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What's Outside of **Your Windows?**

f you just pulled back the curtains to get a better look outside, good; hold that thought. We will be coming back to those windows in a moment.

I was actually talking about the kind of Windows with a capital W. This is a family of operating systems that you probably have on your computer. (And to those of you with a Mac and no Windows, I applaud you for using a different OS that I never could get the hang of.)

For a little over a year, I have been experiencing a large part of life through Windows. That's where I get my news (I don't have a television!), interact with people through Zoom, and Google important stuff like what's the average weight gain during the pandemic?

But, deep down inside, I always knew that the real part of life was happening outside of my other windows (as I pull back my curtains).

While Windows has connected us to the world during this time of separation, our Nutley community has found ways to safely interact with people in meaningful ways.

The Castillo family, featured on our cover, created the Loopy Ultra to help stock the food pantry at Holy Family Church. Since races were canceled during the pandemic, including what would have been Fabian's first 50-miler, he brought the race here and ran 100 laps around Hawthorne Ave. and Daily Ave. while food donations were dropped off.

Nutley's Relay for Life held a fundraiser at Hyssop Beauty Apothecary that promoted love, beauty, and harmony. The theme this year is "Hope Prevails" and that is such a wonderful thought to embrace at this time in history.

Nutley's talented little artists show off their newest masterpieces in the Kids Corner feature. I think it's special that they share their creations with family, friends, and all of us in the magazine. Expressing yourself through art benefits both the artist and the audience and is a great way to connect with people. (Yes, even adults can do this. This may be the perfect time to resume those artistic hobbies!)

Isn't it comforting to see that the non-virtual view outside of our Windows is still there waiting for us to resume life on a more normal basis?

And for those other windows, we can look through the glass to find some amazing things. David Wilson has aerial acrobatics, concerts, life and death struggles, trapeze artists, and Air Force-like dogfights right outside his windows. Want to find out more? Read his article; your windows may never look the same again!

Enjoy this issue and keep looking for that time when we will go back to our old operating system of handshakes, hugs, and mask-less smiles.

Joyce Corey Content Coordinator



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LIGRESTI DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATES

Doctor Dominick J. Ligresti is a Medical Doctor who is a Board Certified Dermatologist (which is the highest degree in medicine and dermatology). He is also an Adjunct Professor of Dermatology and Clinic Chief at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in NYC. He teaches medical doctors from Hackensack University Hospital. He successfully treats all skin diseases for adult and pediatric

patients, including advanced painless allergy testing. Ligresti Dermatology Associates is a full service dermatology practice including cosmetic dermatology for antiaging like: Restylane fillers, Botox/Dysport, Chemical Peels and Microdermabrasion. The office is located at 175 Franklin Ave. Nutley.



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February 2021 Single Family Homes

PROPERTY ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
125 Satterthwaite Ave	\$625,000	\$600,000	67
20 White Ter	\$434,900	\$415,000	74
98 Brookfield Ave	\$485,000	\$418,000	39
35 Passaic Ave	\$379,900	\$385,000	19
82 Ohlson Ave	\$520,000	\$520,000	43
24 Raymond Ave	\$399,000	\$485,000	14
19 White Ter	\$399,993	\$420,000	33
106 Beech St	\$625,000	\$615,000	27
107 Mountainview Ave	\$350,000	\$390,000	49
89 Hay Ave	\$325,000	\$330,000	20
18 Myrtle Ave	\$599,500	\$555,000	38
69 Hastings Ave	\$385,900	\$397,300	12
103 Mckinley St	\$320,000	\$338,000	12
126 Cedar St	\$405,000	\$425,000	13
45 Montclair Ave	\$399,999	\$410,000	10
95 Brookfield Ave	\$229,000	\$281,100	31
47 Highfield Ln	\$439,000	\$467,000	12
94 Hay Ave	\$369,000	\$365,000	7
264 Hillside Ave	\$400,000	\$425,000	21
54 Clement St	\$529,000	\$550,000	8





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Putting the Fun in Family Fitness!

By Joyce Corey Photograph by Randall Kenneth Photography

f you have ever wondered if fun and fitness go together, the Castillo family – Fabian, Liz, Mia, and Eva – will show you how it's done. These Nutley neighbors have literally taken their exercise program to the streets, not only to maintain a healthy lifestyle, but to make a positive impact within the community.

