

# BOSTON MAN

SOUVENIR EDITION

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75

**KING BOSTON**

The Embrace

**NEVER GIVE UP**

Charlie Davies

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS**

BostonMen Stand Up

**NBA ALL-STAR**

Jocelyn Saber

*Cedric*  
**MAXWELL**

**LIFE OF A LEGEND**



# Keep The Dream Alive



**KING** Boston

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# In this issue

## FEATURED STORIES



### Cedric Maxwell

Cedric Maxwell's name has been synonymous with Boston's basketball heritage for more than four decades: a true Celtic legend. But there's much more to the man than hoop skills and a quick wit.



### Charlie Davies

Glory. Triumph. Adversity. Setback. Overcoming obstacles. Charlie Davies has faced and experienced it all. Now, as head of philanthropy with the 'Quin Impact Fund, he is sharing his leadership and life lessons to have their biggest impact yet on the communities of Boston.



### Jocelyn Saber

From winning her first national championship at ten years old to being named team captain with the NBA's most storied franchise, competitive cheer has been a major theme for most of Jocelyn's Saber's life. It's only natural she was selected to represent the Boston Celtics on one of the sport's biggest stages: NBA All-Star Weekend.



### Big Brothers Big Sisters

The pandemic and its related mandates have taken their toll on our city. Volunteerism wasn't spared. Facing a shortage of male mentors throughout Eastern Massachusetts, now more than ever, Big Brothers Big Sisters is calling on BostonMen to volunteer.



### KING Boston

ML King and Coretta Scott first met right here in Boston. Their love story is one of true beauty. With the coming of The Embrace Memorial MLK Weekend 2023 (among other projects) KING Boston continues to enlighten, educate, and preserve the wonderful contributions to history and culture by people of color throughout Boston.

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# From the Publisher

## The Sadness Will Last Forever



Matt Ribaudo - Publisher

Earlier this year, I was one of the millions across North America that went to check out one of the Vincent Van Gogh Experiences (I went to *Immersive* at The Strand Theatre in Dorchester. It wasn't until recently I realized there are a dozen or so similar but different "Van Gogh Experiences" out there as well.)

A fan of art and a lover of history, my curiosity was piqued to see what made this sweeping exhibit so unique that the entire continent seemed to be enthralled with it.

I had a rudimentary knowledge of Van Gogh's work and life, but certainly learned much more at *Immersive* surrounding the intellect, passion, anger, and beauty that consumed and ultimately ended his life.



Van Gogh, largely labeled a failure during his living years, is now recognized as a misunderstood genius. Today his works are among the most expensive paintings ever sold.

His attempts to make his era see and understand what he knew existed within; and what our era understands about him today, slowly drove him mad.

As he battled depression, and entered dark places, he produced some of his most brilliant work. And at a frequent pace. Of his 2100 artworks, most were created in his last two years living.

As I meandered through the exhibit; the various details of his life and collections of his work, one piece struck me the hardest.

It wasn't a painting but rather one of the many letter correspondence, Van Gogh had with his beloved younger brother Theo.

"The sadness will last forever..." Vincent wrote in his final letter to Theo, describing what he saw in the world as much as he was his own mental state.

Van Gogh had known for a while that he wouldn't live to see 40 years old. He had fought

so hard. Loved so hard. And given everything he could to try and get people of his era to see what he knew was to be.

\*\*

By 1968, Martin Luther King Jr too was tired of fighting. Those that knew him closest, have said he had been deeply saddened his last couple of years.

In this magazine, we feature the King Boston organization, Martin Luther King Jr's time in Boston, and The Embrace Memorial coming in January, 2023.

Like Van Gogh, King knew he would not live to see his 40th birthday.

*the Lord!*

King knew, he couldn't bring himself to fully tell us, but he knew this was his last time speaking publicly to humanity. *I may not get there with you.*

His final speech, so powerful that in conclusion he had to be helped to his seat to avoid collapsing right there on the stage. He gave everything he had to ensure to all of us we knew there was a Promised Land.

Vincent Van Gogh and Martin Luther King Jr both fought with everything they had for their eras to see a truth they knew existed that others just would not see.

Both brilliant men, filled with sadness towards the end of their days as a result of this reality.

\*\*

These past two years: the pandemic, quarantines, mandates, ostracization of groups and all of the related baggage that has come with it have created a lot of sadness throughout the world.

I know I have gone through and felt it.

The three quarters of a century from Van Gogh to King took us from a sadness that will last forever to the guarantee of a Promised Land.

Now half a century from King, it's time we fulfill the dream for humanity and deliver that Promised Land.

The Sadness Doesn't Have to Last Forever.



On April 3rd, 1968, just hours before he would leave this earth, MLK delivered one of his most riveting speeches; and even though he knew he had nothing left, remained strong one final time in his message of hope for humanity.

With every last bit of strength he had, King proclaimed:

*Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind.*

*Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!*

*And so I'm happy, tonight.*

*I'm not worried about anything.*

*I'm not fearing any man.*

*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of*

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-Martin Luther King, Jr



# Out & About

## October Legacy Club Event

\*Photos by Party by John Lee









# Out & About

## October Legacy Club Event

\*Photos by Party by John Lee









# Out & About December Legacy Club Event

\*Photos by Party by John Lee



**Boston Common  
Private Estate**  
December 15th









# Out & About

## December Legacy Club Event

\*Photos by Party by John Lee



### Boston Common Private Estate

December 15th









# To the Max

*Cedric Maxwell's name has been synonymous with Boston's basketball heritage for more than four decades: a true Celtic legend. But there's much more to the man than hoop skills and a quick wit.*

By Thomas Haire



Photo by Danny Direct

In the house where I grew up in Southern California, there was a coat closet in the entry hallway near our front door. Around 8:30 p.m. Pacific time on June 11, 1984, my father punched a hole straight through that closet's door. From the next morning until I moved out of the house during college a few years later, that door was adorned with a vintage concert poster for The Who.

One of the men most responsible for this series of events, two-time Boston Celtic NBA champion Cedric Maxwell, bursts into laughter as I tell him the story. Then he says, "Man, that was just the sentiment wrapped around those games — for the fans and especially for the players. That's why that game (Game 7 of the 1984 NBA Finals, in which Maxwell was the leading scorer in Boston's title-clinching victory over the Los Angeles Lakers) was so much fun."

That word — fun — comes up a lot around Maxwell, the legendary Celtic forward and long-time Celtic broadcaster. And while my dad and I would say the real fun happened nearly one year later — on June 8, 1985, when the Lakers topped the Celtics in Game 6 of

the Finals in Boston Garden to win the NBA crown — there's no doubt that when you get to spend time around the man his friends call "Max," fun and laughs are not in small quantity.

At the same time, when asked to share one thing even his biggest fans might not know about him, Maxwell says, earnestly, "I'm actually very quiet and shy. But I've learned to send that alter ego out there, to be the life of the party. What would I rather do? I'd rather come into a room and be a quiet observer. Being 6-foot-8 and 285 pounds, you can't tiptoe into a room. But, yes, I'm introverted."

From his upbringing in Kinston, N.C., though, he's always been an open book. Maxwell's basketball exploits are well known and his now-quarter-century-long role as a Celtics broadcaster brings him into the homes of millions. In recent years, he's also found a more personal voice. From *The Cedric Maxwell Podcast*, co-hosted by Josue Pavon, to his new book — *If These Walls Could Talk: Stories From the Boston Celtics Sideline, Locker Room, and Press Box* — co-written with Mike Isenberg, Maxwell continues to

share incredible stories with the power to make folks both laugh and think.

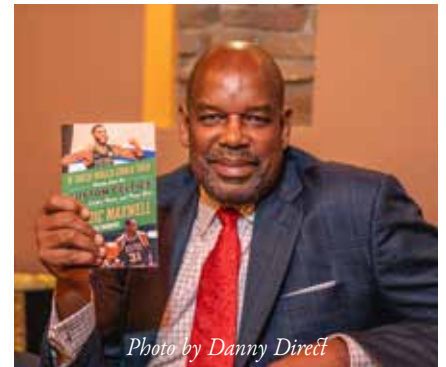


Photo by Danny Direct

Across his media exploits, Maxwell makes it easy to feel like you're chatting with an old pal. Perhaps that's one reason why — with the recent departure of Danny Ainge from the Celtics' front office and the passing of the legendary Boston player/coach/broadcaster Tommy Heinsohn — many in New England now see Maxwell as the last of the legends still deeply involved with the franchise.

If that's the case, it's not been a straightforward ride to get here, which is what makes Maxwell's story even more compelling.





*Courtesy of CLNS*

## From South to North

From his birth on Nov. 21, 1955, Maxwell writes in his new book, “Growing up, I always knew I was loved. My parents, Manny and Bessie Mae, ensured that.” He credits his mother for his “skills on the court” — she played basketball at North Carolina Central, also the alma mater of recently deceased Celtic great Sam Jones.

He grew up with his parents, brother Ronnie, and sister Lisa in segregated Kinston, 30 miles south of Greenville, N.C., and 80 miles southeast of Raleigh. Kinston is also home to fellow NBAers Jerry Stackhouse, Charles Shackleford, Brandon Ingram, and Reggie Bullock. “That’s a lot of players for a town of about 25,000 people. We’ve had a player in the NBA for the last 40-plus years,” Maxwell says.

One thing Maxwell didn’t know about his childhood until recently: the father who raised him, Manny, adopted him when he was four.



*Photo by Danny Direct*

“A few years ago, a woman I knew in college told me that she had sent me a letter 40 years ago telling me she had had my child while we were in school at UNC Charlotte,” Maxwell says. “The child had found her, and she’d told this young lady that I was her dad. I met the young lady, and I ended up doing a paternity test, but it came back negative.”

Later, he was sharing this story with his sister, during which he first mentioned he took a paternity test. “Without missing a beat, she said, ‘So you can find out who your real father is?’” Maxwell says. “Awkward!”

It turned out that Manny Maxwell was not his biological father, but rather that a man named Deford Small was, and that Cedric had two more brothers and another sister. Though he never met Small, Maxwell and his daughter Morgan (one of his own four children: two sons and two daughters) visited with those “new” siblings on New Year’s Day 2020 in Greenville, S.C.

“My mother, God bless her soul, and Manny never told me I was adopted,” Maxwell says. “My birth name was Cedric Faulks, my mom’s last name. My father Manny gave me his last name after adopting me.”

With a stable home life provided by his parents, Maxwell played “whichever sport was in season,” but basketball was his calling card, and he accepted a scholarship to UNC Charlotte.

Maxwell made his first national splash as a 49er, leading the 1976 team to the NIT finals (he was MVP of the tournament) and the 1977 team to the NCAA Final Four. In his senior season, he was a first-team All-American, averaging 22 points and 12 rebounds, and was MVP of the Sun Belt Conference, the conference tournament, and the NCAA Mideast Regional. He still holds the school career record with 1,117 rebounds (he also scored more than 1,800 points in his Charlotte career) and was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2020.

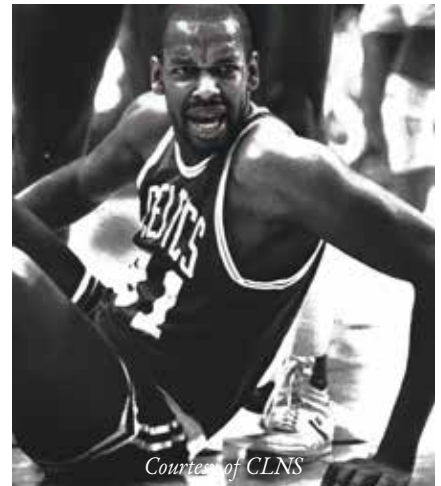
His reward? The Celtics selected him with the 12th pick of the 1977 NBA draft. This had to be a dream come true, right: being selected by a team just one year removed from its most recent championship — which was its 13th in the past two decades?

“I actually hated it,” he says with a laugh. “I’m a Southern boy, you know. No. 13 was Chicago, and I was hoping I’d fall to 14 which was Atlanta. I felt like I’d be more comfortable in a place I’d been before.”

Once the initial shock wore off, Maxwell realized the opportunity in Boston was huge. “Coming to the Celtics, obviously it’s a historic franchise. Then, you think about who the current team had as players and what they’d done, it’s just surreal. When I came in, there were seven All-Stars, and of those, four

of them turned out to be Hall of Famers: John Havlicek, Jo Jo White, Dave Cowens, and Dave Bing. The problem was that in 1977, those guys were in their ninth, 10th, 11th, 12th years. Overnight, they got old. That first year, we didn’t make the playoffs.”

But Maxwell did make his mark, both in 1977-78 and 1978-79. As the Celtics’ fortunes flagged (Boston went 61-103 during those two seasons), Maxwell’s stock rose. He averaged a career high 19 points and 9.9 rebounds per game in his second season.



*Courtesy of CLNS*

## Those Championship Seasons

The arrival of Larry Bird and head coach Bill Fitch in 1979 — and center Robert Parish and forward Kevin McHale in 1980 — signaled a return to glory for the franchise. A 61-win season in 1979-80 was cut short in a five-game loss to the Philadelphia 76ers in the Eastern Conference finals. The story would be different the following season.

The Celtics again fell behind Philadelphia three games to one in the conference finals. But in a series that would see five of the seven games decided by either one or two points, Boston rallied behind Maxwell — who famously got into an altercation with a courtside fan during Game 6 in Philadelphia — to gain revenge and reach the championship round against the Houston Rockets.

With that series tied at two, Maxwell put up 28 points and 15 rebounds in a Game 5 blowout in Boston. After a series-clinching Game 6 victory in Houston, Maxwell was named MVP of the finals, averaging 17.7 points and 9.5 rebounds.

Still, though, he calls the Sixers’ series the highlight of the run. “The No. 1 moment was

beating Philly. We were down 3-1 to them the year before, and they took care of business. Then we came right back the next year, and it was a proving ground.” Maxwell recalls. “We won Game 5 in Boston, but had to go back to Philadelphia, a place we hadn’t won in two years, just to get it to Game 7. I always tell people this was maybe the greatest series ever played that wasn’t for a championship.”



*Photo by Danny Dineff*

Last year was the 40th anniversary of that championship run, but — perhaps due to the pandemic — the franchise’s commemoration of it was muted.

“What did they do? Hmm... I don’t really remember anything official,” Maxwell says. “Recently, they brought M.L. Carr and Gerald Henderson out to half court and then introduced me while I was broadcasting the game. But there hasn’t been a bunch of fanfare about it. I think it’s partly because Larry is a little reluctant to come into that building, in that setting. He’s said before, ‘I don’t want to dominate the players who are there.’ To me, it would be so cool to have those guys back.”



*Courtesy of CLNS*

Maxwell’s Finals MVP performance cemented him in Celtics lore, but it was his Game 7 performance against the Lakers three years later that made him a legend.

“It was the series that everybody wanted to see since Larry and Magic (Johnson) got in the league (in 1979),” Maxwell says. He was right. Since Bird and Johnson faced off in the 1979 NCAA championship game (as players for Indiana State and Michigan State, respectively) and then joined the Celtics and Lakers, one of the two franchises made it to the NBA Finals in each season — but they had yet to do so at the same time, until 1984.

“The Lakers dominated early on — your dad was happy,” Maxwell remembers with a smile. “They won the first game. Then James Worthy threw the basketball away in Game 2 to allow us to tie it up. They beat the hell out of us in Game 3 in L.A. They beat us like we broke into their house and were stealing some apples. After the game, I had a car, and I was going to Santa Monica for something. I was listening to an R&B station on the radio, and someone asked the DJ, ‘Have the Lakers won, yet?’ He said, ‘No, not yet, but the fat lady is warming up.’”

