit somadulthoodschool.org.

The Community Coalition on Race schools committee will host *Planning Ahead*, a workshop developed and presented by parents for the benefit of middle school students, free and open to all



The South Orange Maplewood Adult School presents *Likely Stories: Actors and Short Stories on Stage* featuring local actor Charlie Pollock.

Local actress Emily Zacharias will direct and perform *Likely Stories: Actors and Short Stories on Stage* at Columbia High School on March 28.

This Summer I will be a clown in the circus, dance in the sprinkler, ride a pony in a rodeo, sing songs around the campfire, jump through hoops, view wildlife in my binoculars, play the saxophone, learn to "downward dog", make ice cream, and send a rocket to the moon. You can too ...

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The Community Coalition on Race hosts its third coffee house discussion on March 31 at the Rack on Springfield Avenue in Maplewood.

The South Orange Performing Arts Center continues its season with a kids' favorite, *The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)* on April 2 at 2 p.m.; *Juilliard @ SOPAC: Nicolas Namoradze* on April 3 at 3 p.m.; *Blues in the Loft: Eliza Neals* on April 3 at 7 p.m.; *Graham Parker Duo Featuring Brinsley Schwarz* on April 8 at 8 p.m.; *Atlantic City Ballet's Carmen* on April 9 at 8 p.m.; *Jazz in the Loft: James Gibbs III* on April 17 at 7 p.m.; *Rita Wilson* on April 29 at 8 p.m.; *Juan de Marcos & the Afro-Cuban All Stars Featuring Members of the Buena Vista Social Club* on April 30 at 8 p.m.; and "An Acoustic Evening with John Hiatt" on May 1 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets and detailed information call 973-313-2787 or visit sopacnom.org.

Author Roald Dahl's *The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)* comes to life with puppets and people at SOPAC on April 2.



State Repertory Opera presents Mozart's masterpiece *The Marriage of Figaro* on April 2 at 2 p.m., Memorial Auditorium, Montclair State University, 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair. The opera will be sung in Italian with English supertitles. This semi-staged production with full cast, chorus and members of the Society of Musical Arts orchestra will feature South Orange resident Mark Fitzgerald as the Count. For tickets and more information call 973-763-7969 or visit njsro.com.

The debut book of nonfiction writer **Laura Tillman, *The Long Shadow of Small Ghosts: Murder and Memory in an American City***, tells the story of the people of Brownsville, Texas, a border town and one of the poorest cities in America, and their effort to cope with the acute distress caused by a crime committed by members of their own community. Tillman covered the events for the *Brownsville Herald* and became determined to get to the heart of the story. Reported with profound sensitivity and meticulous attention to nuance and detail, the

Continued on page 42



Juan de Marcos & The Afro-Cuban All Stars orchestra bring Cuban music to SOPAC on April 30.

The Atlantic City Ballet performs Carmen at SOPAC on April 9.

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MAKING IT HOME

Thinking of Downsizing? I Did.

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Cool Pads

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STORY BY ADRIANNA DONAT

PHOTOS BY JULIA VERDEROSA AND COURTESY OF LOIS SCHNEIDER REALTOR KERSTIN PARSCH



THE LAVELLE BEVERIDGE FAMILY BY LISA RAYMAN GOLDFARB PHOTOGRAPHY



Architect's original vellum rendering of the house, a prized possession of Beveridge.



A VIEW FROM THE COURTYARD INTO THE MASTER BEDROOM. PHOTO BY JULIA VERDEROSA

If you could see past the secluded entrance, you would notice the Beveridge Lavelle home right away. It's the one that looks as though it got lost on its way to the Berkeley hills.

Unlike its Colonial-style neighbors, it is built into a wooded hill, has entire walls of glass, and sits on an acre and a half of completely wooded land. Our area has a sprinkling of these mid-century modern buildings, and many of them were built by acclaimed local architect Milton Klein.

Architect and interior decorator Kristen Beveridge, her husband Adam Lavelle, and their kids Atticus and Caius loved their family's newly renovated home on North Terrace. "We were happy with our very traditional home. We had no plans to leave," she says. "Our only knock on our house was that we really wanted an open floor plan," something their house unfortunately wasn't built to accommodate.

But Beveridge received a call from a realtor, who is also a close friend. A new house had just come on the market, and she insisted Kristen see it.

"The moment I walked in, my mood changed. The house creates a feeling of calm and serenity," says Beveridge. "It felt like being in a tree house."

And very different from the homes surrounding it. This house did indeed offer an open floor plan; built around a courtyard, it celebrates nature by showing it off with wall-sized windows and materials that echo the environment beyond, yet somehow remains secluded from the outside

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Reviews (33)
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Monica Indart
8/7/2015 | Helped me sell a home

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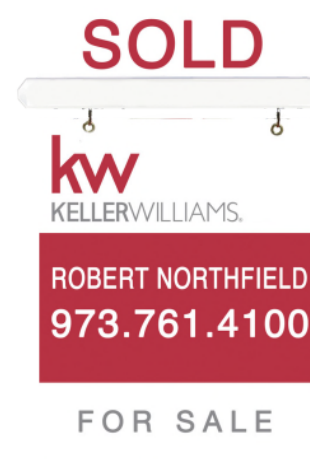
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The living room above and the bar area lower right.

*“Milton Klein
has been a hero
of mine since
architecture
school.”*

-Kristen Beveridge



Original details remain, such as the front door knob





world – all hallmarks of the mid-century modern architectural style.

“Imagine how surprised and happy I was to learn the house was built by Milton Klein,” says Beveridge, calling him “a hero of mine since architecture school.”

And he’s a local, living in South Orange, and building homes in our area, since 1956. He retired in 2012 after completing his last house in Livingston, but his firm continues under the direction of his son, Allan, out of an office in Mountainside.

“My first project was in Ridgewood in 1956,” says Klein. “My clients were interesting with creative minds. Their attitudes are reflected in the home I built for them. And mid-century modern is what was going on at that point.”

Tract housing was very popular as Klein began his career. And in our own towns, traditional housing stock is prevalent. But neither style called to Klein.

