The North Shore Weekend

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—Benjamin Franklin

SATURDAY JULY 5 | SUNDAY JULY 6 2025

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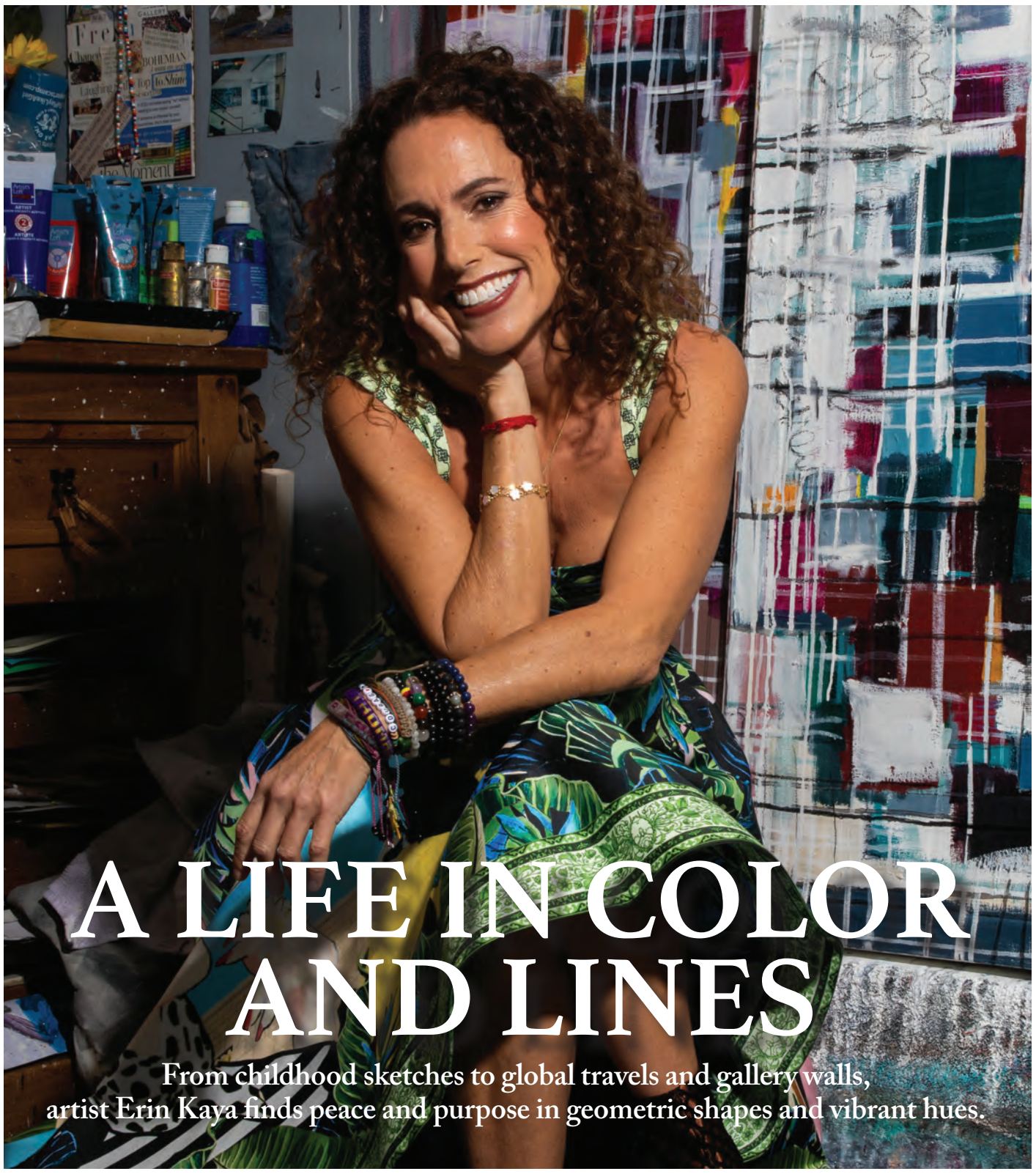
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIA PONCE



A LIFE IN COLOR AND LINES

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NORTH SHORE DOINGS



Find out what's happening in your community this weekend with our weekly list of events pg5

SUNDAY BREAKFAST



Kaufman's Deli owner Bette Dworkin greets her customers with a sense of community pg8

HAPPY HOUR



Add this summery Back-Porch Bourbon Fizz cocktail to your holiday weekend cookout menu pg11


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INDEX

NEWS

5 NORTH SHORE DOINGS
Your go-to guide for all the latest local events in the weeks ahead

6 NORTH SHORE SPORTS
North Shore Country Day's Brian E. Smith II dashes to program history at the boys' track and field state meet in Charleston

LIFESTYLE & ARTS

8 HASHTAG
Kristen Weisberg, a Lake Forest native and founder and founder of Toffee Traditions LLC, shares a few of her favorite things

10 YOU ARE NOT ALONE
Pickles Group helps the children of parents diagnosed with cancer navigate difficult times

13 NS FOODIE
The Nine-Story Highwood sandwich gives the famous Dagwood some North Shore competition

13 HAPPY HOUR
Serve this delicious Back-Porch Bourbon Fizz cocktail long after the fireworks have ended

14 WEEKEND FILM
Our critic reviews *Eddington*, a film set in New Mexico that unfolds like a slow-burning powder keg

16 WEEKEND POEM
Be inspired by Jerome Butler's patriotic "A Flag in the Sycamores" tribute

18 SUNDAY BREAKFAST
Kaufman's Deli owner Bette Dworkin says folks still crave fellowship upon entering her store in Skokie

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NORTH SHORE DOINGS

EDITED BY CHEYANNE LENCIONI
THE NORTH SHORE WEEKEND

JULY 5 TO 31
JULIA JENSEN EXHIBIT

See Julia Jensen's work throughout the month of July at Vivid Art Gallery in Winnetka. Jensen is an impressionist painter who creates landscapes based on the expansive views she experienced in Vermont and Nantucket. An opening reception will be held July 11 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. which will include work from Jensen and 25 other artists. *vividartgallery.net*

JULY 5 TO AUGUST 2
"WHERE WE DWELL"

The Art Center of Highland Park, in partnership with Echt Gallery, presents "Where we dwell," a new group show that explores the interplay between art, interior design, and the natural world. The show runs through August 2. Featured artists include Michelle Peterson Albandoz, Arlene Byster, and Michael McGuire.