Maxwell says the Celtics’ practice for Game 4 was intense. “Guys were throwing each other around, man. We put a rule in there would be no layups, no more Magic laughing. No more ‘Showtime’ passes,” he remembers.

During Game 4, McHale took down Lakers forward Kurt Rambis on a fast break, hitting him across the shoulders and neck and turning the game upside down.

“It was a crazy play,” Maxwell says. “Kevin didn’t mean to do what he did, he just reached out and grabbed him and just happened to hit him high. But that play changed the tenor of the series. We were already fired up. It got the Lakers to be more fired up, but less focused.”

He adds, “My teammate M.L. Carr said, ‘When you got to go home to take a beating, you’re slow to go home.’ Their home was driving and dishing, but when they came to the basket, they were taking a beating.”

The Celtics tied the series with an overtime victory before blowing the Lakers out in Boston in Game 5. “The temperature in Boston that day was 90-something degrees,” Maxwell remembers. “The Lakers swore up and down we turned the air conditioning off. Hell, it was the Boston Garden — we didn’t have air conditioning!”

After the Lakers took Game 6 in L.A. — and Maxwell got into a beef with Lakers’ star forward James Worthy — Game 7 was in Boston. Let’s let Maxwell tell the story:

“On that team, at that time, there was only one guy who’d been a Finals MVP. I knew I had another gear. I was prepared to die on the floor if I had to. I was so pissed off at James. Even right now, he and I still have a war of words that goes back and forth between us when the Lakers and Celtics play,” Maxwell says. “So, before Game 7 in the locker room, I actually said, ‘You b\*tches get on my back. I’m going to carry you.’ In retelling, it became ‘you boys.’ That night I had 24, eight, and eight (points, rebounds, assists). It’s one of the proudest moments in my career as a Celtic, and one of the biggest games in the history of the NBA.”

Maxwell still revels in the outcome of the game and the power of the rivalry. He played a big role in ESPN’s “30 for 30” documentary on the Celtics-Lakers rivalry, which debuted in 2017. “I talked a lot of junk in it,” he says. “The Lakers came in the week after the show first aired, and Jayson Tatum was walking on the floor to warm up. He sees me and starts screaming out, ‘Cornbread! Cornbread!’ I’m like, ‘Man, what’s up!?’ He says, ‘I saw that 30 for 30, man. You were a bad m\*\*\*\*\*f\*\*\*\*\*!’”

He’s got story after story from those golden days of the rivalry, each one more amusing than the next. To wit:

“The Olympics that summer were in L.A., and M.L. Carr had a shoe deal with New Balance. So, he went out there as a brand ambassador. He went to Fatburger and ordered a burger. The guy taking orders says, ‘You’re M.L. Carr, right?’ He says, ‘Yea, I’m M.L. Carr.’ The guy says, ‘I’m not serving you,’ and had the manager get him the hamburger.”

Or:

“We were playing the Lakers in a regular season game, and there were three guys on the Laker bench who were heckling me. One of them was Larry Spriggs. I’m inbound the ball next to the Laker bench. The referee’s going to give me the ball, and I say, ‘Hold on a minute.’ Pat Riley (the Lakers’ head coach) is standing beside me. I said, ‘Pat, do me a favor.’ I pointed down to that bench and I said, ‘Put one of those m\*\*\*\*\*f\*\*\*\*\* in down there, would you?’ He turns and goes, ‘You, Spriggs, get in the game.’ I score about 10 quick points, and I’m talking to him the whole time. Then he gets taken out, but before he goes out, I tell



him, “The next time you get a chance to watch a free NBA game, you don’t need to be talking if you ain’t playing.” I always wanted to thank Pat Riley for that. I couldn’t believe it; it was such a cool thing. I was in my element, talking to one of the great coaches, and he happened to give me my wish.”

## From Bitter to Sweet

Maxwell was injured late in the 1985 regular season and struggled to return to the lineup. However, his personality didn’t change. That rubbed some of his teammates and, most importantly, team president Red Auerbach wrong. The rift ended when the Celtics traded him to the Los Angeles Clippers just before the 1985-86 season. He played just three more seasons in the NBA (split between the Clippers and Houston Rockets).

Maxwell says that one of the most important things he had to do as a person in the intervening years was making things right with his teammates. “I apologized, not for being hurt, but for not knowing how to handle it,” he says. “I’m a happy-go-lucky person. What you see is what you get. As long as I’m living and breathing, there’s something positive about it for me. When I got hurt, I was still very positive and fun loving, and I think some of my teammates took it that I didn’t want to play.”

That’s not to say Maxwell wasn’t bothered by how his teammates reacted at the time. “They’d played long enough with me to know I was one of the most competitive people they’d ever been around,” he says. “Basketball, backgammon, cards — I was just so totally competitive. I think they overlooked that. Maybe it was my shortcoming not knowing how to proceed forward with that injury, since I’d never had one in my career. Some of the things they said at that time, Red included, were hurtful. At the time I got traded, I wished the Celtics nothing but the best. It was a great run.”

Maxwell remained estranged from the franchise for the first few years of his retirement — “I told myself I wasn’t coming back to Boston,” Maxwell says — until he was invited to Bird’s number retirement ceremony.

“Jan Volk, who was the general manager at the time, persuaded me to come back for that night, and I got such a great ovation,” he says. “They were talking to Robert Parish, to Bill Fitch, to Nate Archibald, and then they came to me. Bob Costas, who was hosting it, said,

‘Max, how is it to be back in the Garden?’ All this emotion came, the fans stood up and gave me an ovation. All my teammates clapped. It was such a surreal moment. That kind of opened the door.”

Two years later, during Boston Garden’s final season, Maxwell again appeared. “Each great player who’d played in the Garden appeared on a ticket that season. My game was No. 38 or something,” Maxwell says. “I came back for a nice ceremony. On my way out, Jan said, ‘We’d like to give you a job: we’d like you to come back and do radio. But you need to go apologize to Red.’”

Maxwell’s first reaction: “Apologize? I was the one who got traded.” But, he continues, “Jan says, ‘Max, the father never apologizes to the son.’ So, I ended up going down to Red’s house in D.C. I went in, and he put his arms around me, and he said, ‘When you’re young, sometimes don’t do the smartest things.’ And the next words out of his mouth, I’ll never forget, were, ‘I forgive you.’”

Maxwell adds, “I’m looking at the dude like, ‘What?’ In the back of my mind, I’m thinking, ‘Say something!’ But I stopped and just said, ‘Okay,’ and the rest is history. I’ve been back with the Celtics now for 26 years, doing radio, television, and community affairs. But, man, that’s Don Corleone to the 10th degree right there. You go down to D.C., you kiss the ring. Once you kiss the ring, we can give you a job.”

The circle was closed in 2003 when the Celtics gave Maxwell the team’s ultimate honor by retiring his No. 31. “It was a great moment for myself and my family — except for my brother who was there,” Maxwell says. “I thanked my mother, father, my sister — and then someone in the crowd shouted something. It was my fraternity brothers in the top deck, so I gave them a shoutout, and then forgot my brother, Ronnie. At the end, I said, ‘I know I’m going to forget somebody, but thank you to everyone who loves me — and I love you back.’”

Maxwell is now in the midst of a relationship with the city that spans nearly five decades. And he’s not afraid to tell you what he thinks of Boston’s image as a sports town in national media and fan circles.

“People want to talk about Boston as a racist, biased city,” Maxwell says. “For me as an athlete, I’ve never experienced that. I’m in a cocoon, so maybe I won’t. I’m not naïve to think Boston doesn’t have racial issues. But I don’t think Boston is lapping — or even

leading — the pack when it comes to cities that have dealt with racial overtones.”

He then points to the history of the Celtic franchise as one of the boldest and most inclusive in the NBA. “Red Auerbach drafted the first black player into the NBA: Chuck Cooper,” Maxwell says. “He had the first black coach, Bill Russell. And he started five black men during a time that the NBA was completely against that. The climate around the Celtics, race was the last thing you saw.”

He then speaks about his own era as a player. “It’s almost offensive when you think of the great players who played on that team,” Maxwell says. “But because you had Larry Bird, because you had Kevin McHale, and because you had Danny Ainge, people viewed that team as a white team. And it was far from that, with the kind of guys we had: me, Robert Parish, Nate Archibald, M.L. Carr, Dennis Johnson — you can go down the line. But when it came to black and white, most people of color were not rooting for the Celtics. They were rooting against the Celtics because of what they perceived as a white team vs. a black team in the Lakers.”



*Photo by Danny Direct*

## The Boston Brotherhood

It’s quite a twist to see someone who was sent packing to the league’s worst team — with a bad taste in everyone’s mouth about it — return to such prominence with a franchise whose history is written all over the NBA’s 75th anniversary celebration this season.

What kind of relationships does Maxwell have with the other living Celtic legends? “Well, you talk about the main guy of them all, Bill Russell,” Maxwell says. “Whenever I see him, he’s always comical with me. I’ll say, ‘What’s



up big guy?!’ And the first thing he does is just give me the finger — with a big smile. It’s a sign of approval. I always tell him, ‘A damn handshake would be fine with me!’”

Jo Jo White is one of his closest relationships. “His birthday is a week before mine — on Nov. 14 — and he’s 10 years my senior,” he says. “When I came in, he was in his tenth year, a fashion icon, a guy I looked at as one of the sharpest dressers around. He took me under his wing.”



*Courtesy of CLNS*

White’s style was an inspiration to the fashion-conscious Maxwell when he joined the NBA. “Jo Jo was the first fashionable guy I saw in the NBA,” Maxwell says. “The double-breasted suits, the two-tone shoes. It was sharp. He had the cologne, the bags, just cooler than cool.”

Maxwell also mentions his continuing close ties with Parish, Carr, Henderson, and McHale. “The only one that would be a little different and a little bit of a drag would be with Larry,” he says of Bird. “It’s unfortunate. As a broadcaster, I think I’ve made a couple of comments, and sometimes people get offended by them. I said something like, ‘Kevin Garnett is maybe the greatest all-around Celtic ever.’ It’s no slight to Larry. But I think somebody told Larry in a second-hand conversation, and he took offense to it. He said something like, ‘He’ll quit on them like he quit on us.’ That probably hurt me more than anything, having one of my teammates think I quit.”

When asked about being the so-called “last of the old guard,” Maxwell says, “Hey, Satch Sanders is still around. I always joke with Satch — he’s got 10-15 years on me, so I always say he’s the Godfather right now. I’m just the

Godfather’s assistant.”

He continues, “On a daily operation, though, I’ve seen more than anyone else who’s been involved with the team. It’s cool, the fact you’re looked at like the ‘O.G.’ of the team. I have fun with it. You’ll hear a mother or father saying to their son, ‘Hey, that guy right there: he played with Larry Bird.’ I’ll come back quickly: ‘No, Larry Bird played with me.’”

Maxwell’s even become friendly with a few of his old Laker foes, like Worthy and Michael Cooper. But the player from those mid-80s Laker teams that he’s closest with comes from home state and Boston ties.

“Bob McAdoo is from Greensboro, N.C. I talk to and about him a lot,” Maxwell says. “My first year in the league, I played in his summer league. And Bob played against me: a Greensboro team vs. a Charlotte team. His team never lost, but we beat Bob. We became great friends. We’re talking about a guy who was MVP of the league, and in my second year, he got traded from the Knicks to the Celtics. He was so mad, he refused to get an apartment in Boston. We had two or three months to go in the season. He slept on my couch for almost three months because he didn’t want to get anything in Boston. He was just that mad!”

## ‘A Fashion Diva’

If you can’t tell by now, Maxwell is indeed an open book — willing and able to talk about nearly any topic, including one that’s close to his heart: fashion. Well known throughout NBA circles as a stellar dresser, Maxwell’s interest goes all the way back to his childhood. “I’ve always liked to dress up, since I was a little boy. My mother would dress me up for Sunday School: white jacket, bow tie. I was a clean little dude. I always liked fashion, but I never had the money for it, especially when I got tall.”



*Photo by Danny Dineff*

He also had inspiration from his grandfather. “He was a great dresser,” Maxwell says. “I used to love watching him put on his suits and ties. One of the first things I got when I made it to the NBA was a \$700 suit from Louie’s, which was a men’s store in Boston. I remember taking my grandfather there and buying him a suit. It was typical John Faulks. He said, ‘I just want to let you know, when I pass away this suit is going with me.’ When he died, that’s what he was buried in.”

Once in the NBA, Maxwell started going to tailors, but couldn’t find one locally that fit his taste and style. “My brother-in-law went to Korea and had a bunch of clothes made over there,” he says. “I found a way to get my own material that I liked from Italy. I took that to Seoul with me and found a tailor, and that’s how my fashion empire started. I’ve been in love ever since.”

Maxwell says that at any given time, he’s rotating around 100 different pairs of shoes and 100 suits. “My biggest thing, though: I probably have about 3,000 ties. I’ve always been a fashion diva,” he adds.

## Max’s Media Empire

Maxwell is clear when asked what his favorite part of being a radio and TV commentator.

“Being able to connect with our fanbase, connect with people on radio or TV — and being able to give my opinion and then have to back it up. That’s a really cool thing to do,” he says.

Maxwell’s skill at storytelling was a plus for him when he entered the announcing booth. What he had to work on was timing. “Because I’m from the South, my natural way was to speak more slowly. I almost had to reinvent who I was as a person. To pick up the pace, I had to be more direct,” he says.

The challenge of radio broadcasting was even more powerful. “On the radio, you’re painting a picture with words, and as an analyst, your window of opportunity is a very small one,” Maxwell says. “Practice watching a play and then dissecting that play — you need to be funny, articulate, and insightful — in about a five-second period.”

It’s not easy, and Maxwell has had some missteps in the booth. The most well-known came in 2007, when he was accused of sexism following a comment regarding Violet Palmer, the NBA’s first female official. “I was doing a game in Houston and Violet Palmer was



calling the game. We were doing nothing but praising her,” Maxwell recalls. “Tommy Heinsohn, who hated every referee, was doing the TV broadcast. She made a questionable call, and trying to mock Tommy, I said, in my Tommy voice, ‘Ah, go back to the kitchen and make me some bacon and eggs.’”

He continues, “I still regret that line to this day. I would never try to insult her, because I knew how hard it was for her to get her job. I was poking fun at Tommy, but people thought I was poking fun at her.”

Maxwell apologized for the remark on his next broadcast. The experience sticks with him to this day, especially since he entered the podcast game in 2019.

“Nick (Gelso, founder of podcast network CLNS Media) always tells me, ‘Be who you are. Be as candid as you can,’” Maxwell says. “And in today’s world, it’s a hard thing to do — to be candid and not step on anybody’s toes. This platform now in social media, all you have to say is one word, one phrase, and that can change somebody’s opinion about who you are.”

Maxwell’s nature is perfect for podcasting, which makes The Cedric Maxwell Podcast’s success less than surprising.

“My favorite part is that I get great guests and I’m able to talk about different things,” he says. “Brad Stevens (the former Celtic coach and now front-office leader) said, ‘I like Cedric’s podcast because he doesn’t just talk about basketball.’ We might talk about life, basketball, music, what our differences are. One of the questions I’ve always asked is, ‘What’s your sports Mt Rushmore?’”

He says he asked CNN political commentator Bakari Sellers the question once. “And he had some great answers. But then he turned around later and asked Barack Obama my question in an interview! I didn’t get credit for it!” Maxwell says with a laugh.

Maxwell’s media empire continued to grow last year with the release of *If These Walls Could Talk*.

