

# The Harbor View

2021

## 5th Annual Victoria Terenzi Run

By Megan Avallone

On October 16th, the 5th Annual Victoria Terenzi Run took place at Caumsett State Park in Lloyd Neck. The main purpose of this run is to remember the life of the late Victoria Terenzi.



Victoria Terenzi continues to be remembered as a very caring person with a loving heart. She was born in 1963 and was raised in both California and New York City. She later moved to Cold Spring Harbor where she became a beloved social studies teacher at the jr./sr. high school in 1998. In addition to being a teacher, she also served as the social studies chairperson for eleven years. Victoria was a very active person and had many hobbies. Some of these hobbies included horseback riding, running, skiing, and journaling. A practitioner of mindfulness, she would often write down the things she was grateful for each day. She was faced with a life-changing obstacle when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Even during her diagnosis and treatment, she remained both brave and strong. Sadly, she was only 53 when she passed away.



When I asked Ms. Oshan what she hopes Victoria is remembered for, she responded with the beautiful answer, "Gratitude...Vicky made gratitude such a big part of her life and gave a lot of gratitude towards certain things in her life. She grew up very comfortably, and while going through her cancer treatment, she witnessed a lot of men and women in her treatment room who didn't have the same resources she did. She saw these men and women struggling with things such as bills, how to provide meals for their families, and how to pay for their care. She was very grateful for what she had and wanted to give back to others."



Ms. Oshan as well as Vicky's husband, Christopher Terenzi; fellow horse-lover Jessica Glassman; and Helene Kriegstein are in charge of organizing the annual Victoria Terenzi Memorial Run. Sponsors of this run include members of the Cold Spring Harbor community, friends, families, the Lloyd Harbor Equestrian Club, and Christopher Terenzi's AST Financial Company. Each year, this memorial run accumulates a substantial amount of donations. Cold Spring Harbor residents and runners from all over Long Island gather to run and support the cause. People can donate either by check or through a donation site called GroupRev. Every cent raised goes towards Pink Aid, a charity organization that provides emergency financial assistance to individuals in need during their breast cancer treatment.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to meet with Ms. Oshan, a science teacher at Cold Spring Harbor Jr./Sr. High School. Ms. Oshan was able to give me a look into who Victoria Terenzi was and how she touched the lives of others. Ms. Oshan was a very close friend of Ms. Terenzi. They would spend time with each other at work and would often run three to four miles together around Caumsett State Park, a very special place for Victoria because it was where she raised her horses and carried out some of her favorite activities. Ms. Oshan shared how she had always dreamed of participating in a half-marathon run, and how, knowing this, Victoria thoughtfully signed them both up for the Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon event in Washington D.C. That event was meaningful to Ms. Oshan because they were able to do something they both enjoyed while challenging themselves.

Those who weren't able to attend the 5K run this year had the opportunity to run virtually. In the future those interested, can find out about this event through social media; signs posted near exits of our school; and signs posted near the entrances of Heckscher Park, Greenvale Park, and Caumsett State Park. Though the run's main focal point is to remember the life of Victoria, the proceeds that go to Pink Aid also help raise awareness about breast cancer. This year the event raised \$15,000. Pink Aid continues to educate others on the signs and symptoms of breast cancer and encourages women to get mammograms and yearly health exams.

Victoria is survived by her friends and family; her husband, Christopher; her daughter, Samantha; and her son, Taylor. The class of 2019 was the last graduating class in Cold Spring Harbor Jr./Sr. High School that directly knew Ms. Terenzi, so the building is now filled with students who do not remember her and her inspiring story. As a senior this year, I hope to educate my younger peers about Ms. Terenzi and how she was, and continues to be, a significant role model in both our school and community.

Photo Credits: Pink Aid



# Our New Leader: Dan Danbusky

By Brandon Barrick

Cold Spring Harbor Jr./Sr. High is giving a warm welcome to one of its newest additions to our school, Mr. Dan Danbusky, our principal. Mr. Danbusky has been in education for about twenty-one years now, and was previously the principal of Northport High School. Before that, he was an AP History teacher and loved his job teaching kids.

**Mr. Danbusky's inspiration to become a teacher stemmed from one of his former AP History teachers whose stories Mr. Danbusky loved to hear. Mr. Danbusky enjoys getting to talk to students after school, teaching students, and watching school sporting events.**

He cares deeply about all the students here at CSH and shared his determination to do anything that helps them learn in a positive fashion: "If it is an idea that will benefit the students, let's talk about it because I am always open to talking about ideas that will benefit students. If it is not an idea that benefits students, we can talk about that idea at a later time." he said.

This year, Mr. Danbusky's goal is to see what is working for the students and what isn't--before making any changes to the school. He is also working to get the elementary school kids to attend some of the jr./sr. high school after school events because he wants the younger students to feel more at home in the space, so they'll be more comfortable when they are jr. and sr. high students.

Mr. Danbusky is also very understanding, knows that all students have difficulties at some point in high school, and hopes he can make them feel comfortable and safe, so that the students will be more resilient if they do hit an emotional rough patch. In his first few years of high school, Mr. Danbusky focused on becoming his own person. He wanted his teachers to think of him as an individual, and not simply as the younger brother of his two older siblings. He now wants the same for all those in his building.

At home, Mr. Danbusky is happily married with four children: three daughters and one son. He loves to travel and has taken some big trips to Italy, Ireland, and Rome; he has also spent time teaching overseas in Barbados. When Mr. Danbusky was younger, he played soccer and enjoyed it so much that he tries to take his kids to as many games as he can. He is also interested in music and movies of all genres, and was a huge fan of the marching band while principal of Northport High School. He especially loves to watch the Marvel franchise with his family and likes a good classic horror movie as well. He was even into theatre in high school and college and reports he particularly enjoyed seeing *Rent*, *Hamilton*, and *In the Heights* on Broadway.

So far, Mr. Danbusky feels very welcome at CSH by the rest of the staff and the student body, so if you see him, give Mr. Danbusky a big CSH welcome, and try to get to talk to him so that he can get to know the student body better.



Photo Credit: April Henry

## Coffey at Cold Spring

By Amber Zhou

The 2021-2022 was slated to be a hectic school year from the start. With the fluctuating number of COVID cases and the new school administration, students and staff alike can physically feel the difference in our school's atmosphere. The good news is that we have talented leaders helping us through.

I had the pleasure of interviewing our new assistant principal for grades 7-9, Ms. Caitlyn Coffey. During our conversation, I learned about Ms. Coffey's hobbies, previous experience in education administration, and what she would like to say to the students at the jr./sr. high.