It seems perfectly natural that when Fabian and Liz first met, they ran into each other.

"We met in late 2004 in a meant-to-be type of meeting as both of our plans changed that day and caused our paths to cross at a time in our lives that was right," Liz explains.

This serendipitous meeting led to a wedding in 2007.

"We were married at St. John the Evangelist in Bergenfield, New Jersey," Liz said.

Today, they are the happy parents of two daughters, Mia (12) and Eva (10).

Motherhood brought several changes to Liz's life, all of which benefited the family.

"I had graduated from Montclair State University in 2005 and then I worked in the city for a few years as an underwriter for a funding company," she said. "After the company closed, I found out I was pregnant. It was a blessing in disguise. It allowed me to not only be able to stay at home to raise my kids but also to take care of my mother who was diagnosed with Parkinson's. She has been living with us for 13 years."

Liz currently works part time at Fleet Feet in Montclair which she considers "her home away from home."

Fabian's early education started right here in Nutley.

"I attended St. Mary's Grammar School and was in the first graduating class from Good Shepherd Academy," he said. "I then attended Queen of Peace High School and after graduating, joined the United States Marine Corps. Right now, I am working as a project executive for a high-end residential construction company in Manhattan."

But somewhere between college and parenthood, this couple decided to make fitness a way of life.

Both Liz and Fabian have logged many miles in endurance events and each of them has a set of accomplishments that reflect their dedication.

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Fabian ran the 'Loopy Ultra', 50 miles around their block for charity. The whole family joined him for his last victory lap!

"We both started doing Tough Mudders about eight years ago," Liz said. "From there it escalated to Spartans and many, many road races."

Tough Mudders challenges people to step out of their comfort zone while stretching both their physical and mental limits. It isn't a race or based on results; it's an endurance event series in which participants attempt 10-mile-long obstacle courses.

"My first marathon was the NYC Marathon in 2019," she said. "In 2020, I ran it virtually. I have completed over 13 half marathons and numerous other races, including Nutley's Chamber of Commerce 5K where I placed first in my age group. I also mentor running classes at Fleet Feet Montclair. It was at Fleet Feet that my passion for running started."

Fabian has also competed and completed several types of events.

"I finished a full-distance Ironman, a 50-mile solo run, all levels of Triathlon courses, and ran distances from marathons to 5Ks," he said.

But perhaps his most notable event happened right here in town during the pandemic.

"Since all races were canceled because of COVID-19, including the Dirty German

Endurance Fest, in which I was supposed to complete my first 50-miler, I was looking to find a way to involve the community safely while also helping those in need," he said. "So, I decided to run the 50 miles around our block. That's right! It was about 100 laps around Hawthorne Ave. and Daily Ave. We called it the Loopy Ultra. We asked our running friends for their support and held a food drive for Holy Family's food pantry which needed much help during the pandemic."

"We had many friends who came to support Fabian," Liz said. "They ran loops around our block with him or dropped off food and brought donations. By the time he finished the 50 miles, our living room was filled with donated items! It was incredible and truly humbling to see the generosity of everyone."

To commemorate this event, Liz had a finisher medal made for him at Pretty Handy.

"But that wasn't the only great thing to come out of this pandemic," Liz added. "Fabian decided to get the know



Mia and Eva have been following in their parents' running shoes!

Five Things the Castillo Family **Loves About Nutley**

- 1. Friendly neighborhood
- 2. Beautiful parks to run through
- 3. Great schools
- 4. Diverse community
- **5.** Easy commute to NYC

the town just a little better and ran every street in Nutley while raising money for a youth program for better meals in schools."

Daughters Mia and Eva have been following in their parents' running shoes by participating in several local events that promote fitness and fun.

"Both girls have been involved in Nutley's Girls on the Run," Liz said. "This is a great program that helps girls gain confidence and trains them for a 5K. Mia played soccer on the recreation department's team (Fabian was their coach) and is interested in many things such as art and music. She plays the trumpet in the school band. Eva was on the town's softball and basketball teams (Fabian coached both!) and is interested in science and music as well. She plays violin."

And just like their father, the pandemic didn't stop them from being active.

"Every week during the summer, the three of us hit a local trail," Liz said. "It was great to get outside safely and enjoy nature. Perhaps we wouldn't have done this otherwise, but it was something positive that came out of these dark times."