“Tract house builders had little respect for architecture; developers were unsophisticated in design and preferred to copy each other,” Klein explains. “And many people have nostalgia for historical styles, but those styles [don’t take advantage of] current techniques and technologies,” he continues.

So Klein developed his talent working with the new materials and design techniques that are emblematic of mid-century modern. He counts a “few dozen” homes he designed



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A collection of Milton Klein homes



This stunning Palm Beach, Florida lakefront estate, remarkable for its extraordinary scale and expansive living areas, was built in 1986 by Milton Klein, with a total restoration in 2008.



Renovated by Deborah Berke Partners in 2015, Milton Klein designed this 1960s house in Rye, NY



Designed by architect Milton Klein, this seven-bedroom house is in Palm Beach, FL. (Photo by Andy Frame, for the Corcoran Group)

in this area, and they all took advantage of these new ideas. The relatively new use of post and beam construction, for example, allowed architects to eliminate some support walls for wide open floor plans and enabled them to create walls of windows.

Says Klein, “People with pioneering spirits migrated to the west coast seeking a less-traditional lifestyle and less traditional [homes] in the 1950s and ’60s” – why so many mid-century modern homes can be seen in the hills of California.


But Klein instead chose to design and build here because he could find “extraordinary sites yielding great architectural results” in our area.

Beveridge is delighted with the architectural results in her home. “The scale of the rooms is large,” she says. “And it’s clean. You don’t feel a need to fill it with a lot of tchotchkes.”

An added bonus is what’s not part of the open design: the kitchen. “That means that our kitchen can be a mess, and it’s ok. No one can see it,” Beveridge says with a smile. “That’s just one of the reasons the house is great for entertaining.”

Even when you’re not entertaining, her home is made to please. “We are so well integrated into the landscape that you feel very in touch with nature,” says Beveridge, while gesturing towards the extra-large courtyard. “You can get outside from almost every room.”

The original design plans for her 1967 Milton Klein home are one of Beveridge’s prized possessions. “It’s been a delightful journey uncovering the history of this house,” she says. She hasn’t met Klein yet, but has invited him for a spring tour of the property.

“I’m happy to meet him and show him the house he built that has become our refuge and home,” she says. 

Adrianna Donat is a freelance writer whose pre-modern refuge is in Maplewood.



Designed and built in 1983 by Milton Klein, Twin Ponds in Bedford Hills, NY, was the vision of Robin Roberts, the late interior designer who founded the legendary Manhattan fabric and wallpaper firm Clarence House in 1961.



Built in 1981, this white Palm Beach, Florida home measures 5,265 square feet and is all clean lines and tight angles.

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Tudor Revival



They rolled up their sleeves and renovated their first home.

STORY BY BEN SALMON

PHOTOS BY JULIA VERDEROSA



The kitchen renovation includes reclaimed oak, salvaged materials and graphic porcelain tile in mixed prints, elements which echo through the home.



She is an architectural designer with a passion for materials and an eye for mixing them together in interesting ways. He is classic car collector with a flair for the handy and a penchant for rolling up his sleeves. Together, they spent two and a half years breathing life into the 1928 Tudor revival they live in with their just-turned-one-year-old daughter, Beatrice, their French water dog, Webster, and some of their collection of classic BMW cars ranging from 1982 to 2003.

The Graffs love the challenge of fusing the old with the new. They have an eclectic style that highlights the contrasting materials they're passionate about, from industrial metal to reclaimed wood and beams to polished marble. Their aesthetic is best encapsulated in the living room, where a 17th century chair with its original leather sits next to a sleek British designer couch with a gleaming West Elm coffee table between them. "We collect pieces we like from a design point of view and mix them together," she said. "It tells a story about us." Vintage touches with a nod to the past are woven into modern elements throughout the home.

By day, Cristina is a senior associate at the architecture firm SYA in Brooklyn and was excited to become her own client. "When you do work for yourself," she said, "you're your own tough client. It comes from deep within." Her husband, Chris, works in risk management at AIG. Their individual passions have blurred around the edges, with her developing affection for classic cars and him falling in love with architecture.

They migrated to their four-bedroom, three-bathroom South Orange home in 2010. "Cristina's new dressing room is bigger than her entire bedroom on the Upper West Side," Chris chuckled. The tight-knit community, easy commute and need of garage space for their collection drew them away from Manhattan and into South Orange/Maplewood.




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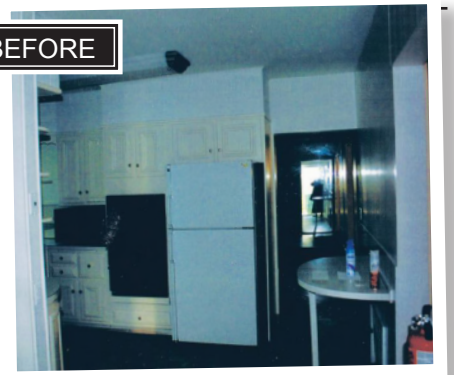
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KITCHEN BEFORE



Baby Beatrice's room.