Photo Credit: April Henry

Did you know that Ms. Coffey will soon be replaced by a Mrs. Harman? But not because she is leaving the school district. Ms. Coffey was just married on September 25th. To avoid confusion among the students who have yet to meet her, Ms. Coffey has decided to keep her maiden name; however, next year she will be addressed as Mrs. Harman. If you see her in the hallways, make sure to congratulate her!

For the past 11 years, Ms. Coffey has been a living environment teacher at Jr. High School 185 in Flushing, NY. Spending the last 6 years as a model teacher, Ms. Coffey was able to gain experience as both a teacher and administrator. Additionally, she was the choreographer of the school play and is eager to enjoy the school musicals this year.

Outside of school, Ms. Coffey is an avid skier and reader. She likes to ski every winter at various mountains on the East Coast and hopes one day to ski out west. In terms of reading, her favorite genre varies from comedy to drama, depending on her mood. Recently, she read *Where the Crawdads Sing* and *American Dirt*, and names Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons* and *The Da Vinci Code* among her favorites. She also loves to dance to electronic dance music or any music from the 90s, and shared that she has been a dancer since age two and danced competitively from second grade through college.

Ms. Coffey describes herself as caring, positive, and happy; and we can already see this through her dedication to her students and the school. She encourages all students to come in and chat with her or even just introduce themselves on off periods or in between classes. She loves to attend the jr. high sports games and is a frequent visitor to the turfs and football field. A firm believer in team bonding, Ms. Coffey strongly emphasizes that students should join a sports team to meet friends and just have a genuinely good time.

Ms. Coffey hopes to unite the school community and bring back the positive energy taken by COVID. She hopes to get to know all students and be a listening ear for everyone. So drop in, say hi, and introduce yourself. Get to know your new assistant principal!

## Mr. Huntsman, Assistant Principal

By Gillian Will

2021 has been one of the most chaotic and challenging years that any CSH student has ever experienced; between COVID guidelines and almost every administrative position changing hands, we were definitely presented with unique circumstances for the incoming authority figures. One person undeniably poised to take on the challenge is our new assistant principal, Mr. Jason Huntsman. Not only does his name sound like he belongs in the newest release of James Bond, but his insight and experience bring promise and reassurance to the district.

Mr. Huntsman, a native Long Island resident, was raised in Northport and previously held the position of Assistant Principal in both Seaford and Smithtown, as well as that of High School Principal in Kings Park. He recognizes the potential that Cold Spring Harbor has with its "unique combination of rigorous academics and a myriad of extracurricular activities" for the students. He noted that the faculty are overwhelmingly qualified and courteous, primarily composed of "veterans with lots of experience and talent." His primary goal for this year is to build relationships with the Cold Spring Harbor community, starting with the students and staff of the building.

Mr. Huntsman shared many personal details during my interview with him. He has a wife and three children, each with busy schedules composed of dance, sports, education--and of course, fun. He mentioned that a hidden talent of his is karaoke (his favorite song to perform is "Sweet Child of Mine" by Guns and Roses) and that the students would be surprised to know that he received a scholarship to play soccer in college and has a passion for sports. (He is a big Yankees and Giants fan.) A typical Saturday night, he says, would be ordering sushi with his family and watching Netflix together. And if he were trapped on a deserted island, the books and movies he would bring with him would be *The Giver*, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, and all 80's movies: *Breakfast Club* and *Point Break* being top choices. Finally, his "last meal" would be Little Vincent's pizza, but he is a big fan of barbecue chicken pizza as well.

Mr. Huntsman mentioned that a quote he lives his life by is, "No matter what, everything is going to be OK." When asked about his experience in Cold Spring Harbor thus far, he stated: "I appreciate everyone welcoming me to Cold Spring Harbor, and it really started during the interview process with kids being the first to meet me. It was great to get to know the students right out of the gate." Mr. Huntsman encourages students to continue being involved in their academics and a diverse range of clubs, activities, and sports that the district offers.

He's Huntsman, Mr. Jason Huntsman, "And if you see me in the hallway," he adds, "say hello!"



Photo Credit: April Henry

***We welcome the new administrators to Cold Spring Harbor.***

# Ms. Gierasch and Her Vision for Opportunities and Growth

By Kiara Freidberg



Photo Credit: Karen Spiehler

***“Come to me with a problem about kids, and I’ll look to solve it.”***



**Ms. Gierasch is the new Cold Spring Harbor School District Superintendent. She comes with years of experience and many goals for our district.**

Ms Gierasch started her educational career as an elementary school teacher in Bayport-Bluepoint, where she also attended high school. She loved her work but recognized that new districts offered more to learn and strove for a new start within the administrative field. She aspired to take the best practices from each district in which she had worked and implement them in each new position. She knew the systems and understood how to add the best to make each district thrive.

Since her teaching job in Bayport-Bluepoint, she has been an assistant principal at Three Village School District, an elementary school principal and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum in Sachem, the Deputy Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum in Plainview-Old Bethpage, and the Superintendent in Mattituck UFSD.

Ms. Gierasch faced many challenges during the online learning period of the COVID-19 pandemic and had unique solutions to benefit each student and ensure that every student had the opportunity to learn. Mattituck has a significant ENL population, and even though every child had a device, other challenges arose. Ms. Gierasch and her leadership team constructed a plan to ensure all students had the instructional materials needed including literature, math manipulatives, and art supplies. Each week, these materials, along with food for those who needed some extra assistance, were delivered on Monday morning bus runs with the help of teacher assistants. Prior to COVID, a food pantry was established with about 20 families utilizing it, but because of the unemployment and unsafe conditions COVID caused, 100 families in her district began taking advantage of this valuable resource. She brought the community together by encouraging all to donate what they could, and was proud of the way community members included candies, cookies, toys, along with essential foods.

This situation caused Ms. Gierasch to see her community through a different lens. School, and the environment it provided, meant so much to her students, and she did everything she could to continue their love for learning even during COVID.

Ms. Geirasch shared that the transition to Cold Spring Harbor has been exciting and interesting. There are some things she did not expect; for example, she thought there would be more synergy in our community and noted that certain problems our community is facing have heightened polarized views among community members. She emphasized that she recognizes how important it is that people’s voices are heard and also commented on how welcoming and warm people have been during her first few months.

From the start, Ms. Gierasch was attracted to the high performing, fast-paced environment of the Cold Spring Harbor School District. She loved our focus on academics, the arts, and athletics. When working in Plainview-Old Bethpage, she noticed that this kind of energy and learning community energized her. Our community values education, which motivates her to continue moving forward since everyone is open to growth.