“Mike Isenberg knew me from when I played in Boston,” Maxwell says of his co-writer. “He went to Brandeis. He came up to me at a game in Detroit and said, ‘You were my favorite player. When I was at Brandeis, I wore No. 31 because of you.’ And then he asked me about writing a book.”

Maxwell had had other offers to write a book, but he’d never been interested. “For whatever

reason, he struck a tone and I said okay. For two or three months, Mike would call me just about every other day and we’d talk for hours. He gave me a chance to regurgitate some great stuff I hadn’t thought of in a long time.”

It’s then that Maxwell launches into one last unforgettable tale — one that’s also in the book.

“We were playing an exhibition game in Seattle, and I met up with this woman I knew in town. We got together and are doing what grown folks do, you know. Later on, I told her, ‘You go home and change clothes and I’ll take you out to dinner,’” Maxwell says.

“About 15 minutes later, one of my teammates, Eric Fernsten, calls me up and says, ‘Max, I’ve got two tickets for the Rolling Stones at the Kingdome! 100,000 people.’ I wanted to see the spectacle, so I said, ‘Yea, I’ll go with you.’”

That’s where things took a turn. He continues, “I called her and told her I couldn’t take her to dinner, and she went ballistic. She came down to the hotel, she walked in and said, ‘I’m going to kick your a\*\*.’ So, in my haste to get out of there, I left my key in my room, and I walk down the hall to Eric’s room. I told Eric to go downstairs to get a key to my room. As soon as he leaves, she starts cussing me out again. She jumps off the bed, goes over, grabs his Rolling Stones tickets, rips them up, and flushes them down the toilet! The first thing that crossed my mind: I have to tell this guy he can’t go see the Rolling Stones!”

Maxwell adds, “She leaves, but says, ‘I’m not through with you.’ Fernsten comes back, and he goes off. ‘We have to have her arrested. You took my tickets!’ I told him, man, you know I wouldn’t take your tickets. Let’s just go over there, scalp a couple of tickets and I’ll just pay for them. So, I’m exhausted after this emotional barrage. I get a call around 11 that night, and it’s Bill Fitch. He says, ‘Max, are you okay?’ I said, yea I’m fine, what’s wrong. He said, ‘Are you sure? Two minutes ago, this girl called here and she’s saying crazy things about you.’ If social media was around then, it would have been explosive. (The things she was saying) were the furthest thing from the truth, but she was just so asinine. She wanted anything at all to get me in trouble.”

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This story comes full circle on a cool early December evening in Charlestown, as the self-appointed fashion diva — in one of those tailored suits — is sitting across from me at

historic Warren Tavern, eating a burger in the time between the photo shoot for this story and that evening’s Celtic game at TD Garden. There’s a group of six of us at the table, talking about the story, the current Celtics season, and more.

“Hey, do you think your dad’s around right now?” Maxwell suddenly asks me. I look at my phone and calculate that it might be his mid-afternoon naptime in California. I try him, but no answer. “Let’s make sure to try him again before you go.”

Thirty minutes later, I dial again, and no answer. Just as I’m getting up to go, my phone rings, and it’s my dad calling back. I answer, telling him that I have someone who wants to talk to him, and hand the phone to Maxwell.

“Now why’d you go and put your fist through a closet in front of your son, man?” Maxwell asks with a laugh. My dad, stunned, but realizing quickly who was speaking to him, says, “Well, you might have had something to do with it!”

The table stops and listens as my dad and Max cut it up for five minutes, talking about the rivalry, the 1984 and 1985 Finals, and more. As the conversation nears its close, my dad graciously says, “You know, as time goes by, I look back and it seems like a grudging respect has replaced the hate I had at the time for those Celtics.”

Without skipping a beat, Maxwell answers, “I don’t know, man. I still hate those damn Lakers.”



Courtesy of CLNS





# Meals on Heels

with *Brittany Di Capua*

## Boston Burger Company

*#BFJMealsonHeels by @bostonfoodjournal is a creative, ongoing art series that combines Brittany's love of food with her love of fashion and style.*

Try to name a more iconic burger joint in Boston. You can't.

Boston Burger Company is a staple here in the city. With four locations and a massive menu boasting over-the-top burgers, shakes and fries, I knew it was the perfect concept for my next #BFJMealsonHeels photoshoot.

And why wouldn't it be? Any venue that states part of their mission is to "allow ourselves to have fun and get crazy in the kitchen, creating the most outrageous, Instagrammable meals possible," is a brand that is in align with Meals on Heels and the Boston Food Journal.

With testimonials from the likes of Guy Fieri (Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives), Michael Symon (Iron Chef), and Rachel Ray (The Rachel Ray Show) it's safe to say Boston Burger Company is making quite the impression not just regionally but globally as well!

When looking through their menu, I knew I wanted to photograph a burger that was STACKED, because the more height the better (especially because we shoot eye-level). So, after much deliberation, I decided to order the Killer Bee, a burger loaded with beer-battered onion rings, bacon, honey BBQ sauce and American cheese. I decided to pair the burger with a simple, lace-up, light brown stiletto because I wanted the shoe to accentuate the elements and textures of the burger.

I am so obsessed with this result and can say confidently that the Killer Bee did not disappoint, from both a visual perspective and a taste perspective (yes, we eat the food after we shoot, pending no 'mistakes' are made, because each heel is always brand new).

If you haven't been to Boston Burger yet, this is your sign to do so. And make sure you're hungry, because you can't get one of their burgers without also trying their iconic #FreakFrappes (the Oreo is my favorite). Do it and thank me later.

What should I balance next?



*Brittany started The Boston Food Journal in late 2015. With a degree in biomedical engineering and a background in software management, she wanted to create a platform that combined her skills and experience in technology with her long-time love of food and art. Growing up, eating was always a symbol of love, family and togetherness. When she moved to Boston in 2014, she was enamored by the authentic food scene and on a*

*complete whim started The Boston Food Journal. In late 2019, Brittany resigned from working her corporate 9-5 to pursue the Boston Food Journal full-time and launch her digital marketing agency, Eleven Seven Media. At Eleven Seven Media, Brittany and her team craft custom digital strategies for clients across multiple verticals, leveraging both creative expertise and analytical insights.*



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CHRISTIAN SILVESTRI

# NEVER Give Up, The Charlie Davies Story

*Glory. Triumph. Adversity. Setback. Overcoming obstacles. Charlie Davies has faced and experienced it all. Now, as head of philanthropy with the 'Quin Impact Fund, he is sharing his leadership and life lessons to have their biggest impact yet on the communities of Boston.*

By Alexandra Salmon



Photo by Mo Mendes/Granimo Studios

When people think of Boston social clubs, it's not uncommon to think of exclusivity. Some kind of barrier to entry. You have to be wealthy, or descended from a Brahmin, or know someone who is.

As much as every club aims for "diversity" and "inclusivity" these days, you still get the feeling that at the end of the day, "it's a big club – and you ain't in it."

Recently, that all changed.

In an elegant, stylish building, located on Commonwealth Ave in a zip code as prestigious as any, The 'Quin House has become the by nomination social club Bostonians are dying to get an invite to, with a key entry point being you must be making some sort of positive impact on society.

The 'Quin House is not just a beautiful place to connect with people – although it is certainly that. Their mission is also "to be a force for good in the city." And for that, its fundraising arm, The 'Quin Impact Fund, found one of the most unstoppable forces of positivity to come out of the New England area; and recruited him to be its Director, Charlie Davies.

"We're trying to be different than your typical social club in Boston," he said.

When soccer fans hear his name, philanthropy may not always be the first thing that comes to mind. After all, he is one of the most accomplished soccer players hailing from New England and, after his decorated career, has stayed close to the sport as an analyst for the New England Revolution, Major League Soccer and for World Cup Qualifying with CBS.

But those who know Charlie know how perfectly suited for the role he is: giving back has always been a part of who he is, and there's much more to him than what one initially sees at a surface level.



Photo by Mo Mendes/Granimo Studios

## Charlie Davies 1.0

Growing up in Manchester, New Hampshire, and dominating on the pitch on the region's top travel teams, guided by his father, Kofi, from the outside looking in everything looked great. An accomplished soccer player in his own right from Gambia, Kofi originally came to the U.S. to pursue a professional career.

"Then he met my mom, and that was all she wrote," said Charlie with a laugh. They are still together. Kofi never pushed his son into soccer – actually, Charlie had thought he was signing up for Pop Warner football when he started playing at age six. Undeterred when he discovered what kind of fútbol he'd actually signed up for, Charlie fell in love with it. Only when it was clear he had a real passion for the game did his dad step in.

"He asked me, 'Do you want to be good?'" said Charlie. And he did.

"Once I did get into it, he was pushing me to the brink every single day," Charlie reflected. "I think he was trying to live through me, in a way, looking back on it."

So they would train together from the time school let out until nightfall, Kofi showing



Charlie the subtleties of the game... when he was around. Charlie did want to be good. And he loved playing soccer more than anything in the world. But there was something else.

"I wanted to get out of the situation that I had in my home," he said. As he got a little older, Charlie realized his father was addicted to drugs. Though there were times he would disappear for a couple nights, Charlie could always depend on him to return for his games. It was his mom's absence that was more profound; her husband's addiction drove her to nervous breakdowns and episodes that required institutionalization throughout Charlie's childhood.

There were times the family was on food stamps, and Charlie had to be the one to go shopping for the family. Like Kevin McAllister in *Home Alone*, but paying with food stamps and the cashier calling for help to process them over the loudspeaker. The embarrassment stings to this day.

"I didn't have any role models, I didn't have anyone I could talk to," said Charlie. "The only time I got joy, really, out my life, was going outside and playing sports. And I figured that was going to be my ticket to success to get out of this lifestyle."



*Photo by Mo Mendes/Granimo Studios*

He was right. Not that he didn't have his doubters. A seventh-grade teacher who had told him he'd "never make it," stuck with him long after he had made it to the highest levels of competition in the world. But knowing he had ability, and driven by his family's struggles, Charlie moved up the ranks of youth soccer and established himself as one of the best players under 16 on the Eastern seaboard.

After a tournament in Austria against their national team, where Charlie scored a highlight-reel goal that made their sports news and had a strong showing throughout, Manchester United called the Davies' home. They wanted to know if he had citizenship in any European countries.

"That is when I knew I was going to be a professional at some point, that I was on the right path," said Charlie. And that's around the

time he began to transcend the hardships that had defined and driven him. His play caught the attention of the Brooks School, an elite prep school in North Andover. Soccer had gotten him his foot in the door, but Charlie was determined to succeed academically too so he could take full advantage of the opportunity "that changed my life."

At Brooks, he had the structure academically he'd never had, and he flourished in the classroom. He picked up wrestling and added some of those elements to his game. But it was his mental toughness that set him apart; among student-athletes who came from backgrounds where their families had multiple vacation homes, Charlie was still scrapping just to even be there. His game continued to progress at Brooks, and meeting people from all different walks of life and countries across the world helped him become more well-rounded.

"I'd do anything for them," Charlie said of The Brooks School. "They changed the course of my life."

Having coaches, teachers and dorm parents who he could look up to and who mentored him helped prepare Charlie for success not just as a soccer player, but as a young adult. It was in this environment where Charlie began volunteering – now that he was beginning to emerge from a background where survival was his main focus, he had something to give back and was eager to do so.

"We'd go to the Lawrence Boys & Girls Club, and meet these kids who didn't have anyone to talk to," Charlie saw himself in them. "I'm just this high school kid and they look up to me, and can't wait to hang out. And this was before I was anything. We really have this power to uplift and inspire and get kids to stop thinking about some of the difficult things they're dealing with in their day-to-day lives."

Charlie's success on and off the field, and his lifestyle of giving back to others, continued at Boston College. It was also where he met his wife, Nina. He'd seen her at freshman orientation and she'd stood out; he was worried he'd never find her again, but he did, weeks later, in his Christian theology class.

BC was a nationally-ranked team and Charlie was the Big East Rookie of the Year as a freshman. He was poised for a big year to follow it up, having won the MVP award at an international tournament that summer. Playing with some of the best players in the world his age, most of whom had already turned pro, Charlie felt like he belonged – and in some cases, was playing even

better than some of them. Taking that step to turn pro himself was just within his grasp, and he intended to do it after his sophomore year.

As what would become a constant theme in his life, the universe had other plans for Charlie: the first game of his sophomore season, he tore his meniscus.

"I went through depression, real depression," he said, recalling how concerned he was that he'd never be the same player after his injury. Thanks to the BC strength and training program, that didn't happen. "They really cared." Any doubts he'd had about his post-injury ability were answered during a game that following spring between BC and the Revolution – Charlie scored 2 goals and had an assist as BC beat a Revs team that had Clint Dempsey, Taylor Twellman, Michael Parkhurst and more, 3-1. After his junior season, where he was the ACC Player of the Year, Charlie fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming a professional soccer player.



*Courtesy of Charlie Davies*

More success followed as he played internationally, for Hammarby in Stockholm and then the U.S. men's national team in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Though the competition was the "ultimate competitive experience – you can't top that," being a part of that team brought Charlie a true full-circle moment when they were featured -as the Breakfast of Champions- on a Wheaties box.

"Sometimes I had to eat Wheaties for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I'd stare at that box and dream one day I could be part of it, and here I am."

He continued to ascend on the club level, signing to play with Sochaux in the premier French league, Ligue 1, in July of 2009. He was also becoming a mainstay on the National team, playing in the 2009 Confederations Cup and in the FIFA World Cup qualifying tournament, where the U.S. defeated the Spain team that would go on to win the 2010 World Cup and hadn't lost in two years before that game.

Charlie scored against Mexico in Azteca Stadium

during that tournament, becoming only the fourth American to ever do so. The team continued to roll in the qualifying rounds, beating Honduras at their home stadium as well, in an environment notoriously hostile to opponents. That was the game that officially qualified the team to be a part of the 2010 World Cup.



*Courtesy of Charlie Davies*

“It was the scene you’d expect after winning the Stanley Cup. We were doing belly slides in the locker room, champagne everywhere, guys were going crazy. It was that moment you dream of as a professional athlete.” Charlie said.

He was poised to be a part of the 2010 U.S. World Cup team. As the team flew into Washington, D.C. right after that game for more tournament play, knowing they were in but playing for higher seeding, it was all beginning to come together for him as one of the best U.S.-born players in the world. He wasn’t expecting to play in that game after developing a groin strain in one of the qualifiers, but not even that could bring him down from being on top of the world.

That’s when it all came to a screeching halt. Knowing he wouldn’t be playing in the upcoming tournament game and wanting to enjoy a night out, Charlie spent the night of Monday, October 12, 2009 in Georgetown with friends, watching Monday Night Football and listening to live music. At around 2:30 the next morning, he got a ride back to where he was staying with some people who were also leaving at the same time.

“I beat myself up over this moment for years. I remember doing my due diligence to see if she’d be able to drive,” Charlie said about the driver of the car. He hadn’t been drinking himself. He put on his seatbelt, and the next thing he remembers is waking up at the hospital. He still doesn’t remember the car accident that forever

altered the course of his life.

“It’s a damn good thing that I don’t,” he said. “I’ve tried.” The driver of the SUV he was riding in lost control of the car on the George Washington Parkway and struck a metal railing. The crash tore the car completely in half, and killed one of the passengers. The crash fractured Charlie’s right tibia and femur, his elbow, multiple bones in his face, lacerated his bladder and had bleeding in his brain.

“When I woke up, I didn’t even remember being in D.C.” He learned about what happened to him after frantically trying to remove some of the 36 staples in his stomach. His family and now-wife quickly joined him at the hospital.