JULY 5 TO AUGUST 24
OUT OF OFFICE: ON THE TRAIL

Join coach Dave O'Connor at Middlefork Farm Nature Preserve's George Beach Trail from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. for a private, small-group coaching experience designed for senior-level leaders who are navigating tradition, burnout, or big decisions. *lfola.org*

JULY 5 TO AUGUST 25
FOOD TRUCK MONDAYS

Enjoy food trucks and live music at Kenilworth Assembly Hall from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
kenilworthparkdistrict.org

JULY 5 TO AUGUST 26
SUNSET YOGA

From 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., immerse yourself in the beauty of Lake Forest Open Lands Association's Mellody Farm Nature Preserve while relaxing into a gentle, restorative yoga session that will incorporate breathwork and mindfulness. All abilities welcome! *lfola.org*

JULY 5 TO SEPTEMBER 21
PATTERNED BY NATURE

Celebrate our universal attraction to patterns through playfully planted gardens and nature-inspired artistic installations that stretch the imagination at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Visitors are invited to explore garden beds and installations throughout the garden that feature dynamic patterns, transformational art, and upcycled fashion.
chicagobotanic.org

JULY 10
FITZGERALD'S MIDWESTERN MUSE

Dive into the research of Sue Hoover Epstein in her upcoming presentation about author F. Scott Fitzgerald. Explore Fitzgerald's midwestern muses—the real Daisy and Jordan from The Great Gatsby. This History Center of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff event begins at 7 p.m. and donations are suggested. *lflbhistory.org*

JULY 10 & JULY 24
SIT & KNIT

Spend the afternoon with fellow knitters from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Northfield Public Library. Basic supplies will be provided and library staff will be present to assist. Registration is required. *wnpld.org*

JULY 10 & AUGUST 14
FOOD TRUCK THURSDAYS

Food Truck Thursdays continue in Highland Park's Ravinia District from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. More than a dozen food trucks will service food accompanied by live music and a family-friendly atmosphere. c*ityhpil.com*

JULY 11
FIRST FRIDAY IN HUBBARD WOODS

Come out to Hubbard Woods for an evening of style and creativity. From 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., participating locations will be open late for after-hours shopping, live music, and complimentary seasonal sips and bites. Mingle with neighbors and local creatives, browse summer collections, and enjoy cocktails and mocktails as you explore.
shophwdd.com

JULY 12 TO AUGUST 31
FLOW: PAINTINGS ABOUT WATER

An opening reception for "Flow: Paintings About Water" will be held at Grove Gallery in Evanston from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on July 12. Forty percent of all revenue from sales will be donated to Alliance for the Great Lakes. *grovegallery.shop*

JULY 12
CORINNE IMBERSKI PERFORMANCE

Join the Women's Club of Wilmette at 1 p.m. on July 12 for a free performance by Meier Award-winning dancer and choreographer Corinne Imberski. Her ethereal choreography will be accompanied by music.
womansclubofwilmette.org

JULY 12
HISTORIC TRIANGLE PARK WALK

The History Center of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff will host a walking tour at 10:30 a.m. on July 12 in the Triangle Park neighborhood to learn about its unique history. A 90-minute tour will show many iconic churches, homes, and schools. Tickets are $25 for members and $30 for non-members. *lflbhistory.org*

JULY 13
JUNK IN THE TRUNK

Vendor spots for Highwood's Junk in the Trunk event are officially open for Sunday, July 13. This popular open-air market draws shoppers from across the North Shore eager to discover everything from home décor and seasonal items to fashion accessories, artwork, tools, toys, kitchenware, and more. Spots are limited.
highwoodchamber.com



JULY 13
GALA OPENING CONCERT

Music Institute of Chicago Piano Duo in Residence Claire Aebersold Neiweem and Ralph Neiweem kick off the institute's Gala Opening Concert at 3 p.m. at Nichols Hall with Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and works by Schubert, Tchaikovsky, and Eric Ewazen. *musicinst.org*

JULY 16
MARGARITA NIGHT

From 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., come out to Highwood's Everts Park dressed in your favorite Jimmy Buffet style, Parrothead, and Hawaiian gear and party to the sound of a Jimmy Buffet tribute band. There will be beach balls, flamingos, margaritas, Mexican food, key lime pie, and more.
celebratehighwood.org

JULY 20
SUSTAINABLE YARD TOUR

Go Green Wilmette presents a tour through several private yards from 9 a.m. to noon. Participants will learn how gardeners make attractive, pesticide-free, and insect-friendly spaces using green practices such as composting, rain barrels, and native plant species. *gogreenwilmette.org*

JULY 25 TO 27
SUPERBLOOM

The Seldoms present a weekend of dance, live music, animation, and costume and lighting design at Chicago Botanic Garden's Superbloom event. Watch five dancers in a multimedia performance about radical beauty, wildness, and wildflowers.
chicagobotanic.org

JULY 25 TO AUGUST 3
HAIRSPRAY

The Grand Theater at Highland Park High School presents the high-energy production of the Broadway smash hit, Hairspray. Tickets are on sale now. *uptownhp.org*

JULY 26
THE GULF OF GLENVIEW

Enjoy an evening of improv comedy from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Northfield Public Library. This adult program requires registration.
wnpld.org