While she acknowledges that a lot of new people in our administration is a challenge, she believes it is also a gift. With the help of those administrative members with historical knowledge of the district, she can build a new team focus through which administrators can create their own systems while preserving the district’s traditions and values. In addition, the teachers have been helpful in partnering with administrators, and she values their collegiality and input towards achieving the district’s goals.

This first year, Ms. Gierasch is about listening and learning. Some of her goals for 2021-2022 are to better understand the programs and traditions currently in place and make adjustments in areas that can be modified, including improving communication. She wants to work on curriculum guides and provide more transparency with parents and students.

Ms. Gierasch plans to evaluate current programs and communicate with students about their goals, so she can strengthen programs to help students prepare for their future. She also values real-life experience and problem-based learning that fosters critical thinking. She plans to increase alignment of the curricula between the elementary schools and the junior high school and increase the exploratory systems in the junior high school as well. Her goal is for students to graduate being proud of their education and having a good foundation for college and careers. She also wants to continue to build our robust curriculum.

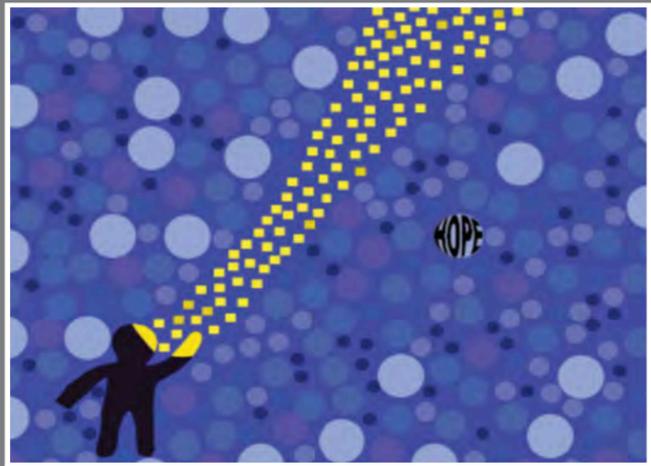
Seeing the students of Cold Spring Harbor engaged in community activities is wonderful Ms. Gierasch shared. She loves the students’ enthusiasm and involvement in our school and also enjoys getting to know them. She appreciated both the 9/11 Memorial and the Homecoming football games, two events that brought all grade levels and schools together.

Recognizing that Cold Spring Harbor is an academically rigorous school district, Ms. Gierasch hopes to make progress in all areas. She loves innovation and hopes students can implement their ideas and create outside the box, and ultimately graduate feeling proud of their school and community. She also hopes to improve the balance between academics and mental health; she wants students to be challenged without a feeling of anxiety or stress.

Ms. Gierasch also spoke about students coming together from different groups for common goals and does not want any student leaving unheard, defeated or lost. She wants to build relationships between students and between staff and faculty. Throughout her education, she loved teachers who encouraged her and made her feel good and comfortable, so she wants to give that relationship to students. She wants students to know that our teachers are here to help, support, and push them towards success.

In her free time, Ms Gierasch loves spending time with her family. She has an 11-year-old nephew and noted that she loves his current stage of learning. She also enjoys sharing fun and engaging activities with him, such as the rules of football and basketball. She is fond of gardening and traveling as well.

***Ms. Gierasch has big plans for our district. As one of the newer members of our community, let's all extend her a warm welcome!***  
 LOOK FOR ARTICLES ABOUT OTHER NEW ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF IN OUR UPCOMING ISSUES.



**Light From The Surface**  
By Kelly Callaghan



November 2021  
 Volume 59, Issue 1  
 Cold Spring Harbor Jr./Sr. High School  
 82 Turkey Lane  
 Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

- EDITORS**  
 Kiara Freidberg  
 Riley Haskell
- VISUAL MEDIA EDITOR**  
 Megan Avallone
- FACULTY ADVISORS**  
 Laura Cirino  
 April Henry
- PRINCIPAL**  
 Daniel Danbusky

- CONTRIBUTORS**  
 Brandon Barrick  
 Franny Donohue  
 Anna Hammell  
 Alexandra Pultz  
 Lily Smyth  
 Hannah Van Son  
 Gillian Will  
 Amber Zhou

# Remembering Herbie

By April Henry

## Family Man, Marine, Police Officer, Friend

The Cold Spring Harbor School Community sadly lost Herbert Alan Schramm, a dear friend, on Monday, August 23, 2021, to lung cancer. Herbert, known to those who loved him as Herbie, Herb, Dad, and Pop Pop, was 71 years old.

Born in Huntington on February 19, 1950, Herbie attended Catholic school at both St. Phillip and James and St. Anthony's/Holy Family. For much of his childhood, he grew up on Lisa Drive in Northport, and after graduating from Northport High School, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, serving for three years in the Vietnam War where he fought with the infantry on the front lines. Although he was very proud of being a Marine, he, like many others with whom he served, didn't like to talk much about his time in the war.

When he returned home from Vietnam, he met Victoria Campbell, whom he married in 1974. Together they moved to Kings Park and had two children, Margaret and Eric, with whom they were very close, and were married until July 1, 2011, when Victoria passed away.

For 35 years after his time in the Marine Corps, Herbie served as a police officer. I was fortunate enough to speak with his daughter Margaret recently, and she told me, "He was defined by being a Marine and a police officer. That's who he was--a Marine and a cop to the core."

Margaret spoke of her father's generosity, kindness, and level-headedness: "He was loyal and patriotic, and he was super cheap for himself but very generous with others." He loved playing cards and watching movies with his grandchildren and always tried to make it to their sporting events, band concerts, and Irish step-dancing feiseanna. "When he wasn't at the school," Margaret said, "he'd pick the kids up, shuffle them around, do homework with them." He would join his children's families for dinner and would stay to play canasta or pinochle, his two favorite card games.

When asked what he was like as a father, Margaret shared that he was "very strict, but kept me out of trouble," and added, "I got a great work ethic from him. He taught me to work hard for what I wanted and to treat people with respect."

In January of 2012, Herbie began working security for Cold Spring Harbor, making connections every day with teachers, staff, custodians, clerical staff, grounds keepers, and students. Everyone knew his name, and if they didn't, they knew the security guard with the music speaker. When he was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2015, he was determined to fight it and did so until he passed. His daughter said, "I think the reason he was able to fight for so long was his family and you guys, too. He loved to go to work. He loved the people [at CSH Jr./Sr. High School], and my entire family agreed that work and his work friends helped keep him going."