Another positive in the Castillo home was the addition of a Bernedoodle puppy

named Jax. She joins an anole lizard named Hei Hei whom the family got from the Nutley High School fair two years ago.

While fitness is undoubtedly the family's passion, the benefits everyone in the family receives are not only physical.

"If there is one thing that running has taught us is that we all can do truly amazing things," Liz said. "It is mainly about your mindset. Even when you think you can't keep going, your mind pushes you to do what you once thought was impossible. Hard work, perseverance, and determination are how you can achieve great things in life!"

With thoughts like that running through the minds of Fabian, Liz, Mia, and Eva Castillo, it's easy to see that these Nutley Neighbors are on a course of successful living. ■

We are always looking for fascinating residents to feature in Nutley Neighbors. If you are interested in being included or would like to nominate one of your neighbors please email jcorey@bestversionmedia.com.

Adopt Us! Submitted by Yellow Brick Road Rescue NJ

eet Salty! Salty is a 1-year-old female. She is very sweet once she warms up to you, but she will need a patient family willing to give her that time. She had babies and they are all ready for adoption and now mamma needs her home too! She gets along with other cats but we're unsure about dogs. No young kids since she will need time to warm up. She is microchipped, FIV/FeLV negative, stool tested negative, dewormed, UTD on vaccines, and spayed. \$100 adoption fee and application apply.

To apply for Salty visit www.yellowbrickroadrescuenj.com/ cat-adoption-application/ or email us at yellowbrickroadnj@ gmail.com



Submitted by Jersey Pits Rescue Inc

hubbs is an adorable little bulldog guy in need of a place to crash. He is about a year old and weighs under 40 pounds. This little gremlin is just as sweet as pie!!

Our local shelter partner reached out to us about him

because he needs some help. He is sometimes dribbling urine and having trouble controlling his bowels. We will be running diagnostics to see what the cause of this may be. For now, he is happy to waddle around in a diaper to prevent any accidents indoors. We do not know if this is something that can be fixed or if he will need a diaper indefinitely.

Chubbs absolutely adores other dogs and would be incredibly grateful if someone could open their heart and home to him. Fostering is completely free! We cover all medical costs and provide all supplies. If you're interested in helping Chubbs, please apply today at www.jerseypitsrescue.com. If we already have your app, please email us at jerseypitsrescue@ amail.com.





Thomas Donohoe Receives Stage Management Excellence Award By Joyce Corey

t this year's annual gathering at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), Thomas Donohoe received the Stage Management Excellence Award. This yearly conference is an event that college theatre majors look forward to since they can participate in workshops, learn from a variety of professionals, and have an opportunity to showcase their work.

Held virtually from January 11-15, this event included everything that has come to be expected from past in-person festivals.

For Thomas Donohoe, this year's conference held special significance. As a theatre major at Ramapo College, his department participated in the KCACTF Region 2 event and his prompt book received national recognition.

"One of the activities at the festival is the DTM Expo, where design, technology, and management students present their portfolios and projects from productions they

have worked on,"
he explains. "I am
a stage manager
and submitted my
prompt book from
a play that we produced last year."
A prompt book
contains the information necessary

to create a theat-

rical production

from the ground

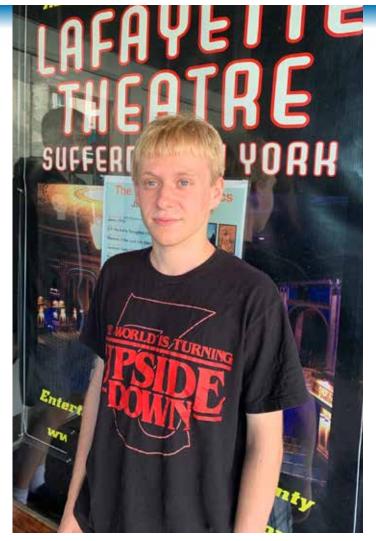
up. Creating and maintaining this book is one of the stage manager's most important tasks since it contains everything pertaining to the production, like blocking notes, all technical cues, and any changes that have been made.

"At the festival, students can submit their work which is on display for all attendees to see," Thomas said. "The next step is an interview and feedback sessions where you present and discuss your work with professionals. At the end of the week, different awards are given out based on their decisions."

