

The graphic features a large, stylized circular shape composed of multiple overlapping, semi-transparent bands. The colors transition from light blue on the left to light green on the right. The text is centered within the white space of the circle.

NEWTON COMMUNITY CAMERAS 2020

THE EARLY DAYS OF
THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Empty streets and train platforms, children taking a nature walk in the middle of a weekday, freshly washed facial coverings hanging on a clothesline...these are some of the indelible images of everyday life in Newton during the 2020 shutdown to stop the spread of COVID-19.

While the pandemic continues to impact lives around the world, we have documented this life-altering event in a very personal way through photography and our stories: how it affects our families, our work, our community, and our own daily existence. The photos in this exhibit show how we have grieved the sense of normalcy that we lost but also found moments of beauty, connection to others, resilience, and even humor during the shutdown.

This project was a collaborative effort between Historic Newton, Newton Community Pride, and The City of Newton's Cultural Development Department. The selected photos were juried by members of Newton Art Association, Newton Camera Club and Newton Community Pride. Submissions were accepted June 1 through June 30, 2020. All images and accompanying text will be archived at Historic Newton.

HISTORIC
Newton



NEWTON

**CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT**



Jessica Barton-Davis
Gath Pool Ducks

After a long day of working from home, walking through the empty Albemarle playing fields—which in any other spring would be teeming with soccer, softball, and baseball practices in the late afternoon hours—provides a nice socially-distanced way to get outside. Although the fields are empty for now, these two ducks make the most of the quiet, arriving each evening to their home atop the Gath Pool cover to eat algae, paddle around the pool, and eventually settle at the edge of the deep end next to the water slide.

Panasaya Buckley Ribs To Go

BBQ season is different during a pandemic. COVID-19 forced us to stay home and isolate this spring, but it didn't stop my husband from smoking his signature ribs. I snapped this photo as the meat was coming off of the smoker and our socially distant friends and family patiently awaited their to-go ribs. I'm not sure what we were more excited about: the ribs or the company.



Ian Dickerman
STANDING AS ONE



In the midst of the massive social distancing movement, there has also been another movement: Black Lives Matter. I think COVID-19 helps highlight the hypothesis that there are more good people in the world than bad. People are obviously unable to social distance at these events but are willing to put up with that risk to fight for equality for all. The June 4th vigil was not supposed to be a march. But due to this brave step forward by a Newton North Alumni, it showed that together standing as one we can start the march of progress.



Stephen Frederick Golden Hour

A good-looking tree in a wonderful cemetery (Newton Cemetery and Arboretum) on a lovely June evening. Some of my ancestors are buried there. Time on my hands to photograph stuff because of all the pandemic. And graveyards are a nice place to ponder mortality.



Nadine Gaab Crystal Goose

Taken on one of our long social
distance walks





DAVID GARRETT VIRTUAL PIANO RECITAL

Normally Jane's music recitals are boisterous affairs filled with twenty kid performers and families. This year's, at home and virtual, was more intimate and subdued. We were grateful that out of state grandparents could "attend."

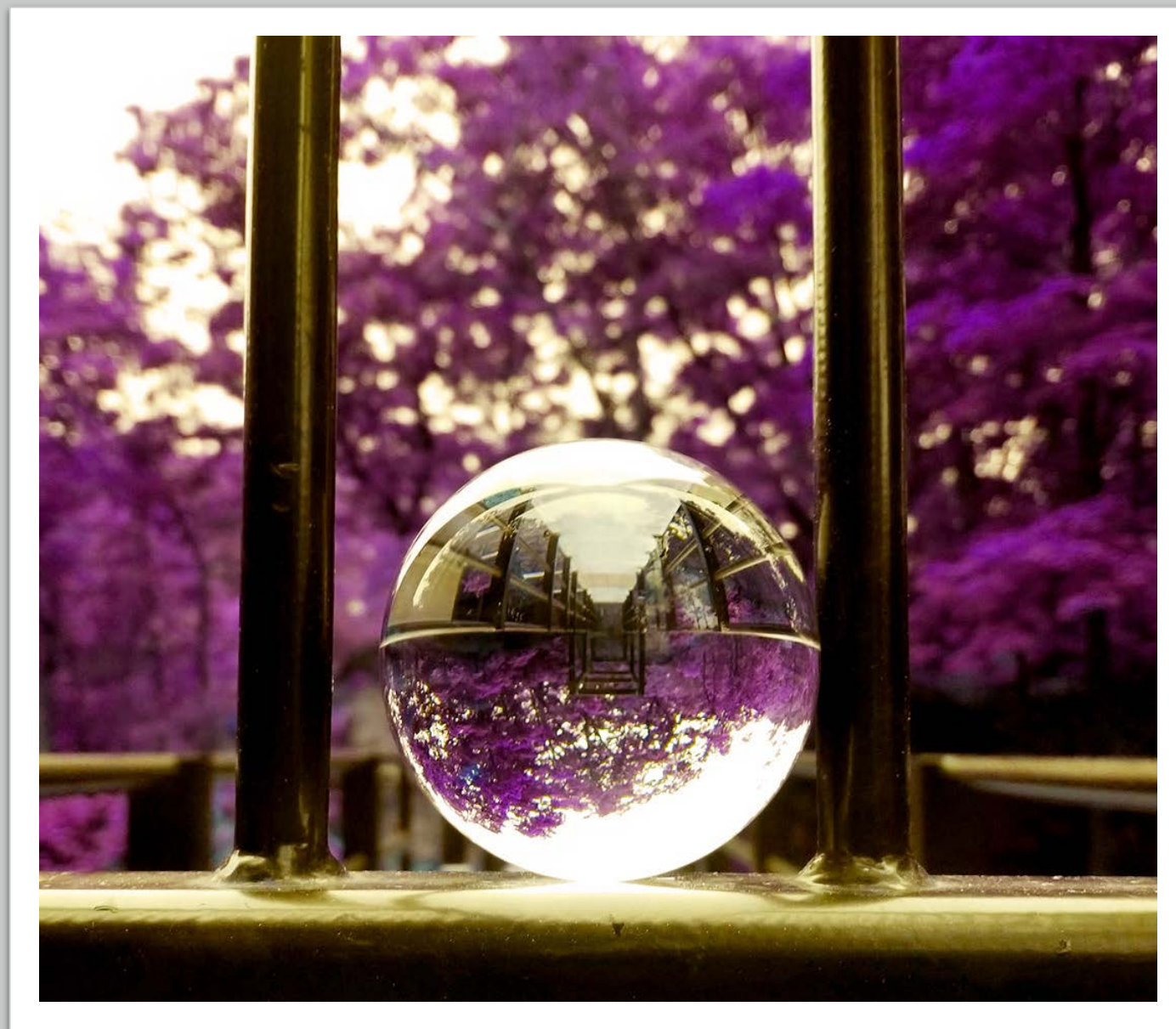
Piper Gordon Silence in a Daffodil's World