DRESSING ROOM BEFORE



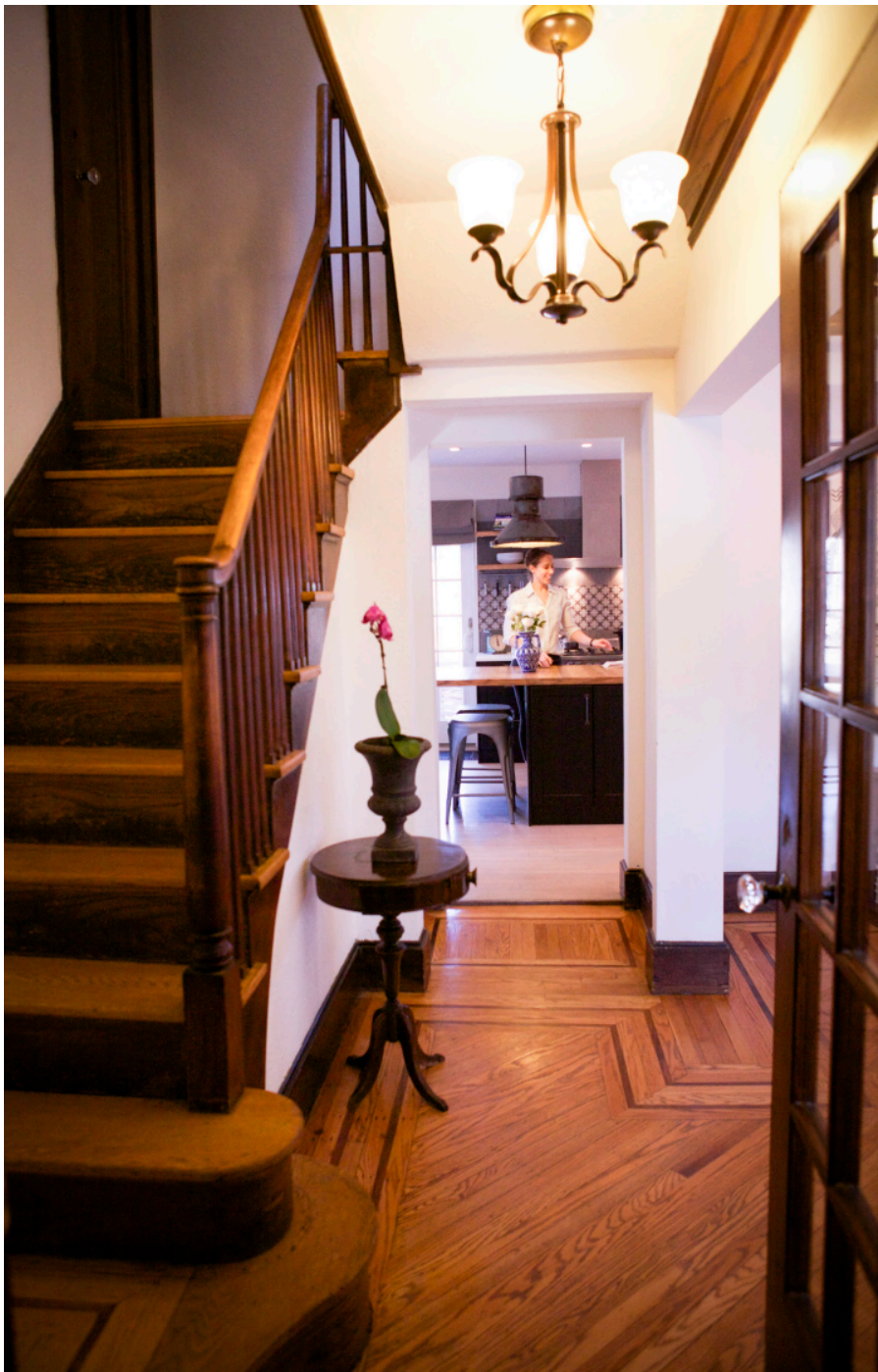
Dressing room off the Master Bedroom



It took them one year and 60 home tours before they found the house for them. “At some point, I realized you’re never going to get everything you want, even with a fixer-upper,” Chris said. “There was only a one-car garage but the house had good bones.” It was one of the larger homes in their price range but the stucco was falling, there wasn’t a leaf of landscaping and the kitchen had seen better days. “The kitchen was the first thing we did together as a married couple,” Chris said.

So they tore down walls, combined the kitchen and eating nook, put in a sliding glass door, ripped out four layers of linoleum, and moved the range and the sink. They used Calacatta gold marble, reclaimed oak and graphic porcelain tile in mixed prints, elements of which echo through the house, from the foyer to a powder room they built into dead space in the garage. The original pendant hanging over the island is a nod to their penchant for the industrial and the black cabinets are representative of their modern aesthetic.

While there is still some work they’d like to do on their North Western Drive home, the Graffs are leaving their fingerprints throughout the house and outside of it. In addition to landscaping, they took down the awning that adorned the front door and built a stoop that ties into the facade by parroting the peak of the roof. In the dining room, they took down giant floor-to-ceiling mirrors and put a window back in that




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Chris, Cristina and Beatrice Graff with Winston



Top and right: the Living Room. Center left, the Powder Room. Above, the home as it looks today, with one of Chris's restored cars out front.




BEFORE



They took down the awning that adorned the front door and built a stoop that ties into the facade by parroting the peak of the roof

was taken out at some point in the home's history; it matches the others by style and wood. The Graffs refinished the mixed-wood diagonal floors and borders to their original glory and painted the mantel of the working fireplace in two tones to tie into the floor's detail. The dressing room upstairs is complete with custom built-ins, a window seat and a casual drape of the curtain. The bathroom off the nursery boasts a beautiful basalt slab shower with oversized head and a custom frameless glass enclosure. Materials reign king in this home, one of the original houses on the block.

What's next for this young couple? They itch to renovate again, they admit with conspiratorial grins. The Graffs want a little more elbow room for their family, and significantly more garage space for their cars. Not to mention the shared passion they have both for the chase and for the challenge. Cristina is eager to put even more of her own design stamp on the next project and Chris hankers for the space to house a late 70s or early 80s Mercedes SL Roadster he'd love to add to his collection. 

Ben Salmon is a writer, trend forecaster and the owner of Kitchen a la Mode, named best kitchen store in New Jersey by NJ Monthly three years in a row.

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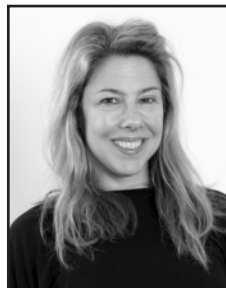


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The living room of this 1950s ranch in South Orange.



Ranch Dressing

Reviving a mid-century treasure in Newstead

BY KAREN DUNCAN

John and Kathy Ike have owned several homes locally, so renovating to suit their taste is something they are very good at handling. When they sold their Hickory Drive home in Maplewood they set their sights on finding a true mid-century fixer-upper. Realtor Natalie Farrell of Weichert Maplewood found them exactly that.

“The pool was a big selling feature,” says John. As were the bones of the ranch style home. The Ikes knew what needed immediate attention, and that included new windows and flooring to bring it to a more modern livable state. But they kept the basic floor plan in place.