Thomas received the Stage Management Excellence Award, which is the highest recognition a student can get from their region.

"Usually, this means you are invited to the national festival in Washington DC, but that is on hold for the time being," Thomas said.

At this year's festival, his work as a stage manager for



Thomas Donohoe is a theatre major at Ramapo College.

Baltimore, a virtual play held this past fall, was chosen to be shown as an invited production. He also received a certificate of merit for this work.

Thomas Donohoe will be graduating this spring and plans to pursue theatre work professionally. These awards and national recognition at KCACTF confirm his performance in this field and foreshadow his success.

His *Nutley Neighbors* will be sitting in the front row ready to applaud and cheer! ■



2020 Royal Dragonfly Book Award Winners **Announced**

Submitted by Joyce Corey

lene Dudek, Nutley's own children's author, received a well-deserved award for her book, Little Ant & the Epic Battle.

Story Monsters LLC announced the winners of the 2020 Royal Dragonfly Book Awards. This annual global

competition honors excellence in all types of literature and book marketing, recognizing a comprehensive list of genres in 71 categories-from Pets to Poetry and LGBT to STEM.

Little Ant & the Epic Battle by Ilene Dudek was awarded honorable mention in the Picture Books 6 & Older category. This colorful picture book features a lovable little ant



and his battle against an army of angry germs. Inspired by the pandemic, this modern-day fairy tale explains coronavirus in a way that children can understand: villains attack, battles are fought, and heroes emerge. In the end, the little ant tries to accomplish what others could not-to defeat the virus and save the world.

"This year's judges had a challenging task as they reviewed and selected winners in more than 70 book and marketing categories, from Best Cover Design and Book Trailers to Humor and Graphic Novels," said Linda F.

Radke, president of Story Monsters LLC. "We are deeply honored by the huge number of submissions we received from all around the world and wish all of our award-winning authors a very sincere congratulations." ■

To learn more about Ilene Dudek and her Little Ant children's series, please visit www.littleantstories.com







Neighborhood News

Nutley's 15th Relay for Life

By Denise Costantino and Joyce Corey

ove, beauty, and harmony is warming the soul and lighting hope around town for Nutley's 15th Relay for Life.

A special artistic collaboration between Denise Costantino and Diane DeBiasi

recently led to the creation of limited-edition pieces for this fundraiser. Held at Hyssop Beauty Apothecary, Nutley's Relay for Life raised funds to further the American Cancer Society's continued research for a cure and to help

those affected by cancer.

Denise Costantino, a local Nutley artist, recently completed a garden themed mural for Hyssop Beauty Apothecary. Inspired by the illustrated botanicals, she created Rose Garden Intention tea light glass holders.

"Each votive is one-of-a-kind and I hope they warm the soul and light hope in all who see them," Denise said.

The artist used traditional gilding methods, hand leafed in gold, silver, copper, and bronze on the glass, then hand painted each one.

Hopeful Butterfly and Cheerful Cupid crystal artworks were created by Diane DeBiasi, a reiki energy practitioner, life coach, and artist. Every piece was created with the intention to embrace hope, give inner peace, and release positive energies to those caregivers, cancer survivors, and all who are battling cancer.

Heather Soto, Nutley's Relay Event Lead, shared the significance of the theme for



Mary Spinelli, Heather Soto, Denise Costantino, Diane DeBiasi

this 15th year.

"Hope Prevails is so meaningful for 2021 because hope never stops," Heather said. "I am so happy to work with this collaboration of great women.

Mary Spinelli, the owner of Hyssop Beauty Apothecary, has been incredibly supportive and signed up her HB team in the fall of 2020," Heather said. "She also happily offered her location, at 674 Bloomfield Avenue in Nutley, to host this beautiful pop-up event. A portion of every sale from the tea lights, butterfly, or cherub will go directly to the American Cancer Society."

Heather reminds everyone to "mark your calendars for a 'Walk Through the Park' on May 21, 2021, with a rain date of May 22, from 8-10pm at Memorial Park, subject to the approval of Mayor Mauro G. Tucci and the American Cancer Society." ■

To stay up to date on fundraisers and events, visit their website at www.relayforlife.org/NutleyNJ.



