

# EDGE

## THE HOME ALONE ISSUE

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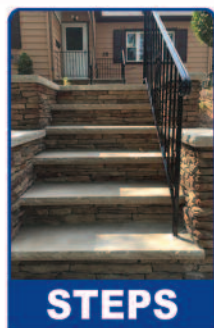
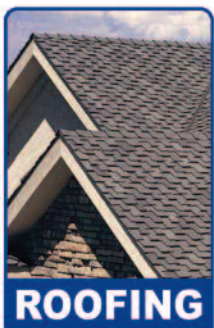
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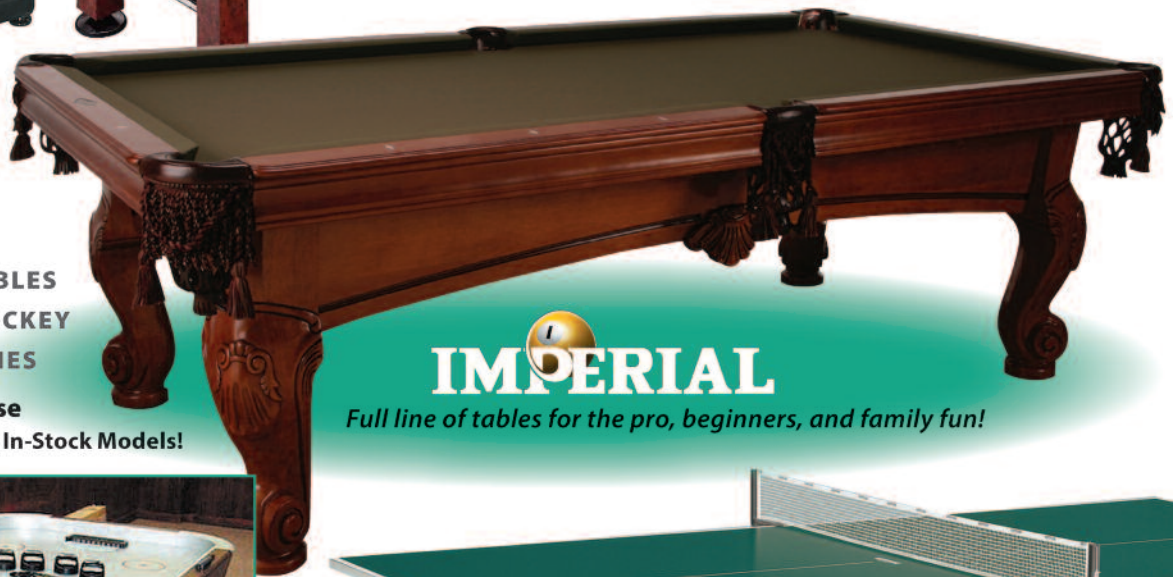
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## President's Message

Year in and year out, one of the most popular parts of EDGE is our HOME section. We make a big effort to present useful information in new and engaging ways. We decided to devote this past summer to creating an entire issue with a HOME theme, but with the usual twists, turns and knowing winks our readers have come to expect.



Naturally, we had to do a comprehensive "Where Are They Now?" story on *Home Alone*. It's just amazing how much talent was involved in that beloved 1990 film. We also scored an in-depth interview with John Heard, who played Kevin's father in *Home Alone*. Sadly, Mr. Heard passed away shortly after the Q&A. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

I am especially sad to report that we lost an invaluable member of the EDGE family this summer: Tracey Smith, who produced one great celebrity interview after another for the magazine—including Lou Gossett, Chazz Palminteri, Andrew McCarthy, Lisa Edelstein, Al Jarreau, Harry Hamlin and Dennis Haysbert. Tracey was scheduled to interview Reid Scott, who graces our cover. Her friend and colleague Mark Stewart stepped in to complete the Q&A. He's proud and pleased to say that Tracey's daughter, Ashleigh, will fill her shoes going forward, as per her mom's wishes.

On a lighter note, I think you'll have a lot of fun with this issue. We have features on the new owners of A Toute Heure in Cranford, the debate over homework in our schools, Empty Nest Syndrome and the beautifully expanded and renovated Emergency Department here at Trinitas.

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# EDGE

## restaurant

**A TOUTE HEURE**

*“Sea scallops from Barnegat Bay showed the kitchen at its height...it was another plate that neglected neither style nor substance.”*

By Andy Clurfeld

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They had me at the duck *rillettes*.

First, that this oh-so-French specialty was on tap. Next, that they were textbook: Duck meat, slow-cooked in duck fat till silky-tender, then shredded, salted, potted and topped with more fat, is preserved and released from captivity when the flavor of the duck has been *oomphed* to the nth degree, then presented with proper toasts to diners who miss the dish’s native Dordogne like Harry Connick Jr. misses New Orleans.

OK, I think to myself; you can go home again, even if the home fires aren’t being lit by the same ol’ folks.

A Toute Heure in Cranford, one of my favorite restaurants in all of the Garden State, may have a new chef and new owners, but the charms and sincerity of the plates coming out of its kitchen match that of founders Andrea and Jim Carbine, who sold the restaurant last spring.

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Photos courtesy of A Toute Heure

Today's proprietors, Nathally and Mario Florio, and their on-point chef Alexandre Gomes, also source locally and fanatically, but they bring a bit more of a cosmopolitan approach to the menu. Sure, there are the humble peasant-fare-gone-haute *rillettes*, but there's also an asparagus duo that sings with a citified French accent:

Both white and green asparagus are employed, along with peppery greens, a coddled egg oozing golden yolk and dabs of *bearnaise* tickled with tarragon. Gomes then takes the pitch-perfect dish a step higher by sprinkling the pretty plate with bacon dust. Holy smoke! It's a unifier.

Speaking of pretty plates, I hope the special salmon *tartare* makes regular appearances in A Toute Heure's new lineup: The rosy-orange sushi-caliber fish, chopped and mounded amid peas and near-translucent slices of radish before being topped with microgreens, sits atop a thick wash of pea puree given a couple arcs of fruity olive oil for good measure. It was the dish that made it clear to me why the Florios hired Gomes as their chef. Finesse, top-notch technical skills and an acute awareness of how to bring nuance to a dish aren't exactly qualities priced at a dime a dozen.

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Those same skills are evident in the soft-shell crab, expertly seared so the shells are crisp-tender, while the meat remains sweet-juicy. It gets a lift from two plate partners that offer a counterpoint to the flavor and texture of the dish: an *aioli* that resonates with musky, gently bitter saffron to offset the sweetness of the crab, and shavings of cucumber that do the crunch-squirt do-si-do just like the shellfish.

The only dish we tried that fell short was the roasted chicken, billed to have been marinated in *piri-piri*. *Piri-piri* is a hyper-hot chile native to Africa that's used in a Portuguese chicken dish that folks make pilgrimages to experience. It's incendiary in that irresistible way, with waves of heat ebbing and flowing in the presence of, usually, garlic and vinegar or lemon. The chicken here, to be sure, was lovely, but the bird and the broccolini and the roasted potatoes sure would've been special with real-deal *piri-piri* heat.

Sea scallops from Barnegat Bay showed the kitchen at its height: Again, a textbook sear; again, perfect produce partners in baby carrots and discs of purple potatoes, as well as earthy shiitakes and delicate oyster mushrooms;

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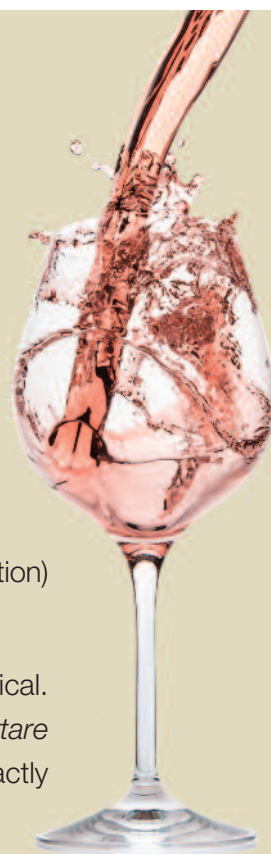
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## LET EVERYONE DRINK ROSÉ

Never have I met a restaurant menu that begs for a French *rose* more than A Toute Heure's. It's possible that the menu served forth by the new regime begs for such a *rosé* even more forcefully. So much of what we ate, and so much of what we passed up on this first round at the new ATH, seemed made for *rosé*.

So now a bit of torture: My dine team for this dinner drank the most special wine I've ever brought on an eating mission—the 2015 Chateau Simone *Rosé*. Don't expect to find it at any old wine shop or liquor store. It's imported by Neal Rosenthal (Mad Rose), and not exactly in big-box-store quantities. Chateau Simone is in the Palette appellation, which is a teensy speck of a wine district within the mere spot of a wine region known as Bandol, which is known as the premier place in all of Provence (and the Cotes de Provence appellation) for *rosé*.

Quite simply, it's the bee's knees of *rosé*, many, many, many layered, nuanced, rich yet lyrical. It's delicious, and its partnership with everything from the duck *rillettes* to the salmon *tartare* to the soft-shell crab to the asparagus—yes!—to the scallops and the mussels was exactly what the wine-food pairing thing is about.



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again, a garnish that proves it's more than a toss-off in fava leaves. It was another plate that neglected neither style nor substance.

But what about mussels? A Tote Heure, the original, was known for its mussels pots, an ever-changing, ever-evolving repertoire of them. We indulged with the new "beurre fondue" mussels pot, a rich concoction bolstered by butter (lots), cream (lots) and leeks. This version's statement-making, breakout ingredient is the addition of potent, but not overwhelming, garlic *confit*. (Fortunately, the billed "truffle" had little impact.)

Salad for dessert? You bet. Grab it when it's peach season and Gomes is grilling his peaches before tossing them with raspberries and blueberries, then topping them with the creamy Shy Brothers' "cloumage" from coastal Massachusetts. A drizzle of honey, and you have just my kind of dessert. I have to admit, though, that I also was



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smitten with the ricotta cake, infused as it was with olive oil, plied with citrus and hazelnut, then plated with macerated cherries.

For a decade, Andrea and Jim Carbine served New Jersey in exemplary style, creating a restaurant in A Toute Heure that paved the farm-to-table way for small, personal, bistro-style restaurants determined to educate, enlighten and, ultimately, elevate our expectations of what could be done in a casual, comfortable setting. Like good parents, they gave all they could – and then they let the next generation do their own thing.

Their chosen successors, chef Gomes and the Florios, aren't just worthy; they are world class. **EDGE**

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# What's in the Box?

*Whether you use them or not, having the right tools for any job is a key to being a responsible homeowner.*

By Caleb MacLean

One day this past spring an unfamiliar urge swept over me as I glanced up at the side of my old, wood-shingled home. One of the two local woodpecker kabbalahs (I think it was the smaller downy woodpecker) had taken a shine to our siding and punched a series of perfectly round

holes above our second-story bedroom window. Presumably the birds were hearing something on the other side of the shingles that they assumed were bugs. Since I often experienced their pecking while watching *Morning Joe* before work, I think what they were hearing was Mika Brzezinski stressing out about President Trump.



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Anyway, on this particular day I decided enough was enough...I was going to yank out the damaged shingles and replace them myself. I would not call a professional.

I mean, how hard could it be?

It was hard.

I knew having the right tools was important, although I wasn't sure exactly which tools this job required. I dug out our toolbox and searched the Internet for some instructional clips on replacing damaged shingles. The tools in my box looked enough like what the guys in the videos were using. Next, I needed a good ladder.

About a week later my ladder arrived via UPS—nothing like striking while the iron is hot, right?

I had ordered one of those Little Giant contraptions you see advertised on late-night TV. It did so many jobs and, even though none of those jobs were ones I was likely to perform, I'm all about versatility. So 200-plus dollars later I unboxed my new ladder, read the instructions carefully



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and then came within a half-inch of losing my pinkie trying to unfold it. I re-read the instructions (*oh, okay, I see*) and did it correctly this time. With my toolbox at the ready, I maneuvered the ladder under the first hole, tilted it up against the house...and realized that it was five feet short of what I needed.

Starlings soon moved into the woodpecker holes, raised their noisy children, and defecated all over the side of the house. I think some kind of bees are in there now.

This is not a story about buying the wrong ladder. I can (and may very well) write a book on the subject if I manage to keep all 10 fingers intact. It's about the things every man—handy or, like me, un-handy—needs in his toolbox. I am being gender-specific here not out of laziness or chauvinism, but because the women I know would already have found a better version of this article



and assembled a great toolbox. Or called a professional long before the wildlife assault had transitioned into an infestation.

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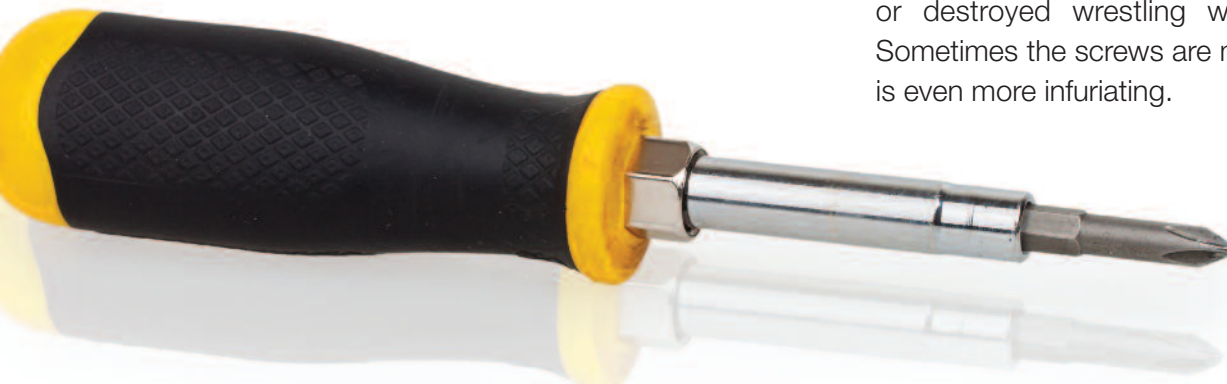
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What do you absolutely, positively need in a toolbox? As an amateur repairman with a hard emphasis on amateur, I have managed over the better part of four decades to assemble a pretty good one. If you've covered the basics with quality equipment, you should be able to tackle almost any project that doesn't involve water or electricity. So let's take a peek inside and see what you've got, and what you might still need...

## SCREWDRIVERS

There are four basic types of screwdrivers: slotted, Phillips, square drive and precision. You should have a variety of sizes, including a couple with extra-long shafts. The market is flooded with inexpensive sets made of poor-quality metal and, speaking from experience, I'll just say that you get what you pay for. Over the years, I can't tell you how many screwdrivers I have dulled or destroyed wrestling with uncooperative screws. Sometimes the screws are made of inferior metal, which is even more infuriating.