“The previous owners were party people,” says Kathy; by comparison, the Ikes claim, they really aren’t. The house flows beautifully for entertaining and while the Ikes did host John’s New York staff late last summer, big parties are not part of their plans.

The front entrance hallway



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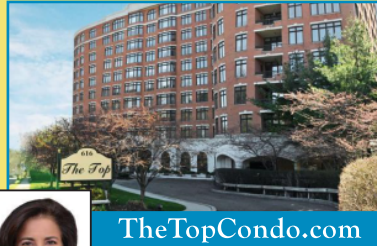
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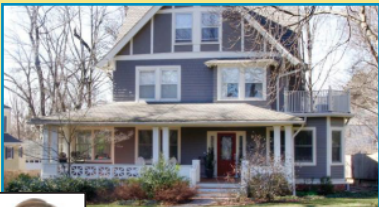
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BEFORE

The kitchen footprint remained largely the same with just some modern updates.

The original bar in the study is straight out of Mad Men





The original Rath





Rathskeller basement.



BEFORE

The entry hall before and after renovation.

What did appeal to them, however, was embracing an era. They chose to keep the majority of the original kitchen, including the iconic clock over the oven, replacing the counter tops and the flooring. The original cabinets were refinished.

The main bath was remodeled with stunning taupe, white and black tile. The floor tile resembles the Burberry signature plaid. New tile is featured in the entranceway, with a fierce coat of orange paint on the front door.

The living room got the biggest facelift, with the original stone fireplace now extended to the ceiling and covered in blue glass panels. The Ikes gave the den a dramatic lacquer finish to the ceiling, while keeping the original wall paneling, the built-into-the-cabinet wall clock, and the sensational “Mad Men” bar.

The enclosed sun porch room still has the ‘50s phonograph, in working order, and the home’s original rattan furniture. “We bought it all from the owners,” Kathy says. They plan to update it a bit with their personal style.

Perhaps one of the most unusual and sensational features of the home is its original basement Rathskeller. A dozen leather bar stools surround the 20-foot bar. Bright orange banquet benches press against the knotty-pine paneled walls along with a collection of tables and matching orange chairs which are lined up, ready for a retro gathering. The checkerboard linoleum flooring, the lighting – every detail is in impeccable original condition.

Now comfortably in their new home the Ikes are content to enjoy their first full summer with the glorious outdoor pool and expansive yard. Kathy enjoys gardening and her talents are already evident. Best of all is that this home gave them exactly what they wanted: to stay local. 🇺🇸

Karen Duncan is pretty sure she attended a sweet sixteen party in 1969 in an exact replica of the Ike’s basement.

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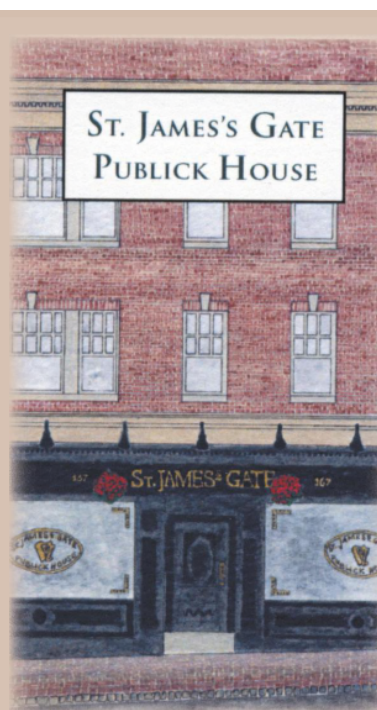
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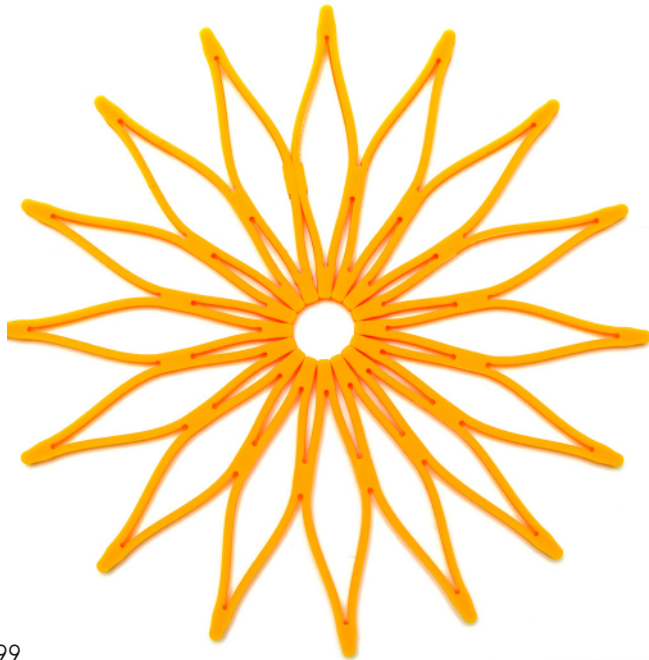
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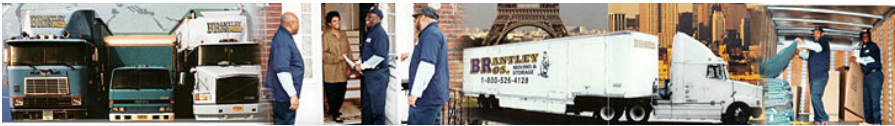
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Sam and Eddie Bocconcelli in 1987 by their recognizable 1968 Chevy C20 blue pickup truck [which Sam still uses today] in front of Sam's front porch.



Sam's Gardens

From a war zone to smelling the roses

BY SHARON MARK COHEN

Sitting on his open front porch facing Grove Park, in South Orange, “Sam,” – born Sebastino Bocconcelli, – pinpoints his birthplace on the map: San Salvo, a small agricultural town bordering the Adriatic Sea, 278 kilometers east of Rome, a city he has never seen.