In addition to losing his wife Victoria, Herbie suffered the loss of his brother Steven Schramm. He is survived by his daughter Margaret Nuccio; her husband Chris Nuccio; their three children Kayla, Teaghan, and Kennedy; his son Eric and Eric's daughter Lorelai; his brothers Tommy and Pete; his sister Grace; and a multitude of extended family and friends who deeply feel his absence.

**When he passed, Margaret and her brother were touched by the attendance at his wake and the outpouring of love from so many people. "We thought my dad walked on water, but we didn't realize how many people loved him," she said. But we did. And to honor Herbie, we share our thoughts and memories here.**

"I appreciated Herbie's love for crossword puzzles. He often invited me to work on one with him while he was on hall duty, or would seek me out for help with a clue he couldn't get. We would inevitably have a good laugh over something, and I'd part from him a bit more lighthearted than before. I loved his great sense of humor, warm smile, and kind heart. He was quick with a joke and never failed to ask about me and my family. He fought his illness like a champion, maintained a positive outlook through it all, and kept coming back to work. What a wonderful role model for living one's best life! Back in June, he came around to wish me a good summer, and I think he knew he wouldn't be back this fall. We gave each other a big hug when we parted. I am so grateful for that. Rest peacefully with the angels, my friend." –April Henry

"Herb directed me across the crosswalk one day. He referred to me as 'Ma'am.' Being so young, I answered back that I was not quite ready to be a 'ma'am.' Every afternoon from that day forward he held me by my arm, guided me across the crosswalk, and gracefully referred to me as 'Ma'am.' We laughed together every afternoon. I will miss him dearly..." –Ann McLam

"I could always count on Herbie to make me smile no matter what the day brought!" –Denise Vigilo

"Herbie would sit at the desk outside the Special Ed. office as I walked by, and he never failed to make my day with a positive comment. His positive energy was a source of joy each and every day." –Jeanne Glynn

"Herbie was a wonderful person to work with. He was a friendly gentleman and always greeted me with a 'Hello, Olivia' or 'Good morning, Olivia. What's going on in Athletics today?' He had great taste in music. He brought his portable speaker outside, and I enjoyed listening to his music while he directed traffic after school. He was taken from us very suddenly, and I wish I had the opportunity to tell him how much I appreciated working with him at CSH. I really miss him and hope he is resting in peace wherever he may be because he deserves it after giving of himself his entire, blessed life." –Olivia Curley

"Herbie would always stop traffic for me when I left at the end of the day! I would cross and sing whatever song he had playing on his boom box! A gentleman who made me laugh." –Chris Homer

"I loved Herbie. His smile always brightened my day. He never complained. We often did the daily crossword puzzle together on our free time. He loved those puzzles. He is certainly missed around here." –Brigid Victorson

"Herbie would always stop to talk to me in the hall, or stop by my room to say hello while making his rounds in the high school. He always had a story to share about his time as a police officer, his experience in the military, or often news or memories of his children. His presence at Cold Spring Harbor helped create a safe and positive environment for all of us. He was a good friend, a dedicated worker, and a loving father. He will be missed." –John Borland

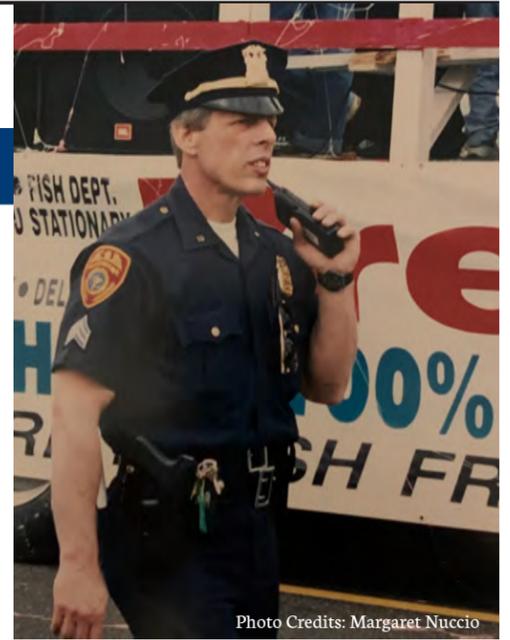


Photo Credits: Margaret Nuccio



Photo Credit: Kathleen Fristensky

"Herbie, who always called me Slim or Slimzoid, was like my second father. He was a very big part of my life and my children's lives. He shared in Tootie Toosdays with Tootie, my father, and they were wonderful friends. I was VERY fortunate to have him as my mentor, "father," and friend. We got together every week last summer to make a toast and shoot the breeze, and I was even able to see him a few days before he passed away. I ADORE THIS GREAT MAN." –Kathleen Fristensky

"Despite all he was going through, Herbie was always so positive. He would always have a big smile on his face and told me, 'I know you're smiling under that mask, so keep smiling, Smiley.' He is very much missed." –Kristen Wilkens

"Herbie was a proud veteran, a great American, and an incredibly brave man right to the end. He had a great song collection too!" –Deborah Geis

"Herbie always had a smile, a positive, can-do attitude, and a heart of gold. I enjoyed our conversations and miss him deeply." –Michael Andrews

"Herbie was always a bright spot in our days, both coming into work and throughout the day. I always loved to hear what songs he had playing on his speaker--always an eclectic mix of music. Herbie was a kind gentle man. I am missing our chats in my office when he would stop in to have a rest, and he always had a bad 'Dad' joke to share." –Anne Connell

"I'll never be able to open *The New York Times* or see a crossword puzzle and not think of my dear friend Herbie. I'll never walk through the parking lot and stop missing his musical selections playing each morning, or on my way to practice each afternoon. I'll never walk the boardwalk at Sunken Meadow without wishing I had my favorite walking partner to keep me motivated. I'll always miss his "Hey, Kid" and his reminders to "stop causing trouble." Thank you for your friendship, Herbie. Your memory and your kindness will never be forgotten." –Tricia Sihksnel

"Herbie was 'The Man.' A Marine who served in Vietnam. A trucker, a Police Sergeant, a mentor and friend. He will be missed." –Steven Discala

"Herbie was always good for a warm hello, good music, and even better conversation" –Jon Mendreski

"I enjoyed Herbie's quick wit and smile." –Colleen Beneville

Herbie had a gruff exterior with a heart of gold. He always gave me a hard time when I didn't have a joke to tell him. I am proud to consider him my friend. I'll save some jokes for you when we meet again. Rest peacefully, my friend. You are already missed. –Bob Haisman

"Herbie was always concerned about the health, safety and well-being of the other security guards and our families. He would ask questions and offer to help. He was a very generous person, too, always volunteering to pay for coffee or lunch." –Frank Papillo

"Herbie and I were neighbors in Kings Park, and our kids went to school together. Herbie was a fun-loving man who cared deeply for his family. He was a dedicated police officer and a US Marine. Men like Herbie are hard to find. The world's loss is Heaven's gain. You will be missed my friend. R.I.P. I'll see you on the other side." –John Trotter



Photo Credit: Flickr

# 20th Anniversary of 9/11

By Kiara Freidberg

This year marks the 20 year anniversary of the tragedy that struck America in 2001, the attacks of 9/11. These attacks left 2,996 Americans killed and forever changed the lives of millions of Americans. This year's moments of reflection have left many to recount their experiences and honor the lives that were lost.