JULY 26 TO 27
CHINATOWN SUMMER FAIR

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., enjoy a unique outdoor event in Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood for a celebration of beauty and culture including art, food, and music.
chicagoevents.co

JULY 30
CHICAGO CHORALE SING ALONG

The Music Institute of Chicago Chorale offers its annual Sing Along performance conducted by Daniel Wallenberg and accompanied by Gregory Schifrin. Rehearsals are $75 and the sing along is $15. Performers will rehearse on July 8, 16, 22, and 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Nichols Concert Hall. The performance is at 7:30 p.m. Audience attendance is free. *musicinst.org*

AUGUST 9
HISTORY LOVER'S GUIDE TO CHICAGO

From 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., award-winning writer Greg Borzo will share Chicago's unique history at Northfield Public Library. Hear about all of the city's fascinating nooks and crannies. Registration is required. *wnpld.org*

To submit your event for consideration, please email events@nsweekend.com

NORTH SHORE SPORTS

WHAT A HIT—ON THE TRACK

BY BILL MCLEAN
THE NORTH SHORE WEEKEND

PHOTOGRAPHY
BY GEORGE PFOERTNER

Recent North Shore Country Day graduate Brian E. Smith II—a former baseball player—'homers' at his final prep track meet, winning the Class 1A state title in the 400-meter dash.

Baseball or track? What's it going to be, Brian E. Smith II?

"I was on a highway, traveling with my dad, when he told me before my senior year, 'It's time to pick one sport and stick with it,'" recalls Smith, a 2025 North Shore Country Day (NSCD) graduate who played baseball and competed in track and field in his first three springs at the Winnetka School.

Smith, of Lake Bluff, chose track and field and gloved a trio of medals—including a gold in the 400-meter dash (48.47)—at the Class 1A state boys' track and field state meet in Charleston on May 31.

The Raider also placed fifth in the 100 meters (10.99) and seventh in the 200 meters (22.19). Only one other athlete in the state's three classes had qualified for a spot in all three sprint finals.

Smith's winning time in the 400 was the fastest 1A state result since 2011 but did not eclipse the school-record 48.12 he had clocked in the state preliminaries on May 29. Six other state entrants zipped to sub-50 times, tying the all-time 1A record for strength of field in the event, notes NSCD boys' track and field coach Patrick McHugh.

"Brian won by executing a race plan we specifically came up with to maximize his potential," the coach says. "And he executed it perfectly. That took physical ability and trust."

The 400 dash isn't Smith's favorite race, but it's certainly his best. The Carroll (Wisconsin) University-bound track athlete silvered in the 400 meters at last year's state meet.

"That last 100 meters are hard," says Smith. "That's when you begin to see things and everything hurts. At that point in the race the question is, 'Who wants to win it the most?'"

Another question, this one baseball-related: What was one of Smith's web gems on a diamond?

"Sophomore season, we're playing (Chicago) Hope Academy," he begins. "I was in left field, using a glove I had to borrow from a teammate. A Hope player was on second base when I fielded a hit."

The base runner touched third base and kept sprinting, hoping to beat Smith's throw to the plate. The ball resembled Smith on an oval—too fast, too good.

NSCD's catcher squeezed Smith's laser on the fly and tagged out the Hope Eagle.

"I stopped by to watch maybe four home baseball games in the spring," Smith says.

And flew past practically every sprinter that lined up against him.

The last NSCD boys' track and field athlete to win a state championship was long jumper Sam Roszak, who achieved the feat in 2021. The program's first state champion was Peter Callahan, who won the 1600-meter run in 2008 and 2009, and topped the 800-meter field in 2009.



Brian E. Smith II

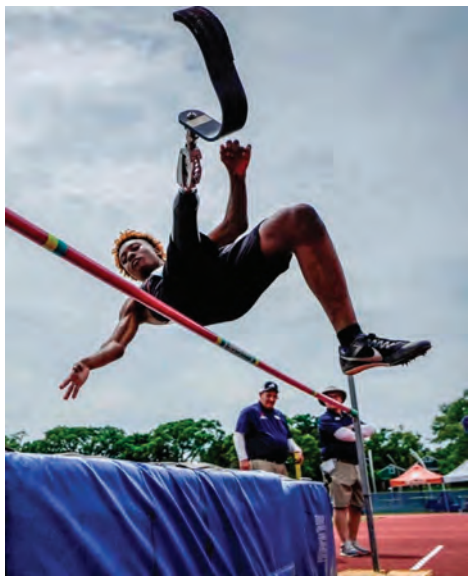
Q & A WITH TRACK ATHLETE CAMERON DAVIS

Matteson teen Cameron Davis—a Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association (GLASA) competitor since the age of 7 and an ambulatory para athlete—traveled to Lake Forest High School last month to compete in the Great Lakes Games.

He returned home a five-time champion, having topped the U-17 Male fields in the discus (personal-record 20.71 meters), high jump (1.5), long jump (3.65), shot put (5.78) and 100-meter dash (17.34) events June 14-15.

Between 250-270 athletes with disabilities, spanning a range of ages, vied for medals at the Games, part of The Hartford's Adaptive Sports Competition Series. This year's GLASA Great Lakes Games served as a starting point for many adaptive athletes looking to compete on a larger platform and as a classification site and a qualifier for The Hartford Nationals.

A nonprofit based in Lake Forest, GLASA strives to ensure no one sits on the sidelines. It supports athletes with disabilities, including injured Veterans, who might not otherwise be able to compete. It serves more than 1,000 athletes across more than 20 adaptive and Parasports.



Cameron Davis
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT PAULUS

Davis, who attended Rich Township High School in Richton Park in 2024-2025 and turned 15 on June 25, fielded our questions between the discus and high jump events at Lake Forest High School on June 14.

An early Happy Birthday to you, Cameron. How did you celebrate your birthday last year? I went on a helicopter tour over Chicago.