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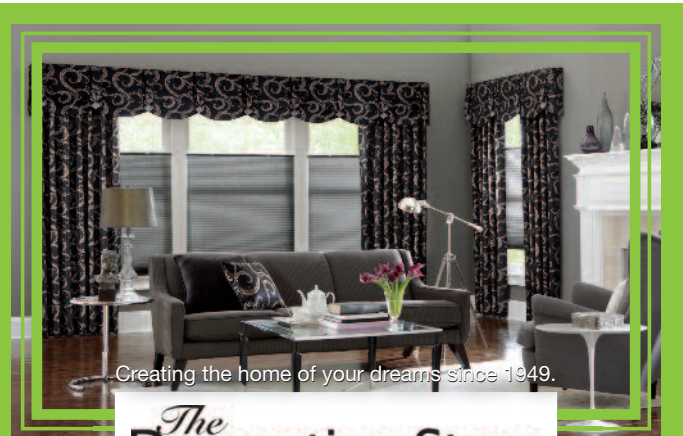
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If you do feel like buying a cheap screwdriver, grab one of those 4-in-1 jobs you often see in the impulse-purchase section of your local hardware store for \$5. You know the ones I'm talking about: they have two flat-heads and two Phillips heads, and you can pop them out of the handle and spin the shaft around to get the head you need. Go ahead and buy three because a) a little bit of torque can render them useless and b) like scissors and socks, they tend to vanish. I also like to have a couple of sets of those L-shaped Allen wrenches in my box. I keep them on a keychain. I know they are called wrenches, but to me they are screwdrivers. Technically, they are called hex keys.

I've always wondered which came first—the Phillips screw or the Phillips head screwdriver. This may be more of a philosophical debate than a technical one. I imagine they were equal parts of the same burst of inspiration. What I do know is that the Phillips screw is favored by manufacturers because it is self-centering. And I recently learned that neither the screw nor the screwdriver was invented by Phillips. John P. Thompson came up with the idea during the Depression and sold it to Henry F. Phillips, who added a couple of tweaks and then convinced GM to use his screws in its Cadillac production line. Next I'm sure you're wondering, did Allen invent the Allen wrench? Yes! Just over a century ago, the Allen Manufacturing Company came up with a recessed "safety" screw that required its special wrench to tighten and untighten. Allen sold the patent to a company called Apex Tool Group. Apparently, Apex is slowly being driven mad by the fact that people won't stop calling their tool by another company's name.



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## HAMMERS

If you ask my wife, who does all the picture-hanging in our home, my recommendation for hammers would be a wide assortment of sizes and weights with rusty heads and deteriorating wooden handles. That is because I've been hiding the good ones from her. And by good ones I mean the \$20 beauty I purchased after my Chinese-made, fiberglass-handled hammer literally broke in half while I was prying a long nail out of an old table. So here is what I have to say about hammers: Buy one made from a single piece of steel, not too light, not too heavy—about a pound give or take an ounce—with a curved claw for basic nail removal. A \$20 to \$30 hammer should also have a fairly ergonomic grip and will feel balanced in your hand. Balance is the key to good aim, i.e. hitting the nail on the head and not your thumb. The striking surface should be about an inch wide.

Some jobs (like my shingle experiment) may require different types and weights of hammer. Most people add them as they go. Eventually, you'll probably want to have



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a club hammer and a pin hammer. A club hammer has a short handle and heavy head. It's good for demolition projects and is also good for tapping a chisel. A light pin hammer can be used for small carpentry jobs and things like repairing picture frames. Two hammers you probably recognize, but are unlikely to need, are a ball peen hammer and a roofing hammer. Ball peen hammers (the "peen" is the non-striking side of the head) are a throwback to when regular people worked with metal. That's no longer a thing. A roofing hammer is shaped to do a couple of jobs you'll only need to do on a roof. It has a "spiked peen." I hear there's a pill for that now.

## TAPE MEASURE

Like a good hammer, a high-quality tape measure will run you between 20 and 30 bucks. For most folks, a 25-footer will do. Of course, whatever length you buy, you'll soon need to measure something two feet longer, but that's a life problem, not a tool problem. Most contractors like a tape measure that locks and unlocks easily, and "stands out" at least six feet—meaning it won't collapse down when held straight out in the air. If you can find one with a magnetic hook, that's a plus since you'll probably be working alone. Obviously, you want to make sure your tape measure has easily read feet, inches, centimeters

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and meters. It should be shockproof and heavy-duty because you will drop it again and again and again. Look for some kind of replacement guarantee from the manufacturer.

## DRILLS

We used to own a drill that worked beautifully up to a point. It was fine for boring the myriad holes a homeowner requires, even through old lathework and knots in wood. Where it sometimes fell short was when we were using it to screw or unscrew something. It was just too big and too heavy. It was difficult to keep on a consistent 90-degree angle, and when it encountered a stubborn screw it torqued my arthritic wrist and elbow violently. I am no expert with a drill, but I can say that the next one I buy will be lighter and more compact without sacrificing power. I suggest you do the same.

As we near that day, I'll also have to decide between corded or cordless. Cordless seems like a no-brainer, but it's a little tricky figuring out how much work you can do on a single charge. I would check ratings and comments



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from previous customers and testing services. Also, in my case, I am congenitally incapable of remembering which little converter goes with which small appliance. Fortunately, we have no end of grounded outlets inside and outside our home (thank you, obsessive former owner) so I've felt no pressing need to cut the cord. As for drill bits, buy two sets (one high-quality, the other inexpensive) because you'll probably lose the one bit you desperately need on a Sunday evening when everything is closed.

## PLIERS

There are three basic types of pliers everyone should have in their toolbox: vise-grips, needle-nose and old reliable adjustables. Vise-grip (aka locking) pliers are ideal for multiple tasks. Because the adjustment mechanism is identical on all brands, the main point of differentiation being is the ease with which the pliers lock and, more



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importantly, unlock. Don't be afraid to test them out and you'll see the difference. Needle-nose pliers are ideal for twisting tasks or grabbing hold of things your fingers can't. They also double as wire-cutters. Pick a pair that open and close smoothly, and that feel comfortable in your hand. A good pair will run you \$10 to \$20. Definitely



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## WHAT'S IN MY BOX?

Dennis Corcoran • HG Edwards

**Q. Which tool is worth spending the extra money on for the very best quality?**

**A.** We work with replacement windows and doors, so for us it's the Multi Master Oscillating Saw. The saw vibrates and oscillates, allowing for precise cuts that are not feasible with traditional circular saws.

**Q. What's the one tool you'd never leave home without?**

**A.** A sturdy tape measure, like a Stanley Powerlock 16'. Windows are typically made to order, and are not returnable. When ordering windows, the first step—getting accurate dimensions—is the most important. Measure twice, cut once...because you can't cut the window!

**Q. What tool is most dangerous in the hands of an amateur?**

**A.** Circular hand and table saws. They need to be used with caution, and should not be used at all without the safety shields and guards provided. Proper training is essential, but many accidents still happen among experienced installers and carpenters due to carelessness. Many a finger has been lost to circular saws due to laziness or carelessness. Think before each cut.

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### OTHER STUFF

You should definitely have a utility knife in your toolbox. Not a box-cutter, but a multifunction utility knife. It should feel good and safe in your hand. If a sliding blade makes you nervous, you can buy ones that fold up like a pocketknife, and vice-versa. Changing blades after a couple of jobs is a must, so make sure that you have a good supply and that swapping them out is simple. Just as important is a high-quality pry-bar. Besides pulling out nails, tacks and other items, it can help un-stick doors, windows and anything else that's been painted over.

I recently installed a wall mount for a 46-inch flatscreen without a stud finder. That's because the stud was me!



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Of course, I might just as easily have destroyed the wall, the TV and the Stickley bookcase underneath it—all because I lacked a \$5 gadget. A stud finder uses a magnet to locate the screws used to fasten the sheetrock

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to the vertical studs. I used the old tap-tap-tap method. Use the stud finder because there is a fine line between stud and moron.

I did use a level for the TV project. Unfortunately, it was one of those free apps you download onto your iPhone. We reside in an older home that's not exactly plumb, so I feel as if I didn't get the wall mount exactly straight. Fortunately, the manufacturer included an adjustment screw on the mount itself. In my defense, my only other option was to use a level that was over a foot long and just too cumbersome. For my next project I think I will either add a laser level, which I've used with success as a volunteer outside my home, or a standard torpedo level.

Like most homeowners, I've got a hodgepodge of other items in my toolbox. Mostly weird things I've purchased on impulse or in anticipation of some project I'll never get to. To many, buying a specialized tool for a specific project is half the fun. For me it's half the battle. My feeling is why not fight the other half of the battle later (or never)?

## THE BOX

Finally, just as there is always a right tool for the job, there is a right toolbox for the tools you own. Car guys have those great big red rolling carts. Masons, carpenters and electricians certainly have their own specialized equipment carriers. For Joe Homeowner, there are some basic rules to follow.

First, don't buy anything plastic. These toolboxes are usually priced to sell and often look like a reject from the *Transformers* movies. After a certain amount of abuse,



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It never hurts to have a good pair of safety goggles in your toolbox—no pun intended. They range in price from a couple of bucks for cheap dust and splash goggles to \$20 and up for models with mouth shields. For jobs involving mist or dust or chemicals that might damage your eyes, look for goggles that form a “gasket” where they contact your face.

Unless everyone in your home has perfect vision, you’ll want at least one pair that fits over eyeglasses. You’ll also want to have sizes to fit any children in the house, in case they want to “help” mommy or daddy on a project.



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they just don't hold up well. Also, if you want to be truly serious about home repair, by all means avoid the pre-packed, ready-to-go tool kits that come in their own snap-shut carrying case. If buying every tool you'll ever need for \$50 or \$75 seems too good to be true, trust your judgment. It is. Unless you're just starting adult life or are

living in a dorm or studio apartment, bite the bullet and make a modest investment. A good, metal toolbox filled with the basic high-quality products required to do the bulk of home fix-it projects, is likely to run between \$300 and \$500.

As for me, I've probably invested somewhere in between those two figures and except for the 22-foot ladder that needed to be 27 feet, I feel adequately equipped to go to war with anything between my roof and my basement. There are some wrenches in my toolbox, so I can even do some minor plumbing.

Regarding the woodpecker issue, however, I decided to call a professional to plug my holes and repair my shingling. I'm not sure which creature in the nearby woods is eyeing these openings as a potential domicile, but I have no interest in finding out. For the record, I do plan to get my money's worth out of the Little Giant. When the shingle guy gets here, I will configure the ladder so that I can use it as a bench. Which I will use to watch someone qualified fix my house. **EDGE**

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# EDGE

## interview

### Reid Scott



Photo by Alba Tull

Has anyone portrayed a conniving Washington insider better than **Reid Scott** in HBO's political comedy *Veep*? His character, Dan Egan, can never quite tell whether he's living the dream or trapped in a nightmare, but he never seems to take it personally. It's all part of clawing your way to the top in D.C. Reid is part of a brilliant ensemble cast that has won more than two dozen awards, including multiple Emmys. You'll be seeing a lot more of Reid in 2017–18. He co-stars this fall with Reese Witherspoon in the romantic comedy *Home Again*. Season Seven of *Veep* is slated to premier in the spring of 2018. **Mark Stewart** caught up with Reid in Paris, where he is shooting another rom-com with *Veep* co-star Matt Walsh entitled *Under the Eiffel Tower*.

**EDGE:** Whenever I see a unique character—especially one that makes me laugh and cringe at the same time—I'm curious how that character evolved. Tell me about the evolution of Dan Egan.

**RS:** When I first read for the part, like so many characters, in the beginning it was almost a caricature or sketch of a character. That's what drew me to this show in the first place, Armando Iannucci, the show's creator,

really wanted the actors to fill in these characters. It came through in rehearsals, when we improv'd, that we would become the custodians of these characters. Dan is charming and conniving, your typical D.C. former frat boy political wonk.

**EDGE:** How do you research that type of role?

**RS:** Over the years, because I've had this incredible access to people in D.C., I've added nuance to Dan that's sort of an amalgamation of all these people. I have a close buddy, Jay Carson, who was a consultant on *House of Cards* and a real-life mover and shaker on the Hill. I sent him the first script and said, "Tell me everything." He wrote me back, "Oh, my God, you're practically playing me!" I'm *not* playing Jay, but he definitely helped me add all the ticks to Dan, who is like so many wonderfully horrible people in D.C.

**EDGE:** Do you ever channel the Communications students you met as a student at Syracuse University?



Courtesy of HBO

**RS:** It's a huge school and I was always underground in an editing bay or rehearsing something on stage. I didn't co-mingle with any Communications guys. I did do research on the world of broadcast journalism for Dan and that was really, really helpful.



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Photo by Alba Tull

**EDGE:** What was your major there?

**RS:** I ended up making my own major at Syracuse. I was in the Film department but I didn't have a whole lot of access to actors because of the way the campus is set up. Syracuse Stage is a very reputable regional theater. The Theater department is located downtown, where that stage is. I was making my crappy little films and my teacher suggested that if I really wanted to know what it is I was asking of my actors, I should do it myself. So I started taking acting classes and learned their weird little language—what actors do and how to communicate with them. Which was amazing. I did a couple of black-box plays, things like that. I was terrible, but I loved the thrill of the live audience. I don't know that I ever turned off my director's brain, and I'm sure I drove my directors crazy. But in the end I graduated with a degree in Directing, which wasn't offered to undergrads at that time. Now it is, and I'm proud to have been the first.

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**EDGE:** Usually in a TV series, a character has a particular trajectory. But in *Veep*, Dan is up, down, sideways, all over the place. Is there a challenge in inhabiting a character like that, or do you just sit back and see what the writers come up with next?

**RS:** It's a little bit of both. Like, in Season Two, the writers said, "Dan's going to be really bored." I thought, crap, I don't know how to do "really bored." But slowly it came to light that he's gunning for a position and eventually he became campaign manager. So they give you little hints as to what's going to happen. The writers are truly inclusive about sharing information with us. From the beginning, Dan Egan was a guy—and he still is—a guy who to some degree is always shooting for the top. But they discovered it was much funnier for him to have him almost reach that top rung and then fall... [Laughs] almost as many times as I have!

**EDGE:** Dan is most entertaining when he has a foil, and you've had some good ones on *Veep*. Which character brings out the best in you and the worst in Dan?

**RS:** I've been lucky—in that Dan's been lucky—to have great adversarial characters. Obviously, Jonah Ryan is the best. I love playing opposite Tim Simons so much. Not only are we good friends, but we slip in and out of those characters so easily now that we waste no time pussy-footing around it. We just get right into it. It's such fun.

**EDGE:** How much of what we see on-screen is scripted versus improvisation?

**RS:** Honestly? It's kind of right down the middle. The writers write very well thought-out, tight scripts. But because we've been inhabiting these people so long, they really trust us and encourage us to fill in the blanks. We have a long rehearsal process so we may have weeks with the script before we get in front of the camera. During that time, the writers may go back and re-write the scripts to incorporate our improvisations. But by the time we get there, there's a really wonderful framework. When we're shooting, we're shooting it as written, but we've had a hand in that. Then, of course, the day we are shooting, they say, "Take the leash off and do what you guys do."

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That's what makes the show seem so natural, when we use the script as a roadmap and they choose the best takes in editing.

**EDGE:** The key to your character, I think, is that he is both relentless and just relentlessly self-absorbed.

**RS:** Oh, yeah. Dan is very into himself. He's always got to climb. It's always about *him*. Even when he's serving someone else, he'll serve them to the death...[Laughs] but that's because it's the other person's death, not his.

**EDGE:** You've been a member of ensemble casts before. What makes this one work so well?

**RS:** We have a very large cast, which is unusual in and of itself. The fact that everyone gets along, even on a social level, that's pretty amazing in Hollywood. We all really do. We've gone on vacations together! On this show the "family" *has* become a real family. Also, it's unique that we all share the same sensibility. We just run with each other now, like a well-oiled machine. We'll give each other little signals when we're improv-ing. We know how to "dance" with each other.

