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Jason Shapiro writes his books at a small desk in a corner of a room in his home.

Resident Publishes Third Book in 15 Months

Livingston's Jason Shapiro is becoming a prolific author, writing and publishing in his spare time after working as a retail operations manager during the day.

On Sunday, February 14, he published his third book, "The Magnificent Mind of Ostaf," which he describes as "a fictional story that celebrates the misfits and dreamers whose passions and ideas make the

world a better place."

While producing a trio of titles in only 15 months, Shapiro is also mastering diverse genres. He previously wrote and published a memoir, "The Magic of Mayfair," in November 2019, and a children's book, "Brian, My Pet Lion," in October 2020.

He wants his books to serve as tools to normalize conversations about life challenges and mental

health. "My hope is that one day we can all be as open about our mental health as we are about our physical health," he said. "When we can do that, we can change millions of people's lives in a positive way."

He encourages others to follow his path. "You can work hard, excel, and love your day job... and then explore your passion projects at night and in your downtime," Shapiro said.

It's a lesson he observed growing up, when his father successfully marketed a "passion project" that serves as the main plotline in the new book (spoiler alert: it's the "Cool-It" sports drink bottle).

The story is about unconditional love, says Shapiro, between a teen and his outcast inventor uncle, the book also explores the concept that "sometimes, the most unexpected people are the ones who end up changing the world for the better."

People should act on their ideas, Shapiro said: "You'll know if it's a great idea because the desire to bring it to life won't go away. And you don't need much to get started," as Shapiro creates at a very small desk in the corner of an upstairs room. With less time spent commuting because of the pandemic, he suggested, "There is no better time to act on your ideas and passions."

Shapiro's new website, www.treemouthbooks.com, has information about his books and purchase links. He is donating 100 percent of the profits from all three books to #SameHere: The Global Mental Health Movement.