Do you compete in a sport other than track and field? Wheelchair basketball. I'm a shooting guard. My coach (three-time USA Paralympic wheelchair basketball gold medalist) Jake Williams has been a great supporter and influence, telling me what I need to do to get better on the court.

Your favorite athlete? And why? LeBron James, because he's always got a game plan. I wonder how many more years he'll play pro basketball; I'd ask him that question if I ever got the chance to meet him.

It has been reported that LeBron James spends $1 million per year to keep his body in shape. What would you do with $1 million? Buy a car.

What do you like the most about GLASA? The many chances I've had to meet a lot of people.

Who's one of the must-see athletes at the Great Lakes Games? (Distance runner) Ezekiel Munoz.

Your plans this summer? Attend basketball camps in Wisconsin (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where Williams serves as a coach) and Arizona (Davis earned a Fly Without Limits Scholarship to participate at a wheelchair hoops camp that will be held this month at the University of Arizona).

Your favorite food? Salmon.

Favorite school subject? Science. I like biology and chemistry.

Dream job? Something in construction.

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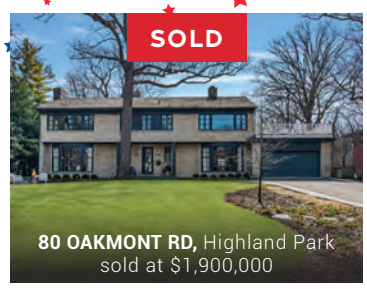

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#HASHTAG

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ILLUSTRATION BY TOM BACHTELL

Lake Forest native, **KRISTEN WEISBERG**, founder & CCO (Chief Confectionery Officer of Toffee Traditions LLC first incorporated her "sweet" company in 2006 with butter, sugar, and a lot of love. The tradition started in the 1940s when her grandfather, Eugene, made candies in his kitchen. As a child she watched him spin simple sugar into luscious caramels, decadent pralines, and buttery toffee. Little did they know that in addition to the sweets, they were also creating lifelong memories. Those precious memories are the foundation of Toffee Traditions along with the wonderful support of Kristen's family, friends, and loyal customers from early beginnings at North Shore farmers markets to the grand opening of her store front in September 2021 nestled in the heart of Highwood.



#ON MY NIGHTSTAND

Currently on my nightstand is a book my sister gave me from one of my favorite authors, Amor Towles, The Lincoln Highway. I love his tempo and his gift of weaving a tapestry of unforgettable characters. When I'm looking for something a bit lighter, I love the eye-candy of Cherry Bombe magazine—a wicked cool female-run foodie company. My needlepoint canvas is always nearby, ready to wring out my busy brain before bed.

#IN MY EARBUDS

Instagram is my go-to for connecting with my Toffee Traditions "sweet" community and finding inspiration. I follow accounts like @valrhonausa for their incredible chocolate work, my sister-in-law's travel agency @burschtravel for dream adventures, and many of my fellow female entrepreneurs for inspiration and support. Having our three children on both coasts, I am always longing for that touch base text in our family group chat and/or proof of life photo wherever they travel.

#ON MY MOBILE

My playlist is a mix as eclectic as my toffee flavors. During busy prep days, I'm all about the upbeat vibes of Best of '80s Alternative or mellow acoustic indie to keep the kitchen energy just right. Lately, I've also been catching snippets of whatever my kids are listening to—most recent the band, The War On Drugs. Audible has a queue for me as well; I just finished another book by Amor Towles, A Gentleman in Moscow.

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YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Pickles Group, the brainchild of three couples contending with cancer, helps the children of parents diagnosed with cancer navigate difficult times.



Carolyn and Mark Agnew PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIA PONCE

BY THOMAS CONNORS
THE NORTH SHORE WEEKEND

When bad things happen, adults often have no choice but to pick up the pieces and move on. But kids aren't always equipped to do the same. They're often at a loss to make sense of a shattering situation, especially when mom or dad is diagnosed with cancer. No matter how hard adults may try, when a household is upended, when daily schedules are disrupted, when there's no time to sit and talk, children can feel very alone.

In 2019, Mark Agnew, Adjunct Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, was diagnosed with stage 2 brain cancer.

"Our oldest daughter Molly was 9 at the time," says Carolyn Agnew. "She had wonderfully supportive young friends but still felt lonely and isolated having a dad with cancer. Other kids just didn't get it. One day, she told Mark that she wished she could hang out with other kids who were in the same boat."

Soon after Mark received his diagnosis, he learned that a colleague—Ned Smith, a professor at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management—had been diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer. Smith and his wife, Erin, were friends with the Agnew's neighbors, Erika and Jeff Hlavacek, who were facing lung and colorectal cancer respectively. The six parents decided "to build a community for our kids during this scary experience," explains Carolyn.

As they began exploring how to best help their children, the families learned that therapy was crucial. They turned to Kelsey Mora, a dual-certified Child Life Specialist and therapist with extensive experience supporting families through illness and grief.

"We were all a little nervous about our very first meeting," recalls Carolyn. "There were ten kids among the three families, and they hardly knew each other. We invited Kelsey to facilitate some activities with the kids at our first meeting. By the end of the night, the kids were laughing, having fun, and just being kids—it was an enormous relief to all of us. After that meeting, we knew we had to get more families involved.

Seeing how well their children responded and aware that not every family can easily access counseling, the three couples set out to create a group that could provide free, peer-to-peer support and resources for children struggling to navigate a parent's cancer diagnosis.

That effort came to fruition with the formation of Pickles Group. Named for their children's shared taste for the vinegary condiment, Pickles took shape with the guidance of Kelsey Mora, who now serves as the organization's chief clinical officer.

"Our next critical move was hiring Cassy Horton as executive director," recalls Carolyn. "Cassy's entire career has been focused on youth services and K-12 education, working with kids from marginalized communities. This combination of family experience, nonprofit expertise, and health care and mental health experience is our secret sauce. Bringing them on board as our three families were facing our most challenging moments is what allowed Pickles to grow to meet this urgent need, despite how difficult things have been for us personally."