**EDGE:** How does that happen?

**RS:** It feels like lightning striking. I've really got to credit our show runners and writers. They did an amazing job in casting. I don't mean to sound self-serving but they found people who really worked well together. A lot of people don't care about that—they just want the star, the famous name or face or whatever. But here they got

actors who could really do this job, including the guest stars. It's always great to see them parachute in for an episode or two and say, "What's happening here? You guys are, like, speaking your own language." And we wouldn't want to work any other way.

**EDGE:** And yet, on camera, all the characters are slitting each other's throats.

**RS:** Oh, totally. Everyone is out for themselves. They're horrible and reprehensible.

**EDGE:** Your previous series, *My Boys* on TBS, had a pretty impressive cast, including Jim Gaffigan. Did you have a good comfort level with those actors over its four-season run?

**RS:** Yes, in fact that was the first thing that happened. During the tests for that show, we kind of sniffed each other out immediately. There were a dozen or so actors in there, all really wanting this job with this great, fun script. You could look around the room and almost tell who was going to make the cut. We instantly all gelled and bonded, and that's because Betsy Thomas, the show's creator, was like, "Get over to my house—we'll play poker and get drunk together."

**EDGE:** There seemed to be a fair amount of improvisation on that show, too.

**RS:** We did do a lot of improvisation on that show, which didn't get talked about a lot. And that was really my first foray into improv. They'd do long takes and just let us go and go and go. It was wonderful, but I was terrified. I had taken some classes so I was familiar with how to improvise—I sort of wanted it in my quiver—but I hadn't done it professionally. When I got around Mike Bunin, Jim Gaffigan and Jamie Kaler, who are incredible improvisers, it was an education. I learned on the job. At first, I was very uncomfortable, but by the end of Season Four I was, like, "Man this is what's fun, this is real performance for me, letting go and having it come from yourself." So that was the training that set me up to hang in with people like Julia Louis-Dreyfuss (*above, left*) and Matt Walsh. They were idols to me. If it weren't for all that time on *My Boys*, I don't think I would have been as comfortable on *Veep*.

**EDGE:** Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Jim Gaffigan (*right, center*) are old pros when it comes to performing in front of live audiences. What do you think they brought over to their roles on the filmed shows?

**RS:** Jim's strength is that, right in the moment, he knows what's funny. You always want to follow his lead. If he had a suggestion to make something funnier, maybe not so on-the-nose, we took it, and it was great. Julia is the same way but, like, on a gallon of steroids. She works so hard. I've never seen anybody who constantly works to make everything and everybody around her better—whether it's tearing the script up and starting from scratch or finding those little funny moments. Julia has a tremendous work ethic and she's also incredibly funny. It just comes naturally to her. Jim is more of a craftsman. He knows how to bury a joke in there, then tease it out in just the right way and deliver it. That's what he does as a stand-up. Julia works the scene, she works the whole



Sony Pictures Television/TBS

script. So on *My Boys* and *Veep*, I've basically had two masters courses in comedy.

**EDGE:** You also played Dr. Todd on *The Big C* opposite Laura Linney. There was nothing comedic about that role.

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Photo by Karen Ballard

**RS:** No, that was just the opposite. But again, I was very lucky. Laura is a lot like Julia, only on the dramatic side. She's a workaholic. She breaks down every single moment, doesn't rush things, plays things small. It's amazing how comfortable she is. I learned so much from her. Laura is always willing to try something new,

something different. On top of that, she is such a professional.

**EDGE:** In what ways?

**RS:** I mean, she knew *everyone's* lines. Perfectly. There was a scene in Dr. Todd's office where she's crying because the cancer is progressing. She nailed it every single take, brought that raw emotion every single time. Meanwhile, I needed a couple of takes to get it right and I said, "I feel bad that I've been putting you through the wringer." She said, "No. This is what we do." For me it was like a lightbulb going off. You bring 100 percent every time—for your partner, for yourself, for the show. **EDGE**

**Editor's Note:** The past few years, Reid Scott has made the most of his hiatus time from *Veep*. In addition to this year's *Home Again* with Reese Witherspoon and Pico Alexander (*above*), he has co-starred with Kevin Kline in *Dean* and Jessica Alba in *The Veil*. He also played opposite Blythe Danner in *I'll See You In My Dreams*.

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# EDGE PEOPLE



## IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK...

In recognition of Convergent Technologies 16th Annual Social Responsibility Day, 25 employees volunteered for a day of work at Trinitas Regional Medical Center's New Point Campus in Elizabeth, NJ. The volunteers took part in revitalizing several rooms of the Behavioral Health Department with a fresh coat of paint. The brighter colors will help soothe not only patients but staff as well. Small changes such as these allow patients to feel emotionally safe and improve their overall mental health and wellness. Convergent Technologies was founded on a set of core values and beliefs, which is reflected by Convergent's commitment to its customers, colleagues, families and, now, Trinitas.



## KIDDIE ACADEMY SPONSORS WESTFIELD 5K

Kiddie Academy of Springfield owners Aanal & Jigar Shukla and Mihir & Nikita Desai pose with their children (*l. to r.*) Arya, Rhea and Rishi during Westfield's Pizza Extravaganza and 5K run on July 26. Kiddie Academy was a proud sponsor of the annual event. The academy focuses on educating children and parents on the essentials of a healthier, more productive life—with a huge dose of fun—distinguishing it from traditional childcare options.



## THE GRADUATES

65 students received their nursing diplomas at the Trinitas School of Nursing (TSON) Convocation Ceremony held at St. Michael's Church in Cranford. Surrounded by family, friends, and staff that provided guidance along the way, 11 men and 54 women proudly accepted their pins and began a new chapter in their lives. It was the school's 158th convocation ceremony.



## MESINA REALTY RIBBON CUTTING

Westfield Mayor Andy Skibitsky presides over the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new offices of Mesina Realty Group at 52 Elm Street. Mesina Rutstein, a Westfield resident and Broker/Owner of Mesina Realty Group, welcomed fellow business owners and community leaders to the event. "We couldn't be more excited to serve such a special community," Rustein said. "At Mesina Realty Group, we are passionate about delivering exceptional client experiences. We have experts in every field to skillfully guide you from the beginning to the end of your real estate journey."

# Fast Times at TRMC

*New Jersey's newest ER has just had an \$18.7 million expansion that has cut the wait by two-thirds.*

By Yolanda Navarra Fleming



# healthy **EDGE**

A Special Health & Wellness Section from  
Trinitas Regional Medical Center



Seven years ago at Trinitas Regional Medical Center's Emergency Department (ED)—Union County's busiest Emergency Room—the median wait was about 65 minutes. But now, treatment space has doubled after the \$18.7 million renovation and expansion, which has whittled down the median wait time to about 18 minutes.

Gary S. Horan, FACHE, President & CEO at Trinitas, says he looks forward to September, when the entire

department will be completed and dedicated. "The physical space is very impressive, and is designed to more appropriately treat the families, children and seniors who come to us for care," says Horan. "Separate areas for each make the care very specialized and personal."

Geriatric patients will be seen in a separate, more serene area—with cosmetic and practical improvements and additions, such as mobility aids, pressure-reducing mattresses, bedside commodes, bedside transition



stools, and the use of nonslip socks and hearing aids. Even the clocks on the walls are larger. But not only seniors will benefit from improvements and the 18 additional beds—including five private Geriatric beds, six Transitional Care Unit beds, and seven Fast Track

Treatment bays. According to Dr. John D’Angelo, Chairman of the Emergency Medicine Department, the Geriatric ED has more to do with the complexity of care and less to do with age.

“Geriatric patients are not singularly defined,” says Dr. D’Angelo. “If a patient requires a multidisciplinary team to assist with preventing a hospital admission or facilitating a home care plan, they may find themselves in the Geriatric ED.”


For instance, a 50-year-old patient with advanced multiple sclerosis who requires full home care may benefit from Geriatric Care. In the ED, he or she may receive a physical therapy consult, a wound care consult and a social worker, who reviews all home care needs.

Trinitas’s ED ranks among the top urban-based facilities of its size, processing about 70,000 patients each year.



However, Dr. D'Angelo—who also serves as a tactical physician for the Union County Emergency Response Team and the SWAT Team—says, “Preparing for the unexpected is always a challenge. Patient arrivals on any given day at any given hour can be very dynamic. We are determined to answer the call through thoughtful staffing patterns and continued process improvement.”

Dr. D'Angelo has been with Trinitas for the past five years. He attended Muhlenberg College and earned his bachelor's degree in science before graduating from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. As chief resident in the Emergency Medicine Residency program at Mount Sinai Beth Israel in New York City, he received both Resident and Researcher of the Year awards. After his residency, he moved to Florida and worked as an attending physician at regional trauma centers in South Florida. He also served as the Assistant Medical Director



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at several EMS agencies in Broward County.

Empathy has played an important part in his career.

“Part of it is to see yourself within your patients,” he explains. “I see you; I am you. That’s critical in the delivery of the healthcare delivery system—to see yourself in the individual who is struggling.”

Delivering the same elevated level of healthcare to those who can’t afford it also drives him. “It’s always been my passion,” he says. “Top-notch care should be available to everyone. I urge those who can afford healthcare to support the mission and to help those who have less.”

“Fast Track,” or “Prompt Care,” is essentially an urgent-care or office visit, he says. “Our goal is to treat and release a patient in less than 90 minutes. Many patients find it challenging to find a primary care physician who



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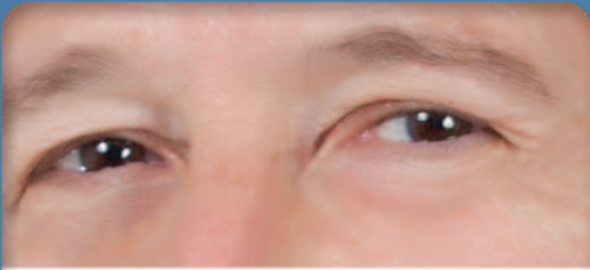
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“Our recovery specialist encountered the patient when he was sober,” Dr. D’Angelo recalls. “They made arrangements to meet at a McDonald’s for a free breakfast and coffee. The patient’s only obligation was sobriety.”

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**John D’Angelo, DO**  
Chairman/Emergency Medicine  
Trinitas Regional Medical Center





healthy **EDGE**

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# Special Delivery

*Jack Perrone comes home to New Jersey.*

By Ghiliane Soto

**T**here is something humbling about Dr. Jack Perrone. He exudes a calming energy that allows patients to open up and share concerns they may have pertaining to their health. It could be that Trinitas Regional Medical Center's newest obstetrical surgeon is from the Midwest and brings a friendly

demeanor and charm to the workplace. One thing's for sure: His passion for women's health has made him an asset in the community.

Though born and raised in Minnesota, Dr. Perrone is no stranger to the Garden State. He made his first New Jersey connection in college, graduating from Rutgers



and receiving his medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). He completed his residency at the Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education and has been practicing obstetrical gynecology for 21 years. He led his own private practice in Rochester, Minnesota as part of Olmstead Medical Center, a not-for-profit organization serving southern Minnesota.

“I wanted to come back to the East Coast for the second phase of my career,” says Dr. Perrone. “Once I met the delightful people at Trinitas and saw the potential for growth here, there was no question this is where I belong.”

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are decorated to approximate a homelike atmosphere, and allowing mothers to remain in one room throughout the birthing process. State-of-the-art facilities and a skilled staff of experienced obstetricians, anesthesiologists, neonatologists, midwives and nurses are available in-house, 24 hours a day, and ensure the best possible care for mother and child.

Dr. Perrone enjoys delivering babies and taking care of women through pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. Trinitas's maternity services include Labor & Delivery, an Intermediate Care Nursery, and a Mother-Baby Unit. A Level II Nursery offers sophisticated technology and treatment for ill and high-risk infants who require concentrated care and attention. Trinitas also offers TOLAC (trial of labor after cesarean) for women who desire vaginal delivery after a prior caesarean section.

"One of the best things about being part of the Trinitas network is working so closely with my medical and nursing colleagues to help educate our patients and the community," he says. "Being a resource is an important piece of what makes the work I do so meaningful."

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With two daughters of his own, Dr. Perrone understands the importance of making sure parent and child receive the necessary resources and tools to lead healthy and happy lives. **EDGE**

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# healthy **EDGE**

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# What's Up, Doc?

*News, views and insights on maintaining a healthy edge.*

## Four Months or Twelve?

A study published in the June edition of *Pediatrics* appears to be at odds with long-accepted recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics concerning **how long infants should sleep in the same room as their parents**. The new study indicates that four months may be the ideal cut-off. Beyond that point, babies sharing the same room get less sleep and sleep for shorter stretches. Also, the study suggests that between four and nine months, parents may be more likely to engage in unsafe sleep practices associated with sleep-related deaths. More than 3,500 infants die in sleep-related deaths in the U.S. each year. The lead author of the new study, Dr. Ian Paul, has an explanation for the difference between the two recommendations: AAP's is based on a consensus of expert opinions, while the four-month cutoff is based on data from the study's 230 families. He adds that moving a child out of the parent's bedroom at one year is impractical for another reason—this tends to be a peak period of separation anxiety for children.



## Home Care of Alzheimer's Patients On the Rise

According to a June report by the CDC, the number of deaths in the U.S. attributed to Alzheimer's disease more than doubled between 1999 – 2014, from 44,536 to 93,541. The startling rise can be attributed to a number of factors, including greater longevity and aging Baby Boomers, as well as better diagnosis of the neurodegenerative condition. **What's most troubling about the results of the CDC report is that an increasing number of Alzheimer's deaths are occurring at home** as opposed to in hospitals or long-term care facilities. This suggests that families are having to assume the burden of caregiving, presumably for financial reasons. The long-term economic and mental health impact of this trend further complicates the Alzheimer's picture.



## Is Vaping Worse for You Than Smoking?

The ongoing debate around the growing use of e-cigarettes has some concerning new data, courtesy of a University of Connecticut study that appeared recently in *ACS Sensors*, a publication of the American Chemical Society. A team of UConn chemists looked specifically at DNA damage and found that **electronic cigarettes loaded with nicotine-based liquid were potentially as harmful to DNA as unfiltered cigarettes** like Lucky Strikes, while non-nicotine e-cigarettes carried the same risk as smoking traditional filtered cigarettes. The team focused on cellular mutations caused by DNA damage, which can lead to cancer. The concerning results were attributed primarily to the number of chemical additives in e-cig vapors, including propylene glycol, glycerin and nicotine, as well as flavorings.



## Oh, Baby: Screen Time Linked to Delayed Speech

Are smartphones making kids dumber? The Hospital for Sick Children, located in Toronto, asked nearly 1,000 families to track the screen time of their young children, from six months to two years old. About one in five children 18 months or older used a tablet or smart phone for an average of 28 minutes a day. Within that group, **every 30-minute increase in screen time was associated with a 49 percent increase in delayed speech.** The American Academy of Pediatrics advises that children under 18 months have zero screen time, aside from video-chatting with family members.