Each year at the 9/11 Memorial (located where the twin towers stood in New York City), family and friends of those lost, along with others who wish to pay their respects, gather to commemorate this date. They do so through the reading of the names by family members of those lost, and honoring six moments of silence, acknowledging when each twin tower was struck and collapsed, when the Pentagon was attacked, and when Flight 93 crashed.

Two decades after the attack, Americans understand the resilience and hope that have persisted since 9/11. Our unity has increased in strength, and as we enter into the next years of our lives, we will still never forget the tragedies that occurred on that fateful day.

By Kiara Freidberg

## Cold Spring Harbor September 11th Memorial

On Friday, September 10th, 2021, the Cold Spring Harbor community honored the 20th anniversary of 9/11. The community came together for the season opener of our varsity football team, and different groups of the community made this night extremely special.

Two fire trucks hung a huge American flag from their extended ladders. Elementary students on the field led the pledge of allegiance for the crowd and players. The CSH pep band played patriotic tunes throughout the introduction and game, and the CSH brass ensemble played "Hymn to the Fallen," "America the Beautiful," and "Grand Old Flag" during the memorial on the field. Adding to the moving feeling that pervaded the stadium, Isabelle Apostolakos, a senior chorus student, sang our national anthem beautifully; and Mr. Monostero gave a powerful speech, revealing the strength of our community while reflecting on our national tragedy.

During the ceremony, first responders, active and retired law enforcement, retired military, and families of 9/11 victims came onto the field during the National Anthem and the moment of silence. Not only did this event allow our community to reflect together on 9/11, but it also provided a time to honor those who lost their lives that day and show our appreciation for those who have fought to protect us.

Photo Credits: Tricia Sihksnel



*Never Forget*



# DEI, CRT, CSH

By Riley Haskell

Ever since people of color were finally given the ability to pursue an education, they have neither been equally represented, nor equally educated. Today, some states and schools are trying to right this fatal flaw in our public education system with the help of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training and policies. But there has been a lot of pushback, mostly because people have DEI confused with CRT, critical race theory.

DEI works to improve student learning and the outcomes of their learning. According to Nancy Aebersold, founder and executive director of the Higher Education Recruitment Consortium (HERC), “Students benefit from seeing themselves mirrored in the front of the classroom, in the lab and in the highest levels of academic leadership...Diverse representation and inclusive learning environments provide inspiration and aspiration and help students believe, ‘I can be there, or I can achieve thought leadership in the profession I choose.’”

Who wants to learn from someone who has no understanding of what he or she has endured in life? To have a diverse and inclusive environment, one must first understand that people of color in the US have had wildly different experiences from white people because of the color of their skin and their country of origin. The overall goal of DEI is to create a safer learning environment. The New York State Board of Regents puts it best in its mission statement: “The policy of the NYS Board of Regents is to encourage and support efforts at the State and local level to create within every school an ecosystem of success that is built upon a foundation of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, opportunity, innovation, confidence, trust, respect, caring, and relationship-building. All students must feel that they are welcome, they belong, and they are supported in every school.”

DEI is meant to be a strategy centered around people. We want to build bridges between communities to create a larger community full of respect, trust, and understanding. No harm, no foul, right? But DEI is supported by some and misunderstood by many.

Now, let's discuss DEI's much more controversial counterpart: critical race theory (CRT), which is where some of the misunderstanding comes from. CRT, as an academic idea, is more than 40 years old. According to Stephen Sawchuk, Associate Editor of *Education Week*, “[CRT's] central idea is that race is merely a social construct and that racism is not simply the product of bias or prejudice, but is embedded in our very founding, through legal system and policies.” He provides the example of how in the 1930s, “officials drew lines in areas that were named financial risks,” which was usually because of the racial makeup of the residents. This would create a domino effect; banks would refuse mortgages to Black people and the cycle of systemic racism continued (Sawchuck). “The academic meaning of CRT strays from its representations in recent popular books, and especially through critics,” Sawchuck states. “Critics, who are typically conservative Republicans, claim that CRT creates negative divides (oppressed vs. oppressor), rather than creating bridges through shared traits. The Heritage Foundation, a conservative organization, claims that ‘when followed to its logical conclusion, CRT is destructive and rejects the fundamental ideas on which our constitutional republic is based.’ A recent polling of the Parents Defending Education advocacy group claims that some schools are teaching that ‘white people are inherently privileged, while Black and other people of color are inherently oppressed and victimized,’ that ‘achieving racial justice and



## JUSTICE FOR ALL

OPINION

By Riley Haskell

Jocelyn Watt, Jade Wagon, Rosalita Longee, Kiana Klomp, Ella Mae Begay, Dawnita Wilkerson, Paige Coffey, Rajah McQueen. These are just eight of the hundreds of missing Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) that have gone missing. But have you ever heard these women's names? I doubt it.

The whole world knows Gabby Petito's name, though. Some people may ascribe this knowledge to the dramatic and almost movie-like nature of her missing-turned-murder case. Gabby Petito had a lot: a platform where she was paid to travel and a seemingly perfect relationship, recently turned engagement. But then she went missing. Her fiancé returned home without her, and there was no sign of her.

But there has been no sign of these other missing women either. And there has not been even a dash as much media attention focused on their cases as on Gabby Petito's case. That is not to say that Petito's case has not deserved attention. And it's definitely not to say that what happened to her isn't horrible and disgusting. But every missing woman and her family deserves the same treatment. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, out of the 613,000 people reported missing in America in the past year, 60% are people of color.

To debunk the argument that it was the nature of Petito's case that made it so popular, I would like to focus on one of the names above: Rajah McQueen. McQueen was last seen in a car with her boyfriend and was also in a relationship in which domestic violence was present. So, what made Petito's case so different? The main difference is that Petito was white while McQueen is black.