Charlie kept talking about returning to soccer; they realized he had no idea the severity of his injuries. It wasn’t until a detective came to see him two weeks later that he learned about the passenger that had been killed.

“I could not fathom that I was, at this stage of my life, in this position. Being on bed rest, I couldn’t get up to go to the bathroom,” he said. Rather than feeling sorry for himself though, Charlie was just relieved to have a second chance at life.

“Have you seen the car?” a priest who came to visit him had asked. “You’re here for a reason.”



*Courtesy of Charlie Davies*

Still, there was a part of Charlie that believed that that reason was soccer. As he inquired with doctors about the recovery time for his injuries, it was clear that many of them didn’t think he would ever play professional soccer ever again. He spent a month in the hospital, re-learning how to walk and put on clothes, and regaining use of his left hand. He describes the time he spent in rehab having to use a wheelchair as “very humbling.”

“I learned that soccer wasn’t everything. It makes you realize what’s important in life, and the people that are most important to you, because you also see the people who stand by you and are there for your support, and the ones who are only

in your life because you’re successful. That was also a tough pill to swallow, but it was great for me to go through that experience because I’m still alive and I knew I was going to be better for it,” Charlie said.



*Photo by Mo Meneses/Granimo Studios*

“I was going to make sure that this 2.0 version of Charlie Davies is gonna take advantage of getting a second chance.” He was on a mission to make up for what had happened to him, to his family, friends, supporters, and his country, and felt the only way to do that was to rehab relentlessly through all the pain, and get back on the field and score goals again. The next stop was Delaware with the USMNT trainer, where Charlie worked for four months with a single-minded focus on this mission. At first, even standing up without getting dizzy was enough to sap him of all his energy.

“I was exhausted. I was so drained. But I kept pushing and pushing myself.” Slowly but surely, he graduated to running again. After his time in Delaware, he continued his rehab in France with the goal of suiting up for Sochaux again.

“I trained, but I was just a shell of myself,” Charlie said. That was when Bob Bradley, the USMNT coach at the time, called to deliver the news that he wasn’t going to be taking him to the training camp for the World Cup.

“That was one of the most difficult phone calls I’ve ever had in my life, knowing I was never going to get that opportunity again.” Bradley also told Charlie that no one had ever given up on him, and he was proud of him. Those words continued to inspire him in his rehab. He made the Sochaux game day roster around Christmas time of 2010, and he knew he at least had made it back that far.

Charlie returned to D.C., where his life had changed, to restart his career. This time, his family and friends could come see him play more regularly. He scored 2 goals in his first game back.



“It was a movie. It still doesn’t feel real. I still get goosebumps every single time I think about that moment. Everything I put into getting back on the field and all the emotions surrounding not knowing if I’d get to play professional soccer again to be able to still score goals.” Charlie spent that season visiting the doctors and nurses who had saved his life; many of them came to his games.

“I got to talk to the helicopter pilot who flew me from the crash. Just remarkable.”

## Charlie Davies 2.0

The 2.0 Charlie was also determined to marry Nina, who had been with him every step of the way on his soccer journey and never left his side after his accident. He’d always known she was The One, but with her support of him through every part of the grueling post-accident recovery, he knew “there was no one in this world more meant for me than her.”

Still, as sure as he was, Charlie wanted to make sure the proposal was removed from the shadow of his recovery. He proposed in Barcelona in August of 2010, and the couple was married in 2012 at the BC campus church.

After a year stint in Denmark, Charlie came back to the U.S. for good, signing with the hometown New England Revolution in 2013. Being back to his roots, he felt a strong desire to connect with the community.

“I had to get back to being in touch with everything that’s going on in New England. I’d had incredible experiences, the lows and the highs, and felt like my path and my journey could really benefit and help other kids in this area, because I was once in their shoes. A poor kid from Manchester, New Hampshire, a biracial kid, having to survive. Giving these kids an outlet, a dream and hope, and possibly change the outlook on their life.” This was his mission as well as competing for an MLS cup; he thrived in both.



*Courtesy of Charlie Davies*

The Revs reached the Final in 2014, with Charlie scoring big goals throughout the tournament. The following season, he was named the

Midnight Riders Man of the Year after scoring 10 goals. It was that same year that Charlie and Nina found out they were having twins. True to the trajectory of his whole life though, just around the corner from the highs was more adversity.

On St. Patrick’s Day of 2016, their twin boys were born 3 months premature. They spent 92 days in the NICU after their birth. About one month into their stay, Charlie got an MRI for a pulled groin, which he attributes to not eating right or sleeping well during all those nights at the hospital. The doctors found a mass in his leg. It ended up being liposarcoma cancer. He was in one wing at Brigham & Women’s Hospital, the newborn twins in another.

“I was able to lean on my car accident experience,” Charlie said. “You gotta just stay positive. I had already been rocked so hard, that experience, as tough as it was, it was caught early. I think everything happens for a reason. The boys kind of saved my life coming out early.” After 3 months of treatment, Charlie returned to soccer for another year and a half, retiring in 2018.



*Courtesy of Charlie Davies*

## Charlie Davies 3.0

Charlie Davies 3.0 splits his time between his family, his work in the media realm as an analyst, and philanthropy. He serves on one of the Boston Children’s Hospital boards.

“I love, love, love kids, and I love, love love what Boston Children’s does for children in saving lives and healing. It was a no-brainer for me.”

Serving on that board is how Charlie met Sandy and Paul Edgerley, the power couple behind The ‘Quin House. Watching him work with passion and heart towards the Boston Children’s mission, they knew he’d be perfect for *The ‘Quin Impact Fund*.

The ‘Quin Impact Fund, since its inception in the Spring of 2019, has graciously gifted close to \$1M to what it identifies as “areas of impact” in the local communities. It has, in many ways, just begun to scratch its surface.

Though philanthropy has always been close to

Charlie’s heart, running a nonprofit is new to him.

He credits his co-chairs, former Boston Boys & Girls Club CEO Linda Whitlock and City Year Chief of Staff Kanna Kunchala with helping him learn as this startup foundation grows.

Their goal is to raise \$1M a year to serve the five areas of impact that the Fund is focused on: Art & Culture, Health & Wellness, Innovation & Discovery, Youth & Education, and Equity, Inclusion & Opportunity. The Fund will typically give a gift of \$25,000-\$50,000 to local organizations directly focused on each of these pillars. Each season of the year has social and cultural events that fit with one of these areas of focus and gives the ‘Quin Impact Fund a chance to serve its community and make a difference.

Beyond the money, the gift the Fund gives is access to its members. “Our members get to go out and connect, and I don’t say ‘volunteer,’ like ‘oh, let me just pack up some food for you and that’s my good deed for the day,’ it’s that I have this expertise and knowledge in a certain occupation and I’m willing to give that to the organization. I think that’s something that’s very unique,” said Charlie. “Being a massive connector is something I take pride in.”

Joining the club isn’t just about your net worth or connections – it’s about having something to contribute that makes a positive impact in the community.

“It’s the best job in the world,” he said. “I love the fact that I can help so many different people. Kids, veterans, the elderly, those experiencing homelessness, people who are battling starvation and food insecurity. I have the power to not only help these people but hear these people, listen to them and connect them to other people who can help them in different ways. It’s a magical job. I look at it as a way to make Boston better.”



*Photo by Mo Mendes/Granimo Studios*



# Where We Eat

*with Frankie Mendoza & Alexandra Salmon*

## Moncia's Trattoria

When you come to our Trattoria on Prince Street, you'll see pictures of our family and an American flag on the walls. Even though it's Italian cuisine, as you'd expect in the North End, it stands for what's most important to us: love of friends, family, and this country. Monica's is the American Dream come to life for us, and when you come from a background like ours, it means that much more.



*Photo by Samantha Robshaw*



*Photo by Samantha Robshaw*

I came to America when I was three years old with my mom and four siblings. Most of the pictures on the walls of us and our parents and grandparents were taken before we got to America. We are from Argentina – although my mother, Monica, is of Italian descent. We came here with nothing. My mom had heard the North End was the safest neighborhood, so that's where we went. It's a close-knit Italian neighborhood and even though my mom made the most delicious Italian dishes for us, we still didn't speak any English when we first got here and had a hard time fitting in. My mom busted her ass to support all of us, working long

hours for little pay as we made this country and neighborhood our home.

When I was 15, my brother Pat came to me with an opportunity. He'd been given the chance to buy the space that was one half of what's now our location on Prince Street. It was tiny. He said to me, "do you want to buy a restaurant?" So we did. That was 27 years ago and it's been our life's work ever since. All the dishes are our mom's original recipes. The chicken parm, the antipasto, the tiramisu – she inspired all of it. Before she passed away, she was at the restaurant all the time and people still talk about her. You can see her picture on our walls. Whether we are entertaining the Boston Bruins, or neighborhood customers and friends who have become family, we love cooking for everyone who comes in. We don't discriminate – everyone is always welcome at Monica's.

Since we opened Monica's Trattoria at its original location, we expanded with the Mercato, which has Italian subs and a pizzeria on the basement level. A few years ago, we had the opportunity to double the size of the Trattoria, so we renovated the whole thing and re-opened with the concept we have now – exposed brick, and the bar that has seasonal cocktails that are beautiful and delicious. At first, we didn't even know the exposed brick was there – we found it by accident one day before the expansion when we were just seeing what was behind the sheet rock for the hell of it. Once we started chiseling away at it, we spent all night doing the whole place. Our staff had no idea what had happened when they got to work the next day. Needless to say, we had to close for the day. The exposed brick and candlelit tables are classic North End, just like our food, and people love the atmosphere. During the holidays, the place is always decorated with flowers and something special in the front windows.

To be first-generation immigrants, come to this country with nothing, and put decades of blood, sweat and tears into our family business and turn it into a thriving enterprise – to me, that is the American Dream. The pandemic and all the restrictions have turned it into a nightmare. Not just for us, we see it everywhere in our neighborhood and the rest of the city as people have been less comfortable going out and now people are choosing to go outside the city to host parties at restaurants. The Massachusetts Restaurant Association says local restaurants are

losing \$10,000-\$15,000 a week. We are proud to stand up for and support our local businesses now more than ever.



*Photo by Samantha Robshaw*

We are open Wednesdays through Saturdays starting at 4pm. The bar is usually where you can find our regulars, and always a great place to watch a game with different drink specials every night.



*Photo by Samantha Robshaw*

We will always stand for family, friends, freedom, the American Dream, and good food. As we say at Monica's, "If you are what you eat, only eat delicious!"



*Photo by Samantha Robshaw*

*Frankie Mendoza is the co-owner of Monica's Trattoria and Monica's Mercato in the North End with his brother Pat. You can follow them on social media @ monicastrattoria x @monicamercato.*



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# Shining Bright, Jocelyn Saber Earns NBA All-Star Honors

*From winning her first national championship at ten years old to being named team captain with the NBA's most storied franchise, competitive cheer has been a major theme for most of Jocelyn's Saber's life. It's only natural she was selected to represent herself, the Celtics, and the city of Boston on one of the sport's biggest stages: NBA All-Star Weekend.*

By Andrea Cadigan



Photo by Joanne Saber

When you go to any Boston Celtics game at TD Garden, Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown, Marcus Smart and company are not the only athletes putting on a show for the 19,156 (sometimes rabid) fans in attendance.

The Celtics Green Team and Dancers are must see fixtures on game nights, dazzling and entertaining our hometown crowd with an array of breathtaking routines and performances.

Jocelyn Saber, a Green Team athlete since 2017 and this year's captain, was recently selected alongside Tatum to represent the Celtics at the 2022 NBA All-Star game in Cleveland.

I had the honor to sit down with Jocelyn for this issue to learn more about her tenure with the Celtics, her journey in cheerleading, competing as a Division I athlete, and how she balances her commitments with the Celtics with her responsibilities as an executive in the Global Sports and Entertainment division at Morgan Stanley.

**AC:** Jocelyn Saber, NBA All Star. What comes to mind when you hear that and see it in print?

**JS:** It's so surreal! I still can't believe it. Especially during a year like this, with Covid and everything going on, I never thought I'd be packing my bags for Cleveland. I feel super blessed to not only work the All-Star Weekend, but to be chosen to represent an organization like the Celtics is such a great honor.



Photo by Samantha Robshaw  
MUA: Beauty by Nelse

**AC:** You've been involved with cheering almost all of your life. In fact, your family has somewhat of a shrine of your "through the years" pics in the sport at your home in Connecticut. What has your journey been like getting to where you are today with the Celtics?

**JS:** Growing up my mom was always that mom who had her camera out every minute and took a million pictures. And she would also buy every single picture the photographers took of me. She decided to frame them all and hang them in our basement. I thought it was embarrassing when I was younger, but now I really appreciate it and it's fun to look back at all the memories.

I started cheering when I was 8 years old for a Pop Warner cheerleading team, the Aspetuck Wildcats. When I was 10, I won my first national championship in Tucson, Arizona. When I returned home from AZ, I was invited to join a Level 5 All Star team in CT where I cheered with high school athletes, and some college girls as well. I thoroughly enjoyed



being thrown in the air by the older/bigger girls. I juggled the Pop Warner cheer team while preparing for national competitions with my first All-Star team!

When I got to high school, I stopped All-Star cheer for a short time as I was dealing with some minor injuries, so I only cheered for my high school team which had fewer competitions and was a lot less intense. I was passionate about competing, and I definitely missed All-Star. During my sophomore year in high school, somebody posted a Facebook video of me throwing a tumbling pass. One of the coaches at a World's gym in Waterford CT, East Celebrity Elite, contacted me and invited me to try out for their International Open Level 5 worlds team called Fame. This was a very prestigious team, and I didn't have to think twice about joining. So I traveled to this gym a few days a week for practice. It was roughly an hour and a half each way, so I bet you can guess where most of my homework was done. I competed at Worlds a few times with Fame and really learned what it was like to be on a big stage with lots of responsibilities. To this day, those competitions and gym moments are some of the best memories of my life.

From there I was recruited to Quinnipiac University to be a member of their Acrobatics and Tumbling team, an emerging women's NCAA Division I sport. I was recruited on an athletic scholarship, and was fortunate to be a four year starter on the team. Acrobatics and Tumbling follows the USA Gymnastics scoresheet, and contains aspects of competitive All Star Cheerleading. We executed acrobatic lifts, tosses, and tumbling. Acro was awesome, I enjoyed every minute in the life of a Division I student athlete, as well as the perks of it, but I definitely missed cheerleading.



*Photo by Samantha Robshaw  
MUA: Beauty by Nelsa*

After my 4 years of NCAA eligibility were up, I stayed at Quinnipiac to complete my Masters in Business Administration. This is when the coach of the Celtics Green Team reached out and asked if I would be interested in auditioning for the Green Team. And the rest is history! I started with the Celtics in 2017; it was such an honor to be named captain this season.



*Photo by Joanne Saber*

**AC:** My family has been involved with the New England Patriots and cheering my entire life. I know firsthand the preparation and commitment that goes into cheering for a professional sports team, especially here in Boston.

You also have a very impressive professional career working in Global Sports and Entertainment with Morgan Stanley, in addition to the Celtics. Tell us a little about that and how you are able to be successful and balance your responsibilities in both fields.

**JS:** I am super passionate about sports, and I knew I wanted to work in the sports world in some capacity. When I interviewed at Morgan Stanley and learned about their Global Sports and Entertainment (GSE) sector, I knew it would be a great fit for me. GSE is a division of Morgan Stanley that focuses on the complex financial needs of professional athletes and entertainers. I had always dreamed about working at a firm as prestigious as Morgan Stanley, and the sports division was an added bonus. I work with the only GSE team in the region. Our team is

called The Heights Group and we specialize in Wealth Management for professional athletes and coaches. My position focuses on managing client services and team operations. I serve as an advocate for our clients by coordinating all phases of financial services, ensuring team optimization and client satisfaction. We have the best clients in the world!