## Easy On the Knees

Go ahead and add one more benefit from fiber. An article published in the *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases* reported that individuals who consumed a high-fiber diet had a dramatically lower incidence of knee arthritis. The article referenced two recent studies covering a total of 6,064 subjects. One found **a 30% difference in osteoarthritis of the knee between the people who had the highest fiber intake and the lowest**, while the other showed a 61% drop! There doesn't appear to be a direct fiber-knee link; instead, researchers believe the benefit is related to weight control and inflammation associated with some lower-fiber diets. Of course, high-fiber diets have been directly linked to improved cardiovascular health, as well as a reduced risk of diabetes.



## Pedaling Toward Happiness

Low pay, high pressure and shifting office politics can make for a toxic mix in our jobs. Indeed, **nearly one-third of U.S. workers report suffering from chronic stress directly related to their employment**, while 36% of those reporting stress say their company offers nothing in the way of stress management. A recent article in the *International Journal of Workplace Health Management* offered one solution: cycling to work. Those who bike—as opposed to commuting by car or public transportation—reported a significantly lower amount of workplace stress. According to the *Harvard Health Letter*, additional benefits of cycling to and from work include building a wide range of muscles and increasing bone density, as well as providing an aerobic workout that's easy on the joints.



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**EDGE** Local Talent

# Home Is Where the Art Is

By Kathy Donnelly

The painting tradition in New Jersey is alive and well. A magnet for American Impressionists in the late 19th and early 20th Century, the state was fertile territory for artist colonies and renowned painters such as Thomas Eakins, Edward Boulton and Robert Henri. Winslow Homer painted well-heeled vacationers at the Jersey Shore. Ashcan

School master Everett Shinn was among a large group of painters born and raised in New Jersey. With the art market booming, their works are, sadly, out of reach unless you are a major corporation (or an oligarch)—however, as the following pages demonstrate, the talent pool of active artists working here is still deep and impressive.

Penelope Deyhle  
*Adra Fish*  
30"x48"  
oil on canvas





Lisa Ficarelli-Halpern  
*Portrait With Castle and Carriage*  
34" x 38"  
oil on canvas



Lisa Ficarelli-Halpern  
*King, after Van Eyck*  
36" x 32"  
oil on canvas



Wynn Gay  
*Memories of Paris 2*  
36" x 48"  
oil, wax encaustic



Lucy Kalian  
*The Reach*  
38" x 50"  
graphite on stonehenge paper



David French  
*Garden Variety Angel*  
60" x 60"  
oil on herringbone twill linen



Luba Caruso  
*Perfect Day*  
36" x 48"  
oil on canvas



Sue Sweeney  
*Springtime Abstraction*  
30" x 48"  
oil on board



Jill Kerwick  
*If They All Land*  
14" x 14"  
oil on canvas

Hunter McKee  
*Bowl*  
12" x 12"  
oil on board



**Editor's Note:** Kathy Donnelly authored EDGE's very first "Local Talent" feature a few years back: *Buying Art Means Buying Smart...So What's the Deal with Your Neighborhood Gallery?* She is a collector and dealer, and owns Beauregard Gallery ([beauregardfineart.com](http://beauregardfineart.com)).

# FOUNDATION PEOPLE



## ANDREW H. CAMPBELL MEMORIAL SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT

Friends and family members of the Campbell family joined together with other Trinitas philanthropists on Thursday, June 22nd at the Hudson Farm Club in Andover, NJ, for a day of sport, remembrance, and charity. Held annually in memory of Andrew H. Campbell, a longtime supporter and board chairman of Trinitas, this year's shoot netted over \$48,000.

When Mr. Campbell passed away, the Campbell family felt the best way to honor his memory was to establish an endowment in his name that would continue his legacy for the cause he loved the most—the people of Trinitas Regional Medical Center and the communities they serve. The Andrew H. Campbell Memorial Endowment benefits the Trinitas Cancer Center, the Trinitas Palliative Care Program and the Trinitas Nursing Scholarship Program. Funds raised for the Endowment at the AHC Memorial Sporting Clays Tournament directly support these important programs.

If you would like additional information about this or starting your own endowment to remember a loved one, please contact Nadine Brechner or Joanne McGann at 908-994-8249.



## BANK OF AMERICA MAKES \$20,000 DONATION!

The Trinitas Health Foundation received a \$20,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. The grant will support the Health Careers Exploration Program, a constructive and aspirational after-school and summer initiative that mentors students on achievable career options, teaching them the importance of volunteerism and motivating them to stay in school. The program includes: Summer Nursing Bootcamp, Medical Mentorships, Trinitas Teen Volunteer Program and Career Track & Certification Program. By offering career guidance and hands-on career exploration opportunities, our program has unlocked valuable economic opportunities for thousands of students from the greater Union County region, almost all of whom are from Elizabeth and from low-income families. Special thank you to Bank of America for its continued support and partnership. Summer Nursing Camp is a six-week program for Union County high school students contemplating a nursing career. This program has grown significantly and now serves 72 to 75 students per year. Last year a Bank of America representative came in and spoke with the students regarding finance topics.



## THE PROVIDENT BANK FOUNDATION ASSISTS MEDICAL TRAINING AT TRINITAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Members of The Provident Bank Foundation team, along with a representative from Provident Bank, were on hand at Trinitas Regional Medical Center recently to present a check in the amount of \$24,000 to purchase a "SimMan" Advanced Life Support Mannequin. The life-like mannequin simulates human functions and responses, and serves as a bridge between classroom learning and clinical experiences for emergency medical technicians (EMTs), firefighters and paramedics undergoing training at Trinitas. With the addition of this equipment, Trinitas expects to train up to 530 students annually. Joseph McTernan (*second from left*), Senior Director/Community & Clinical Services at Trinitas, gratefully accepted the check from (*left to right*) Karen McMullen, Board member-The Provident Bank Foundation; Jane Kurek, Executive Director, The Provident Bank Foundation; and Michael Kahn, VP/Market Manager, Provident Bank.



# Community Events

We welcome the community to our programs that are designed to educate and inform. Programs are subject to change.

## SEMINARS

Seminars, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the **CORE Building, 1164 Elizabeth Ave., Elizabeth, NJ**  
(Enter parking lot from South Broad St., next to Fire House) Register online or call (908) 994-8939.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6 & SEPT. 13**

### AARP Driver Safety Classroom Course

Earn a 5%-10% discount on auto insurance or two points deducted from your driving record. Two classes must be taken consecutively in order to gain credit for the class.

**\$15 for AARP members (must bring card for validation)**

**\$20 for Non AARP members**

**Must bring a valid driver's license.**

**Space is limited and registration is required.**

Call 908-994-8939 to register.

Register at [www.TrinitasRMC.org/AARP](http://www.TrinitasRMC.org/AARP)

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 • 11:00 am**

### Real Men Wear Gowns: Understanding the Need to Screen

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men. One in seven men are diagnosed every five minutes. Symptoms often go unnoticed during the early stages so many don't know they have it until it's too late. Join us to learn more about why screening is vitally important and what you can do to manage your risk!

**Stephen Sampson Senior Center**  
**800 Anna St, Elizabeth, NJ 07201**

Register at [www.TrinitasRMC.org/Cancer](http://www.TrinitasRMC.org/Cancer)

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 • 5:30 pm**

### Pain Management: How To Manage Chronic Back Pain

Do you suffer from constant back pain? If you want to explore alternatives to back surgery, attend our free seminar to learn about non-invasive back pain treatment options. Manage your back pain and get on with living a satisfying and fulfilling life!

**Dr. Todd S.Koppel, Chief, Division of Pain Management**

Register at [www.TrinitasRMC.org/Pain](http://www.TrinitasRMC.org/Pain)

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 • 11:45 am**

### Break the Silence: Building Healthy Relationships and Bringing Awareness to Domestic Violence

Many women often blame themselves when they go through an abusive relationship. Join us as we uncover signs of abusive relationships, resources to contact for support, and coping strategies for surviving. If you or a loved one has been through an abusive relationship, we welcome you to this potentially life-changing conversation.

**Lillian Ribeiro, Community Education & Drama Therapist, YWCA Union County; Linda Reynolds, Director of Ambulatory Adult Psych Services**

Register at [www.TrinitasRMC.org/BreaktheSilence](http://www.TrinitasRMC.org/BreaktheSilence)

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10 • 6:00 pm**

### Share a Pink Evening! Join our Expert Physicians to Discuss Breast Health!

Think Pink while you shop, eat and drink! October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Trinitas has assembled an esteemed panel of healthcare experts who will conduct a panel discussion on the topic. Come out and learn more about early detection of breast cancer, recent research developments, new therapies, treatment modalities and more. Light food and refreshments will be provided.

**Dr. Adriana Suarez-Ligon, Breast Surgeon; Dr. Clarissa Henson, Radiologist; Dr. Dipti Pandya, Radiologist; Dr. Heidi Fish, Pathologist; Dr. Michelle Cholankeril, Oncologist**

**Bloomingdales Store, Short Hills Mall**

**VIERNES, 13 DE OCTUBRE • 6:00 pm**

### Tu Futuro En Tus Manos: El cáncer de mama no avisa, pero podemos adelantarnos

Juntos con Proceed Inc. y Susan G. Komen-North Jersey, Trinitas Regional Medical Center te invita a un evento dedicado a la salud de las mujeres. En octubre, el mes de la concientización sobre el cáncer de mama, es importante desmentir algunos mitos que existen sobre esta enfermedad. Venga a celebrar con nosotros mientras aprendemos información sobre esta enfermedad, detección y los recursos en nuestra comunidad. Rifas y comida estará disponible para todos que atienden.

**Dr. Adriana Suarez-Ligon, Cirujana de mama; Veronica Vasquez, Navegadora certificada para pacientes con cáncer de mama**

**Proceed Inc., 1122 E Grand St, Elizabeth, NJ**

Register at [www.TrinitasRMC.org/TuFuturo](http://www.TrinitasRMC.org/TuFuturo)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 • 5:30 pm**

### Keeping You a Step Ahead: A Conversation on Diabetes Prevention and Risk

Trinitas invites you to gain essential insight into the complications, prevention, and practical treatments pertaining to diabetes. For many people diabetes symptoms go unnoticed because they "feel fine." Individuals often find themselves diagnosed when it could have been prevented. For those who have diabetes, there is so much to learn about maintaining daily balance in diet and exercise, as well as treatment efforts. Join us for this for this potentially lifesaving conversation!

**Dr. Ari Eckman, Chief, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism**

Register at [www.TrinitasRMC.org/Diabetes](http://www.TrinitasRMC.org/Diabetes)

## TCCC SUPPORT GROUPS

**Conference Room A or Conference Room B**

**Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center**

225 Williamson Street, Elizabeth New Jersey 07207

**All events take place from 1pm to 3pm.**

**Call (908) 994-8535 for 2017 schedule.**

### Living with Cancer

**Viviendo con Cáncer, Grupo De Apoyo**

**Living with Breast Cancer**

**Viviendo con Cáncer de Mama**

**Caregiving Support Group**

**Viviendo con Cáncer, Grupo De Apoyo**

**Viviendo con Cáncer, Apoyo Familiar**

For more information on any TCCC support programs and to RSVP, please contact Roxanne Ruiz-Adams, LSW, (908) 994-8535. Por favor llame al (908) 994-8535 para confirmar su asistencia.

## TRINITAS HEALTH FOUNDATION EVENTS

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

### Annual Golf Classic & Spa Day

**Echo Lake Country Club, Westfield, NJ**

For more information about the Foundation or to learn more about its fundraising events, (908) 994-8249 or [nbrechner@trinitas.org](mailto:nbrechner@trinitas.org).

Proceeds from these and other events benefit the patients of Trinitas Regional Medical Center. Making reservations for Foundation events is fast and easy on your American Express, MasterCard, Visa or Discover card!

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### Health Services with Women In Mind

Trinitas helps provide women access to vital health services with a focus on preventive measures. These include educational programs and cancer screenings. Programs offered in English and Spanish.

To learn more about these services, contact Amparo Aguirre, (908) 994-8244 or at [amaguirre@trinitas.org](mailto:amaguirre@trinitas.org)

### Ask the Pharmacist:

### Medication Management

**Free of charge, by appointment only.**

**Monthly on the 4th Tuesday, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**Call (908) 994-5237**



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## TRINITAS CHILDREN'S THERAPY SERVICES

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899 Mountain Avenue, Suite 1A, Springfield, NJ  
(973) 218-6394

### Winter Programs: October 9 - January 22

All programs are offered one time per week, for 45 minutes at Trinitas Children's Therapy Services, 899 Mountain Avenue, Suite 1A, Springfield, NJ 07081

Our programs and/or group therapy sessions are a great alternative to individual therapy. They give children the opportunity to address key developmental areas in structured but busier environments that are more reflective of typical real-life home and school situations.

### Scribbles to Script

An opportunity for children from preschool (prewriting) through elementary (cursive) school to work with an **occupational therapist** and participate in multi-sensory fine motor, visual-motor, and visual-perceptual activities to learn pre-writing skills, proper letter formation, and writing within the given lines using the *Handwriting Without Tears*® program. Help to reinforce learning and make writing fun! Preschool, Tuesdays 9:00 – 9:45, 4:00 – 4:45  
Kindergarten, Tuesdays 9:00 – 9:45, 4:00 – 4:45  
1st-2nd Grade, Mondays 4:00 – 4:45  
Cursive, Thursdays 4:00 – 4:45

### Sports Readiness

An opportunity for children to work with a **physical therapist** and have an introduction into several fall/winter sports in a non-competitive small group setting.  
Mondays 4:00 – 4:45

### Social Butterflies

An opportunity for children to work with a **speech & language therapist** and engage in activities to address turn taking, topic maintenance, appropriate question asking, following non-verbal cues, and using manners.  
Wednesdays 4:00 – 4:45

### Typing Whizkids

An opportunity for children to work with an **occupational therapist** to learn efficient keyboarding/typing skills, including key location and finger placement, and speed and accuracy.  
Tuesdays 4:00 – 4:45

To register for any programs or for more information, please contact Kevin Nelson at [knelson@trinitas.org](mailto:knelson@trinitas.org), (973) 218-6394, ext. 13, or fax (973) 218-6351.  
To learn more, visit [www.childtherapy.nj.com](http://www.childtherapy.nj.com)

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## MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUPS

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### Diabetes Management Support Group

Monthly, First Monday, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Kathleen McCarthy, RN, CDE (Certified Diabetes Educator)

Open to both diabetics and non-diabetics who want to learn more about diabetes prevention.

65 Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor, Elizabeth, New Jersey  
Call (908) 994-5502 for further information or registration

### Sleep Disorders

If you or someone you know experiences problems sleeping, consider contacting the Trinitas Comprehensive Sleep Disorders Center in Elizabeth. Another location can be found in Cranford at Homewood Suites by Hilton with easy access on and off the Garden State Parkway. Both centers are headed by a medical director who is board certified in sleep medicine, internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, and intensive care medicine, and is staffed by seven certified sleep technologists.

For further information, call (908) 994-8694 to learn more about the Trinitas Comprehensive Sleep Disorders Center or visit [www.njsleepdisorderscenter.org](http://www.njsleepdisorderscenter.org)

### Narcotics Anonymous

Monday 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Sunday 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm; Sunday 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Jean Grady, Community Liaison, (908) 994-7438

Grassmann Hall, 655 East Jersey St., Elizabeth

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Friday 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm

Jean Grady, Community Liaison, (908) 994-7438

Grassmann Hall, 655 East Jersey St., Elizabeth

### HIV Education and Support Program for HIV Positive Patients

Monthly. Call for scheduled dates/times.