What the media has deemed as “missing white woman syndrome” is exactly what has made this case so televised. The news coverage on this case has been relentless, with *The New York Post* publishing three front-page articles in less than a week. The day after the coroner confirmed the remains of Petito and determined her death a likely homicide, the case was at the center of the Fox News website, as well as being a top story on publications ranging from *The Washington Post* to CNN to BuzzFeed. On the rare occasion a woman of color receives news coverage, she is usually depicted as being slightly at fault for her disappearance while white women are displayed as do-gooders and victims.

Women have always deserved justice. But the fact is, in a world plagued with racism and sexism, it is not always given. As times continue to get better for white women, women of color have hit a plateau caused by a constant influx of white people into the industries that should work to help them. White people work in news outlets, so they choose to promote white people's stories. But if there is one positive note on the Gabby Petito case, it is that it has brought some attention to the mistreatment of missing women of color in America.

OPINION

equally between racial groups requires discriminating against people based on their whiteness,’ and that ‘the United States was founded on racism.’ Critics fear that white students will be exposed to ‘self-demoralizing’ ideas” (Sawchuck).

According to *Education Week*, in the states “in which bills banning CRT have passed, the bills are so vague that it is unclear whether educators will be able to factually teach about the Trail of Tears, the Civil War, or the civil rights movement,” as well as other historical events of importance. If racism is no longer able to be discussed, African American authors will no longer have the representation they deserve in English classes due to the discussion of racism in their books.

But all that CRT is claiming to do is to help students identify and critique the causes of social inequality in their own lives. Sawchuck asserts that many policies and patterns in K-12 education have contributed to racial inequality: “racially segregated schools, the underfunding of majority-Black and Latino school districts, disproportionate disciplining of Black students, barriers to gifted programs and selective-admission high schools, and curricula that reinforce racist ideas.” CRT has never even been a real possibility at the high school level and is only really taught in law school, or levels of education equal to that.

America has always been afraid of extremes, or has loved them too much. And CRT is definitely portrayed as an extreme version of DEI, making many people uncomfortable with the concept of CRT. First and foremost, students, specifically minorities, should feel safe and comfortable in their classrooms. But, beyond that, DEI or CRT, parents and critics of both should really consider why they are working so hard to prevent something that is only meant to fix the damage that people of color have undergone in the history of America.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are here to stay within our halls. Through The New York State Education Department's DEI Initiative, the Board of Regents “expects that all school districts will develop policies that advance diversity, equity and inclusion—and that they implement such policies with fidelity and urgency” (nysed.gov). In June of 2021, NYSED completed its guide for the implementation of DEI, and the CSH administration presented a slideshow entitled “DEI Discovery,” which is available on the district website, at the October 12th Board of Education meeting. The presentation outlined what DEI is, the prior work the district has done in DEI, where we have implemented DEI in our schools, and the next steps our district will take—including the recent Thought Exchange and DEI Task Force meeting. The slideshow concluded with several positive closing thoughts, all of which will help the students of Cold Spring Harbor: “Let's work together to create an environment that is intellectually and socially safe,” “Let's identify some core beliefs and set a vision for the future,” “Let's keep talking,” “Let's be respectful of each other's views,” “Let's listen to one another even in the face of adversity,” “Let's strengthen our communication,” and “Let's ensure our students are empathetic and informed citizens who are ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow.”

**Diversity: Includes but is not limited to race, color, ethnicity, nationality, religion, socioeconomic status, veteran status, education, marital status, language, age, gender, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, genetic information, and learning styles.**

**Equity: The guarantee of fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all while striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of all groups.**

**Inclusion: Authentically bringing traditionally excluded individuals and/or groups into processes, activities, and decision/policy making in a way that shares power and ensures equal access to opportunities and resources.**

Source: [stepupforequity.com](http://stepupforequity.com)



# Book REVIEWS

## We were Liars

by E. Lockhart

Review By Hannah Van Son

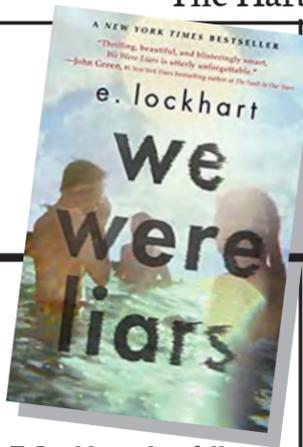
*We Were Liars* is a young adult mystery novel written by E. Lockhart that follows the main character, Cadence Sinclair, and her various summers on her grandparents' private island. The powerful and wealthy Sinclair family seems picture perfect, but throughout the book their lies and secrets, dealing with everything from divorce to heartbreaks to bankruptcy, are quickly revealed.

Every summer, the Sinclair grandparents and their three daughters, along with their children, all travel to an island off the Coast of Massachusetts for the summer. As her parents suffer a tough separation, Cadence looks to these memories and her time on the island as an escape from the world. Cadence's closest cousins are Mirren, Johnny, and Johnny's friend, Gat, with whom Cadence falls in love at age 15. This friend group goes on to be called "The Liars."

While "The Liars" do not keep in touch during the year, every summer their relationships pick up as if they had never left the island, as if time stops during the school year. After leaving the island at age 15, Cadence suffers a serious head injury and has trouble remembering some of her past summer. As she revisits the island two years later, she starts to put the pieces together and picks up her memory, which is where the mystery element of the novel takes place.

*We Were Liars* displays different family dynamics in a unique way. The outdated American view of a typical family is a mother, father and 2 children. But, this book breaks that stereotype, with divorced parents and single moms raising children.

This book has everything from mystery to romance to friendships to a shocking ending. I would recommend this book to any new readers who enjoy adult fiction. *We Were Liars* is a fun, mindless, easy book that is fast paced and captivating. And the ending makes the book completely worth the read.



# They Wish They Were Us

by Jessica Goodman

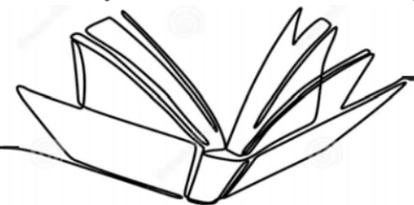
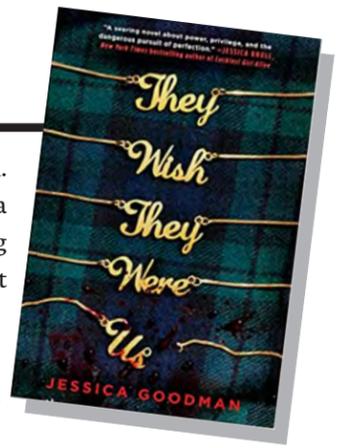
Review by Alexandra Pultz

Think *Gossip Girl* but with murder and betrayal. That's *They Wish They Were Us* by Jessica Goodman. Taking place on the Gold Coast of Long Island, this murder mystery is the story of the most elite and privileged members of Gold Coast Prep.