*Photo by Samantha Robshaw  
MUA: Beauty by Nelsa*

My schedule was a lot to get used to at first, I'd leave my apartment at 7 am for the office, work the full day, head straight to The Garden (TD Garden) or the Auerbach Center (at New Balance World HQ) for practice, and not return home until almost midnight after a game. This calls for some long days, and the NBA season is a long season, but I honestly wouldn't have it any other way. Your body gets used to it. Both worlds are very supportive of one another.



*Photo by Joanne Saber*

**AC:** This issue features Cedric Maxwell on the cover as part of our tribute to Celtics75, a photoshoot we both got to be a part of! Cedric is a legend with the team and one of the last remaining from the glory years. What was it like being part of that shoot, getting to know him a little, and what it means to be featured alongside him in this issue?

**JS:** Mr. Maxwell is a legend! My dad has always been such a huge fan of his. He grew up watching him play. I was so honored to be a part of the shoot and have the opportunity to shake his hand and hear some of his stories. Shortly after we met at the shoot we ran into each other at The Garden. He put his (massive) hand up for a high five and said “Hey girl!” That moment was pretty cool haha and something I’ll never forget. He’s such a genuine down to earth guy, I can’t believe that my name and his are even being thrown around in the same sentence, let alone being featured alongside of him.



*Photo by Danny Direct*

**AC:** What’s a typical “Game Day” like for you?

**JS:** I put in a work day at my office job and head straight to The Garden afterwards for games during the week. Game days are much less stressful on the weekends. I try to have a healthy and fueling lunch on a game day. I always make sure to leave plenty of time for my hair & on court makeup, which has to be on point every game of course! I’ll head to the Garden 2 hours before tip-off to start getting our props ready, look at our script for the night, and meet with the team. Once I get to The Garden it’s usually non-stop until the end of game. Once the game starts, I put a smile on my face and enjoy executing our stunts, routines, and tumbling, and also have fun with promotions. Every single game really is exciting and so much fun! If I have friends

or family attending the game, I always try to find time to visit them in their seats. After the game, my adrenaline is still running high; when I get home I’ll have a small dinner & unwind with my sweet cat, Eloise.



*Photo by Samantha Robshaw  
MUA: Beauty by Nelse*

**AC:** What have been some of your coolest memories and experiences cheering with the Celtics?

**JS:** So many great memories, but one that comes to mind is a game against the Houston Rockets my rookie year. We were losing the entire game, and came back to win in the final minutes. The atmosphere in The Garden that night was so electric, and it’s definitely a game I’ll never forget. There were some buzzer beater games as well that were unreal. These crazy games are special for so many reasons. First of all, the fans are incredible. The energy in the arena is unmatched. And we get to use props that we save for high intense situations only. My favorite one being “The Banner.” It’s this huge banner that covers a good part of the court, and it has multiple layers. Lucky, our iconic mascot, hides under the banner, and pulls each layer through. As each layer disappears, the crowd gets louder and louder. It’s one of my favorite game day moments.

The Paul Pierce retirement ceremony was also one of my favorite moments. To have had the opportunity to watch his number “34” raised into the rafters (the first Celtics number retired since Cedric Maxwell’s “31”) and be a

part of Celtics history was so special. That is a day I’ll never forget.



*Photo by Joanne Saber*

**AC:** Any predictions for the rest of the season? Any chance we could be seeing another championship banner raised to the rafters?

**JS:** I’m really looking forward to finishing the season strong. It hasn’t been a normal year by any means for anyone, but I’m so ready to make the most of the remaining games. We’ve been playing so well, and I’m ready to make a run. I’m sure Banner 18 is in our near future and can’t wait to be a part of it!! Let’s go C’s!!!



*Photo by Samantha Robshaw  
MUA: Beauty by Nelse*





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# Toast of the Town

with Tiffany Giannato

## And Just Like That

Happy New Year BostonMan! As we know, I enjoy writing about topics that are upbeat and bring positivity. Hence, I am going to put a positive spin on a topic that can breed negativity.

Unfortunately, I have had multiple pictures of mine stolen and placed on various social media platforms to create fake profiles.

One of my friends said to me, "Well, that is horrible, but once you have jealous haters that means you made it in life."

Alas, I am inclined to agree with her. Lately we live in a society where successful, well-liked, and admired people attract "haters." What is a hater? The dictionary defines the word "hater" as "a person who thrives on showing hate, criticizing, or belittling other people or things; someone who can't be happy for someone else's success."

The pandemic forced many of us to spend more time at home, which also gave people time to scroll social media on a more frequent basis; judging and analyzing the lives of others.

Usually, a person defined as a "hater" has a targeted person they dislike. He or she may discredit, devalue, or downplay their target's success. A hater can be anonymous, an acquaintance, a peer, or even a friend or family member.

The negativity towards their target is usually repeated over time, and the nastiness can be delivered in person, on line, or via texts. The actions of the "hater" often trigger anger and hurt in the target and the person may even start to question their self-worth and behavior.

Psychologically, the target may start to become introverted in order to avoid the negative feedback.

Thinking back to my adolescence, I was someone who was in the "popular" crowd. I was intelligent and worked hard in school, and I was always kind. In other words, I was not a hater.

When other "popular" girls acted like they did not like me or were mean to me, it used to bother me and I would become anxious and upset despite my high level of self-esteem and confidence. Haters tend to do that to you. They mess with your level of self-confidence and play tricks on your brain. As I got older and wiser I started to realize that a "hater's" comments are a reflection of them not me; most of their actions

usually fueled by jealousy and contempt.

So how do you deal with a hater?" BostonMan Publisher Matt Ribaudo has anointed me as the "Boston Carrie Bradshaw" and we know Carrie and the girls always have the answers!



Sex and the City recently debuted a reboot of the original hit series titled And Just Like That. The reboot follows Charlotte, Carrie, and Miranda as they transition as friends from their 30s to 50s.

If you have not watched the original series (or need a quick recap) of their character traits here is a brief synopsis:

Carrie is creative, daring, impulsive, and dependable.

Miranda is ambitious, logical, cynical and head-strong.

Charlotte is positive, idealistic, Type-A, organized and sensitive.

How would Carrie, Miranda, and Charlotte handle haters? Here is my take on how each of their personalities is beneficial to dealing with negative people in life:

Carrie once reflected, *"And why is it that we can see our friends perfectly, but when it comes to ourselves, no matter how hard we look, we don't ever see ourselves clearly."*

Sometimes, people have a hard time looking at themselves in a positive light, even though they are constantly encouraging their friends and

loved ones. Try to find something positive about yourself each day, no matter how small, to remind yourself that you are special.

Miranda once stated, *"I want to enjoy my success, not apologize for it."*

That is exactly what everyone should do. Celebrate your achievements. People work hard and no one should make someone feel guilty for following their dreams.

Charlotte once observed, *"I'm pretty and I'm smart. I'm a catch."*

Charlotte has self-love. Everyone needs to have self-love so they can face adversity and negativity and rise above it.

Remember some people thrive off the failure of others. It makes them happy in a twisted way. With that said, here is my eight point "Sex and the City Countering Negativity" plan combining the characteristics of each of the girls. This is guaranteed to always keep you a step ahead of the haters!

- Block out these people as much as you can.
- Be kind.
- Always stay in control of your emotions.
- Do not let others bring you down.
- Stick with your supporters.
- Be your authentic self.
- Move forward.
- Pursue your interests.

When you shine, many people will "find" problems with you. Just shine brighter. Negative people make you grow. If you have to cry, then cry, but pick yourself up and become stronger.

You are a success story, a trendsetting, trailblazer who leads and conquers. Adversity teaches us great life lessons. Keep your eyes on the road and stay grounded After all, the final proof of greatness lives in being able to endure criticism without resentment.

And Just Like That all of the haters will disappear.

*Tiffany Giannato is a mother, fashionista, stylist, and shopping addict! Her blogs, pictorials, and fashion tips are aimed towards empowering both women and men to look and feel their best regardless of age. Her "you can be as trendy at 61 as you were at 21" mantra has taken Boston by storm! A true Italian, Tiffany believes Family, Love, Food and Style are always the keys to happiness!*





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# BostonMen Stand Up

*Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern MA surges forward with new programs aimed at increasing male mentorship*

By Dave Wedge



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern MA surges forward with new programs aimed at increasing male mentorship.

COVID changed pretty much everything, and volunteerism, unfortunately, wasn't spared.

Lockdowns, quarantines and other precautions and restrictions forced many community organizations to pivot, adapt and change their way of doing business to ensure that services were still delivered to the community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts – the largest youth mentoring program in New England – weathered the worst of the pandemic by altering its model to allow adult volunteers (called “Bigs”) to meet virtually with their “Littles.”

Throughout the pandemic, the agency has continued to support matches through fun and interactive virtual engagements. Learning, listening and affirmations continue between mentors and mentees in all of their programming from college campuses to community based, to Mentor2.0 (the online platform supporting high schoolers).

Mentors and mentees have gotten creative, doing virtual cooking and exercise classes online together, playing video games, watching movies, or talking it up about sports and culture.

“At the onset of the pandemic, everything shifted to virtual,” explains Aka Denjongpa, Director of Strategic Community Partnerships for BBBSEM. “Now, it's more based on the comfortability of the Bigs, the Littles and the guardians.”

Since March 2020, almost all of the 800 new

matches have been made virtually and yet there remains a substantial waiting list of mentees to be matched in all of the programs... especially boys.

BBBSEM was founded in Massachusetts in 1949 to support fatherless young boys in Boston. That first year, the organization matched 10 boys with adult volunteers. Those were humble beginnings, but it was clear the agency was onto something special. By 2000, BBBSEM was serving 1,000 kids in Massachusetts annually. By the mid-2000s, that number was up to 2,000 and new offices opened in Attleboro, New Bedford, the Merrimack Valley and the Cape and Islands.

Today, BBBSEM serves 3,000 youth ages 7-12 annually and growing. But the push is on as more volunteers are needed – especially males.

“The need has never been greater. The kids are waiting. Our youth and communities are experiencing tremendous stressors as they navigate through a social justice awakening, a pandemic and other obstacles. As of today, we have 150 boys waiting,” Denjongpa continues. “We know men want, maybe need, to have an impact and now is the perfect time to do that.”

The reasons for lower volunteer rates among men are complex. Some perhaps don't feel comfortable with kids, while others have busy schedules and may be intimidated by the required year-long commitment. But Denjongpa says those who sign on almost unanimously report an incredibly rewarding experience, including many who maintain lifelong connections and friendships with their “littles” long after they've aged out of the program.

The backlog of boys who need mentors has only increased during the pandemic, prompting the agency to launch an aggressive recruitment campaign for male volunteers.

“Often the simplest interactions are the most meaningful,” says Denjongpa. “Just going out for a walk or to the park can make a child's day. A lot of times, we hear the point that's most impactful is the ride in the car or the ride on the train, where you're having those conversations about each other's lives, and cultures, and careers.”

The positive results for kids are stark. Surveys found that 76 percent said they learned right from wrong from their Big; 77 percent said they did better in school because of their Big; 55 percent said their experience made them more likely to enroll in college; 90 percent said their relationship helped them make better choices throughout childhood; 42 percent said it steered them away from drugs; and 27 percent said it helped them avoid underage drinking. Other research has shown the program decreases school skipping, improves confidence, and increases trust in adults.

BBBSEM has expanded services to teenagers with the new Mentor 2.0 program, which pairs students to mentors in three Boston public high schools. Mentors follow a curriculum and help students get on a path to college or into career training.

Deepankar Malhan is one such mentor. He was matched in September 2019 with his mentee, now a senior at the Edward M. Kennedy School for Health Careers.



In the program, mentors engage weekly with BPS high school students via an online platform and meet in person once a month during the school year (or virtually during the pandemic).

Malhan, a Senior Software Engineer at Optum, has shared a lot about his career with his mentee, helped him to step outside his comfort zone and join new clubs at school. The two have worked together to look through colleges, prioritize them based on preference, and write college applications.

"The Mentor 2.0 Program has been an amazing opportunity to mentor someone through all aspects of their lives. The relationship I have with my mentee is incredibly fulfilling, and it has been a pleasure to see him grow from a sophomore to a senior in high school over the past two years," says Malhan. "I've assisted him in deciding his major for college by giving him perspective on my job as a Senior Software Engineer. It has been incredibly easy to mentor him virtually since the start of the pandemic."

Remote learning throughout the pandemic has only increased the need for quality mentors for younger kids as well as teenagers. In addition to the academic challenges posed by quarantines, remote classrooms and pandemic-related absenteeism, there has been a social cost as

many students have found themselves unable to see friends and family and even more isolated without daily interactions at school.

Whether connecting virtually on Zoom or FaceTime or arranging socially-distanced outdoor meetings, the stability of mentorship has helped many kids in the program through some very difficult and even dark times over the past two years.

"Human connections have always been important but the pandemic has brought a lot of hardship to a lot of families, which can take away time and attention children need and deserve," Denjongpa says. "There's been record unemployment, job changes, some families have had health issues, some have lost family to COVID. Supporting a child, is supporting the whole family. The mentor is able to support the child in a way that maybe the parent or guardian is not able to fully, because of these very unusual circumstances that we've been under."

Mentors have gotten creative, doing virtual cooking and exercise classes, connecting online to play video games or watch movies or TV, to keep the connections going when in-person meetings haven't been possible.

Part of the overall creative process of BBBSEM has been to also branch out and form new

partnerships and initiatives with exemplary community programs that speak to the type of male mentors that are needed. Among them, BostonMan Magazine and the Legacy Club Community, which consists of many professional men and women ideal to be role models for those in need.

"I'm super excited to offer our resources and support to an organization as special as BBSEM," BostonMan Publisher Matt Ribauda says. "Children will always have my heart and anything I can do to help have a positive impact on their future, I will move mountains to make happen."

Driving an increase in male mentors will also be a big focus at the next BostonMan Legacy Club event which will be a collaboration between the magazine and BBSEM. The goal, says Ribauda -who recently signed up as a male mentor himself- is to not only increase the awareness of the program but to encourage men to sign up and volunteer directly from the events.

"We, men, have an opportunity. A challenge and a call to answer," concludes Denjongpa "What you can do is simple. SIGN UP NOW. Don't wait. Don't hesitate. Become someone's champion and let's make Boston and its surrounding communities better than ever before."

*For more information about how to become a Big Brother or Big Sister, visit [www.emassbig.com](http://www.emassbig.com).*



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# Shooting from the Lips

with Nurse Fiona



## Winter in New England, the Med Spa Treatment Guide

Good Ole Winter in New England.. As they say, we are “in the thick of it.”

Spending most of my life as a Miami resident, this is definitely not my favorite time of year here. The weather is absolutely freezing! Yes, there are some highs like a white Christmas, ice-skating and fun fireside gatherings. But, I feel compelled to mention the unpleasant side effects: the dry, itchy, dull skin that plagues most of us.

Fortunately, this is the PERFECT time of year to benefit from laser treatments and super hydrating skincare. If you are looking for a real-life filter for your face, keep reading... I've got you covered!

One of the best treatments in the winter months (as photosensitivity is not an issue) is laser resurfacing. It can be difficult to know which laser treatment is right for you with so many options on the market today. That's why we decided to keep it simple and offer the Gold Standard -The Queen Bee, if you will, of laser devices..