Operating from established research in behavioral science, Mora designed programs targeted to youth, facilitated by trained volunteers who have experience working with young people and backgrounds in education, child development, and other related fields.

Revolving around open, age-appropriate information about cancer, the development of coping skills, and establishing connections with peers living the same experiences, Pickles Group programs are a mix of fun games, creative activities, art, team-building exercises, and education.

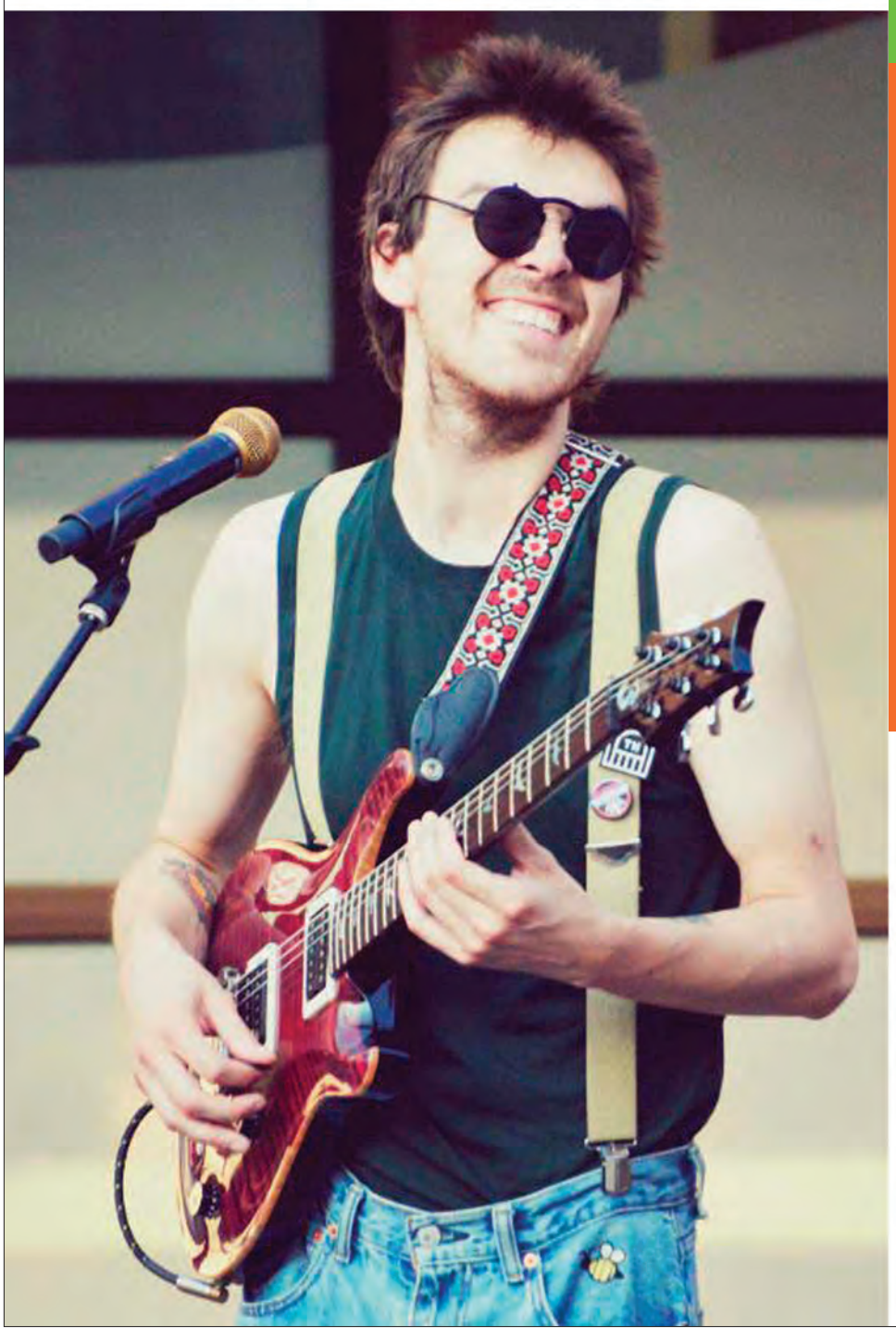
"In addition to in-person family events," relates Carolyn, "we currently offer two key programs for kids: Connect Over Cancer, a five-week virtual program that uses an activity-based peer support approach to educate kids about cancer and teach coping skills; and Pickles Jars, a monthly small group program—virtual or in-person—offering a consistent, safe, and welcoming space to build relationships and connect with youth mentors. We also recently introduced our Peer Leader team, a group of kids who have been through our programming and feel empowered to help others."

The nonprofit's impact is felt beyond the North Shore through a webinar for parents, "How to Talk to Kids About Cancer," and a nine-page Family Cancer Support Kit offered in English and Spanish that has been distributed in more than 800 hospitals nationwide. Between virtual and in-person programming, Pickles reaches 49 states and nine countries.

"This experience has taught me how incredibly resilient kids can be," shares Carolyn. "They can handle the truth and are more at ease when they have information that can quiet their imaginations. It has also been such a gift to observe Pickles kids who are inspired to help other kids. For many, this is an important part of the healing process. Sadly, we have lost many Pickles parents, including two of our founders, Ned Smith and Erika Hlavacek. This is the hard reality of the work we are doing. But watching those kids turn their pain into purpose—walking other kids through grief—is awe-inspiring."

For more information, visit picklesgroup.org.

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A LIFE IN COLOR AND LINES *From PG 1*

BY THOMAS CONNORS
THE NORTH SHORE WEEKEND

Asking Erin Kaya why she got into art is like asking why the sky is blue?