His earliest childhood memories in San Salvo are pleasant as he and his brother, Egidio “Eddie” captured bugs, went swimming, just enjoying being boys. Their father immigrated to the United States in 1931, a month before Sam was born, and continually sent money home, with hopes of bringing the family over. But the depression and war sidelined those plans, and by the early 1940s German and English war planes were dueling in the air overhead. Sam’s memories of the deafening sounds are vivid as he relives the horrors. His mother offered nursing aid to wounded British soldiers, and at one point there were dozens sleeping on their floors. In 1943, a shell hit their home. Finally, their father was able to bring them to the United States and in 1947 the family was reunited in New Jersey. He was 16 when he met his father the first time.

They rented a home on Church Street in South Orange. Not speaking a word of English made finding work difficult. The boys mowed lawns in the neighborhood and then in surrounding towns. In the 1950s the brothers returned to Italy to marry and bring their new brides back to South Orange. Their business grew to include landscaping and masonry work.

In 1955, after their father died, the brothers bought a home on Park Place, where Sam still lives today. A devout Catholic, Bocconcelli and his wife, Anna, attended Our Lady of Sorrows church and raised their two children, Vitalina and Mario.



Young Sam mowing a Millburn lawn in 1951




A garden Sam planted in honor of his wife, Anna

“When we first lived here women couldn’t shop in South Orange Village in shorts...it wasn’t allowed,” Bocconcelli recalls of their earliest years in town. “The women would wear shorts only at home and people would say, ‘I have to change, I have to go to the store.’”


In 1967, Bocconcelli completed a prestigious series of landscaping and horticulture courses at Rutgers College of Agriculture in New Brunswick. His certification took three years of evening classes during the winter months, and resulted in him gaining valuable knowledge for fertilizer and landscape maintenance. With his artist’s eye, he trims a branch like a surgeon.

The brothers built a strong business, worked hard and built loyal customers. They had lunch together every day, sometimes sitting under a shady tree on the lawn they were tending. Eddie died in 1997, and while Bocconcelli was devastated, he carried on the business alone.

“Hiring workers was difficult,” he says. He preferred to work solo, and then handling fewer accounts, but never skimping on the quality of his services. He has tended the roses in Taylor Park in Millburn for decades. And he’s created and maintained stunning gardens in Montrose. Today in his 80s he’s not quite as active, but still thoroughly enjoys being personally involved with the properties of longtime customers.

Since Anna’s death in 2014 he now eats and goes to church alone. He enjoys time with his three grandchildren. And he can reflect with pride on a long life as a true botanical artist. 

Sharon Mark Cohen is a genealogist/writer and empty nester times three, who lives in South Orange Village with her husband.




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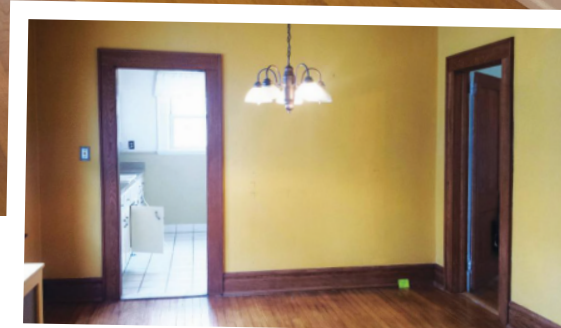
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Bungalow



The wall color is Benjamin Moore Quiet Moments ~ a soft, blue-gray which Spangler believes inspires moments of quiet meditation. The kitchen cabinets go to the ceiling, which she feels is important, especially in a small home. They are all wood, custom European style and painted in the color Harbor Grey. The backsplash is designed with water blue glass tiles. The counter tops are quartz white cloud.





ow Nest

NEST: A snug retreat or refuge;
resting place; home.

BY KAREN DUNCAN

STAGING BY LEAH GOMBERG, SWEET LIFE BY DESIGN

When the last of Rena Spangler’s three children went off to college it was time to downsize from their South Orange home. Spangler’s intent was to move to a smaller, more manageable house. When she found her 1924 bungalow in Maplewood, she was undaunted by its need for a serious renovation. As a local realtor she often works with clients who can envision what a home could become with some work.

“I saw the potential,” she explains. And she dove right in, taking down the walls to make it her own.

A bungalow typically is all one level, no stairs. Spangler redesigned the space, dividing it into what she calls the public area – the living room, dining room and kitchen – versus the private area. Spangler relocated the one full bath to the center of the house, configuring it between two bedrooms and adding a hallway to make up this private space. The front bedroom she uses as a study, outfitted with comfy velvet sofa and television. In the front part of this room there is also a workspace area, which is bathed in light.

Every decision was carefully thought out. French doors were added to the kitchen, which allows easy flow to the back yard and a new deck. “The aim was to see to the back of the home from the front,” she says.