Judy Lacinak, (908) 994-7605

Early Intervention Program Clinic, 655 Livingston St.

Monastery Building, 2nd Floor, Elizabeth

### Mental Illness Support Group (NAMI) for Spanish Speaking Participants

4th Friday of each month except August, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Mike Guglielmino, (908) 994-7275

Martha Silva, NAMI 1-888-803-3413

6 South Conference Room, Williamson Street Campus  
225 Williamson Street, Elizabeth



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a Life

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For \$20 per year, you will become an active member of the Trinitas Auxiliary – a vibrant organization dedicated to the highest quality healthcare for your community. You will also:

- Be invited to membership meetings with complimentary lunch
- Receive discounts (upon presentation of a valid Auxiliary membership card) on Trinitas Gift Shop items and food in the Trinitas cafeteria and coffee shop
- Attend educational seminars on timely issues
- Join exciting trips to such places as theater venues, area casinos and shopping outlets

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Help us to continue making a difference! Please make your check payable to: **Auxiliary of Trinitas RMC**

Mail to: Membership Chair  
Auxiliary of Trinitas RMC  
PO Box 259  
Elizabeth, NJ 07207-0259

You are welcome to call us at: (908) 994-8988

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# A NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DESIGNED FOR FAMILIES

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# EDGE PEOPLE



## HELPING TO END HUNGER

Over 500 sandwiches were made and distributed by members of the Elizabeth Rotary Club as part of a Sandwich Drive presented by Assemblywoman Annette Quijano in partnership with the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless and St. Joseph's Social Service Center. The event took place at the Coalition's location on Division Street in Elizabeth.



## THIS IS HOW THEY ROLL

Vine Ripe Markets in Westfield has been rolling out the finest fresh mozzarella every day since opening their doors in December 2015. Earlier this year, VRM launched its long-awaited educational series with their weekly fresh mozzarella class. Held every Monday evening, VRM's mozzarella experts craft a 90-minute session to teach foodies, families and friends the fine art of making this Italian culinary staple. The class is available for purchase via Groupon for \$49. With purchase, guests receive a Vine Ripe Markets Bag, including a ball fresh mozzarella, a loaf of store-baked Italian bread, and a bottle of imported extra virgin olive oil. Complimentary wine, cheese and charcuterie are also served during the class.



## TRINITAS EARNS CEO CANCER GOLD STANDARD RE-ACCREDITATION

Trinitas Regional Medical Center has earned CEO Cancer Gold Standard™ re-accreditation for maintaining a strong commitment to the health of its employees and satisfying the latest, comprehensive requirements of the Gold Standard. To earn Gold Standard accreditation, an employer must take concrete actions to reduce the risk and burden of cancer: prohibit tobacco use and support tobacco cessation efforts; promote physical activity, healthy nutrition and weight management; provide health insurance options that include detecting cancer at its earliest stages, access to quality care and participation in cancer clinical trials; promote employee awareness of these initiatives, and support the needs of cancer survivors in the workplace. National Walking Day is just one of the many ways Trinitas continues to promote healthy living and reduce risks related to cancer.



## ON THE EDGE IN WESTFIELD

EDGE magazine staff members manned an EDGE/Trinitas display booth during the recent Westfield 5K

Pizza Run sponsored by Downtown Westfield Corporation. Magazines and first aid kits were handed out by (left to right): Rob Rubilla, Senior Media Marketing Specialist; Doug Harris, Publisher; Jeff Shanes, Associate Publisher; Jama Bowman, Design Director, and Christine Layng, Media Marketing Specialist. Trinitas has been a top sponsor of the run since 2009.

A close-up photograph of a student's hands writing in a spiral notebook. The student is wearing a blue hoodie. The desk is cluttered with school supplies, including a blue pencil, a pink highlighter, and several other notebooks. The background is a bright, out-of-focus classroom or library setting with large windows.

# Homework

*How much is enough? How much is too much?*

By Christine Gibbs

**D**on't Bother, Homework Is Pointless. When this headline ran in *The New York Times* during the 2014–15 school year, you could practically hear the jubilant roar of elementary school students and their parents. Imagine a world without nightly assignments. No more badgering. No more meltdowns. Utopia. The writer cited research that almost

universally drew the same conclusion: Homework in the K-thru-8 world is practically pointless.

Three years later, despite mounting evidence that a 20th Century approach to homework does not adequately address the needs and challenges of the 21st, the war between those in favor of homework and those against it

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rages on. The anti-homework faction has amassed a mountain of newspaper stories like the one in the *Times* and can also cite serious studies, with statistically significant results, published in countless treatises and on endless websites. For example, research performed at Stanford University found that among 4,300 students in high-achieving California communities, those who spent two hours on homework experienced more stress, physical health problems, lack of balance, and even alienation from society.

A few daring school districts have been brave enough to implement a no-homework policy in the lower grades, which prompted a visceral reaction from many parents (and even some teachers) who feared it would affect everything from test scores to future college acceptances.

In 2014, sociology professors Keith Robinson and Angel L. Harris authored a book that has become required reading in certain circles entitled *The Broken Compass: Parental Involvement with Children's Education*. They present extensive and credible evidence that homework doesn't help much, if at all. Another conclusion of their research was that parental meddling in homework assignments can actually bring test scores down. This kind of interference, common among today's helicopter

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[www.chathamdayschool.org](http://www.chathamdayschool.org)

## FLIPPING FANTASTIC

Nicole Johnston, an upper school History teacher at Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, can remember well her homework assignments in college: “They were just homework for its own sake. Even today, in many history classes, students read, take notes and take tests.”

Bucking tradition, Ms. Johnston has become a Flipp Ed advocate, which does a reversal on the traditional approach to classroom protocol and after-class assignments. No longer do her students have to spend hours reading and writing to prep for class. Instead they are required to watch an online video of a lecture prepared by their teacher. Classwork consists of coming in ready to assume interactive roles in discussions and projects, as well as poring over real

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historical documents, which make history more present-tense than past. Most students enjoy classes once they overcome any shyness about participating.

Testing in Nicole’s classroom is mostly determined by standardized regulations. But she occasionally sends a pop video quiz online just to keep her students on their toes!

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parent population, “could leave children more anxious than enthusiastic about school.” *The Race to Nowhere*, a 2011 documentary produced by Vicki Abeles—a well-known filmmaker, speaker, and children’s advocate—featured interviews with burned-out students from our own Garden State schools who reveal how too much

homework is often detrimental, especially in the early grades. The final conclusion of her film is that “the only homework that actually helps kids learn is reading... just reading.”

So does homework work? Yes, say its proponents. A robust homework regimen has lasting real-world benefits. In her 2011 article, entitled “Why Homework is Good for Kids,” education historian Diane Ravitch pointed out that a little- or no-homework policy is likely to result in students who do not read much, do not write well, or don’t complete assignments. She sums up her defense of homework as follows: “[It] doesn’t help students who don’t do it, but very likely *does* help students who actually complete their assignments. Duh.”

While researchers haggle over the merits of the day-to-day payoff of homework, longtime educators point out facts that are difficult to dispute. Taking homework



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Middle School  
October 22 | 1:00 PM

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Information Sessions

Middle School  
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Upper School  
October 18 & November 1 | 9:00 AM



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## MAKING HOMEWORK WORK

As principal of the Benedictine Academy in Elizabeth, Ashley Powell is all too familiar with the battle of contention that has been raging for the past 10 years or so about the pros and cons of homework. She takes a structured approach on the “pro” side. For Powell, there is no value in simply requesting a review of what went on that day in the classroom:

“No busywork for homework...instead, I favor extending exploratory learning of subject matter through project and research assignments, rather than rote memorization.”

“There is just too much available online,” she adds, “so assigned topics can simply be Googled and regurgitated.”



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“The key to making homework work for teachers (and students) is to know why they are assigning each night’s homework and to make sure it serves a valuable purpose.”

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## THE SWEET SPOT

Finding the right balance of homework is a constant challenge, says Jayne Geiger, Head of School at Far Hills Country Day for 22 years and now Interim Head at The Rumson Country Day School. “We want children to take homework seriously, to think and reflect and produce their best work,” she says. “Yet we don’t want to overburden or overpressure them, especially with all of the outside-of-school activities students have now. We’re always looking for that sweet spot.”

Homework is a valuable tool, Geiger adds.

“With younger children, it is used as an assessment tool. It helps us make sure that students understand the lesson. It reinforces what they’ve learned and gives them time outside the classroom to practice. For older kids, homework focuses more on context and application. Students might be asked to write an opinion on a topic discussed in class, work communally on a Google Doc, edit something they have already written, or do individual research and produce an original thought.”

For all ages, Geiger says, homework establishes good habits, including responsibility, organization and preparation. It also enables students to develop and practice their executive functioning skills.

But never forget, she adds, that reading "is still the best medicine!"



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seriously—i.e. doing it well and doing it neatly (not in the back of the car or wedged into a subway seat)—develops habits for life. One of the great complaints employers have is that a high percentage of their workers do not understand expectations or how to meet expectations, and that accountability seems like a foreign concept. This is true of fast-food workers, Ph.D.'s and everyone in between. Homework helps young people comprehend responsibility and the value of a job well done.

Who makes decisions about homework? Schools typically have a policy on time limits. For younger kids, it's often a half-hour a night—increasing to 90 minutes or more by middle school, as they have more subjects and become more mature. In most cases, the type and quality of homework is discussed on the division level. The focus is on elevating the students' cognitive skills.

Our federal government has long been a proponent of the benefits of homework as part of any good curriculum. Through programs such as No Child Left Behind, countless millions of dollars were aimed at ways to improve education—almost all of which emphasized homework as a valuable teaching tool. Such programs

# GILL ST. BERNARD'S

# BALANCE MATTERS





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## ADMISSION OPEN HOUSES

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Sunday, November 19, 1:00 p.m.

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unfortunately fell short of their goals through inefficiency at the state level. As these programs failed, so did the undisputed confidence in the rewards of a hefty homework regimen.

Many experts feel that homework strategies have failed to keep pace with the digital age. Finding answers is often a button-click away, while collecting information is like trying to drink out of a fire hose. The gates to knowledge have been flung wide open and, yet, when a child sits in front of a screen, there is no gatekeeper. Interestingly, upper grade homework has remained roughly the same since 1984—a bit under two hours—but what fills that time is, in many cases, dramatically different today than in the '80s. Some believe development of an Intelligent Tutoring System (ITS) will “replace” homework. An ITS is a computer program that gives students customized instruction and feedback in real time, with oversight by a teacher. These programs are becoming more prevalent in professional settings and may eventually find their way down to the grade school level.

Harris Cooper, a Duke psychology professor, points out that people have been arguing about homework for a

century. “The complaints are cyclical,” he says, “and we’re in the part of the cycle now where the concern is about too much.”

Cooper adds that, back in the 1970s, the focus in American schools was on too little homework because we were more worried about global competitiveness. Wherever we stand as a parent or educator, we should prepare for the homework pendulum to continue to swing. But for now, although homework doesn’t appear to be all it was once cracked up to be, *Do your homework!* still resounds in many a U.S. household.

In the end, wherever you come down on the homework debate, and regardless of which mega-study you believe, there is one point all educators agree on—and cannot stress enough to parents—which echoes the conclusion of *The Race to Nowhere*: The single most important thing a child can do outside of school is *read*. Whether it is done for an assignment or as an escape, reading helps young people develop a sense of grammar and spelling, exposes them to new ideas, sparks the imagination and helps instill in them an intuitive understanding of communication. **EDGE**



## *The not-so-funny side of Home Alone*

By Sarah Rossbach

One September day, when my near-twin children were entering high school, I ran into a distressed, grief-stricken acquaintance at the local farm market. In tears, the normally perky, upbeat woman shared that her youngest had just left for college. She was an empty-nester and life as a mother was over. While her child was adjusting to the freedom and challenges of college life, she was mourning the end of family dinners, high-school tennis matches, and a house full of laughing teenagers. One look at the

abandoned bedroom, the discarded racket and lunch box and it was too much to bear. Now retired from her role/job as an active parent, she had contracted a full-blown case of Empty Nest Syndrome: The helicopter parent had landed with a lonely thud and an empty tank.

Fast-forward a few years. My husband and I dropped off our two at their respective New England colleges—as luck would have it—a day apart. In spite of loving our children dearly, I was determined to avoid my



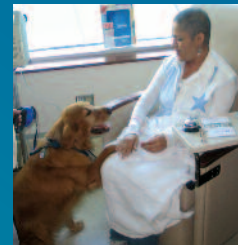
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acquaintance's pitfall. I reminded my spouse that we'd had a lot of fun before we had children and suggested viewing their absence as a sort of second honeymoon. He didn't quite carry me over the threshold, but we found that being home alone together gave us more quality time for each other. While we weren't exactly celebrating that

we were "free at last," we took solace that the kids were in college, a parenting job well-done.

Everyone has "helpful" suggestions on parenting, but how does one deal with *un-parenting*—losing one's identity as a mom or dad, being on one's own and becoming a temporarily child-free individual or couple? Wikipedia describes the Empty Nest Syndrome (ENS) as a "feeling of grief and loneliness parents may feel when their children leave home for the first time, such as to live on their own or to attend a college or university." It is not a clinical condition, yet its symptoms can range from depression and loss of purpose to stress and anxiety about the child. Of course, for some, the departure of a "difficult" child may not come soon enough.

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## COPING

My father had a saying about his kids: “If you’re going to raise eagles, you have to let them fly.” The message (I think) was his rationalization as he sadly watched us go in different directions, as well as being his way to encourage and inspire us: that separation from one’s parents was a key inaugural element to launch one’s life journey.

I reached out to Dr. Rodger Goddard for some advice to parents whose eagles have flown the coop. Dr. Goddard is Chief Psychologist and Director of Wellness Management Services at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. (Wellness Management Services provides presentations, programs and consultation to help corporations and schools achieve their key goals.) Empty Nest Syndrome (ENS) is extremely common, he points out. In fact, as many as 30% of all Baby Boomers may experience this syndrome.

“The range of experiences that a parent may have are extremely varied,” he explains. “A child may have moved only a block away or to the other side of the country. A child or parent may not blink an eye or one may experience very intense emotional swings during this transition. A significant number of parents struggle with ENS. The classic symptoms range from feelings of loss, depression and meaninglessness to high anxiety and intense worry.”

Dr. Goddard offers a number of strategies that can help alleviate this potentially painful and difficult time. There are two key areas that parents can work on to build skills to help get through this challenging life transition...

## IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP

First, focus on finding ways to positively change your relationship with your child. Your child is likely to have very mixed feelings about the separation: torn between



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wanting to still feel protected, loved and secure, while rejecting being treated like a child. This may send a parent very mixed messages, resulting in a parent being torn between giving advice, criticism and help, and feeling mistreated and pushed away.