Artist, Denise Costantino, and her botanical mural



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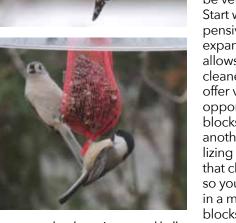
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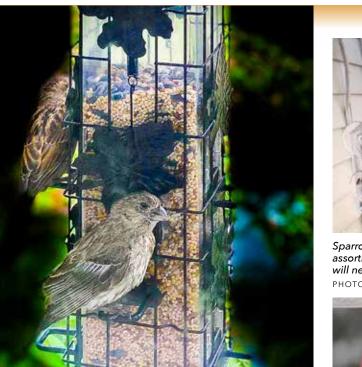
Community



freezing. Feeders can vary greatly in price and be very bird specific. Start with simple inexpensive feeders and expand as your budget allows. They should be cleaned regularly and offer various perching opportunities. Seed blocks or seed bells are another method utilizing a binding agent that clumps the seed so you can hang it in a mesh bag. Suet blocks are a great offering during cold spells. Once you commence feeding, continuing through the harsh



Downy woodpecker enjoys a seed bell



Do Birds of a Feather Flock Together? By David Wilson

ow would you like to see aerial acrobatics, concerts, nature's hierarchy, life and death struggles, trapeze artists, and Air Force-like dogfights right outside your windows? Mythical characters, Icarus and Daedalus, were so inspired by our avian friends they made wings for an illfated attempt to flee Crete. Author William Turner's writings in 1545 provided this article's title. Starting a wild bird feeding program can be educational and entertaining for everyone.

Locating the feeder is paramount in giving you the best view and providing safety for the birds. For you, a spot that is visible while eating, relaxing, or doing kitchen chores is a good place to start. For the birds, an open sunny area with some nearby shelter from predators and weather. The feeding station can be pole mounted or simple branch hangers. Location should be easily accessible for refilling during snowstorms. Nearby windows should have sun catchers or other bird protection methods, as birds do not see windows as we do and are often injured or killed trying to fly through the glass. Bird droppings should be considered if locating near the house, car, or a window.

The seed selection will be based on the types of birds you want to attract. Black oil and striped sunflower, thistle, pumpkin, and safflower are good seeds to attract songbirds. Inexpensive seed mixes that include millet, milo, and corn will make a mess and attract rodents as the birds throw these seeds to the ground. Seed hearts or shelled seeds appear expensive, but you get all eatable product without the mess of shells beneath the feeder, important if feeding near a deck, sidewalk, or swimming pool. Fresh seed should be stored in metal containers to protect from mice and pantry moths.



Sparrows enjoy a good seed assortment (left). Voracious squirrels will need to be deterred (above). PHOTOS COURTESY LINDA BUSET





(middle). Cousins tufted titmouse and chickadee meet for a meal (above). PHOTOS COURTESY JOEYBEETV.COM

weather will ensure the birds have a reliable food source. Squirrels and other rodents must be blocked with baffles or guards so as not to have your feeders destroyed and all the seed consumed in minutes. Follow organic practices for your lawn and garden to keep the area poison-free.

Enjoy the cardinals, blue jays, wrens, sparrows, finches, mockingbirds, nuthatches, juncos, chickadees, woodpeckers, and tufted titmice that will entertain you for hours and help answer the title question.

"Tomorrow the birds will sing. Be brave. Face life." -Charlie Chaplin ■

David Wilson is the author of Fire in Our Lives, a book containing stories, experiences, and advice from his forty-year career in public safety. Available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Google Play.

Celebrating National Library Week Welcome to Your Library April 4-10, 2021

Submitted by Jeanne Sylvester, Supervising Librarian

ational Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role that libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities. This year's theme is *Welcome to Your Library*, which pro-

motes the idea that libraries extend further than just their walls and buildings, and that everyone is welcome to use their services. Whether people visit in person or virtually, libraries offer opportunities for learning, exploration, and enrichment through access to technology, multimedia content, educational programs, and more!

During the pandemic, the Nutley Public Library has adapted its resources, policies, and procedures to meet the changing needs of the local community. Zoom meetings let us offer virtual programs such as story times for kids, local history and crafting programs for adults, Maker workshops for teens, and healthy eating lectures and cooking demonstrations for all ages. The weekly Take and Make DIY craft kits we provide encourage families to learn and share together.

