

Teen’s Talk Show Tackles a Variety of Important Topics

Norwood High School senior Robert Way has had a passion for interviewing since he was 15.

*by Anthony Zona
Community contributor*

To understand “The Robert Way Show,” one must understand its creator Robert Way, a senior at Norwood High School. He participates in multiple Advanced Placement courses and has a great love for politics and debate. While tutoring several students, he teaches religious education every week. Way’s passion for television and being in front of the camera trumps all else. This passion for television began when he was 15 and interviewed Jeni Stepanek, a guest who had also appeared on “The Oprah Winfrey Show.”

Way realized the show would not be successful unless he pushed it up the steep hill called public access television. It is a long, hard road to get people to watch public access, but somehow he has found the perfect balance. Way understands for a show to be successful, it must also be entertaining. But he also wants to stick to his original goal of telling people’s stories with perhaps a lesson or two along the way. For Way, it is all

about the conversation between two human beings. The show for him is much more than just being in the spotlight, but rather his goal is to give people a voice who otherwise have been ignored.

Way’s passion for television and being in front of the camera trumps all else. This passion for television began when he was 15 and interviewed Jeni Stepanek, a guest who had also appeared on the “Oprah Winfrey Show.”

Way is assisted by a production staff that makes everything possible and allows the show to be as successful as it is. The crew consists of Norwood High senior Tessa Maguire as executive producer and director, Norwood High junior Erin Crowley in charge of the teleprompter and guest relations, Norwood High senior Michael O’Donnell as camera operator and back-stage coordinator and me as creative director

“The Robert Way Show” began last March with New York Times best-selling author Michael Hingson, who wrote “Thunder Dog.” He talked about his descent down 1,463 stairs of the North Tower during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. He shared stories of courage and inspiration as he and his trusty guide dog escape the burning towers.

The shows continued, and the next guest who appeared

Continued on next page



Robert Way interviews civil rights activist Terrence Roberts.
Photo courtesy of The Robert Way Show



The crew works in the control room.
Photo courtesy of The Robert Way Show



Talk show host Robert Way visits Fenway Park.
Photo courtesy of The Robert Way Show



Robert Way interviews a guest.
Photo courtesy of The Robert Way Show

Continued from previous page

was Terrence Roberts, a member of the Little Rock Nine and recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal. He told his inspiring story of living in racial segregation, and later being one of the first black students integrated into the all-white schools of Little Rock. On the same show, a short memorial piece about the Boston Marathon bombings was played. The crew traveled to Boston to get first-hand reactions and observations of the horrific event.

Another guest on the show was Jane Elliott, a diversity

educator who developed the blue eyed/brown eyed case study that quickly picked up steam in the 1970s, and was featured in the ABC documentary “The Eye of the Storm.” From using this exercise on her third-grade students, she began to notice how discrimination is in all of us and how it was being taught in the nation’s public schools. This episode of “The Robert Way Show” was an example of telling an interesting story that carried many important lessons along the way.

Way sat down with Magi Bish ... she discussed the kidnapping and murder of her 16-year-old daughter Molly. This profound interview was full of tears and solemn memories by a mother who has lost so much.

Another episode tackled childhood obesity with Norwood High 2013 graduate Maria Caprigno, who at age 14 weighed 443 pounds. She talked about her struggle with weight, the bullying she endured and the bariatric surgery she underwent that helped her lose 130 pounds and counting. Continuing the trend of interviewing students, Way sat down with Norwood High 2013 graduate Fernando Morales, who is battling Ewing’s sar-



The first episode features an interview with author Michael Hingson.
Photo courtesy of The Robert Way Show

coma, which is a type of bone cancer, for the second time. He talked about chemotherapy, friends and the struggles of cancer. A great lesson he shared was to keep pushing on.

The most recent interview was perhaps the most powerful. Way sat down with Magi Bish at her Western Massachusetts home. She discussed the kidnapping and murder of her 16-year-old daughter Molly. This profound interview was full of tears and solemn memories by a mother who has lost so much. She has gone to great lengths to bring justice for Molly, including writing a letter to her daughter’s killer that she emotionally read on this unforgettable episode that aired in December.

Upcoming shows include a Newtown family who lost a six-year-old child in the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary. Another is with the creator of “Project Unforgettable,” a Tumblr showing photographs of rape victims holding signs with quotes by their rapist on them. This is an inspirational project that gives a voice to the once silenced, but now heard.

“The Robert Way Show” airs on NPA-TV Wednesdays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Episodes can also be viewed at therobertshow.weebly.com. Visit Twitter @TheRobertShow and at facebook.com/TheRobertWayShow.



Public Access Television

Norwood Public Access Television offers many courses to teach people about production.

With its mission being to provide residents with the training and equipment needed to produce their own program, Norwood Public Access Television offers several workshops for adults and young people. Among the courses offered are:

- **Introduction to Studio Production 101** - Features technical and conceptual aspects of producing and recording studio programs
- **Introduction to Field Production 101** - Students learn about the basic operations of cameras
- **Basic Adobe Premiere Editing** - Features lessons on Adobe Premiere, including how to import footage, use transitions and effects, manage audio levels, create graphics and other features
- **NPA-TV Youth Video Club** - Weekly video club for Norwood residents in grades six to eight
- **Lights, Camera, Summer!** - Middle school summer class that teaches the basics of studio production
- **NPA-TV NHS Video Club** - Weekly video club for Norwood residents in grades nine to 12

For more information on these opportunities, visit npatv.org or call 781-551-0338.

—Jonathan Friedman



The crew works in the control room.
Photo courtesy of The Robert Way Show