Second, it is important to find a balance of contact during this time. While you want to avoid suffocating your child and giving him or her the message that they are incapable of being on their own, your child still needs your help. Figure out with your child the best form and frequency of contact; text, email, phone, visits. Avoid being too invasive at this time. This would send the message that your child cannot manage on his or her own. Yet too much distance would communicate to your child that you disapprove of their separation and independence, potentially implying you are withdrawing your love and support because they have a new place to live, a new job, a new partner, and so on. It is critical to show support and love during the transition into college, and beyond, as it can be extremely scary and anxiety-filled for a child dealing with separating from the family. In short, you may be most effective when you encourage independence, yet still show your intense love and support, and provide advice and direction when needed. Remember to not distance yourself too much no matter how much upset, anxiety, relief or sadness you are feeling in order to create a good balance. Your child needs you to be in the

dual role of both a guiding, advice-giving parent and a supportive, affirming, accepting friend in the background.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR SELF-CARE & GROWTH

You have devoted your whole life to nurturing this beautiful child and are likely to experience a loss of meaning and purpose when your child is separating. It is a wonderful time to devote yourself to something new. According to Dr. Goddard, a good antidote to the loss of meaning and purpose is to use this time to build your self-esteem and explore new meaning in your life. Supporting yourself begins with using techniques to control your anxious, worried thoughts. Learn to be calm, practice deep breathing exercises all day long. Focus on rational thoughts and be more active. Use the time to do a life review to clarify the mission and purpose of your life and find new directions to focus what you have to give the world.

## HOME AGAIN

In the spirit of full disclosure, I should mention at this point that, having coped reasonably well with ENS, my husband and I are now faced with another challenge about which you've probably read or heard. As of this writing, my eagles have both come home to roost and are part of the Boomerang Generation. Parenting has become trickier, as you're all cooped up again and you, as parent, are dealing with young adults who have tasted and enjoyed their own independence. This issue is complex. Life is much more challenging now, it is more difficult to find a job than in the past and renting or buying on one's own is more expensive than ever. For example, my kids are working full-time, but can afford only to live at home for now.

So Empty Nesters, you may want to hold off on converting those freed-up bedrooms into home offices or man caves. **EDGE**

## NOT-SO-EMPTY NEST

Somewhere around a one-third of 18-to-34-year-olds are living at home with their parents, due, in part, to financial challenges. Dr. Rodger Goddard offers these thoughts to Boomerang parents:

- Today, children are less mature, independent and self-reliant compared to earlier times. This may potentially be a result of Baby Boomers being overly supportive, indulging and spoiling their children, compared to past generations. As a result, many of those in their 20s are like teenagers and those in their 30s are like those in their 20s.
- Children returning home and living with their parents can be very difficult for both parent and child. Parents are likely to want to parent the same way they did

for the last 20-30 years. As the child has been away from home for the college years, anger and resentment can arise in the boomerang child who feels independent and resents being treated like a kid.

- It is best for everyone that the relationship evolves. For all to live happily under the same roof, it is critical that there is a working structure in place, that all understand their responsibilities: chores, rent, behavior and so on. So all need to agree on a set of guiding rules: who does what, when and where. A written agreement concerning key issues—as well as a plan for the child transitioning to being on his or her own—is critical.



# Old Home Week



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*A look back at the Home Alone phenomenon.*

By Luke Sacher

**H**ome Alone, the highest grossing live action comedy motion picture in history, is now 27 years old. For those of us who saw it when first released in theaters, that's half our lives or more ago. Writer/producer John Hughes initially sold his screenplay to Warner Brothers, who flipped it to 20th Century Fox for a tidy profit. Alas, that proved to be one of the most shortsighted decisions in Hollywood history.

Against a production budget of \$18 million, *Home Alone* grossed \$285.8 million in the United States and Canada, and \$190.9 million in other countries, for a worldwide total of \$476.7 million—a return on investment of 2,650 percent.

From its release on November 16, 1990, *Home Alone* was #1 at the box office for 12 straight weeks, and remained in the Top 10 until well past Easter. After nine

months in U.S. theaters, it had earned 16 times its debut weekend earnings, and sold nearly 70 million tickets. Worldwide, it was the third-highest grossing picture of all time, behind only *Star Wars* and *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*. The movie siphoned off so much box office from competing pictures that screenwriter William Goldman coined the verb “Home-Alonged”—now an industry expression—after receipts for his film *Misery* (starring Kathy Bates and James Caan) fell short of studio projections.

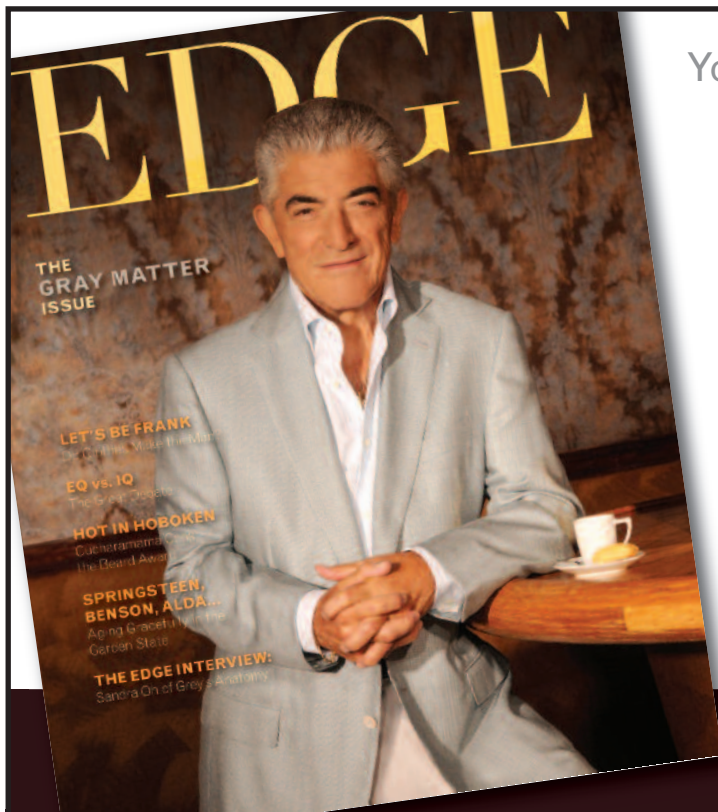
The premise of *Home Alone* (the McCallister family is jetting to Europe before they realize that eight-year-old Kevin has been forgotten) stretches the limits of credulity. What made the movie was the performance of adorable Macauley Culkin and the misadventures of two bumbling burglars, played by Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern.

“The last 44 pages of *Home Alone* were written in eight hours,” Hughes once admitted. “All that physical stuff. It

was a roll as fast as I could type. I was inside that movie. Anything I did was right. When you get in there, it’s a tremendous feeling because you’re not planning it, it’s just happening. And it’s all subconscious.”

Hughes suggested to director Chris Columbus that they cast Culkin as Kevin after Hughes directed the young actor in *Uncle Buck*, starring John Candy. After interviewing dozens of other young actors for the part, Columbus finally met with Culkin, and agreed that he was the right choice. By law, Culkin could only work until 10 p.m. This created logistical problems for the crew because of the movie’s many night scenes. On top of that, shooting the live-action stunts was truly nerve wracking.

“Every time the stunt guys did one of those stunts it wasn’t funny,” Columbus recalled. “We’d watch it, and I would just pray that the guys were alive.” Stunts were prepared and rehearsed with safety harnesses, but



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performed without them on camera because of their visibility. CGI technology hadn't been invented in 1990.

Initial reviews of *Home Alone* were mixed. *Variety* remarked on the top-notch performances of its cast. Jeanne Cooper of *The Washington Post* praised it as pure, unpretentious entertainment. Hal Hinson, also of *The Washington Post*, lauded Chris Columbus's direction and Culkin's acting. Caryn James complained that the film's first half was "flat and unsurprising" in her *New York Times* review, but applauded the second half for its old-school slapstick humor and genuine sentimentality. Roger Ebert of the *Chicago Sun-Times* gave *Home Alone* 2.5 out of a possible 4 star rating. He pointed out that Kevin's booby traps would take a team of special-effects experts to set up and said the plot was "so implausible that it makes it hard to really care about the plight of the kid." Owen Gleiberman of *Entertainment Weekly* hated the film, giving it a D and scolding it for its "sadistic festival of adult-bashing."

Fast-forward to 2017. *Home Alone* is now a holiday staple, often ranked among the best Hollywood Christmas films of all time, including *Miracle on 34th Street*, *A Christmas Story* and the Frank Capra classic *It's a Wonderful Life*. Hughes admits he was inspired by Capra and his portrayals of honest, everyday Americans prevailing in the world over the no-goodniks. Like Capra, Hughes and director Chris Columbus were meticulous in their casting, and it shows. All these years later, it is difficult to imagine anyone better occupying any of the key roles: Macaulay Culkin as Kevin McCallister, Joe Pesci as Harry Lime, Daniel Stern as Marv Merchants, John Heard as Peter McCallister, Catherine O'Hara as Kate McCallister, Roberts Blossom as Old Man Marley, John Candy as Polka King Gus Polinski and Hope Davis as a Paris-Orly Airport receptionist.

How did they come to *Home Alone*? Where did life take them in the years that followed? Where are they now? I thought you'd never ask...

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Hughes Entertainment/20th Century Fox

NOW



Photo by Judy Clements-Turner

**Macaulay Culkin** (August 26, 1980) was born and raised in New York City, and began acting at the age of four. Named after Lord Macaulay of India, he is the

paternal nephew of actress Bonnie Bedelia (*Heart Like a Wheel*, *Die Hard*). In 1989, Culkin appeared in John Hughes's *Uncle Buck* and went toe-to-toe with John Candy as dead-panning Miles. After *Home Alone*, he was hailed as the most successful child actor since Shirley Temple—ranked #2 on both VH1's *100 Greatest Kid-Stars* and E!'s *50 Greatest Child Stars*.

Around the time of shooting *Home Alone*, Culkin became close friends with pop icon Michael Jackson and appeared in Jackson's "Black or White" music video. When Jackson stood trial accused of sexual abuse, Culkin testified on his behalf, and reported he had slept in Jackson's bedroom on countless occasions. He explained that Jackson's bedroom was arranged over two floors, and that Jackson had never sexually molested him or touched him in any improper way. Culkin referred to the allegations as "absolutely ridiculous."

In 1991, Culkin hosted *Saturday Night Live* and starred in *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* in 1992. In 1993, while a student at the School of American Ballet, he danced the title role in a filmed version of *The Nutcracker*, staged by Peter Martins from George Balanchine's 1954 New York City Ballet production. Culkin retired from acting in 1994 and married actress Rachel Miner in 1998, but the marriage broke up and they were divorced in 2002.

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He dated actress Mila Kunis for several years and they remain friends.

Culkin returned to acting in his mid-20s with generally good reviews, including a hilarious appearance on *Will and Grace* as an immature lawyer. He also did voice-over work. In 2010, he appeared alongside actors Matthew Broderick, Molly Ringwald, Judd Nelson, Ally Sheedy, Anthony Michael Hall, and Jon Cryer in a tribute to the late John Hughes. He also fronted a band called The Pizza Underground, a Lou Reed/Velvet Underground parody-tribute group. In 2015, Culkin starred in a dark and brilliant five-minute YouTube video as a troubled Uber driver complaining about the impact of a traumatic childhood episode when his family left him at home and he had to defend himself against a pair of criminals.



THEN

**John Hughes** (February 18, 1950 – August 6, 2009) was born in Lansing, Michigan. He grew up in Grosse Pointe, a

toney Detroit suburb, and in Northbrook, IL, outside Chicago. His experiences in Northbrook and at Glenbrook North High School became the grist for many of his movies, as well as his literary satire.

“I grew up in a neighborhood that was mostly girls and old people,” he told an interviewer. “There weren’t any boys my age, so I spent a lot of time by myself, imagining things. And every time we would get established somewhere, we would move. Life just started to get good in seventh grade, and then we moved to Chicago. I ended up in a really big high school, and I didn’t know anybody. But then The Beatles came along...changed my whole life. And then Bob Dylan’s *Bringing It All Back Home* came out and really changed me. Thursday I was one person, and Friday I was another. My heroes were Dylan, John Lennon and Picasso—because they each moved their particular

medium forward, and when they got to the point where they were comfortable, they always moved on.”

After dropping out of the University of Arizona in 1969, Hughes began selling jokes to comedians, including Henny Youngman, Rodney Dangerfield and Joan Rivers. He worked in advertising and became the youngest Creative Director in the history of Leo Burnett Worldwide. His work often took him to New York, where he got to know the folks at *National Lampoon* and began writing for the magazine (secretly) on the side. His story “Vacation ’58” was the basis for the hit 1983 movie *National Lampoon’s Vacation*. That script, plus the one for *Mr. Mom*, earned Hughes a three-picture deal with Universal Studios. He went on to direct a string of popular films set around upper middle-class American high schools, including *Sixteen Candles*, *Weird Science*, *The Breakfast Club*, *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off*, *Pretty In Pink* and *Some Kind of Wonderful*. He also directed *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* and *Uncle Buck* before *Home Alone*. Hughes also authored screenplays for *Maid in Manhattan*, *Drillbit Taylor* and the *Beethoven* films.

Hughes was deeply shaken by the death of John Candy (*below*) in 1994 and pulled back from the movie business. He suffered a heart attack on West 55th in New York in 2009 and died at the age of 59.



Hughes Entertainment/20th Century Fox

THEN



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Courtesy Canadian Broadcast Company

**Catherine O’Hara** (March 4, 1954) started her career in 1974 in her hometown of Toronto as a cast member of the legendary

Second City comedy ensemble. She was an understudy for Gilda Radner until Radner joined the founding cast of *Saturday Night Live*. Two years later, Second City created the sketch comedy show *SCTV*, with O’Hara as a regular performer. In 1981, when *SCTV* was between network deals, she was hired to replace Ann Risley when *Saturday Night Live* was being revamped. However, she quit the show without ever appearing on air, and returned to *SCTV* when it signed with NBC. Her position at *SNL* was filled by longtime friend Robin Duke.

O’Hara’s work at *SCTV* brought her fame in Canada and the US as both an actress and writer, winning an Emmy for outstanding writing and two nominations for comedy performance. She made her feature film debut in *Double Negative*, which co-starred *SCTV* regulars John Candy, Eugene Levy and Joe Flaherty. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, she appeared in a number of supporting roles, including Martin Scorsese’s *After Hours* and Nora Ephron’s *Heartburn* with Meryl Streep. Her most memorable cinematic roles were in Tim Burton’s *Beetlejuice* and, of course, *Home Alone* and its sequel. O’Hara also starred in four of Christopher Guest’s “mockumentaries”—three of which earned her awards

and nominations: *Waiting for Guffman*, *Best in Show*, *A Mighty Wind* and *For Your Consideration*. Her role in the 2010 HBO biopic *Temple Grandin* earned her three major nominations, including a Primetime Emmy and Screen Actors Guild award.

O'Hara is currently starring alongside fellow SCTV alum Eugene Levy and his son, Daniel, on the CBC comedy/satire *Schitt's Creek*—a runaway favorite of Netflix viewers. She won Canadian Screen Awards for Best Lead Actress in a Comedy Series in 2016 and 2017 as the washed-up soap star Moira Rose.

Hughes Entertainment/20th Century Fox



THEN

**John Heard** (March 7, 1945 - July 21, 2017) was born in Washington, D.C. to John Matthew Sr. and Helen Heard.

He attended Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, and Catholic University of America in D.C., planning initially to be a drama teacher. By the early 1970s, Heard was earning critical acclaim for his acting and by the end of the decade his stage work in New York earned him roles in movies and on television. His early films include *Cutter's Way*, *Cat People* and *C.H.U.D.*, in which he co-starred with future *Home Alone* cast member Daniel Stern. In 1988, about the time he was cast in *Home Alone*, Heard was in three hit films: *The Milagro Beanfield War*, *Big* and *Beaches*.