To meet the rising need for e-materials during the pandemic, the Nutley Public Library has purchased several digital resources with content suitable for all ages.

Hoopla is an all-in-one media service where you can browse over 700,000 titles in six different formats—audio-

books, eBooks, comics/graphic novels, full music albums, movies, and TV, all available for instant access.

Kanopy, a video-streaming platform has just been added. You can choose from a selection of over 30,000 titles ranging from documentaries, classic and indie

films, and The Great Courses. There are titles for all ages.

The World Book Online is now available and offers a direct link to all World Book Branches; Kids, Student, Advanced, Early Learning, and Timelines with many enhanced reference tools.

During National Library Week, we have exciting and unique programs planned for all ages, as well as new giveaways for our library patrons.

Welcome to your Nutley Public Library! ■

For further information visit www.nutleypubliclibrary.org



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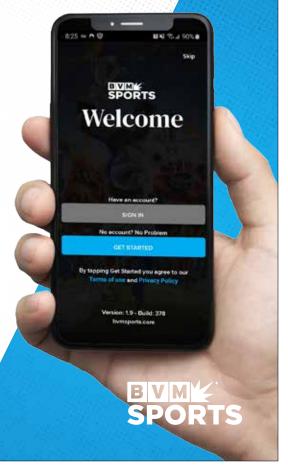


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Autism Awareness Month: Rising Up

By Kimberley A. Donohoe

Awareness Acceptance Tolerance Inclusivity Celebration of Diversity



These are the core values a community must embrace so people on the autism spectrum can, not only get by, but thrive. Becoming a productive member of society is something we all desire, for ourselves, for our children, and for all our family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, peers, and employees that make up our community. Nutley has extended its outreach to better enable young adults on the autism spectrum to take their place in society, despite obstacles such as COVID restrictions, navigating virtual learning, and a host of other daily issues.

When Nutley started its autism program, the first children registered were just 5 and 6 years old. Those students are now graduating from high school and preparing for further education and the workforce, just like their same age peers. The Riise Program at Nutley High School, created for students ages 18 to 22, is just one of many examples of how our town is making a difference and embracing the philosophy of continued placement of these students into environments with their typical peers; whether in social activities, in the workplace, or in higher education settings.

The Riise Program fosters success through meaningful interactions and internships, where these students explore many career choices and opportunities to discover their passions. It is not a pencil and notebook setting; it is where these students master workplace skills such as computer literacy, improved focus, teamwork, virtual meeting etiquette, interview skills, and so much more.

This young adult population is, as of yet, an untapped, detail-oriented workforce. They are sharpening their focus and many of them thrive on routine and reliability, exceling in jobs that an employer might otherwise struggle to keep filled. There are young adults rising up all over this town and they are ready to face and embrace the new ways we perform our work. They have been in training for this long before COVID-19 was even a word in our vocabulary, and now, thanks to the support of so many in education and in the town, others will have to train to keep up with them! They are happy to be on time and productive members of society.

Awareness, acceptance, tolerance, inclusivity, and the celebration of diversity.

Think about it. ■

Kids Corner

Fresh Fun Art for the New Season's Start

By Michelle Palmer

pring is in the air and so is all the fresh talent of Nutley's children. These young minds are blooming, and it is absolutely refreshing to see all the positivity their projects bring us.



Oscar's creations

make rockets, buildings, houses, and many more structures. His work is very impressive!

Rosemary, age 3, created this adorable coloring page of Daniel Tiger for her mom's office when she returned to work. The art will hold a special place in her mom's heart. The picture shows Daniel taking very good care of his little plush toy named Tigey. Just like in the picture, we can feel the love and happiness Rosemary felt giving this to her mom.