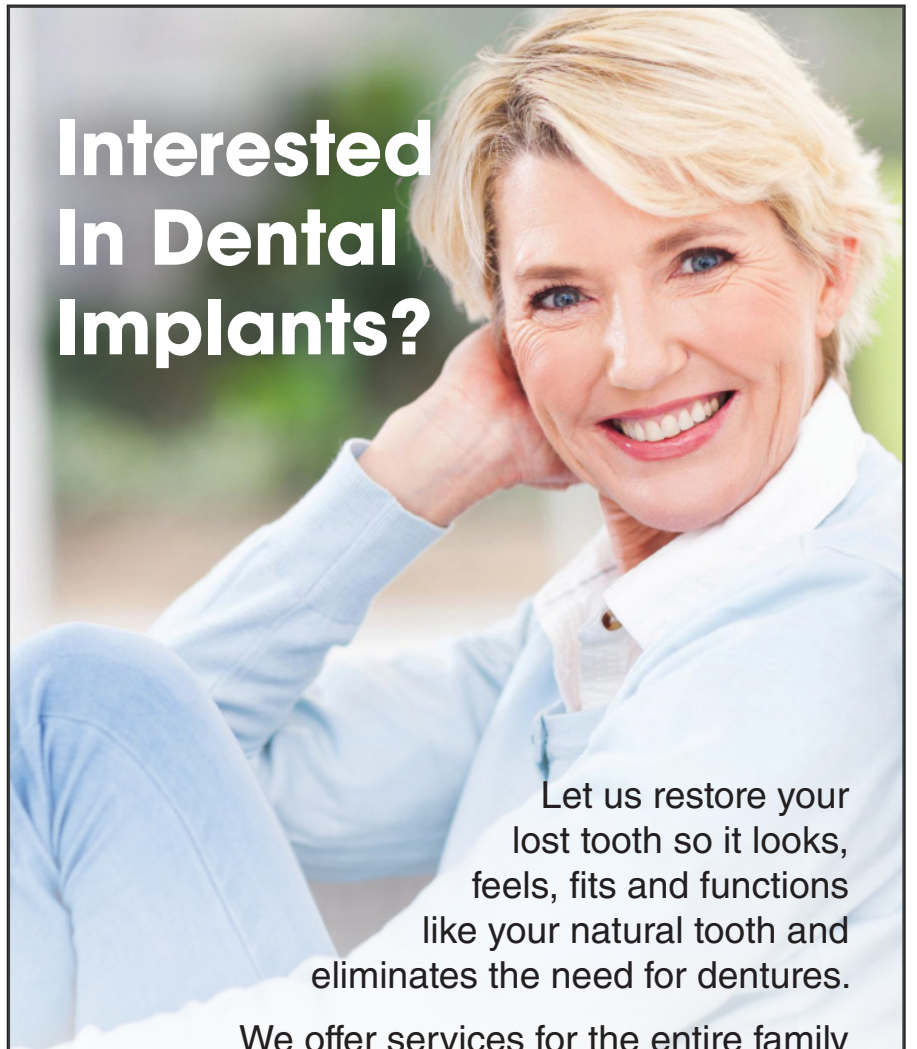
When the old aluminum siding was removed Spangler and her contractor were delighted to discover transom windows, which she promptly restored. Many of the windows in the home needed to be replaced, but they discovered perfectly good wood siding under all that exterior aluminum. With a great deal of sanding, and then paint, they now look as they were originally intended.

The original wood flooring had no subfloor, so it had to be ripped out. It gave Spangler the opportunity to choose wide-plank white oak, which was installed throughout the home.

BEFORE PHOTOS show that a wall separated the living room from the kitchen.



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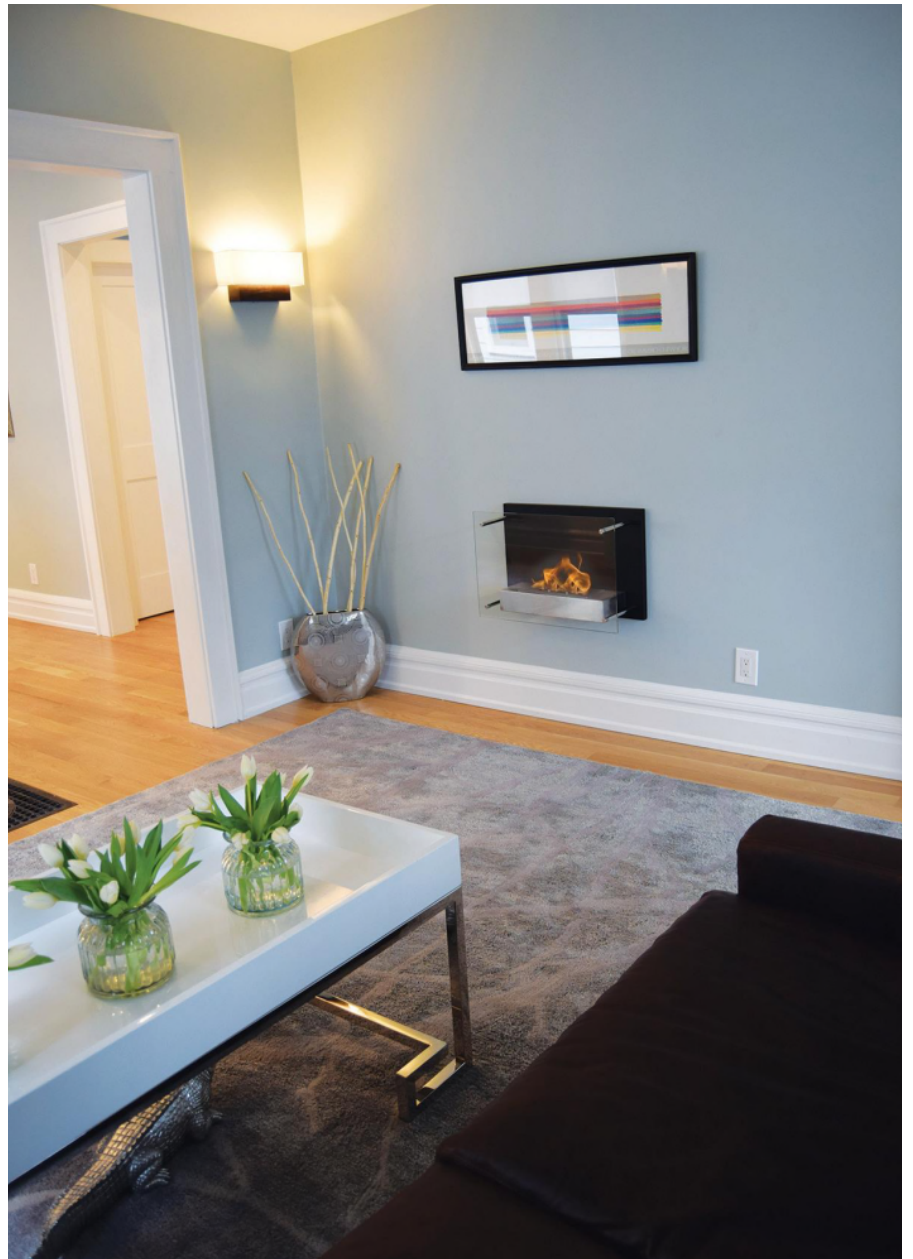
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Santa Margarita Pinot Grigio 750 ML	\$20.99
Woodbridge All types 1.5L	\$10.99

Limited to store inventory. Not responsible for typographical errors.