See our interview with John Heard on page 87.

THEN



Hughes Entertainment/20th Century Fox

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Photo by Yausser

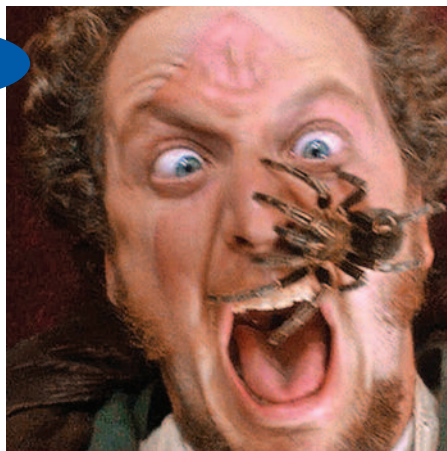
**Joe Pesci** (February 9, 1943) was born in Newark and raised in neighboring Belleville. He was acting by the age of four and by

age 10 was a regular on a TV program called *Startime Kids*, which also featured Connie Francis. Pesci knew Frankie Valli and Tommy DeVito growing up and, in 1959, introduced them to songwriter Bob Gaudio, leading to the formation of The Four Seasons. In the 1960s, he began his own musical career, playing guitar for several bands, including Joey Dee and the Starlighters (he was replaced by Jimi Hendrix!). In 1968, Pesci released an album of contemporary pop hit cover songs titled *Little Joe Sure Can Sing!* as Joe Ritchie. Later, he and Frank Vincent put together a music/comedy act that caught the eye of Robert DeNiro and Martin Scorsese, who were casting *Raging Bull*. Pesci and Vincent both earned starring roles, with Pesci snagging an Oscar nomination.

Prior to his side-splitting portrayal of Harry Lime in *Home Alone*, Pesci appeared in a number films, including *Easy Money*, *Once Upon a Time in America*, *Lethal Weapon* and *Goodfellas*, which was released five weeks before *Home Alone*. Pesci won the Best Supporting Oscar for *Goodfellas*, during which he stomped Vincent's character to death in one of the most enduring scenes in the annals of mob movies.

Pesci continued to shine in both dramatic and comedic roles after *Home Alone*. He had memorable performances in *JFK*, *My Cousin Vinny*, *Home Alone II*, *The Public Eye*, *Casino* and *The Super*. By the late-1990s, the starring roles being offered to Pesci tended to be in low-brow or low-quality pictures, so in 1999 he decided to take a hiatus from the cinema and stage to revive and pursue his musical career.

THEN



Hughes Entertainment/20th Century Fox

1981 as “Shrevie” Schreiber, the obsessive-compulsive record collector, in Barry Levinson’s *Diner*. In 1985, he appeared in Woody Allen’s *Hannah and her Sisters* and in 1988 he began a six-season run as the adult voice of Kevin Arnold in *The Wonder Years*. After playing Murchens in *Home Alone*, Stern played Phil Berquist in *City Slickers* and *City Slickers II* and directed the baseball film *Rookie of the Year*. Recently, Stern played nuclear physicist Glen Babbit in 15 episodes of the critically acclaimed series *Manhattan*, about the building of the atomic bomb during World War II. He also directed two episodes.

Stern is an accomplished fine artist, particularly in bronze sculpture. He has created works for public art projects in San Diego, Pasadena, Palm Desert, Temple City and Agoura Hills, as well as many private commissions, gallery exhibitions and art fairs. He is currently an artist in residence at Studio Channel Islands Art Center in Camarillo, California. His brother is television writer David M. Stern, and his son is California State Senator Henry Stern.

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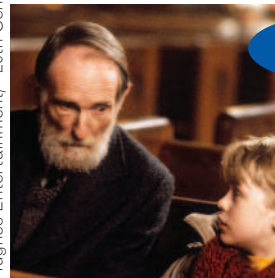


Courtesy of Mingle Media TV

**Daniel Stern** (August 28, 1957) was born in Bethesda, Maryland, where he caught the acting bug as a teenager. He starred in several high-school productions and applied for a job as a lighting engineer for a Shakespeare Festival in Washington. Instead, he was hired as a walk-on in a production of *The Taming of the Shrew*, starring Glenn Close. Stern dropped out of high school in his senior year and soon moved to New York, where he found parts in Off Broadway and Broadway productions, including *True West* with Gary Sinise.

In 1979, Stern made his film debut as Cyril in *Breaking Away* and had a small part in Woody Allen’s *Stardust Memories* a year later. His breakthrough role came in

THEN



Hughes Entertainment/ 20th Century Fox

**Roberts Blossom** (March 25, 1924 – July 8, 2011), who played Old Man Marley—Kevin’s next door neighbor in *Home Alone*—was born in New Haven, Connecticut. His father, Robert, was Athletic Director at Yale. Blossom grew up in Cleveland and attended Harvard for a year before enlisting in World War II. After the war, he found his way into acting and earned high praise from critics during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s—winning an Obie in each decade. Blossom worked steadily on and off Broadway, as well as appearing in numerous television series and soap operas, in which he often played villains.

Beginning in his 40s, Blossom began playing eccentric and cantankerous old oddballs on the silver screen, with roles in *Slaughterhouse Five*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *Escape from Alcatraz*, *Doc Hollywood*, *Christine*, *The Last Temptation of Christ* and *The Quick and The Dead*.

THEN



Hughes Entertainment/ 20th Century Fox

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Photo by Nightscream

**Chris Columbus** (September 10, 1958) was born in Spangler, Pennsylvania and raised in the

Ohio town of Champion. He attended New York University's film school at the Tisch School of the Arts, where he was classmates with writer/director Charlie Kaufman and actor Alec Baldwin. Columbus neglected to renew his scholarship after his freshman year and had to work a factory job back home to afford his sophomore year tuition. In between shifts he worked on his first screenplay, which would become the hit movie *Gremlins*. Steven Spielberg optioned it and also hired Columbus as a screenwriter. He wrote two more scripts for Spielberg—*The Goonies* and *Young Sherlock Holmes*—and made his directorial debut in 1987, with the teen comedy *Adventures in Babysitting*. John Hughes wanted Columbus to direct *National Lampoon's Vacation*, but

Columbus didn't see eye-to-eye with Chevy Chase and did not get the job. Hughes saw to it that Columbus was on *Home Alone*.

After *Home Alone*, Columbus directed a dozen more movies, including *Home Alone II*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Stepmom*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, and *Pixels*. In 1995, he founded 1492 Pictures and produced *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* and *The Help*, for which he received an Academy Award nomination.

Like Hughes, Columbus embraced the ethos of directors like Frank Capra. "I can understand the validity of showing people the ugliness of the world," he once said, "but I also think there is a place for movies to leave people with a sense of hope. If your film isn't going to do that, I just don't think it's worth making." **EDGE**



20th Century Fox



# EDGE

## interview

### John Heard



Leading men come and go in Hollywood. Only a handful, though, have the ability to disappear into a supporting character. **John Heard**, who passed away shortly after this interview, was at home at either end of the spectrum, which accounts for his long, interesting career. Heard first wowed critics in his early 20s as an Obie-winning stage actor in New York, and quickly moved into film and television roles. He reeled off a string of memorable performances in the 1980s, including *Cutter's Way*, *Cat People*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Heaven Help Us*, *The Milagro Beanfield War*, *Big*, *Beaches*, *Mindwalk*, *Awakenings* and *The Pelican Brief*. In 1990, he played Peter McCallister, the dad in *Home Alone*. Jenny Stewart knew John Heard for more than two decades. She reached out to John to get the story behind his role in *Home Alone*...and the unusual challenges he faced as one of the most-recognized actors of his time.

**EDGE:** When you got the script for *Home Alone*, did you have any idea that this was going to become such an iconic movie?

**JH:** No. No idea.



Hughes Entertainment/20th Century Fox

**EDGE:** Many people have pointed out that the premise is hard to swallow. Could a family board a plane for Europe and leave a child behind?

**JH:** That's a good question. And that's what Katherine O'Hara (*above*) and I had to ask ourselves. The two of us didn't know. Between the two of us, she had the more difficult part. I could just be sort of a dummy, a goofy

guy—I made him a gynecologist—I didn't care, as long as she was as focused as she was in terms of losing our son. Then we learned that it was a comedy. Why is this funny? How do we play this? We didn't really know how comedic all that slapstick stuff was going to be until we saw it. It wasn't until the second *Home Alone* that we knew that we could be funny.

**EDGE:** So you both were playing it straight?

**JH:** We were playing it straight. Or, we were given an opportunity by the director to be comedic—but not necessarily *personally* comedic or funny, not somebody making jokes.

**EDGE:** Have you ever misplaced a child and felt that kind of panic and terror?

**JH:** Sure. From the moment you have children you're experiencing that. I can remember a time when I was in a little video store, a perfectly safe place, in Rhinebeck, New

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York. My son, Jack, was four or five. I was talking to the girl who ran the store with her mother, and I turned around and he wasn't there. We were towards the back of the store, so there wasn't any place for him to go. It was literally like he had disappeared. I flipped out. I'd taught him not to run around to try to find a parent if he became separated, to stand in the same place where he lost his parent—teaching him his phone numbers, stuff like that. I started racing around in a circle. “Jack! Jack!!” Somehow he had managed to blend in with the videotapes in the corner of the store; I didn't see him. I hugged him. “Oh, my God, there you are!” God, it was so horrible. I know the feeling, and it's a really horrible feeling.

**EDGE:** What do you remember from the set of *Home Alone*?

**JH:** Michael Jackson came to the set to see Macaulay Culkin. They were buddies. We were all getting into a van while we were shooting the ride to the airport, and I hit my head getting into the van. Someone took a picture of them standing in front of the van with me wearing the camel hair coat from the movie holding a hot water bottle on my head. I don't know what happened to it.

**EDGE:** You grew up in the Washington D.C. area. Do you consider that home?

**JH:** That and New York City, I guess. I've spent an equal amount of time in each.

**EDGE:** What did your parents do?

**JH:** My father worked in the Pentagon. He was under assistant to the assistant to the under assistant to the Secretary of Defense. He was in charge of contracting and military appropriations. He was an engineer. On weekends, my father would go play his saxophone, which he loved dearly, and my mother would go and perform in a community theater play.

**EDGE:** Who got you into the theater as a young man?

**JH:** My mother, probably, and my sister, Cordis, who wanted to build a theater in our garage. My mother said

to me, “Why don't you get out of the house and do something?” It was more of a threat that, if I didn't, she would make life more difficult. The first show that I ever was in at the Chevy Chase Community Center was a show called *The Happy Wanderer*. The kid that was going to sing in the show got sick. He had one of those operatic voices at age 12. The lady that ran the group of us—she was very sweet, I had a crush on her—said to me, “All you have to do is walk around, John, and pretend like you're singing...and we'll play something.”

**EDGE:** Poor singing voice?

**JH:** *Terrible*. When I was in college, I did an operetta, and I only had one line to sing. I had a director who literally pulled his hair out every time I sang. And, he didn't have much to pull out! He was like, “Don't you *hear* yourself?”

**EDGE:** How many roles have you had where you had to sing?

**JH:** None. Well, actually, I did a repeat role in *The Sopranos* and they called me up and said, “Tony's going to have a dream return thing, like years later, and you have to sing around the table. It's part of the dream that he's having, and you're singing [sings] You're once...twice... three times a lady. That's one of the hardest songs in the world for anybody to sing! So I called up David Chase, and said, “I'm not singing this. I can't sing that song.” He said, “I never thought of that. It never occurred to me that you couldn't sing.” Like it was all my fault. He didn't change it, so I had to sing it. I had to take singing lessons for a week to sing even a note of it. And I had to sing it in front of Annette Bening and Jimmy Gandolfini, they were two people at the table. Annette was really nice. Gandolfini was always really funny. He said, “Wow, you sound a lot better off camera.” Annette Bening said, “Jimmy! Don't be mean!” She was, like, give him a break. I never forgot how she stood up for me.

**EDGE:** One of your first movie roles was playing Jack Kerouac in the 1980 film *Heart Beat* along with Nick Nolte and Sissy Spacek. What was it like stepping into such an iconic character?

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**JH:** It was scary because I'm not anything like him. I picked a certain time when Jack Kerouac had written *Maggie Cassidy* about his hometown in Lowell, Mass. I identified with that. I went to school at Clark University, which was in Worcester, and I knew from counties and dark New England nights and so on and so forth. Also, he was a member of a boy's gang, he was Catholic, he was Canadian—French Quebecois. He had a rugged side. He was poor, his mother looked out for him, I don't remember if his father was around. But, he was a lot tougher than me. I was a little bit more effete, so I was worried that I was going to come off too bookish. Jack Kerouac seemed pretty downtrodden to me and he was such a heavy drinker. So I'd get into fights with the director, John Byrum, all the time. He'd say, "I don't give a crap if it's the real thing, just play the scene, stop being so glum."

**EDGE:** He was looking for a different Kerouac.

**JH:** This was a time in Kerouac's life when Carolyn Cassidy and Neal Cassidy and he, I think, were having the most fun—riding around, both of them being in love with her, and her with them. They were being cutting edge, so that was what the movie was trying to show. He didn't want me to be Jack Kerouac in *The Dark of Night*. He used to take my girlfriend at the time, and put her on a ladder behind the camera, and surprise me so that she would make faces or something, shake her booty, so that I would perk up.

**EDGE:** What was it like off-set with Nick and Sissy?

**JH:** Sissy we didn't see that much of; we scared her off very early on. She was like, "They're going to throw me in the pool." Nick and I—and his friend Billy Cross—hung out every night and just drove L.A. We were up all night every night, and went from one end of L.A. to the other. Billy drove. We'd pull into one house after another, 20 minutes apart, to see girls with their hair up in rollers, with their pajamas on, going [falsetto] 'Hi, Nick!' with their face in their hands. Everybody loved Nick. I mean everybody loved Nick. Everywhere you went everyone

loved Nick Nolte. He was great! He's a great guy!

**EDGE:** He's a man's man.

**JH:** Yes. He's very much a man's man. All the stunt guys used to love him. We used to drink over at The River Bottom, and they would actually come in the back room and sit down in our booth to meet Nick and say hi to Nick. That's a very rare thing for an actor; that was quite a tribute. With me, it was like "Who's *he*?"