Jack, age 5, discovered his love for SpongeBob during quarantine and was inspired to draw his favorite characters. The drawing brought a smile to his



Kenzie sharing a smile and her

Oscar, age 5, has overcome many challenges over the past few months while working very hard. Every day he continues to learn new skills that make his family so proud. He is a wonderful builder, and his imagination soars as he creates incredibly detailed construction pieces. He combines his Magformers of various colors and shapes to

Kenzie, age 3, uses all the colors in the rainbow to share some happiness here with her adorable artwork. She smiles

sketched this powerful char-

acter which shows so much

detail and effort. His artistic

he is of his work. This crea-

projects Jalen has made.

creative.

ability to create such detailed

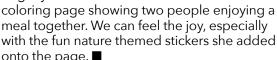
cartoons highlight how proud

ture is one of the many unique

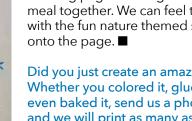
Drawing has been a fun way

for him to relax while getting

brightly with her



Jalen's impressive sketch







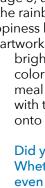
colorful coloring page



Rosemary's artwork for mom

characters come to life on paper. This young artist can look back at this time as a memory of talents he explored and family togetherness.

Jalen, age 11, dedicates a lot of his time to drawing. He loves sharing his artwork with friends and family. He



Jack's drawing of his favorite characters

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1950: When a Trip to the Circus Was the Biggest Day in a Nutley Kid's Life By Barry Lenson, Art Director, Nutley Museum

'hen kids like me were growing up in Nutley in the 1950s, there were plenty of events we looked forward to, right in our own town. There were fireworks on the Fourth of July in the Oval, just as there are today. There were parades and the Thanksgiving Day football game, and many more special events.

But every now and then, many of us were treated to something exciting that took place across the river in New York City. I am referring to the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, traditionally held in Madison Square Garden. The history books report that way back in 1907, that circus made the Garden its official indoor venue in New York. The circus continued to delight people until it ceased operations in 2017.

A KID'S TRIP TO THE CIRCUS

Back around 1950, there was a certain customary way for a kid to go to the circus. In my house, and in my friends', the custom was that an aunt, uncle, or a grandparent would call your parents and invite you. Your parents always agreed because it would be such a big adventure for you, and possibly because having you out of the house for a day ... well, it couldn't hurt.

It happened more than once in our house. My aunt Helen from Caldwell, my mom's younger sister, would call

and invite either my older brother David or me to go to the circus. On the day of the event, either Dave or I would put on "nice" pants and even a sports jacket and wait for her to arrive. Even though the Lincoln Tunnel had been built a decade earlier in 1937, my recollection was that we would somehow end up taking the Hoboken "Tubes" (now called the PATH Train) into Manhattan, and then walk up to the old Garden on 34th Street.

It was so exciting to arrive. The experience began when you got a box of peanuts in their shells (Aunt Helen spent the whole day buying stuff for us), which you fed to elephants who were lined up in an arcade area. They stuck out their trunks and inhaled the nuts right out of your hand. Lions and tigers were on view too, but in cages farther away. The next thing that my aunt bought was a box



David, Barry's big brother, and Aunt Helen about to leave the house for a day at the circus, 1949 (top). David Lenson waiting for the train to the circus, 1949 (bottom).

of Cracker Jack which was for us, not for the elephants. I remember it all - the animal acts, the trapeze artists, the ringmaster, the clowns with their big floppy shoes. I remember the aroma of the sawdust that covered the floors, and the distant smell of elephants.

Finally, and somewhat sadly, the performance came to an end. But there were still more things to buy. I always came home with a pennant that had the circus's name brightly printed on it. And one year, I somehow influenced Aunt Helen to buy me one of the little tan chameleons that were on sale, each peering out somewhat

mournfully from a cellophane window in its little cardboard box. (You also had to buy a small box of dried dead flies to feed to your chameleon when you got

My mom was somewhat grumpy when I arrived home with my chameleon and dried flies. I was so excited. Aunt Helen left for Caldwell, leaving Mom to figure out how to keep my chameleon alive. My dad made a little wooden box to keep him in.

But for a little kid, a trip to the circus made for a big adventure, and a perfect day. If you got to go there too, I know you will share one of my most cherished childhood memories. ■

The Nutley Historical Society is looking forward to welcoming you and your family back to the Nutley Museum soon! For more information, visit www.nutleyhistoricalsociety.org



EVENTS CALENDAR APRIL 2021

At the time this magazine went to print, all event times and locations were accurate, but please check event websites for the most current information. Some events may have been postponed or canceled.

Apr. I, Thurs.