In the main character Jill's freshman year of high school, her best friend Shaila was killed. It was pinned on her boyfriend, Graham, and he was sent straight to jail, no questions asked. Now in her senior year, Jill is a senior "Player" in the school's most exclusive society. Senior Players make all the rules, and this year is supposed to be hers. Except there's one thing—Jill keeps getting texts declaring Graham's innocence. Should Jill believe this anonymous texter and investigate Shaila's death? Or should she just move on and enjoy her senior year?

I really loved the private school and secret society aspect of this book. It was very intriguing to see how Jill and her friends had to keep up their social appearance to succeed in their school. The beginning of the book was a little slow and was focused on each of the Players in their society. The members were pretty whiny and snobby. Towards the middle of the book, the plot began to pick up, though. It centered more around murder and mystery instead of rich kids' parties.

Goodman's writing was rather dark and a little twisted which kept things interesting. She frequently included flashbacks from Jill's point of view of her freshman year. This technique lets readers learn a little more about Jill and Shaila before Shaila's death. *They Wish They Were Us* was overall a great book with lots of little twists towards the end of the story. I think this would make a great movie or TV show someday!



By Lily Smyth

## The Problem with the Dress Code

OPINION

Although there is a dress code in our student handbook, it has never been enforced here at Cold Spring Harbor. There has always been a mutual respect from teachers to students, and I can't think of one occasion in the four years I've been here when I have heard of someone being coded—until now. There's been a buzz in the halls this fall about dress coding. As far as I'm concerned, we don't have a dress code. But I suppose I am wrong. The targets of these acts are girls, and a recent victim was wearing a white, thick strapped tank and summer skirt. I know that every other girl at our school has worn a tank top and a summer skirt during the beginning of the school year. It's hot outside and inside the school, and delicate, feminine outfits are popular among most of the girls at school. If one girl gets dress coded, then why isn't everyone else, including myself? Is this the start of a new issue at school? If so, I think the student population is not going to take it well.

The idea that a dress code is beginning to be enforced is ridiculous, and truthfully, a lot of girls are thinking of protesting by wearing "revealing clothes" to school, whatever that means. If that is the case, then I will be joining them. Dress codes are infamous around the country for targeting girls, specifically girls who have larger chests. You hear stories once a month about some girl in a hot classroom, wearing a tanktop, being sent to the principal's office because her shoulders, bra straps or collar bones are showing. The rationale for getting in trouble for clothing that allows certain body parts to show is that it "disrupt[s] or interfere[s] with the educational process," as the handbook states, but it's really "Boys cannot control themselves" or "You are sexualizing yourself during school." There's a plethora of problems regarding those two sentences.

The argument that "Boys can't control themselves" is furthering the idea that boys are always looking at girls in a lustful way. That's gross, and frankly, it's the boys' problem. Also, the majority of boys who don't care about what girls wear to school should find this assumption insulting. Insinuating that boys are always engulfed in a girls' sexuality, even in school, is a very generalizing way to view them. Both girls and boys are being harmed by a dress code. It generalizes girls as "sluts" and boys as "creeps."

Second, why is it that anytime a girl wears something other than a turtleneck, they are considered "sexualizing" themselves? This interpretation of dress is extremely sexist and solidifies the idea that women are inherently sexual creatures. And what is sexual about shoulders, collarbones, and bra straps anyway? Do shoulders contribute to sexual acts? No. Are collarbones used to reproduce? No. Do bra straps heighten sexual relations? No. It's all no.

Let's be honest with ourselves. If a girl wears a bra, and you can see a strap that's "inappropriate." If a girl doesn't wear a bra, that is "inappropriate." Women can't win. A dress code should not be enforced this school year, and although there's been buzz about dress coding happening, I don't think it will last.

**When asked for comment, Mr. Danbusky stated the following:**

**"The dress code at Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr High School was revised in February 2021 after a group of students brought forth concern that the dress code, as it was written then, identified specific articles of clothing that were only worn by female students. As a result of the student feedback, the dress code was changed to its current language and the naming of specific items of clothing was removed. It is important to note that under relevant NY Codes (rules and regulations), schools are mandated to adopt and publish codes of conduct, including a dress code."**

## Nurse Knudsen: Keeping Us Healthy

By Hannah Van Son

Last year, Cold Spring Harbor Jr./Sr. High School received a new Nurse, Ms. Nicole Knudsen. Before coming to work at CSH, Nurse Knudsen worked at Stony Brook Children's Hospital in the pediatrics center, so her job here has been a big change. While both the children's hospital and Cold Spring Harbor deal with children, many of the children she previously attended to were very ill, whereas at CSH, the students tend to have smaller injuries. Nonetheless, she still loves to converse with young people and help them in any way she can.

Nurse Knudsen went into nursing for the sole purpose of helping people. She always knew she wanted a profession in service, and nursing seemed like the best fit. Helping and watching children go from being very sick to being able to be healthy and leave the hospital is very fulfilling for her.

Outside of school, Ms. Knudsen enjoys spending time with family and friends, teaching dance, and coaching Junior Varsity Cheer here at the high school. Her favorite thing about working at CSH so far has been meeting and getting to know all the students.

Since Nurse Knudsen grew up right down the road in Northport, she was familiar with the Cold Spring Harbor area. After hearing good things about the school district, she was inclined to come work here. So far, her favorite thing about working at CSH has been meeting and getting to know all the students and staff.



Photo Credit: April Henry

# POET'S Corner & Grok

## POWERFUL Stems

By Franny Donohue

Teach your daughters  
not to put their own happiness  
below that of others.  
Not to expect true love to be given  
with the truest love missing--  
the love of the self.  
Because daughters are sacred--  
beautiful, powerful beings,  
yet often viewed as delicate  
like flowers  
to be stepped on in the garden  
rather than given sunlight and water.  
So teach your daughters to grow,  
grow like you taught your sons.  
Because you cannot reattach  
a broken stem.

## Mantra of the Month

By Megan Avallone



The season of pumpkin spice lattes and college applications can be an exciting yet worrisome time for most high school senior students. I, myself, am currently a senior enduring the rather frightening college application process. Whether choosing what colleges I'm interested in, narrowing down my college list, writing the supplements, or filling in application details, the process can become a bit overwhelming at times. Some early decision applications were due as early as October 15th! For most, though, November 1st was the first of many application deadlines.