**EDGE:** How did coming of age in the late 1960's influence who you are?

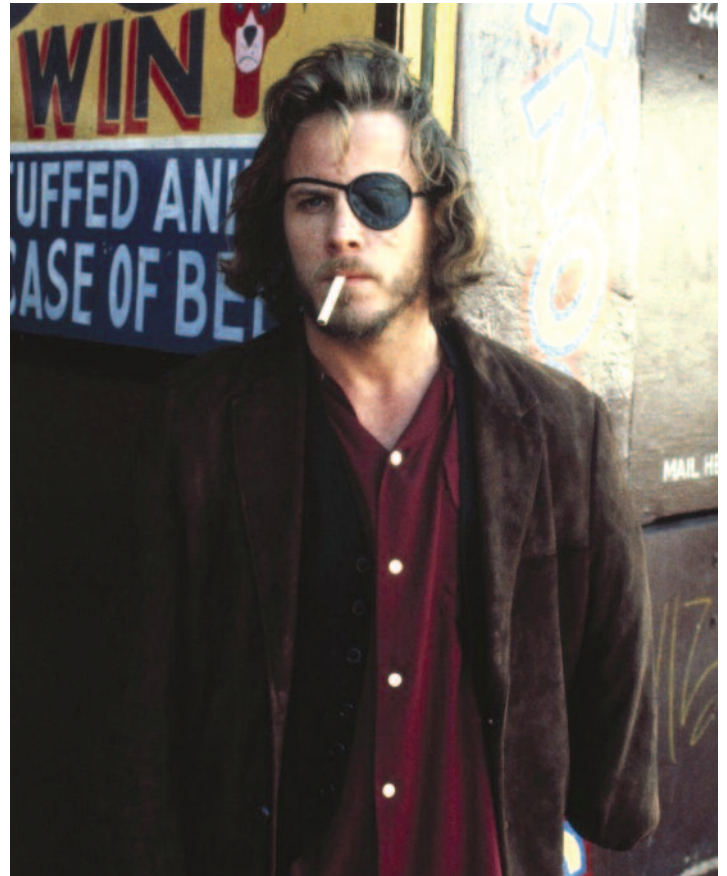
**JH:** After college, I went to [grad school at] Catholic University to stay out of Vietnam. It was a stupid decision, since they weren't giving anybody deferments for going to grad school anymore. But, I tried anyway! I thought that I'd get a master's degree in theater drama. I'll teach... that will be fun...I'll be connected to the theater, get hooked up in some theater department somewhere in the United States and stay in that privileged world of academics. It was 1968, and I was graduated from college and I didn't know what to do. It was a time when everything was interconnected with an alternate lifestyle.

**EDGE:** And?

**JH:** I realized that I had no ability whatsoever to write a masters thesis! But, Catholic U. had a touring theater company that traveled around the country performing plays for \$80 a week. My acting teacher said I could go. His actual words were, "Everyone else is in Vietnam, John, so yeah, you can go." I guess you can say that's when the "acting bug" hit. We drove everywhere—Iowa, Michigan, Georgia. Setting up the show, performing, breaking it down. And, in between, we were getting into all sorts of trouble. It was a political time. It was a lifestyle. It was anti-government, anti-corporations. It was a great way of being in touch with everything that was going on in your lifetime at that age.

**EDGE:** Did you consider yourself a hippie?

**JH:** I didn't have the guts to go the whole distance as a hippie. Friends of mine did. You have to remember that



United Artists

we were all supposed to go to Vietnam because of the draft. Extreme things had to be done to stay out of going. Some guys tried to flunk the physical, or said they were crazy. I didn't have to do any of that because of theater, I was lucky enough to work.

**EDGE:** What should I add to my Netflix queue to see John Heard at his best?

**JH:** Everybody points to *Cutter's Way* (above). I don't know. That was another instance of me being not quite gritty enough. That's what Billy, Nick's friend, said. Maybe *Big*. Although *Big* is a little one-note. I wish I had done more in *Big*. I was just trying to get through the words and make them believable. Sometimes, you have to show up and remember to be creative, to come with something that's not straightforward.

**EDGE:** You were a bad guy in *Big*. Do you prefer playing the bad guy or do you like the funny, good guy roles?

**JH:** I would prefer to play the "theater of the absurd" guy—an Ionesco kind of a transition from World War II



Gracie Films/20th Century Fox

into the '60's kind of thing. Not-stand up humor. A humorous character with a point of view, but not trying to be funny. Playing a bad guy for me, that's hard.

**EDGE:** How so?

**JH:** Because there is a tendency for me to become over-emotional, and most bad guys are great when they are emotionless. They're straightforward, prepossessed and physically formidable. Look at Joe Pesci. He's only—what?—five feet tall. But every time Joe gets pissed he's so wonderfully bad ass. And yet, at the same time, he's the funniest guy in the world! You know when he did that thing about “What's so funny about me?” in *Goodfellas*, well he did that to me one night in a hotel. He came in and I was standing at the front desk. He told me a story about some guy that kept bugging him. He kept saying [spot-on Joe Pesci imitation] “Don't make me come ova dere, don't make me come ova dere.” I think he was trying it out on me, because he ended up putting that in *Home Alone*, and it was hilarious. He has some kind of unique combination of talent, a voice and a physicality that he blends into one person. He's engaging as a bad guy and that's where I'd like to be.

**EDGE:** Are you still having fun acting?

**JH:** Yes. I have a lot of fun. I like to have fun. I like to screw around and I like to be sort of a jerk, and give people a hard time, get people to leave me alone. They think that

I'm some big grouch. But people forget that you're standing there between takes and you're thinking about what you're going to do or what you're going to say.

**EDGE:** Are you interested in doing stage again?

**JH:** Yes, I love the stage. I love theater, it's my first choice. I always think that I could be great on stage. I don't know why. I think that's the tradition of being on stage, you think you can be great. I don't think you think that as much in movies. But, I think that about theater.

**EDGE:** Is that because of the energy you get from the audience?

**JH:** Maybe. I just think traditionally every young actor thinks *my* Hamlet is going to be the *greatest* Hamlet!

**EDGE**

**Editor's Note:** John Heard passed away following back surgery on July 21 in Palo Alto. After turning off her recorder, Jenny Stewart asked John what his future plans were. His final words to her were, “Let the chips fall where they may.” Jenny had this to add: “Ironically, our interview started with us joking around about his inclusion in a celebrity death hoax scam that had gone viral. He humbly thought that he was being confused with the actor John Hurt, who had died in January. I offered that he, John Heard, was now part of an elite crowd of performers whose deaths were faked on social media. John was a contradiction of terms. He came from the Washington D.C. establishment, yet spoke—and sometimes acted—like a character from *Easy Rider*. He was gritty, yet mannered, dangerously funny yet hermetic in times of self-doubt. He initially wanted to take a safer path in life, but ended up on Mr. Toad's Wild Ride, which brought him celebrity and, I hope, happiness.”

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Smart Home Products

By Christine Gibbs



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# EDGE PEOPLE



## HEALTHY CORNER

Trinitas Administrative Director of Diagnostic Services Ann Marie Scanlon administers a blood-pressure test during day of celebration and education for the children and families of the Elizabeth to publicize the NJ Healthy Corner Stores Initiative. The American Heart Association, Shaping Elizabeth, Bayway Family Success Center and Snap-Ed were among the event hosts. The event was chaired by Nancy DiLiegro, Ph.D., FACHE, Vice President of Clinical Operations and Physician Services/Chief Clinical Officer at Trinitas. The NJ Healthy Corner Store Initiative supports public health and economic development by linking community partners with corner storeowners to help stock, promote and sell healthy, affordable foods in underserved communities. As part of the initiative, Emily's Supermarket added new healthy food choices to its store.



## GRAND OPENING IN SPRINGFIELD

After 68 years of doing business in Union, The Decorating Store at Terminal Mill Ends recently held a Grand Opening at its brand-new two floor decorating/design studio, now located in Springfield. Owner Ernie Spinelli (*center*) handled ribbon-cutting duties to mark the occasion; Township Committeewoman Geri Ann Bujnowski (*to his left*) joined friends, family and the store's decorating team during the event.

## SURVIVORS DAY WARMS HEARTS AND INSPIRES

Survivors Day, internationally known as a celebration of life, was held throughout the US, Canada, and other participating countries as a show of strength that life after a cancer diagnosis can be meaningful and productive. Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center hosted a powerful and emotional Survivors Day where nearly 50 survivors, their family members and friends attended the event at which they viewed a short multimedia presentation on what it means to persevere despite all odds. The spirit of Survivors Day was perfectly captured by Mary Jo Daniel of Roselle Park (*pictured with Dr. Barry Levinson*) who gave a poignant talk about what it means to be a survivor. She concluded with some advice for other caregivers in the room: "We survivors want you to be with us for a long time. Please take care of yourself by reducing your own risk of cancer. Stop smoking, eat healthy, take a walk with us. And love. Just love."



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**201.404.1972****20 Forest Drive****Short Hills  
\$2,698,000**

This bright warm Old Short Hills manor is a masterful paradise that features 5 deco fireplaces, a chalet-like great room, an EIK overlooking the gardens, 7 BR, pool & guest-carriage.

[www.stephaniemallios.com](http://www.stephaniemallios.com)  
Stephanie Mallios

**201.404.1972**



**15 Seminole Way** **Short Hills**  
**\$1,295,000**

A nice building envelope for a very private, secluded .94 acre lot. Incredible potential for expansion & development with a large 6 BR/3.1 BA footprint. Enormous potential & possibilities.

[www.stephaniemallios.com](http://www.stephaniemallios.com)  
**Stephanie Mallios** **201.404.1972**



**2 Mews Lane** **South Orange**  
**\$399,000**

The location is HUGE! Bright 2 BD, 2 full BA open floor plan townhouse offers 1200 sq ft of livings space. 2 decks, garage parking & 2 car driveway.

[www.stephaniemallios.com](http://www.stephaniemallios.com)  
**Stephanie Mallios** **201.404.1972**



**34 Tillou Road West** **South Orange**  
**\$950,000**

Spectacular Beckford 3BR, 4.1BA home in The Manors. This is an entertainer's dream with gourmet EIK, grand butterfly staircase and large great room. Welcome home to absolute luxury!

[www.stephaniemallios.com](http://www.stephaniemallios.com)  
**Stephanie Mallios** **201.404.1972**



**55 Franklyn Place** **Springfield**  
**\$420,000**

Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath ranch, w/ finished basement. Eat in kitchen, dining room, living room w/hardwood flooring. A must see!

[www.wolfpremier.com](http://www.wolfpremier.com)  
**Cynthia Apicella** **973.218.9000**



**4 Golf Oval** **Springfield**  
**\$469,900**

Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath expanded cape. Large kitchen, finished basement, family room and so much more!

[www.wolfpremier.com](http://www.wolfpremier.com)  
**Cynthia Apicella** **973.218.9000**



**26 Green Hill Road** **Springfield**  
**\$949,000**

Beautiful custom 4 bedroom, 3 bath Colonial Located in Prestigious Baltusrol Top. Formal dining and living room a Must See!

[www.wolfpremier.com](http://www.wolfpremier.com)  
**Michal Avraham** **973.218.9000**



**63 Green Hill Road** **Springfield**  
**\$949,000**

Beautifully appointed 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath Colonial. This home offers an open floor plan, great for entertaining.

[www.wolfpremier.com](http://www.wolfpremier.com)  
**Lucas A. Wolf** **973.218.9000**



**7 Madden Court** **Springfield**  
**\$900,000**

Newly constructed Colonial 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, finished basement 5,000 square feet of luxury. Master suite, hardwood flooring, family room.

[www.wolfpremier.com](http://www.wolfpremier.com)  
**Lucas A. Wolf** **973.218.9000**



**122 Remer Avenue** **Springfield**  
**\$685,000**

Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath colonial. Large kitchen, master suite, finished basement, family room and so much more!

[www.wolfpremier.com](http://www.wolfpremier.com)  
**Lucas A. Wolf** **973.218.9000**

**527 Golf Terrace****Union  
\$384,500**

Beautifully renovated 4 bedroom, 2 bath Colonial, granite kitchen, gleaming hardwood flooring, back yard over looks the Suburban Golf Club.

[www.wolfpremier.com](http://www.wolfpremier.com)**Rumbidzayi Padzarondora 973.218.9000****405 Metzger Drive****West Orange  
\$2,195,000**

Spectacular 3BR & 3.1 BA Penthouse boasts Western sunset views from every room. Totally renovated in 2016 with the finest design & materials. Full service 24/7 concierge services & resort-style amenities.

[www.stephaniemallios.com](http://www.stephaniemallios.com)**Stephanie Mallios 201.404.1972****70 Winding Way****West Orange  
\$799,999**

Hidden gem on a no-traffic block, this stately 5 BR & 4.3 BA Colonial offers lovely details with modern conveniences.

[www.stephaniemallios.com](http://www.stephaniemallios.com)**Stephanie Mallios 201.404.1972****764 Belvidere Avenue****Westfield  
\$627,000**

Storybook English Tudor abounds charm & character. HWF, ceiling medallions, curved archways, wrought iron window boxes, slate garden patio & a claw foot tub are a tiny glimpse of this homes characteristics.

[www.coldwellbankerhomes.com/id/18054950](http://www.coldwellbankerhomes.com/id/18054950)**Tamatha Costello 908.233.5555****672 Boulevard****Westfield  
\$799,000**

Beautifully maintained 4BR Colonial with updated eat-in kitchen, built-in bookcases in LR, and French doors in FR. Close to town, schools, and transportation.

[www.coldwellbankerhomes.com/id/18950943](http://www.coldwellbankerhomes.com/id/18950943)**Kathryn Shea 908.233.5555****425 Quantuck Lane****Westfield  
\$1,045,000**

Renovated and expanded custom home boasting open floor plan with five bedrooms and four full baths complete with elevator. 5 bedrooms and four full baths complete with elevator. Fenced backyard includes patio and inviting in-ground pool.

[TheSoldiCollection.com](http://TheSoldiCollection.com)**Frank D. Isoldi 908.233.5555 x202****860 Shadowlawn Drive****Westfield  
\$975,000**

This wonderful home with pristine curb appeal sits on a beautifully landscaped property and features a bright, open floorplan.

[www.coldwellbankerhomes.com/id/18901765](http://www.coldwellbankerhomes.com/id/18901765)**Susan Checchio 908.233.5555****561 Topping Hill Road****Westfield  
\$999,900**

Pristine Colonial located on picturesque lot complete with white picket fence featuring five bedrooms, two full bath and two half baths. Located in idyllic Wychwood convenient to downtown and NYC transportation.

[TheSoldiCollection.com](http://TheSoldiCollection.com)**Frank D. Isoldi 908.233.5555 x202****748 W Broad Street****Westfield  
\$399,900**

This Custom Built Brick Home w/spacious 2 car garage is located on a wonderful tree lined street and has beautiful hardwood floors throughout. Ideal location for commuters.

[www.coldwellbankerhomes.com/id/18560454](http://www.coldwellbankerhomes.com/id/18560454)**Elizabeth Bataille 908.233.5555**

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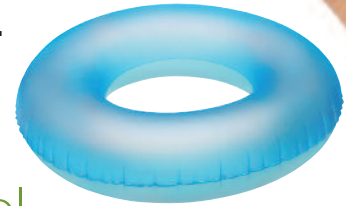


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...your above ground pool is now **below ground**.

...sometimes the smoke alarm goes off when you flush.



...you set a mousetrap in your pantry and catch **a squirrel**.



...your "smart" thermostat probably could use some tutoring.

...you consider installing an airbag at the bottom of the basement steps.

...you have to remind the kids not to turn on the **"smoky" lamp**.



...the vegetable drawer in your refrigerator is full of bees.

...there is a small pile of snow inside your front door, and it hasn't snowed since February.

...you can't decide whether to cut the **red wire** or the **blue wire**.

...you notice that neither wire is actually connected to anything.

...your houseguests ask how long you've been involved in the state's vulture-breeding program.

...somehow all the **scissors** you've lost over the years show up in your dryer.



...the person installing your home theater system looked a little like Steven Seagal.

...your home theater system only plays old Steven Seagal movies.

...your electric toothbrush occasionally lets out a "sausage burp."

...mice shoot out of your central air system.

...you don't remember installing a **bidet**.





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