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Meet Your Neighbors:
The Lam Family

Cover Photos By Tess Mongon

An Exclusive Magazine serving residents of The Bridges, Seven Bridges,
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Meet Your Neighbors: **The Lam Family**

By Janice Seitz Hunt

Photos by Tess Mongon



The story of how Jennifer and Jonathan met is quite unique. Some may even say it was fate. Jennifer and Jonathan both have siblings who are just over a decade older. Their siblings, Vlad and Ilana, were dating in the summer of 2011 and introduced them at a Coldplay concert. "To be clear, it was not supposed to be a set-up, just siblings getting to know their significant others. But now it makes Holiday planning a breeze, just one set of in-laws." Jonathan shared laughing.

Clearly there was a connection. Shortly afterwards, the two became a couple. Now they are married with a baby boy, Gabriel, and a dog Ruby. Jonathan and Jennifer just moved to Florida from Boston in July, and recently bought their first home together. The couple also shared that their grandmothers became true best friends after meeting. "They used to talk on the phone for hours; laughing, gossiping, and sharing stories till their phone lost battery power." They are both 98 years old now; so many symmetries in this beautiful family.

Jonathan is an Ophthalmologist and eye surgeon specializing in cataract surgery, laser correction, and the treatment of glaucoma and corneal disease at Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute. He completed his Medical school training and Ophthalmology residency in Philadelphia at Temple University School of Medicine, followed by an additional subspecialty fellowship at Harvard/Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in Boston. He is extremely passionate about his work and strives to give his patients the absolute best care possible.



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Jonathan shared a few touching stories from his practice, but one really stood out. "There are 26 million people worldwide that go blind from a completely reversible condition. Cataracts are the leading cause of global blindness, a heart-wrenching fact. What's more, is that a quick 20-minute surgery can reverse cataract-caused blindness completely. Several years ago, a blind man came into my office wheelchair-bound because he was elderly and scared to fall. The day after surgery, he practically ran in; he was beaming. The wheelchair was gone. I remember joking with him about some wild vacation plans that he had come up with. Ophthalmology is as close to magic as I will ever be."

"Day to day, however, most patients come in with complaints driving at night or difficulty seeing the golf ball. That's my job, improving people's swings and helping them to see their grandkids."

Jonathan practices at Florida Eye Microsurgical. He shared his care philosophy: "Medicine should be a collaboration between patient and Physician. There's hardly ever one way to approach a challenge, but the right way always involves putting the patient's goals and comfort first. I also love teaching and empowering my patients through knowledge – this brings peace of mind."

Jennifer has spent her career in the healthcare space as well, but on the industry side. Formally, she worked at Merck on the GARDASIL 9 vaccine team, focused on brand strategy and marketing messaging. She has recently taken on a new role at ADMA Biologics as the Associate

Director of Marketing. ADMA is a biopharmaceutical company that provides FDA-approved immunoglobulin treatments for people who are immune deficient at risk of infection and infectious diseases. "The work is humbling," Jennifer shared. "The company's motto is "Patients are counting on us." And it's true. Hearing patient testimonials first-hand is quite emotional. We are so lucky that a company of this caliber is in our backyard. Actually, I learned of the position through a mutual friend at a neighbor's BBQ... How's that for Florida community!"

Both Jonathan and Jennifer are first-generation American Jews and proud of their heritage. Both of their sets of parents immigrated from the Soviet Union. Jonathan's family is from Minsk and Jennifer's family is from Baku, in what is now Azerbaijan. Jonathan's grandmother, who is 98 years old, is a Holocaust Survivor. "She was 14 when it started, and during that time, she was homeless and lived with generous families that took her in. Her parents and siblings were all killed in concentration camps. It is an important reminder of our family's history and hopefully a lesson for generations to come".

Jennifer and Jonathan love to travel, although the new baby makes it challenging. "I guess that's what grandparents are for! Every year we try to leave the country at least once. Some of our favorite places have been Banff, Santorini, Tel-Aviv, Paris, Florence, and our most recent trip was to Argentina for New Year's."

The couple also shares a love for tennis, and their move to Florida has brought them back to the game. Jennifer





laughed, "The first thing we did when moving to Florida was re-string our racquets and buy new tennis shoes." Jonathan was a collegiate player at Tufts, where he traveled all around the country. He also went to the US Open for 10 straight years. Jennifer loves tennis and grew up playing the sport on the Varsity team in High School. "We're always looking for new tennis partners," the couple shared.

The Lam family recently added a new addition, 10-month old Gabriel. "Watching the world through his eyes is incredible. He is silly, precocious, and very active. We're still waiting for him to sleep through the night... hopefully that comes soon!" They also have a dog named Ruby, a 3-year-old mini Goldendoodle. "She could play fetch 24/7 if we'd let her and loves sneaking in a baby face-lick!" We can't wait till Gabriel will throw the ball for Ruby. That will free up a lot of our time." Jonathan added, "Moms are incredible, Jenn thinks of things and sees things I never would. Gabriel is a lucky kid."

The Lam family moved to West Delray in July and absolutely love it. "Our neighbors welcomed us into the community with open arms; we're lucky to have met some new friends in our short time here! Halloween here was a blast, and the Turkey Trot was so much fun too. We're so excited to build in this beautiful area."



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