"I don't know what made me start drawing because it was just something I always did," says the Northbrook-based painter. "Growing up I remember colors. What I wore, what color the monkey bars were, the color of everyone's houses. And all I did was draw. I filled sketchbook after sketchbook using charcoal, marker, and crayons."

Kaya's creative impulse has never diminished. Even when real life led her to a career in fashion. After earning a BFA from the University of Kansas, she became a manager for Barrington-born designer Cynthia Rowley.

"The clothes and the fashion shows were my inspiration," Kaya recalls. "I began painting the colors of the season as they came from the runway. I hung my paintings in the windows and did the same when I went on to lead the visual merchandising department at Marshall Field's. People would always say, 'You are so talented, why don't you paint full-time?'"

That's easier said than done, of course. And what's meant to be, will be—in time. Kaya began painting full-time in 2009 after her daughter was born; she wanted her child to understand that she could do whatever she might wish to do. But before that came a stretch of world travel, which included teaching art to children in Tanzania.

"Those kids wanted nothing but my attention and they changed the way I see the world," shares Kaya. "Returning to the North Shore after Africa was difficult at first. I remember standing in the aisle at Sunset, wanting to buy mineral water. There were 25 different bottles, and I had just been in a place where people have no shoes."



Erin Kaya PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIA PONCE

Once she embraced painting as a career, her works began popping up in restaurants, boutiques, hotels, bars, libraries, and even Starbucks. She developed relationships with interior design firms, and Golub Capital commissioned work for both their Chicago and New York offices. From 2016 to 2020, she was represented by Chicago's Thomas Masters Gallery. Today, she exhibits her work at Vivid Art Gallery in Winnetka, has a line of wallpaper with Area Environments, and sells canvas prints through HomeGoods. Currently having a solo show at Mark Rengers Gallery outside Pittsburgh, Kaya connects regularly with local nonprofits and charities like Erika's Lighthouse, an organization that provides free mental health programming to schools, to which she donates a painting a year for fundraising purposes.

Highly personal (she refers to her work as "a peek into my soul"), Kaya's canvases are large and dynamic. There's no missing them in a room. A dense framework of intersecting lines and blocks of color, they seem to pulse and vibrate; one moment all surface, the next moment all depth.

"I paint lines and squares. No circles. I want precise straight lines, but only when you look from afar. Up close, I want my lines and squares to be a bit messy and unorganized," she says. "Painting geometrical shapes and patterns has a calming effect, letting my mind relax. I get rid of all the outside noise and am just in the moment. I always feel that my best paintings are the ones I don't remember painting because I was someplace else."

For more information, visit artbyerinkaya.com.



Atmospheric Pleasure, acrylic on canvas, 3 x 4 feet



Glitch, acrylic on canvas, 4 x 4 feet



Earth's Skin, acrylic on canvas, 3 x 4 feet

NORTH SHORE FOODIE

THE NINE-STORY HIGHWOOD

A sandwich so ambitious, Dagwood would need a stepstool.



There are sandwiches, and then there are sandwich events—the kind that inspire awe, command silence, and maybe a little jealousy. The Nine-Story Highwood is exactly that. Inspired by the chaotic genius of the Dagwood, this North Shore version is taller, saltier, and possibly smarter than some aldermen.

It begins, as all great things do, with nine slices of thick-cut, hearth-baked sourdough or marble rye. Toasted, buttered, and stacked with reckless elegance, each layer is its own story—a vertical tasting tour of the deli counter, the backyard grill, and the American fridge.

THE BUILD (from bottom to top):

Bread + deli mustard + pastrami + provolone
Bread + black forest ham + sweet pickles
Bread + smoked turkey + muenster + mayo
Bread + capicola + shredded iceberg + tomato slices
Bread + roast beef + cheddar + horseradish sauce
Bread + salami + banana peppers + oil & vinegar
Bread + honey ham + sharp Swiss + thin red onion
Bread + crispy bacon + avocado + Dijon
Top slice with a fried egg, cracked pepper, and an olive skewer like a crown

Pro Tips

Wrap tightly in butcher paper, press with a book for 5 minutes, then slice with a serrated knife like a civilized beast. Serves 2 normal people or 1 legend.

The Nine-Story Highwood is not here to be polite. It's a sandwich for unapologetic eaters, long lunches, and cooler-side July afternoons. It pairs well with kettle chips, an ice-cold root beer, and a clear calendar. Eating it may not fix your life—but it'll remind you why you bother showing up.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURI PATTERSON

HAPPY HOUR

THE BACK-PORCH BOURBON FIZZ

For when the fireworks are over but the summer glow lingers.



The weekend after the Fourth is its own kind of holiday. The noise has settled, the flags are still up, and the lake is quieter—but somehow, sweeter. It's a time for a drink that's still festive, but no longer trying to impress. That's where the Back-Porch Bourbon Fizz comes in.

It's the antidote to overcomplication. Take 2 oz of good bourbon, 1 oz fresh lemon juice, and ¾ oz simple syrup. Shake it hard with ice, strain into a tall glass over fresh cubes, and top with a generous splash of sparkling water—plain or lemon-flavored both work. Garnish with a lemon wheel and, if you're feeling nostalgic, a few fresh blueberries from that leftover flag cake.

This drink is refreshing without being flimsy. The bourbon holds its ground while the citrus and bubbles lift it into easy summer territory. It pairs well with grilled corn, quiet conversations, and long, golden evenings that ask nothing of you but your presence.

The Back-Porch Bourbon Fizz reminds you that the holiday isn't just one day—it's a feeling. And if you're lucky, it stretches all the way to Sunday night.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BHOFACK2



We've agreed on burgers, fireworks, and absolutely no politics until Labor Day.

PETER CHENG

EDDINGTON

Our reviewer calls this film set in New Mexico a slow-burning powder keg in a town with no exit.



BY FELIX MCMILLAN,
MAN ABOUT FILM
ILLUSTRATION BY TOM BACHTELL

VERDICT:
One doesn't leave the theater shaken, exactly. But there's a queasy weight in the gut. Like a heatwave that won't break, or an argument that no one won but everyone remembers.