The living room features a ventless ethanol fireplace.

The study is painted Gossamer Blue






Exterior colors are Benjamin Moore Chelsea Gray with Waynesboro Taupe trim and the door in Dark Purple



Past the front door is an enclosed porch that is welcoming and convenient for guests.

There is a full basement, with a half bath plus the laundry area. Spangler's son is often home from college, so she has plans for renovating that space for him.

Her office, just down her street at Weichert Maplewood on Valley Street, is an easy and convenient commute. Spangler feels that renovating a home in need of work adds value to your neighborhood and your community and recommends it to anyone who is willing to have a little patience and some imagination. 

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Clawson Cabinets

Marvin Clawson, René Clawson

145 Dunnell Road, Maplewood | 973-313-2721 | clawsoncabinets.com

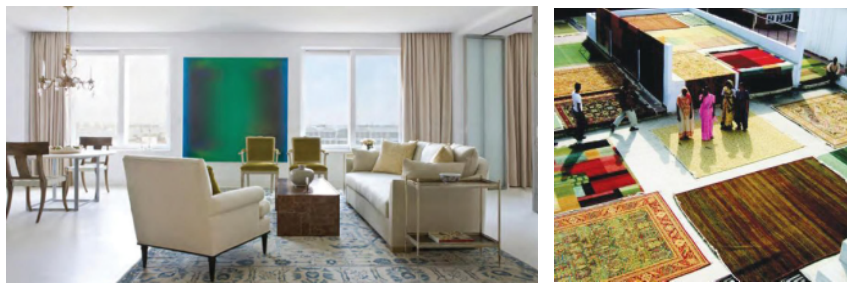
Marvin and René Clawson have introduced a new business. For years they have recommended this line of cabinetry and are now official dealers for Masterbrands' Kemper and Decora lines. Clawson Cabinets showcases these extensive lines in their Dunnell showroom, which is open by appointment.

Clawson Cabinets offer superior quality and style flexibility. They have invested in training and factory visits which allows clients to customize their look with full overlay or inset cabinets in infinite combinations and finishes. The Dunnell show room features completed projects and samples of all the options.

Certified by the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association, these products have been named #1 in North America and are certified by the Environmental Stewardship Program.

Featured above (left) is a white vanity: Decora Prescott, a painted white, full overlay cabinet. René and Marvin Clawson stand in front of a wet bar in a Media Room they designed. The cabinets are Prescott Beaded-Inset Cherrywood stained sepia. And below, a full overlay cabinet – Whiteman door in white. This kitchen was completed in 2004 and this Maplewood client raves the kitchen has withstood an active family and still looks great!





Michaelian & Kohlberg

Teddy Sumner

100 Hoffman Place, #1, Hillside | 908-522-1004 | michaelian.com

There is something magical about getting inside a warehouse. Founded in 1921, Michaelian & Kohlberg specializes in high-end carpets and textiles. Available primarily to the trade and in showrooms worldwide, local residents can now visit the exclusive warehouse just a short ride away in Hillside, NJ. Peruse vast selections of rugs, fabrics, furniture and European and Asian accessories.

Today it's run by Teddy Sumner, grandson of the founder Frank Michaelian. Sumner travels the world bringing Michaelian and Kohlberg sophisticated, design-forward products – a fresh, contemporary palate in a vast array of colors and in various weaves, price points and styles. Sumner won two product categories in last year's Atlanta Rug Awards, focusing on traditional design and materials with fashion forward colors and modern "organic design", exploiting new materials executed with the attention to processing and coloration that has set this company apart.

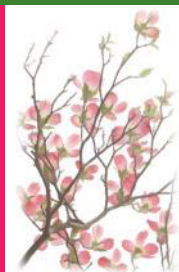
The fabrics are linen and cotton based and suitable for a wide variety of applications such as upholstery, bedding and window treatments. The patterns are block-printed and silk-screened and designed and made by masterful artists and come in many different colors and print scales.

The warehouse is open Monday to Saturday by appointment. Or visit the online store mkrugshoppe.com



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Wilber's offers safe removal of lead-based paint and thorough daily clean-up, color paint selection assistance and 100 percent customer satisfaction. No job is too small or too large. Their staff will work continually until full completion of every project—always offering timely communication with customers.

Carpentry services at Wilber's include molding installation, stairs, decks, basements, porches, kitchens and baths. Interior work includes wood stripping, plastering, drywall repairs, wallpaper removal and installation, staining/refinishing and skim coating. Exterior work includes power washing, staining, siding repairs, sanding to 95 percent of the bare wood and window replacement.

The Wilber's team has received the Angie's List Super Service Award for the last 6 consecutive years and is fully insured. They pride themselves on unparalleled service. They look forward to hearing from you regarding your next project.





Sweet Life by Design

Leah Gomberg

169 Maplewood Avenue | 973-762-3100 973-985-8282 | sweetlifebydesign.com

The value of good staging when selling your home can not be disputed. Since 2006, Leah Gomberg, a proud Maplewood resident and involved community member, has been improving the overall appearance, and thus the sale potential for the Maplewood/South Orange and surrounding markets. She brings the important skills for the delicate task of transforming a lived-in or vacant house into a market-ready home that appeals to prospective buyers.

Staged homes typically sell for 17 percent above asking price. Even if you are not selling immediately the value of beginning the process of decluttering is important. As Leah advises, "If you are not taking it with you, it's time to get rid of it." Leah's sense of design lends itself to creating an environment that is what a buyer seeks. The transformation is often astounding. It can be as simple as furniture placement or as vast as repainting and bringing in furniture pieces. She also offers interior design services and paint color consultations as wall color is often a critical component to proper staging.

Many satisfied staging clients choose her to make the design decisions in their new homes. Whether it's for home staging or design, Sweet Life's goal is to make your home look its absolute best.



A living room before, below, and after, left.



A dining room before, below and after, right.



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Spring Matters!

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Florence Weisz (top left) with granddaughter, Bess Weisz. Gallery visitors.