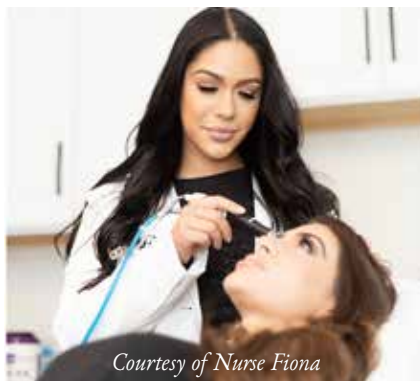
The Tetra CO<sub>2</sub>! This laser does it ALL! And, she has just made her appearance at Nurse Fiona Med Spa!!

The Tetra CO<sub>2</sub> is one of the most advanced laser technologies available and the only CO<sub>2</sub> with CoolPeel. What does that mean for you? Unlike a lot of lasers on the market, when using the Tetra CO<sub>2</sub> your provider can easily select the precise density, power, and pulse duration needed to tailor your treatment.

The Tetra CO<sub>2</sub> will help improve a multitude of skin concerns such as brown spots, fine lines,

pigmentation issues, scars, acne scars, sunspots, and wrinkles. I told you this laser does it all!

Traditionally, one of the biggest downsides of laser resurfacing is a lengthy recovery. With today's fast-paced lifestyles most patients are seeking results without an extended period of downtime. The Tetra CO<sub>2</sub> laser has the ability to do just that. This device is very sophisticated.



Depending on the patient's preference, our estheticians or nurses can treat aggressively or non-aggressively. A patient who is looking for a non-aggressive treatment with minimal downtime can opt for the CoolPeel with one of our estheticians, whereas a patient looking for a one-week ablation of wrinkles could treat with the DEKA CO<sub>2</sub> laser administered by one of our Nurses.

The results are unlike any other device I have seen on the market.

In addition to the Tetra CO<sub>2</sub>, we are excited to welcome the Subnovii Plasma Pen to our arsenal of beauty devices. The Subnovii is the most advanced plasma technology that delivers low-frequency energy to rejuvenate the skin. This energy output allows for extremely precise application and reduced healing time.

This technology is used specifically to target the delicate areas around the eyes, mouth, and dreaded “tech neck” lines.

Looking to reverse the visible effects of one of the greatest causes of premature aging? The Venus Versa skin rejuvenation is a powerful, virtually pain-free Intense Pulsed Light that reverses the effects of the sun. Ultraviolet (UV) rays are responsible for the noticeable brown spots on your face, hands, and chest. Venus Versa provides the kind of rejuvenation that will give you a clearer, brighter, and more radiant complexion while reducing pore size, diminishing fine lines, and giving skin an overall smoother tone.

Ready for a stubble-free life? Want to be as smooth as a dolphin? Another great laser option this time of year is laser hair removal. After experiencing the pitfalls of shaving, the redness, irritation, speedy re-growth, and ingrown hairs it might be time to rid yourself of shaving or painful waxing forever. I see both men and women come into our medspa removing hair from virtually any and every area on the body. The Cutera hair removal treatments have changed the game with innovative technology and a cool-tipped laser that will make the process quick and comfortable.

Finally, our Laser Genesis procedure is a no-downtime treatment, designed to polish and perfect superficial skin revitalization concerns. This treatment helps promote collagen growth and cell turnover. Laser Genesis is excellent in fading scars, redness, broken blood vessels, and can improve the look of Rosacea.

Time to switch gears, while laser services are important, your winter skincare routine is also important. There are certain products we recommend during the winter months to keep skin healthy while it battles the cold temperatures.



I can't stress enough the importance of using an SPF even in the winter. Did you know that UVA rays are present at the same strength from dusk till dawn all year round? UVA rays can penetrate clouds, and snow reflects up to 80% of the sun's UV light. So, we implore you- don't nix the SPF in the winter months and make them a staple of your winter skincare routine. Our NF Skincare The Defensive Line Creams, have tinted BB Crème, Anti-Aging, and Oil-Free options, all with an SPF of 44 or higher to keep your skin safe.



*Courtesy of Nurse Fiona*

A few other key hydrating options to add to your winter repertoire is a body exfoliant, and we have one that smells SO yummy you'll want to eat it! Our Coconuts for Coffee Hydrating Body Scrub is an organic exfoliant that will slough away that

dry, dead winter skin while improving circulation. We recommend pairing our scrub with our Keep Calm & Glow On Youth Preserving Body Oil, or our What's My Age Again? Deep Hydration Anti-Aging Hand and Body Butter for hydration and baby soft skin.

As for that lovely face, we are all about HYDRATION! Drop the soap, literally! The use of soap and hot water can be harsh on your face. We recommend a gentle and hydrating face wash like our Keep Calm & Glow On Hydrating Anti-Aging Cleanser, a super hydrating cream for your delicate under-eye area like our Keep Calm & Glow On Anti-Aging Peptide Crème, followed by our luxurious C The Effect Vitamin C Face Butter that will help to revitalize, brighten and hydrate dull skin.



*Courtesy of Nurse Fiona*

As you can see, no matter what your skincare concern is, we have an option to help you achieve

that sought-after flawless complexion. With many choices here at Nurse Fiona Medspa, we are happy to book a consultation to help our patients navigate skincare and medical treatments. We are here to assist you in achieving your skincare goals! I look forward to seeing you in the medspa or at the next *Boston Man Magazine* Legacy event!



**Nurse Fiona**

*Fiona is a highly respected and nationally Board Certified Nurse in the Boston area specializing in anti-aging aesthetics. She was one of the first Aesthetic Nurses in Massachusetts to be C.A.N.S certified and has had extensive training by world renowned injectors. Her understanding of what makes a face youthful, proportional and natural allows her to deliver uniquely crafted, unflawed results. Her ever-evolving knowledge of the latest innovations in beauty, combined with her personable demeanor make her a leader in the industry.*

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# Say Gerv?

with Gervase Peterson



## I'm in Love with a Stripper..

### Say Gerv?

I go to the strip club every week and my favorite dancer Candy spends the whole time I'm there with me. I think she really likes me. Should I ask her out?

*-Joe, Marshfield, MA*

Joe, the things I do and the lengths I will go to for my Boston men. To answer your question, I felt the need to get the full experience so with \$100 in my pocket, in singles of course, I headed to the gentleman's club (not strip club, we are sophisticated men) where I met Vegas, not the city but a sinner none the less. After some great conversation, butt hugs and a lap dance, my answer is yes! Ask Candy out. What do you have to lose? Absolutely nothing I say. I'm assuming you've asked out plenty of women. You've probably tried the dating sites, even went out on a couple of blind dates. I will also assume the results have all been the same...no relationship. I know what the nay sayers will say. "Don't do it, she's only being nice because she has to be; she's only talking to you because she wants your money; she's only paying you attention because it's her job." That's all true, but I say this. You have a girl you see every week, she spends quality time with you and she enjoys your company. Sounds like the start of a beautiful relationship to me. Now if you start dating Candy just make sure you stop visiting her at work. That's not your hang out spot anymore it's your girlfriends place of employment. If you end up marrying Candy, I will be expecting an invitation for two to the wedding. Vegas said she loves weddings.

### Say Gerv?

What is the proper role of a wingman?

*-Steve, Quincy, MA*

Steve, a wingman is your selfless friend, eye in the sky, bodyguard and right hand man all rolled into one. A great wingman never leaves you behind and will do what needs to be done to see you succeed and talk to the hot girl when you're out. The best wingman I ever had is my buddy Troy. I know I'm going to have a great night when I'm with him because Stacy does it all. When we're out and we see a hot girl and her girlfriend, Troy goes into wingman mode. If the hot girl is checking me out he will point her out to me. If her friend is trying to pull her away, he will run interference. If her friend is looking lonely, he will talk to her. If her friend wants some loving, he will make the ultimate sacrifice and take a bullet for me. Hell, I've seen him take multiple shots in one night. You couldn't ask for anything more in your wingman, but make no mistake, there will be times when you have to return the favor. Nights when you will play the role of the wingman. Key moments when you will have to jump on a grenade for your buddy and take one for the team. Oh and don't worry. The pain, nightmares and mental scars will heal with time. Mine did.

### Say Gerv?

My co-worker has the worst case of bad breath. Everyone knows it, but no one wants to tell him. Even with a mask on. What should I do?

*-Nick, East Boston, MA*

Come on Nick! You know what you have to do. Tell your co-worker that he's got the dragon, burning tires on his tongue, he's farting topside,

melting the mustache, a dementor in his mouth (hahaha I like that one). I guess the first question is why wouldn't you tell him? Obviously, it bothers you. Do you think it's rude to tell him? Well let me tell you it isn't. It's rude to have your nostrils assaulted by a friend's halitosis. You want to do it the discreet way, offer him some gum or a mint. If he refuses, you insist he takes it. Tell him, "Hey man you just had some garlic and onions for lunch, take this," and force a piece of gum in his hand. Or you can man up and say, "Hey bro, your breath is kicking! You might want to do something about that." Trust me, he'll respect you for it. If my breath is ever funky or I have food in my teeth or a boogie in my nose, I would hope that someone would tell me. But people never do, that's why I carry a little mirror in my pocket. Don't judge me, I have to look out for myself since the rest of you jerks won't. Dave how about you stop being a co-worker and start being a friend and if that didn't motivate you how about it's just the right thing to do.



Gervase Peterson

*Gervase Peterson has made history as the first African American male in the #1 all time reality series "Survivor." Hollywood is no stranger to Gervase after appearing and co-hosting several national television programs.*



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# H.E.R. Page

*Helping Each Other Rise with Victoria Nasuti*



*Photo by Mo Mendes/Granimo Studios*

## Meet Lindsey Mazzeo

**VN:** You are Miss Petite USA, aka queen of the petite's. You certainly make us proud! When did you start your pageant journey and how did it lead to the Miss Petite organization?

**lm:** My pageant journey began at the beginning of 2020. I competed in my first pageant with hardly any idea of what I was doing.

Everyone around me was shocked. Not because they didn't support or believe in me, but because this was so far outside my comfort zone. I had only one coaching session prior to competing, which certainly helped, but simply doing it was the best way for me to learn. I thought I had an idea of what the weekend would be like based on what I collected from watching pageants, but boy, was I wrong.

The weekend of competition was truly the most transformational experience of my life. I didn't realize all that went on behind the scenes. I was surrounded by women who strived to change the world. They worked year round towards whatever it was that they were passionate about. It left me feeling so inspired to find what it was that I was passionate about and to find the greatest version of myself.

I didn't win that first pageant, and that's okay, it was definitely not my time. I still had so much to learn, and that I did. I am not kidding, from the day I got home I worked on finding the best version of me and when I say that, I don't mean I worked on losing weight and changing my appearance. I mean, I worked on learning my strengths and areas of opportunity, finding my voice, and an unbreakable confidence.

My journey continued when I saw an Instagram post about an upcoming pageant, Miss New England Petite. I had no idea there was a pageant specifically for petite women! I was so happy to see this because I had seen a lack of representation of petite women across the board and standing at 5'2" I knew I'd qualify.



*Photo by Code Creatives*

I signed up on a whim with no expectations other than to enjoy myself and utilize all of this growth I had just gone through. I stayed true to myself throughout the entire competition and walked away with the crown! It felt great seeing my hard work pay off. This meant I would go on to represent New England at the National, Miss Petite USA competition.

I had so many "pinch me" moments because I went from a shy little girl who would've done anything to avoid speaking in front of her class, to a strong woman who loved sharing her heart with a crowd. I think how much I genuinely loved what I was doing and what the organization I was representing stood for, was what led me to success.

On March 27, 2021 I was crowned Miss Petite USA! This entire journey has been about promoting the causes close to my heart and celebrating being petite. There's been so many stereotypes attached to petite women and pageants, and I'm here to say forget them all.

People see pageantry as a competition of physical beauty, and I think that is because they are only looking at the show. They aren't seeing the courage it takes to go on stage in front of hundreds or even thousands of people. They aren't seeing the accomplishments of the competitors or how encouraging they are of one another. And they aren't seeing the dedication each woman has to spread important and life-changing messages. The stage performances and beautiful gowns are just a fun way of showcasing that a woman can be feminine and a powerful force all at once.

And for petite women, we have been seen as small and weak, but the purpose of the Universal Petite organization is to celebrate our accomplishments and show that height does not define our capabilities. I could not be prouder to be the National representative for this organization, and I am so excited to be competing for the international title, Miss Universal Petite this summer!

aspects of each into both platforms. The reason I



do this is I know my audience for wine/ cocktail making is different than the fashion/glam audience. The content I create on my blog, Not A Somm Girl, is educational yet my personal style can always be seen.

I don't change the way I dress, or the way I speak to appease a certain audience. When viewing my styling articles on Next by Nicole, you may find I occasionally sprinkle in a wine recommendation or cocktail recipe. As women in this generation, we have the unique and exciting ability to create our own paths. Be yourself! Shine in every way and never dull yourself down because you feel you need to. There is no box to try and fit in to, your path is exclusively yours.

**vn:** Tell us about Trendsetter Wardrobe. I've seen the Instagram account and adore the clothing line you've launched. What can we expect from this business as it grows?

**lm:** Thank you! Trendsetter Wardrobe is my charitable fashion brand that officially launched in 2021, but was years in the making.

In 2020, when the pandemic first hit, and we were under the stay at home order, I felt a strong desire to use this time to do something positive. I always dreamed of owning a fashion business, but I also wanted to truly help people. I loved fashion for the way I was able to be creative and feel confident showing the world who I am.



Photo by Brittany Link

Confidence is such an important trait that so many people unfortunately lack. I think confidence can truly change the world. A confident person is lifting others up with them, not tearing them down. Much of the negativity that surrounds us could be decreased if the people at the center of it felt secure with themselves. For that reason, this was the first thing I wanted to promote through the brand.

On the other hand, some people simply viewed clothing as a necessity that, again, so many lacked. I wanted to bridge the gap between these two problems by creating a glamorous experience for my customers where they could feel the best they've ever felt in these clothes, but also feel good about their purchase because it was helping another woman feel as good as they do.

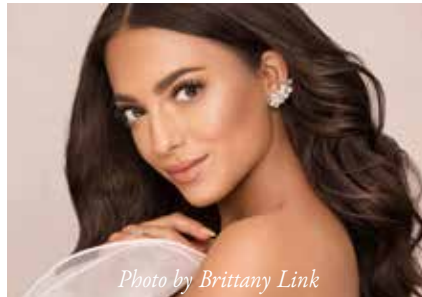


Photo by Brittany Link

This was when my concept "More than Fashion" came to life. More than Fashion is Trendsetter Wardrobe's mission of being about more than a material item. We want to change the way you think about your clothing and the way you think of yourself in that clothing. We want to set an everlasting trend of lifting others up with us. This all started with clothing pieces I designed and customized myself from home.

I promoted them on Instagram and was just hoping to get at least a few people interested. I was blown away. Within just 2 hours, I sold every piece. This opened my eyes to how many people really wanted to get involved. I did multiple relaunches as I planned to legitimize the business and make it what it is today.

Flash forward to 2021 where we began doing business as Trendsetter Wardrobe with high-quality special occasion pieces and have now provided over 600 pieces of clothing to women in need.

My goal is to continue growing this number to change the lives of our customers and the women we are supporting. I have such a big vision for Trendsetter Wardrobe to be the future of fashion. I never intended on this to be like any other place you can get clothing. I am working on developing new products and features with our customers in mind. I want their shopping experience to be all about making them feel confident.