In Eddington, Ari Aster does something deceptively rare: he trades in his signature surrealism for something more grounded—yet somehow more unsettling. Gone are the ritual cults and ghostly hallucinations. Instead, we find ourselves in Eddington, New Mexico, where the most terrifying force is not the supernatural, but small-town politics.

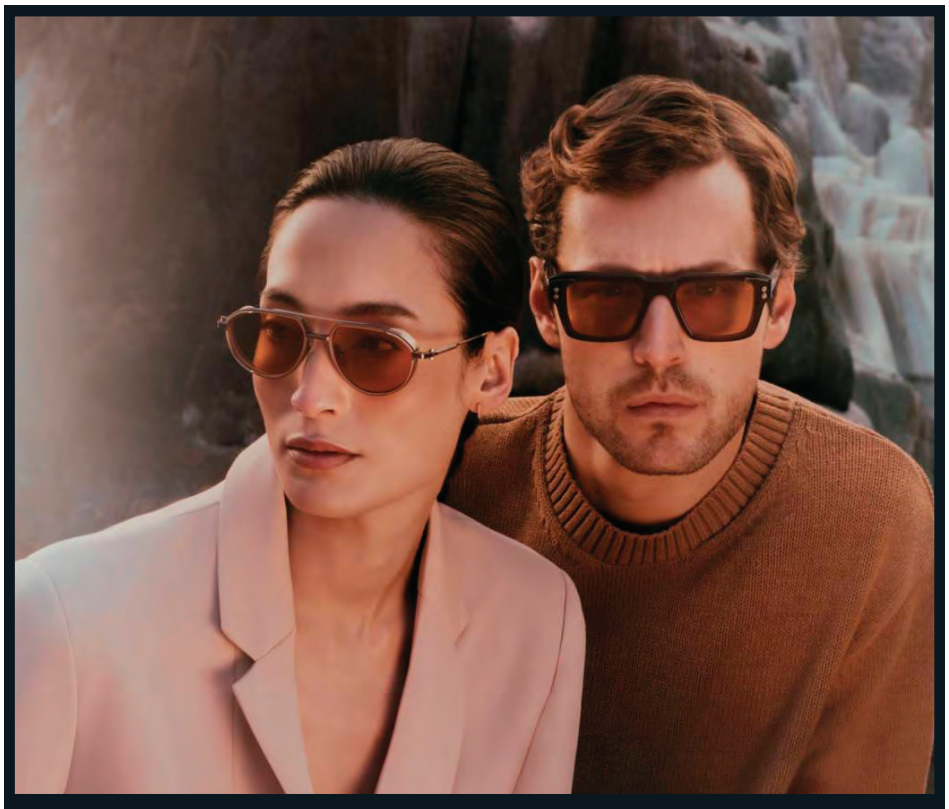
The film opens with a wide shot of Eddington's cracked asphalt and sun-bleached clapboard, and from the start, it is clear: this town is both too small for secrets and too proud for peace. When a dispute between the sheriff (Joaquin Phoenix) and the mayor (a quietly venomous character played with weary bravado by Stephen Root) boils over into a full-scale civic standoff, the entire town is drawn into the schism—barbershop to church pew.

Phoenix is, put simply, extraordinary. His sheriff is a man imploding in slow motion, holding the line not with principle, but with a clenched jaw and barely concealed despair. It is a performance of deep restraint, punctuated by moments of such rawness they border on operatic. He spends much of the film in silence, letting the weight of his uniform do most of the talking. But when he does speak, it's like watching a dam crack.

Aster directs with his usual formal precision but resists indulgence. The dread here is not abstract—it's logistical. Who has the keys to the town hall? Who controls the water line? The banal becomes lethal. There is no score for most of the film, just cicadas and muffled murmurs behind half-shut blinds. It is political horror, yes, but also a Western—and a tragedy in the Greek sense, where everyone sees the fall coming but is powerless to alter the trajectory.

If the final act leans a touch too heavily into symbolism—an overripe visual involving a dismantled statue feels like a rare misstep—Eddington remains one of the most finely etched portraits of American rupture in recent memory.

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WEEKEND POEM

A FLAG IN THE SYCAMORES

BY JEROME BUTLER
THE NORTH SHORE WEEKEND

I saw it hang—creased, pale, and worn—
from porches tired, from branches torn.
No trumpet called, no bugle cried,
just leaves that rustled where boys had died.

The maple's bark was scarred and split,
like memory, but I stood with it.
Not out of rage or glory past,
but something quieter that lasts.

We speak of country—grand, immense—
but love is rooted in small sense:
a widow's porch, a high school field,
a stone where names will not be healed.

I've read the books, I've seen the wars,
I've marched in suits through marble doors.
But more than law or grand decree,
it's lemonade beneath a tree.

The Fourth, when done, is strangely still—
no speeches now, no flags to fill.
Just distant boom and smoky air,
and children yawning everywhere.

To love a land is not to shout,
but tend its flame when winds go out.
It's walking home in twilight's hush,
with sparks above and shoes in slush.

Not perfect stars, but flawed and free—
enough for stubborn men like me.

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CORNED BEEF AND COMMUNITY

Customers find more than sandwiches and lox and baked goods at Kaufman's Deli in Skokie.

BY BILL MCLEAN
ILLUSTRATION BY BARRY BLITT



Bette Dworkin

One day, right here at Kaufman's, I heard a father, while holding his son's hand, say, 'This is where I stood with my father when he ordered cookies for the family.'

Bette Dworkin was only 12 when she and older sister Sheryl started working for their grandparents on weekends at Imperial Bakery in Chicago.

The siblings from Skokie, along with a batch of cousins, learned all about cocktail bread ingredients and enjoyed close encounters with vats of butter cream.