One of the challenges of taking classes from home was the inability to find inspiration for my photography class while walking down the same streets. With Covid-19 keeping us at home, I fell into a slump of having no motivation to continue creating art. My photography class pushed me outside, helped me to discover new parts of Newton, and inspired me to stop and look from new perspectives.



Kasey Green
Pandemic Lensball
Project

My estranged and abusive father passed away during the COVID-19 pandemic. I had believed I would feel liberated, but it brought a deeper isolation than the mandated quarantine. I was determined not to allow myself not to become lost to anger. I started a daily lensball photo project to harness my insomnia and stress into creativity and healing. My goal is to capture the beauty in our backyard, uninterrupted tranquility. To remember to turn around and get a new perspective. This early morning photo from Hemlock Gorge Reservation in Newton, MA is one of my favorites in the collection.





Betsy Harper Late Night Public Testimony

The COVID crisis makes access to Affordable Housing more important than ever. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) public hearings have moved from in-person to in-Zoom. As a passionate advocate for Affordable Housing, I've spent countless late-evening hours in front of my computer to ensure that these projects move forward. My dinner dishes stack up. Then coffee and ice cream. Whatever it takes to stay alert. I'm fueled by compassion, comforted by pajamas, and stoked by the urgency to share with one more family, one more elderly couple, my privilege of having Newton be the place I call "home."



Sarah Henry Virtual Learning

Like many Newton families this depicts a typical day for us during the Covid-19 pandemic. My kindergartener took this photo of my 4th grader and me trying to navigate her online schoolwork. In the background is my 2nd grader in the middle of a zoom with his class. While it was very challenging to juggle all of the kids' virtual learning, we are incredibly grateful for all of the hard work that the Newton teachers and staff have done for our kids.



Steve Jacobson State of Lockdown

This flag hangs above the Mass Pike in Auburndale. The shadow cast by the fence evokes the sense of confinement that characterizes this moment in our nation's history.

Martin Kafka
“COV-IT”

This image depicts the dread that Covid-19 instills in me and my wife. It is also reminiscent of Steven King's story "It".





Sheilarae Lau Mask Washing Day

I don't know how we accumulated so many masks, but it was time to wash them. Here they are hanging out to dry.

Justin Levy Longing For Peace

I took this photo during one of the BLM Protests taking place early in June. This picture combines the elements of two issues plaguing America; Covid-19 and Racism. The Mask, clearly being worn to prevent the spread of Covid, rests on the subject's face, while being held behind the yellow, police tape inspired sign. The striking black and white elements of the photo compliment and further highlight the message imprinted on the piece of Police Tape. This image illustrates the power and impact that our words hold.





Tom McGinn Stand Back

The COVID-19 shutdown halted almost all traffic on Route 90, and nearly all the commuter rail trains that pass by it. These are the tracks on an early weekday in May, where there would have been trains every few minutes and crowds of commuters to get on them. The words “STAND BACK”, in their shouty capital letters, symbolize where we are today: social distancing, staying away, staying home. As I look down the tracks, they take me not just to Boston, but to a time, when we can stop standing back, and again, come together.

Melissa Meyerowitz

The Virtual Dance Recital

On April 24th, my daughter's dance costumes were delivered to the house as her in-person recital was cancelled. She excitedly tried on her costume and began dancing around. It was raining and my husband noted that across the street someone was standing in the rain 'visiting' a resident of the Scandinavian Living Center. The visitor was standing in the rain with an umbrella gesturing to the resident through the window, and she went over to look. I took this shot as I felt it captured so many emotions simultaneously.



William Persampieri
28th Wedding
Anniversary Gift

Many of us have been panic shopping online during this pandemic. The one gift you can't have delivered is a haircut. My dad saw an opportunity for one of the most personal gifts he could give to his wife for their 28th Wedding Anniversary. My mom was dubious and grateful at the same time. It was an act of faith for each of them. The kind of faith that grows out of 28 years of laughing, crying and braving a world virus together.





Sharon Schindler NewtonTogether

Connecting Newtonians on Marathon Day with a message of perseverance and pride with handmade signs #NewtonTogether throughout the city.



Annette Seaward MOM

Here is my mother at her assisted living on Mother's Day. It was cold, which added to the heartbreak of not truly being able to celebrate the day. We did what we could.

Laura Shachmut Working From Home

Working from home isn't always easy. We learn to roll with it, embrace the chaos and do the best we can.



Harvey Young Weekend 2020

Cora, age 6, in her playroom
which became her COVID-19
classroom.