**vn:** You've experienced life in ways so many haven't: Growing up without a mother, becoming a pageant queen, and even becoming a self-taught business woman. What advice do you have for those who need a real role-model in their lives?

**lm:** The best advice I could give to any person trying to find their way is to step out of your

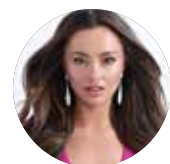
comfort zone every chance you get. This was what made me more confident. It helped me gain a clearer vision of myself and my goals. I won't lie, it can be terrifying in the moment, but once you try something new you will be so proud of yourself. You already have the tools within you to accomplish your dreams. You just have to do some searching to learn how to use them.

I was really lucky to have a supportive family, but that isn't the case for everyone. I think that's why it's so important that we have people like pageant titleholders, entrepreneurs, influencers, etc., using their platforms to be role models when they can.

Today we have the world at our fingertips, which allows us to be connected with people from all over. There is so much out there to learn and be empowered by like podcast, books, social media accounts, etc. The best way to find your inspiration is to simply try. Allow yourself to be exposed to new things, and that will lead you to the people and experiences that you need in your life to create your success.



Photo by Code Creatives



Victoria Nasuti

*Victoria Nasuti created H.E.R Page/ BostonMan to help tell the inspiring stories of women around Boston successfully having careers and passions at the highest level! A published model and real estate professional herself, Victoria knows the challenges of performing your best with both a career and passion. If you or someone you know would like to be considered for a spotlight in H.E.R Page, please send Victoria a message on Instagram @herpagebostonman.*

# Boston's King

*ML King and Coretta Scott first met right here in Boston. Their love story is one of true beauty. With the coming of The Embrace Memorial MLK Weekend 2023 (among other projects) KING Boston continues to enlighten, educate, and preserve the wonderful contributions to history and culture by people of color throughout Boston.*

By Matt Ribaud



It is September 1951, and twenty-two year old ML King is making the long drive from his home in Atlanta to Boston where he is about to embark on his doctoral studies at Boston University.

Following a back and forth summer debating with his father, the Reverend Martin Luther King Sr, on whether he should immediately begin minister work (something ML was not positive he wanted to do) or continue his scholarship, the elder King finally relented, blessing his son with a brand new green Chevrolet -equipped with power glides and packed with some of the finest tailored suits the northeast was about to see- for his pursuits in Boston.

“Don’t get distracted up there,” Reverend King is said to have warned his son. “You need to be back home soon to marry into one of the socially prominent families we have lined up for you.”

“His years here were an important time for him,” says Imari Paris Jeffries, Executive Director at KING Boston. “And it is Boston, of course, where he met Coretta Scott.”

## King Boston

KING Boston is a non-profit dedicated to creating programs and a new memorial, The Embrace, honoring the work and time Dr. King and Mrs. (Coretta) King spent together in Boston. The mission, says Jeffries, is to keep

the dream and vision alive the couple shared in pursuing equality through love and non-violence.

“As much that has been written on Dr. and Mrs. King,” Jeffries points out. “There is still so much more to their legacies, and time in Boston that can further be honored.”

This past year on MLK Day, King Boston, in conjunction with Amazon, The Boston Foundation and NBCro released a documentary titled Voices on King that dives into such explorations.

The 30-minute special, produced by Beyond Measure Productions, navigates some of the under-told -and in some cases, never before told- stories on the Kings time in Boston, the city’s influence on the Harlem Renaissance, and other narratives that have helped shape Boston’s diversity and global impact.

It’s one of several initiatives, explains Jeffries, that will culminate with the completion and unveiling of The Embrace Memorial and 1965 Freedom Plaza on MLK Weekend 2023 in Boston Public Garden.

“It’s a very appropriate memorial to honor (Dr. and Mrs. King),” Jeffries says of The Embrace. “The design is from a beautiful picture of them hugging -embracing- where you feel the love, respect and bond they had for each other.”

## Coming to Boston

The influence Boston had on the lives of both Martin Luther King Jr and Coretta Scott King is significant.

When King arrived in the fall of 1951, he had yet to acknowledge his first name as “Martin Luther.” Born Michael King, Jr on January 15th, 1929, King was just a young boy when his father legally changed both of their names to Martin Luther.

Equal part confused and annoyed by the name change, King insisted that family and friends call him “ML.” It wasn’t until 1955, while leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott, when a reporter asked King to state his name that he first publicly referred to himself as “Martin Luther King, Jr.”

Still developing his intricate thought processes surrounding theology, the underlying factor in choosing Boston University for his doctorate studies was a BU professor, Edgar S. Brightman.

Brightman was paramount in advancing a movement called Boston Personalism. The teachings, which center around an intellectual stance on the importance of human persons, was in-line with where young ML’s beliefs were.

In Brightman, King would have a mentor and teacher to further refine and develop his understanding and love for humanity.

That autumn while attending his first lecture with Brightman, King somewhat prophetically scribbled across his notebook: “The only proof of immortality is a life worth preserving.”



King connected immediately with both Brightman and his teachings. Ten of the first fifteen courses he took at BU were with either Brightman or his protégé, L. Harold DeWolf, with whom King quickly emerged as a favorite student.

Soaking up the ideologies of Personalism, King would write at least two of his most famous sermons, “Three Dimensions of a Complete Life” and “What is a Man,” while studying in Boston, both of which would go on to be staples in his lectures and speeches for the remainder of his life.

He first preached these and other sermons as an assistant minister at the prestigious Twelfth Baptist Church in Roxbury, a successor to the historic African Meeting House on Beacon Hill.

## The Dialectal Society

A natural leader and gifted orator, it wasn’t before long that ML King formed his own intellectual club in Boston. Once a week, King and others would gather at ML’s South End apartment on Mass Ave (shown in the Voices on King documentary) for a pot-luck dinner to discern, debate, and dissect philosophical essays prepared for and presented by members of the group.

The club, dubbed “The Dialectal Society” by King, quickly grew in popularity around campus with both black and white students participating, and even Professor DeWolf periodically coming by to present a thesis.

ML mostly dictated the topics of the essays, which ranged primarily in theology and philosophy. He would occasionally lose members of the club who grew frustrated with King’s hesitancy at the time to dive full on into activism and other political subjects.

King reasoned that it was wiser for the group to continue to develop and refine their ideologies before moving too quickly into other areas.

“The world will not be converted over-night,” he has been remembered as saying at these meetings. But deep down, he knew he would one day be addressing segregation and racial inequalities.

“I got back from a funeral,” ML once announced to the club in a session where the group could have been theorizing their own futures. “Poor Jim,” he continued. “I had to bury Jim Crow today.”

## The Boston Bachelor

ML King enjoyed many of the things most

post-war young men living in Boston in the early 50’s did.

He was self-described as somewhat of a pool shark. He enjoyed the various jazz lounges and cultural music Boston’s South End had to offer (as shown in Voices on King). From time to time you could find him over at the William E. Carter playground playing pick-up basketball with his friends.

He also joined the Sigma Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity in Roxbury, whose members included future U.S. Senator Edward Brooke.

And on most Friday or Saturday evenings ML would be out double-dating with a fraternity brother or galivanting around town, searching for the future Mrs. King.

ML and his friends had long developed secret codes in identifying women they were interested in. A “doctor” was a decent looking woman who could have some promise. While a “constitution” was a well-established and endowed lady who would make men stop in their tracks.

With the invention of direct-dial long distance calling in November 1951, Reverend and Mrs. King now literally had a direct line from Atlanta into ML’s life. They frequently checked in for updates on the prospects of his finding a spouse.

In early 1952, on the advice of a friend, ML blindly called a “constitution” he was told he absolutely had to meet. Wanting to make a good first impression over the phone, ML chose to lead with one of his sure-fire opening lines when talking to women:

“You know, every Napoleon has his Waterloo,” ML told the young lady. “And I’m like Napoleon.. I’m at my Waterloo, and I’m on my knees.”

“That’s absurd,” the young lady replied back to him. “You don’t even know me.”

Yet over the course of that first phone conversion she knew she was talking to a man of substance. An educated man who cared for and loved humanity. Mixed in with his cringe-worthy “lines” was a thoughtful man the young lady knew had a meaningful life ahead of him.

## Coretta Scott

Coretta Scott agreed to go to lunch with ML the next afternoon following their first phone conversation. Two years his elder, she was in Boston for a fellowship at the New England Conservatory of Music.

Picking her up in his fancy green Chevrolet, ML took Coretta to Sharaf’s Cafeteria on Mass Ave.

They spent the afternoon conversating about various topics from soul food to Rochambeau while getting to know each other.

Coretta, who was inspiring to become a classical singer, remembers being a bit taken aback by ML’s height. At 5 feet 7 inches, he was a tad shorter than the type of man she was typically attracted to. But the more he spoke on that spring afternoon, the “taller and taller” in stature he appeared to her.

Later that day, as ML dropped Coretta off at her Beacon Hill boarding home he told her that she possessed the four qualities he admires most in a woman: character, intelligence, personality, and beauty. He then used another of the lines he had been known to say to women he dated in the past.

“I’m going to marry you one day,” he told her. Only this time he really meant it.

## Mr. and Mrs. King

ML’s courtship of Coretta consisted of many elegant evenings and dinners; concerts and shows; enjoying some of the finer attractions in Boston.

During the summer of 1952, Coretta even came to Atlanta to meet ML’s parents, the Reverend and Mrs. King. Reverend King was known to be a little hard on Coretta at first, but her strength, character, and most importantly the genuine connection that was undoubtedly there between Coretta and his son began to win him over.

Later that fall, ML’s parents came to visit him in Boston. Upon noticing the tidiness of his Mass Ave apartment they suspected the increased presence of a female companion.

Indeed, ML King and Coretta Scott were falling in love with each other and spending most of their free time together.

That spring, on Easter Sunday, 1953, the Kings announced the engagement of ML and Coretta.

Then, two months later, on June 18th, Reverend King resided over the marriage of his son, Martin Luther King Jr to Coretta Scott on the lawn of Coretta’s parents home in Marion, Alabama.

The newly-weds returned to Boston that fall to finish up their course work. Coretta would graduate in June of 1954 with a degree in Music Education, and ML finished up his doctorate dissertation later that fall.

A year later, in December 1955, the world was introduced to Martin Luther King Jr and Coretta Scott King as they led the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

## The King and The Kennedys

During the time Martin Luther King Jr was living in Boston, two brothers, also with deep roots in Massachusetts, were on the verge of establishing a national platform that would lead their family to the White House.

John and Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy's names will forever be remembered alongside King's in one of the most important eras in American history.

Although King and the Kennedys didn't always see eye to eye, and MLK was certainly frustrated from time to time with the brothers, he knew deep down, he had two allies that believed in him and he knew if not standing beside him, would stand behind him in the Civil Rights movement.

In October 1960, just weeks before JFK's historic presidential election win over Richard Nixon, he called King in his Georgia prison cell and used his political prowess to have MLK released from an unjust hard labor sentence, following a protest that had gone awry.

A couple years later, while King was visiting the White House, JFK took MLK out to the Rose Garden, eluding potential wire taps, to tip him off on allies of King's the FBI had suspicions of. Already leery of his own government, Kennedy secretly warned King: "Be careful, they will come for you, and they will come for me."

In August, 1963 just a few months before "they" did indeed come for Kennedy, MLK led the March for Freedom in Washington DC. As JFK smiled and watched his friend, King, like the great jazz musicians he saw many times back in the South End of Boston, he masterfully adapted and audibled his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech to react to the 200,000 plus peaceful demonstrators.

JFK, a master orator himself, recognized what King was doing and moments later when MLK joined him in the White House Kennedy greeted him with a smile and burst out, "I HAVE A DREAM!"

That speech, that moment led to JFK initiating a strong federal civil rights bill in congress.

And it was in fact, mostly these same themes from the "I Have a Dream" speech that King delivered upon his most famous return to Boston in 1965.

Addressing a joint session of the Massachusetts Legislature, MLK highlighted the scourge of segregated schools and high levels of

unemployment. Knowing the foundation Boston has to offer, he encouraged the city to be a model of remediation to these ills in America. He later led a march from the very Carter Playground in Roxbury where he used to play basketball to Boston Common, the soon to be site of The Embrace Memorial.

For all King was beginning to accomplish with John F. Kennedy at the time of his assassination in November, 1963; it was with his brother Bobby that he truly got aligned with as the decade and Civil Rights movement progressed.

Originally the more skeptical of the two brothers, Bobby would eventually advance his thinking from being sympathetic to MLK's causes to making massive efforts in understanding where he could offer full support.

As King expanded his platform from equality to the war on poverty, and then to speaking out on the war in Vietnam, RFK echoed his thoughts and supported his demonstrations.

When Kennedy announced his candidacy for Presidency in 1968, MLK was believed to be on a very short list of VP candidates to be on the ticket with him.

All of that ended on April 4th, 1968 when an assassin's bullet cut short the beautiful life of Martin Luther King Jr in Memphis, Tennessee. Grieving back in the very hotel King was assassinated, mere hours later Ralph Abernathy, Andrew Young, and King's other disciples reconvened grappling with the catastrophe that had just befallen.

What would now happen to the Civil Rights movement? Who could take King's place? How could they help stop the rioting that had broken out in urban America — the violent antithesis of everything for which King had stood?

"We'd wanted to get on television and tell people not to fight, not to burn down the cities," Young recalled. "We were trying to get the message out to people, 'This is not what Dr. King would have you doing.' But the press didn't want to talk to us. Bobby Kennedy's was the only voice we identified with that night. We were grateful he was out there."

On April 4th, 1968 as RFK stood before a podium on 17th and Broadway in Indianapolis, Indiana -an inner-city area King himself had suggested his colleague campaign- Kennedy realized the thousands of gatherers in front of him had yet to hear of the passing of their civil rights leader.

Every single one of Kennedy's advisors strongly urged -even begged- him to cancel his speech

that evening. But Kennedy knew the civil rights movement needed him to speak. He knew America needed him to speak. He knew Martin Luther King Jr needed him to speak.

His words that evening were a first step in healing, in peacefully mourning the tragic loss of King. They were a reminder that the fight for equality and the civil rights movement would continue to live on.

Just two short months later, Bobby Kennedy too, was tragically assassinated.

## 1965 Freedom Plaza

"I don't believe in cancel culture, and neither would have Dr. King," KING Boston Executive Director Jeffries says. "The only way to truly fulfill Dr. and Mrs. King's vision and to keep their dream alive is to peacefully educate individuals and groups that don't share the same vision of equality and humanity."

Part of keeping that dream alive will be the dedication of the 1965 Freedom Plaza alongside The Embrace Memorial next January.

Honoring 65 of Boston's own civil rights leaders, the 1965 Freedom Plaza and The Embrace will serve as "spatial symbols on the Boston Common."

They will provide a living space, Jeffries explains, for conversation and reflection while honoring the legacies that helped shape a more just and equitable Boston.

## A Modern Day Patriot

In 2022, it has unfortunately become common dialect in more circles to denounce "Patriotism" and what the American flag and its values are supposed to stand for. Mandates, ostracism of individuals and groups, and hateful messaging remain a challenge now for our country, as it did during Dr. King's time.

These circles are among the ones that need to be reminded of and educated on the peaceful teachings and life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and Coretta Scott King.

Dr. King loved America. He loved and believed in the Constitution and the power and the potential it has to lead a great and equal nation. He loved and believed in God and the power of faith. He believed in Patriotism.

His love and belief in humanity, and his fighting for America to reach her fullest and most beautiful potential through peaceful demonstrations is a model we should all live for.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr was a modern day Patriot. It is up to us to keep his dream alive.