"I remember my father (the late Arnold Dworkin) telling us to take 20-minute lunches instead of 30-minute lunches so that we wouldn't come across as slackers," recalls Bette Dworkin. "We loved it there. We all have such wonderful memories of working for our grandparents, of being around the customers. It was fun. Days at Imperial felt magical."

Now the owner/manager of Kaufman's Deli in Skokie and an Evanston resident, Dworkin hopes her customers feel just as delightful as they enter the welcoming space on Dempster Street and order an Alpine-high corned beef sandwich or distinctive rye bread or a savory rugelach.

"Look around, there aren't many independent businesses like this left," says Dworkin, who bought Kaufman's from her mother, Judy, in 2014; co-owner Arnold died in 2009. "But they're vital to the community. A fire in 2011 forced us to close the deli for a year. People missed us. A month after reopening it, I heard a couple of guys talking near the front counter. One said to the other, 'What did we do all this time without Kaufman's?'"

More than once, a customer has suggested that Dworkin try a new item on the menu at a certain bakery-café fast casual chain restaurant. She probably smiled each time she heard the recommendation, knowing she'll never order such fare.

"I don't eat at chains," says Dworkin, whose favorite Kaufman's special is the Looney Tuna sandwich. "I believe strongly in supporting small businesses. A new deli opened in Evanston recently. So did one in Chicago. I think that's phenomenal. It's at local delis where traditions and established are kept. One day, right here at Kaufman's, I heard a father, while holding his son's hand, say, 'This is where I stood with my father when he ordered cookies for the family'."

Arnold and Judy Dworkin acquired Kaufman's from its original owner, Maury Kaufman, in 1985. Bette Dworkin estimates 75 percent of the delicatessen's staff under her parents were Holocaust survivors. Bette Dworkin's staffers today speak Russian, Ukrainian, Assyrian, English, Hebrew, French, Spanish, and Dari, among other languages.

"I like to think I'm helping the world in a way," Dworkin says. "My 'spouse' is my business, and my 'children' are my employees. Seeing women succeed here also is important to me; it's why I've put playpens in my office."

Dworkin longs for the return of the steady kibitzing she'd hear and enjoy during business hours at Kaufman's. Small talk among customers has become teeny talk, if that. Nods, more or less, have replaced vibrant conversations.

But plenty of warmth still exists inside, thanks to Kaufman's engaging, friendly staff and the deli's spirited regulars.

"The dynamics inside stores, not just at delis, have changed," Dworkin says forlornly. "People don't want to wait anymore, don't want to chat as much. When we receive a phone order, we often let them know it'll take 45 minutes to an hour to complete it. We say that because the high priorities to us are the people standing in line in our store."

Kaufman's also caters and rents out its store for wedding rehearsal dinners, bar mitzvahs, and baby-naming parties, among other events.

A graduate of now-defunct New Trier West High School, Dworkin attended George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, D.C. for a year before spending 10 months in Israel. She returned to GWU, later headed back to Israel to study languages, and then earned a degree in Marketing in our nation's capital.

She worked for Club Med for nearly three years all over the world, from Mexico to France to Switzerland to Colorado. Dworkin joined Kaufman's when the deli delivered its food to restaurants and grocery stores from a factory in Niles.

"My father wasn't one for details, but he was a great salesman and a great baker," Dworkin says. "He knew a lot of people in the industry—people at Levy Restaurants and at Lettuce (Entertain You Restaurants). It's hard, running a family business. My father and I had different business philosophies. We were different animals."

Dworkin loves to sleep, garden, read, and travel, not necessarily in that order. She has been to Paris at least five times, and would like to make her maiden visits to Morocco, Scotland, and Ireland in the near future.

She also has checked out the deli scene in New York, surveying iconic spots like Eli's, Katz's, and Zabar's.

"New York," Dworkin says, "is a pastrami town, and Chicago is a corned beef town."

Kaufman's Deli is located at 4905 West Dempster Street, Skokie. For more information, call 847-677-6190 or visit *kaufmansdeli.com*.

The North Shore Weekend

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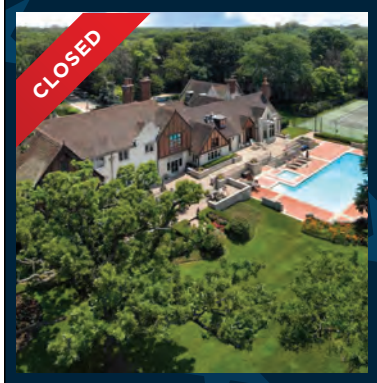
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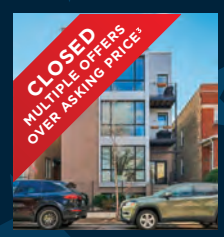
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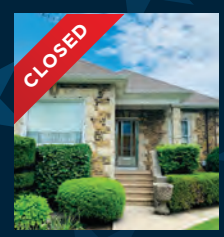


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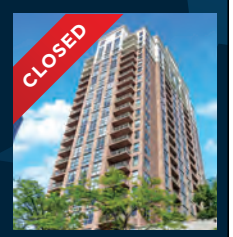
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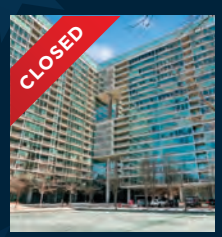
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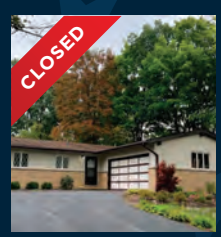
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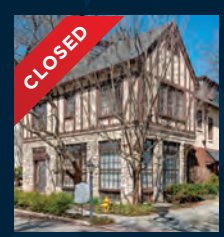
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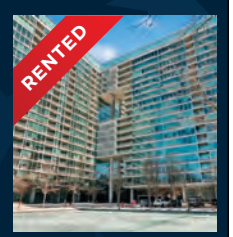
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