A good mantra to recite for this month (and in those to come as we await decisions) is "Trust the process." To me, this mantra means that no matter what, everything is going to end up all right in the end. Although life may feel scary and unpredictable as of right now, the universe has brighter things planned ahead. Try seeking out your guidance counselors for assistance and talking with friends and family members to help ease your mind throughout this busy, riveting month--and those ahead.

*Trust the process,  
and it will all work out.*

## Vincent van Gogh EXHIBITIONS

By Anna Hammell

If you have scrolled through social media at any point this summer, I am sure you have already seen pictures of the Vincent Van Gogh Immersive Exhibit. This exhibit landed in New York City in June of this year and has gained extreme popularity because visitors are able to take pictures in front of the moving artwork. But what many don't know is that there are actually two Van Gogh exhibits, owned by separate companies, in New York City: Exhibition Hub and Lighthouse Immersive. In fact, Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience and Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit New York opened within 5 days of each other, June 5th and June 10th, respectively. The similarity between these two has caused many problems for customers, some even arriving at the wrong exhibition and having to turn around. Immersive art exhibits have been popping up in large cities all over since the 2000s, the first of Van Gogh being "Imagine Van Gogh: The Immersive Exhibit" created by Annabelle Mauger in 2008. The name sounds pretty similar, right? Well, there is a reason companies can get away with this similarity.

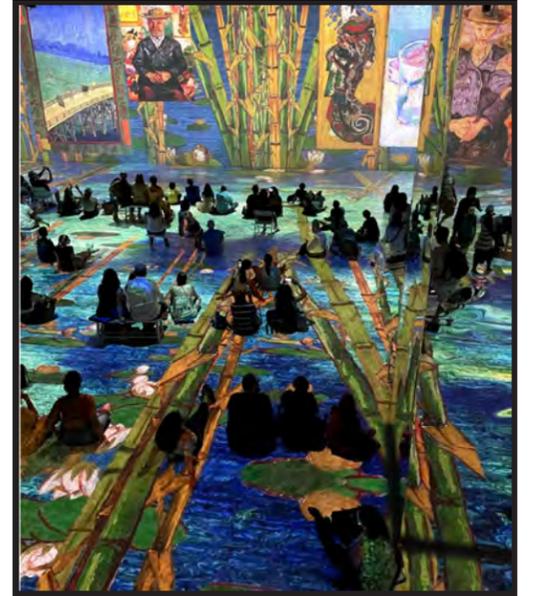


Photo Credits: Anna Hammell

Van Gogh was born in the year 1853 and died in 1890 at only 37 years old. He created more than 900 paintings in his lifetime. Because Van Gogh has been dead for over 100 years and the paintings were created before the year 1923, they are all part of something called the public domain. This term refers to creations not subject to copyright laws and is the reason why these exhibits are getting away with using such similar subject matter and names.

The rise in popularity of immersive exhibits over the past year can be partly attributed to the viewership of a new Netflix original television show, *Emily in Paris*. According to Variety's "What to Watch on Streaming," this television show was one of the most popular of 2020, garnering over 58 million views. In one episode, Emily, the main character, visits an immersive Van Gogh exhibit with two of her friends, a scene which showcases the beautiful images of Van Gogh's work across all of the walls. This scene created a community of viewers online wanting a similar experience near them. Though it's obviously true that *Emily in Paris* was not the only reason immersive experiences started to pop up around the country, it is certainly true that the exposure bolstered its popularity.

I fortunately have had the chance to visit the *Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit* New York City on the lower east side, once with the Premium tickets and once without. I attended the exhibit in July and ordered my tickets in February because I knew they would sell out very fast. I definitely knew I was at the right building when I arrived, being that the building was brightly colored with sunflower details and stood out against the brick buildings surrounding it. The line was fairly long but moved rather quickly. Once inside, I was greeted with a wall covered with faux sunflowers next to the usher who scanned tickets. The tickets I had the first time were premium, which meant that after the usher scanned our tickets, they gave me a Van Gogh cushion to use inside the exhibit.



Once inside, it takes a good 15 minutes to feel fully immersed in the art displayed across every wall and mirrored object in the three rooms. At first I couldn't help noticing the groups of people huddled in the small circles across the floor (for Covid-19 safety precautions), but after walking around a bit and finding my spot, all the chatter and movement of others became mere background noise as the colors dancing across the millions of pixels held me in a trance. The music I could recognize as being a playlist including the songs of Edith Piaf, Imogen Heap, Thom Yorke of Radiohead, and originals of Luca Longobardi, the exhibit's composer. The first two of the three rooms are very similar with the video displayed on the walls from floor to ceiling, accompanied by mirrored sculptures all over the room that reflect the moving images on the walls. The third room, my favorite, is remarkably different. Not only are the walls completely covered, but when I looked down, I saw that the floor is also covered in the shifting, vibrant artwork. There is also a multi-storied ledge in the middle of the large room, allowing exhibit-goers to view the show from a whole new perspective. My second visit was when I finally found the best place to view the video. Behind the large multi-storied platform, there are very few people, so I got to enjoy the show practically all by myself with zero distractions. The video plays in a loop and is around 40 minutes long. It combines many of Van Gogh's pieces into one cohesive work of art, constantly shifting from flowers to night skies to portraits. I felt as if I were watching a story, and the music paired perfectly with the emotion of the artworks. The cushion I got came in good use; I just sat and watched the show for over two complete loops.

While I cannot say much for the other exhibit, I was shocked seeing that the reviews for both experiences were below 4 stars, the one I saw being 2.5! Through reading many of the reviews, I noticed a common theme. Many had certain expectations about the exhibit going into it that set their experience up for failure. The Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit is not about Van Gogh. You will not learn much about the artist's life directly. The show's only purpose is to make you feel like you are inside his paintings or looking at the world through Vincent's eyes. The other popular complaint was that it was not easy to become "immersed" in the artwork. This, in my opinion, is likely due to the fact that many who attended this exhibit viewed it from the lens of social media posts. I believe that taking pictures of the experience detracts from how immersed you can feel and often causes a disconnect from what's right in front of you.

My tips for going to any of the Van Gogh immersive exhibits are to either go alone or with a very small group of people, and definitely do not take younger children. My younger brothers did not enjoy it as much as the adults in our group or I did. I often saw children running around with their parents trying to catch up to their kids. I would also suggest eating beforehand because when I tried to find a nice restaurant, I ended up walking for half a mile in both directions around the exhibit before returning back to the car. And finally, my biggest piece of advice is to make sure you are going to the exhibit for which you have tickets. I felt bad seeing people turned down by the ushers because they had arrived at the wrong place and likely missed the time slot for which they had tickets. Confusion aside, I would highly recommend attending the *Immersive Van Gogh* exhibit.