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# Outside The Hub

with Eric Hrubant



## Honeymoon Planning 101: Tips for Getting the Luxury You Want Without Breaking the Bank

Way You're getting married! Congratulations! If our honeymoon travel planners were asked what is the one thing that all couples have in common, they'd say that no matter where a couple wants to honeymoon, they want some level of luxury experience. Based on years of planning extraordinary honeymoons to destinations all over the world, here are CIRE Travel's best tips for getting the luxury honeymoon of your dreams without breaking the bank.

**1.** Don't wait until the last minute to book a honeymoon. Ideally, begin planning it along with your wedding. This is a matter of supply and demand. By planning and booking your honeymoon early on, you'll have your pick of hotels, flight schedule, dinner reservations and popular activities. Waiting until the last minute will only increase your costs and limit your options.

**2.** Choose your perfect honeymoon location carefully. Some popular honeymoon destinations are significantly more expensive than others due to time of year and their popularity. For example, Spain, France and Italy are always going to be pricier in the summer. If you have your hearts set on a specific location, but it's a bit over your honeymoon budget, look at the shoulder season. Italy is still lovely in September or October, and you'll likely get a better price than if you traveled in June or July. If your honeymoon dates are set in stone, consider a less traveled and less popular destination. We are loving Portugal right now for honeymooners who want to enjoy more bang

for your buck. (Though, now that Madonna has a house there, who knows what will happen!).

If you can't come to an agreement on one destination, a contrasting honeymoon is great for enjoying the best of both worlds.

**3.** Once you have a honeymoon destination set, book your flights first. Usually, airfare is the most expensive part of your trip, and it isn't very flexible in terms of cost. On the other hand, hotels offer more in the way of choice and price.

**4.** Decide what will make your honeymoon the most epic for the both of you. With those priorities in mind, allocate your budget accordingly. Meaning, if spending your days out and about sightseeing is your agenda, then scale back on the hotel costs. After all, you won't be in your room much. Or, if all you want to do is relax, you could spend more of your budget on a swanky, luxury resort and cut back on activities or fly coach instead of first or business class.

**5.** Always remember that honeymoon planning isn't an all or nothing proposition. There's always room for compromise. Flying comfortably is important, but first or business class round trip isn't in the budget? Fly business or first class to your honeymoon, especially if it's an overnight flight, and travel coach on your way home. Want to stay at a luxury property or resort, but budget won't allow for the number of days you're there? Consider staying at your dream 5-star property for a while and transferring to a 3-star property the remainder of your honeymoon. This is a solid money-saving tip if you're visiting several countries or want to explore different areas of your destination. Combining splurges with more practical options applies to meals, too. Couples can save money having coffee and warm, buttery croissants from the patisserie down the rue and street tacos for lunch along the waterfront, then a Michelin dining experience for dinner.

**6.** Last, but not least, use an experienced honeymoon travel planner. These travel agents specialize in creating honeymoons of a lifetime, listening to both of your wants and expectations and using their firsthand knowledge to create an amazing itinerary. CIRE Travel's honeymoon experts have the connections and clout to get you the perks and upgrades that make your trip even beyond what you ever imagined to maximize your budget. Not to mention, using a honeymoon travel agent is essential to help you stay current on and be ready for ever-changing COVID-related rules and regulations around the world.

Want to learn more about honeymoon planning and CIRE's honeymoon travel advisors, read our FAQs that explain everything from beginning to end.

For more destination inspiration and travel tips, visit [www.ciretravel.com](http://www.ciretravel.com) or follow CIRE on Instagram @CIRETravel.



Eric Hrubant

*Eric Hrubant is a 20+ year travel industry veteran and owner and president of CIRE Travel, a corporate and leisure travel agency. Eric and his team of agents use their A-list connections to deliver an exceptional, concierge-like travel experience. CIRE has offices in Boston New York City, Los Angeles, Washington DC, Alexandria, Virginia and Kennebunkport, Maine to serve clients around the country and throughout the world.*





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# The Enthusiast

*with Devon Diep*



## My Journey to Writing the Title Song for a Martin Scorsese Film

Hi, my name is Devon Diep. I am an actress, singer, and producer based in Boston and NYC.

Growing up as a refugee child, I never thought that I would achieve my dreams in the entertainment industry. I have dreamt of singing and performing on stage my whole life. There are baby pictures of me happily singing in my own world. I knew in my heart that I had to pursue my dreams even though I had no idea how to. However, I have always believed that working hard at my passion will lead me there.



I spent most of my childhood at my parents' convenience store on Adams Street in Dorchester. My siblings and I went straight to the store almost every day after school. We did our homework in between assisting customers. We still reminisce about the precious memories that we had there. There were also difficult ones that we wished never happened. Robbers beat my little brother, our Mom fought back, our Dad held at gunpoint, and many other horrible situations due to numerous attempted robberies.

These experiences shaped who I am today. I often remind myself that my parents escaped to a foreign country with no money, had to learn another language, and risked their lives for us to have a better future than what we had in Vietnam. I promised myself that I must succeed and make them proud.

Luck came when I signed with a talent agency after winning a local competition. It started a successful modeling and acting career. My versatile looks have gained me appearances in campaigns and commercials for well-known brands. My list of clients includes Clarins Paris, Estée Lauder, Donna Karan, Macy's, Axe Men's Body Spray, Uggs, Reebok, Puma, Converse, Coke, Disney, Nickelodeon, Bose, Toyota, Lexus, Target, L.L. Bean, Walmart, Foxwoods Casino, Mohegan Sun, Timberland, Bailey's Irish Cream, Skyy Vodka, Pinnacle Vodka, Apple, Verizon, AT&T, and more.

I had roles in TV & FILM such as The

Heat, Ted, Top Gear, and a recurring role in Defending Jacob, an Apple Original TV series starring Chris Evans. I am in three feature films this year: Dead Reckoning, Honest Thief, and my latest release, Snakehead, is now playing in theaters and on-demand.



Having had successes in modeling and movies, I knew it was time to pursue my music career. Within four months, I found myself writing the title song, Green Dragon, for Martin



Scorsese's *Revenge of the Green Dragons*. This opportunity came when my friend told me he plays the White Tiger Boss in the movie. I wrote the song for fun while riding the 6 train to my recording studio in NYC. I was over the moon when he told me the director and cast loved it; they wanted it in the movie and soundtrack. One of my proudest moments was debuting as a singer/songwriter at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). Everything happened very fast. I nearly had a heart attack trying to process all the happiness and blessings!



It was a dream come true for another reason. I became a big fan of Andrew Lau when I saw *Infernal Affairs*. I could not believe it when Martin Scorsese filmed his version, *The Departed*, right here in Boston. Seeing them shoot the movie in my hometown made me dream about how incredible it would be to have the opportunity to work with them. It was a full-circle moment when I wrote a song for a Scorsese film all these years later. I felt very blessed and recognized the power of manifesting and believing in my dreams.

### Live performance + Headline Shows

I had the honor to perform the National Anthem for the NY Mets and the Brooklyn Nets. I hope to sing for my Boston teams one day soon!

I was invited to headline the Bread & Roses Festival in Lawrence, MA this past September

and made front-page news!



### Some fun facts about me

My Dad was in the Navy; I wanted to be like him! I was in the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) for 4 years. I am professionally trained to use pistols, shotguns, and rifles and am a candidate to be a Massachusetts State Police Certified Firearms Instructor. I am fluent in Vietnamese.

### Current projects

#### \*My shop ~ Love Mama x Me

To combat the pandemic blues and due to many requests, my Mom and I opened an in-home small business, Love Mama x Me, for everyday handcrafted luxuries. We love this project because it enables us to give back to our community. We are almost halfway to our goal of handcrafting 500 masks to donate to our local shelter thanks to our lovely customers' purchases. It is a purchase you can feel good about and wear proudly. We are also excited to share that we achieved Star Seller status on our online shop.



#### \*SHe Pop Music

I am the co-founder, writer, singer, and producer for SHe music. We released our debut EP

"CHAPTER 1: Euphoria" and our latest single Half Crazy recently dropped!



#### \*Air Short Film

I accomplished my longtime goal of writing and directing my first short film, "Air." It is in post-production and will be submitted to film festivals upon completion. I am eagerly waiting to share my upcoming movies and debut album with my fans and the rest of the world.

I have so much love for my hometown Boston. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to share a bit of my story with you. I hope you enjoyed getting to know me. Promise me you will work hard and push toward your dreams every day. If I can live out my dreams, so can you. You got this!

*All images courtesy of Devon Diep*



**Devon Diep**

*Devon is an actor, singer, songwriter and producer based in NYC. As a child, she realized the transcendent power of the creative arts. Her drive and passion for creating work that emotionally connects people led her to many successful projects and will continue to be the driving force for future endeavors. Stay connected with Devon @devondiep and follow her journey on all your favorite social and music platforms ~ Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, Youtube, SoundCloud.*

# Dirty Old Boston

with Jim Botticelli

## Sunrise to Sunset



The Sahara Syrian Restaurant, deep in the South End on Shawmut Ave at Waltham St, has now been closed and vacant for 52 years. Originally a German Lutheran church, the 1847 structure became a Syrian restaurant/social club early last century, as Syrians poured into the area. Chinatown was once called Syriatown, but subsequently Syrians migrated to the South End.

The owners, have a corner store nearby and use the building for storage. There are no plans for the sale of the property now worth millions to developers. But this story is not about the Sahara, but the Sahara as a metaphor for an immigrant group that arrived in Boston, settled and assimilated. This is an American story.

When you need a quart of milk, a pack of smokes or today's paper you likely run to the nearest 7-11, White Hen, Tedeschi's, or any of the chains that have replaced an American tradition. They may carry the goods you need, but chances are you won't know from whom you are buying. The store you now use has replaced the one that used to be down on the corner; the Mom and Pop shop.

Usually owned and run by a single family with three generations contributing to the work load, the Mom & Pop shop was more than a place to grab a pack of smokes. It was a place to get caught up on what was happening around the way. It was a place to see your neighbors and swap lies. It was a place to get an advance on the weekly paycheck.

And if you weren't prompt with the payback on payday it was usually interest free. You probably even cashed that check right there. This writer knows. His own grandfather, once called The Godfather of Ball Square, was known for his elaborate loan system, generous to the quick payback customer, less so to those who dragged it out.



This is the story of an immigrant named Russell Dikmak (behind the counter above) who came to this country through Ellis Island from Damascus, Syria at the age of 13 and joined several of his brothers here in the South End area in the early part of the 1900s.

In those days they resided in the Syrian Neighborhood in the South End near Shawmut Ave, where there may still be a small Syrian goods store to this day. The Dikmaks owned the Sunrise To Sunset Market on Warren St. Later it was to be renamed the Sunrise To Midnight Market.

Dikmak himself then moved to Roxbury, started raising a family, and opened and ran the Sunrise to Midnight Market with several of his brothers. They continued to grow the business throughout the Depression and always had access to rare items like butter and sugar and other things that were short in supply during that era.

His family never went without and ate well, but he would share these items with others in the community during the shortages. He was a hunter, avid gardener, and a gourmet cook, embracing American foods and recipes. You could find him on his days off entertaining and making great dishes for family and friends. He lived back then as many do now, in a sustainable way, picking fresh ingredients and herbs right from his garden, jarring pickles, canning tomatoes and other produce at the end of each season.

Russell Dikmak's store grew within the

community, and he not only sold classic S.S. Pierce products (Boston area favorites), but produce, game and other meats, Drakes Cakes and sundries. Dikmak also had a Soda Fountain and lunch counter. Try finding that in a 7-11.



He and his brothers, family, and friends worked there for years, until the era of strip malls and larger grocery stores prompted their decision to retire from the business and sell the store. Dikmak, to this day is the mentor in his family for great foods, cooking, gardening and enjoying the pure ingredients the family always had access to.

He was someone who always gave back to the community. He is the personification of a Bostonian and urban disappearing America. A slice of apple pie and a coffee regular in a cup and saucer please.



**Jim Botticelli**

*Jim Botticelli administers the popular Facebook and Instagram pages Dirty Old Boston. He is author of Dirty Old Boston: Four Decades of a City In Transition available from local independent bookstores.*



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BOSTON

# The Alden Report

with Michael Alden



## Smells Like Poverty

Do you know the smell? Poverty has an actual smell to it. It is very difficult to describe. But as someone who spent half his life poor. I know it when I smell it. You do too.

Walk into a Savers, a Salvation Army or any thrift store and breath it in. That's the smell. It is a universal smell of poverty and despair.



I know the smell so well because as a kid we went shopping for clothes at places like this. When you walk into the home of a poor person you can smell it there too.

It's not an unclean smell, it's not a smell of someone who doesn't take care of themselves. But it's a smell of people who have given up. An aura of despair and disappointed people who don't know how to get ahead.

I recently became reacquainted with this smell when my 14 year old daughter wanted to go "thrifting". The smell instantly brought me back to my childhood. It wasn't necessarily a bad place to go to, it just reminded me of what my mom had to do in order to survive.

When we wanted a new couch we didn't buy it. It was trash picked. Tables, chairs and yes even clothes were picked from the trash. Places like the Salvation Army or Building 19 are where we would get the nicer things. Almost new or if we

were lucky actual new stuff.

Now as you read this and before you are upset and think I'm disparaging the poor, I'm not.

What this smell also reminds me of the most is opportunity. When I walk into a Savers or a Salvation Army with my daughter I see lots of different kinds of people. Some have in fact given up. But most are survivors and go getters doing what it takes to just live.

Many times, poor people are put into one bucket. Lazy, given up, bad decision makers, victims of their environment etc. But most of them are survivors and trying to make it.

I've been a survivor all my life, in fact people tell me that all the time. "Mike you will get through it you are a survivor".

It's a great trait to have but it's also a curse. So many of us are just trying to survive. For the past six years while generating millions I've just been surviving. You know the saying. Live to fight another day. I've been living to fight another day most of my career. Despite generating hundreds of millions in revenue.

This is such a horrible place to be. Survivor mentality comes from many places but it is also seen across all societal levels. The super-rich sometimes are stuck there. If they realized that making the switch from survive to thrive they could have a huge impact on the world, they may start to actually push forward rather than retract.

As I write this column leaning on the side of a display of old pottery and dish wear at Savers I reminded myself that I know I can survive the rest of my life just fine. We are not only designed to survive we are designed to thrive. You know what they do to horses that can't thrive right?

That's not you, that's not me, that's not who we want to be. Make 2022 the year to start thriving. Start asking for more out of life. Do more than

what you did yesterday and do that every day and see what happens.

Stop listening to your friends and family members who are usually enabling the survivor mentality. It's time to thrive.

Want to feel the visceral emotions I'm feeling right now? Walk into any thrift store breath in the air. Observe the people. You will be able to tell that most are just surviving. How can you tell?

The thrivers are looking at things and then searching the internet to see if they could buy it here and sell it for a profit on-line. You will notice their carriage probably has the best the place has to offer. Why? They expect more, they want more. They are thrivers. It's a small mental note that you need to say to yourself.

It is our natural instinct to survive. So as humans we got that covered. You don't need to think about it. You just will until you either give up or decide to thrive.

I think deciding to thrive is the best choice.



Michael Alden

*Michael Alden, a graduate of Suffolk Law School and a three-time Wall Street Journal and USA Today Best Seller, is from Beverly, MA. He has contributed to Forbes, Huffington Post, CNBC and, Entrepreneur, and was awarded Boston's 40 Under 40 Award. To learn more about Michael Alden, visit [www.michael-alden.com](http://www.michael-alden.com). You can also find him on Clubhouse @MikeAlden, Greenroom @MikeAlden and everywhere else @MikeAlden2012*





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