Gallery 103, located at GERALYN'S Art Studio, 103 Baker Street in Maplewood Village, will be exhibiting Florence Weisz's "Sensuous Stripes" from April 3 through May 5. A reception for the artist, free and open to the public, will be held April 7 from 7 to 9 pm. Everyone is invited to wear their own favorite striped clothing.

"My obsessive interest in stripes began a few years ago during a trip to China," she explains. From her Chinese guide to a little gray-haired lady in a farming village, Weisz noticed many Chinese wearing clothing with striped patterns: toddlers on a playground, children in a rural school, as well as fashionably dressed women in Beijing. "My heightened awareness while traveling triggered something in me, for now I found stripes endlessly fascinating – so fascinating that I just had to include stripes in my art," says the artist.

Weisz photographs anyone wearing stripes, and many are delighted to pose in front of her stripe collages in their striped clothing. "What started as collage compositions have evolved into deeper explorations of geometric patterns integrated with expressive forms. Each composition includes details printed out from my photographs of people wearing striped clothing. In some I restrict my palette to powerful black and white images. In others works I add vibrant sections of my abstract alcohol-ink papers. Most recently I have been manipulating my striped print-outs into three-dimensional forms that play with real and illusionistic space."

Gallery 103 is encouraging local merchants to support "Stripes Awareness" by allowing them to attach a subtle black and white striped crepe paper streamer at the base of their windows. They invite businesses to feature their own striped merchandise: striped flower arrangements, striped cookies, striped fingernail designs, striped accessories – anything striped!

Weisz has been creating art for more than 30 years in a studio overlooking her garden in South Orange. After earning a degree in Fine Arts from Douglass College, Rutgers University, Weisz studied in Paris and then in Jerusalem. She has exhibited her art in museums worldwide, private galleries and alternative spaces. She is a recipient of a NJ State Council on the Arts Fellowship Award. For more information visit her website at Florence.Weisz.com. 

Seeing Stripes

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Going, Going Green

Maplewood embraces sustainability.

BY CLARE PAYTON

Sustainability: Almost a buzzword these days, but less well understood than talked about, and usually best recognized when it is conspicuously absent. When Leonardo DiCaprio gets his Oscar and tells us that climate change “is the most urgent threat facing our species,” and when, at a United Nations conference last November, 196 nations in Paris sign on to an agreement to mitigate it, what they’re talking about is decades-long neglect of sustainable practices in the industrialized nations and Third World alike.

Sustainability, simply put, is a way of living that takes a zero-sum approach to how we manage resources so as to consume no more than we replace. Its goal is to foster a culture that ensures a viable future for our planet and all its people, one that includes an equitable distribution of prosperity such that everyone has enough.

Maplewood has a long history of being innovative and forward-thinking about sustainability. Once the purview of “environmentalism,” sustainability concerns are now answered with new technologies, processes, products, and practices being discovered at a rapid pace. Maplewood’s strong commitment to embedding sustainability from the inside out uniquely positions our town to adapt and utilize the new ideas so as to be an example to the rest of our state on how to ride this wave of the future.

“Maplewood now has the opportunity to demonstrate state leadership in reaching sustainability goals, making this town a go-to destination for housing, retail, restaurants, and business,” according to Greg Lembrich, the Township Committee’s sustainability liaison. “Our enhanced reputation increases our chances of visibility and promotion across the state, thereby boosting our real estate values and the value of our products and services.” To achieve that end, Maplewood has launched its new Township Sustainability Committee (TSC), designed to ensure the long-term environmental, social, and economic well-being of our community. Working across the township’s departments and engaging community volunteers from the Maplewood Green Team and Environmental Advisory Committee, the TSC will focus on incorporating sustainability into municipal operations, policies, and practices, and guide our community’s progress in achieving mutually agreed-upon sustainability goals.


“With the TSC we now have municipal decision-makers and community stakeholders on the same page and moving in the same direction to advance sustainability,” says Mayor Vic De Luca. “The TSC reinforces Maplewood’s long commitment to being an environmental leader in New Jersey.”

One reason Maplewood is so well suited to such an initiative is its wealth of independently-owned and locally-run businesses. The Green Business Recognition Program, in partnership with the municipal government, the business alliances, and the NJDEP, makes training and expertise available to all business owners in town. There is promotion and recognition for enterprises that build sustainable practices in the areas of energy efficiency, resource conservation, waste reduction, transportation, and pollution prevention.

As Green Business Co-Chair Sheila Baker Gujral points out, “It is through greening the local businesses that we can find the cost savings that lead to more significant improvements. By strengthening the town’s local economy, we can build economic resiliency in Maplewood, allowing our town to become more commercially vibrant as well as sustainable.”

If residents are unsure about which steps to take and in which direction, the Green Team provides opportunities galore to commit to concrete sustainability goals for ourselves, our families, and our town. With a crew of dedicated volunteers (and always looking for more!), the Green Team searches holistically for pathways and shared solutions that benefit all residents. Our volunteers lead action plans and certification programs, educational events and demonstrations, always racing to achieve ambitious goals. And, all the while, we aim for the actions of many and not of one. We are community-led, because we need to go far, and go fast, for the world is fast upon us. We can learn new ways of living for the 21st century, and embrace this time in history that calls us all to civic and personal engagement.

To celebrate and focus on these goals, our town created Maplewood Green Day in 2008. It began as a simple action item for the Sustainable Jersey Certification Program (Maplewood is silver-certified), and has become the standard model for all green fairs in the state, showcasing the newest sustainability products, services, and innovations in the annual event, as well as offering numerous on-site demonstrations and educational vehicles for children and adults alike. Maplewood Green Day 2016, which will be held on June 18, promises a better-than-ever experience in calling the community to action. With a focus on active engagement, the Green Team hopes both to inspire everyone to embrace a positive vision of the future and show them how to get there.

For the truth is that what we do as individuals really does matter, especially when we can aggregate our efforts with friends and neighbors. Together, we can be, as Gandhi said, “the change [we] wish to see in the world.” 

Clare Payton is a sustainability strategist and communications expert who serves on five committees in Maplewood, as co-chair of the Green Team and Advisory Committee and a member of the Township Sustainability Committee, the Environmental Advisory Committee, and the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Committee.



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