Pregnancy Support Group

@virtual event from Clara Maass Medical Center

Being pregnant is amazing – and at times, amazingly stressful. Pregnancy can leave you with a lot of questions. This is especially true with the unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Led by maternal health experts, this online community is a supportive and inclusive space to meet other pregnant women, ask questions, and form meaningful connections. Time: 12-1pm For more information and to

register visit the Clara Maass Medical Center Calendar at www. rwjbh.org/events/

Apr. 3, 10, Sat.

All Recovery Meeting (Online) @virtual event from Clara Maass Medical Center

Come with a purpose, leave with a plan. All Recovery Meetings are non-denominational and offer an opportunity to focus on the hope found in recovery. Recovery does not happen alone. Join this group and connect with others who are initiating and maintaining a recovery lifestyle. All Recovery Meetings are facilitated by trained and certified IFPR Peer Recovery Specialists and provide social support for those seeking or maintaining recovery, as well as family members, friends, and supporters of those who have been influenced by substance use. Time: 12-1:30pm

For more information, other dates and times, and meeting links, visit the Clara Maass Medical Center event calendar at www.rwjbh.org/events/

Apr. 5-9, Mon.-Fri.

April Earth Month Celebration 2021 - Eco Art and Recycled

Paper Making

@Essex County Environmental Center, 62 I-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland

This event is part of the April Earth Day activities. All programs are held completely outside. Social distancing and masks required. Time: 4-5pm

For more information about the entire month of activities, visit the website: https://www. essexcountyparks.org/_media/_ data/EssexResource/ecec-earthmonth-2021.pdf

Apr. 5, Mon.

"VIRTUAL" DISH! The Monday Night Cookbook Club

@virtual event from Nutley Public Library

Members will choose, prepare at home, and present a DISH! from a selected cookbook. Then, gather online to discuss each other's recipes, cooking techniques, and share stories. Online registration is required. Once registered, a cookbook will be checked out to you. Pick up the book at the library through contact-free door side

service or inside at the Circulation Desk.

Time: 7pm

To register visit www. nutleypubliclibrary.org/dishcookbook-club/

For more information contact Michelle Albert at michelle.albert@ nutley.bccls.org or 973-667-0405 ext. 2638.

Apr. 6, 20, Tue.

Board of Commissioners Meeting

@virtual event

The regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Commissioners will take place via Zoom webinar for 2021.

Time: 7pm

For more information visit www.nutleynj.org/board-ofcommissioners

Apr. 6, Tue.

Garden Gems of the Garden State

@virtual event from Nutley Public

Master Gardener Mary Jo Sichak will guide viewers through a virtual



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Time: 7-8pm For more information and to register visit www. nutleypubliclibrary.org/garden/

Apr. 7, 21, Wed., Apr. 8, 22, Thurs.

Food Pantry Distribution

@Nutley Family Service Bureau, 169 Chestnut St.

For information or to schedule an eligibility appointment call 973-667-1884. All calls and appointments are confidential.

Time: 2-5pm Wed., 10am-1pm Thurs.

For more information visit www. nutleyfamily.org/food-pantry/

Apr. 7, Wed.

Weight Loss Support Group

@virtual event from Clara Maass Medical Center

You're not in it alone, and perhaps

one of the most important aspects of a comprehensive weight loss surgery program is the aftersurgery support group. Attending a support group allows you to share your own personal experiences in open discussion and enables you to participate with your peers who are going through a similar situation. The support group addresses topics to assist you along your weight loss journey including snacking, meal portions, and selfesteem, to name just a few. Time: 6:30-7:30pm For more information and to register visit the Clara Maass

rwjbh.org/events/ Apr. 10, Sat.

Nutley Amateur Circus with John Simko

@virtual event Celebrate National Library Week with Nutley Museum Director, John

Medical Center Calendar at www.

Simko, who will discuss Nutley's Amateur Circus. Time: 2-3:30pm For more information and to register visit: https://bccls.libcal.com/ event/7576013

Арг. 12-16, Mon.-Fri.

April Earth Month Celebration 2021 – Nature Journaling and Citizen Science

@Essex County Environmental Center, 62 I - B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland Time: 4-5pm https://www.essexcountyparks.

https://www.essex.countyparks. org/facilities/environmental-center/ calendar/april-earth-monthcelebration-202 I -nature-journalingcitizen-science

Apr. 19-23, Mon.-Fri.

April Earth Month Celebration 2021 – Frog Pond Fun Ecology @Essex County Environmental Center, 621-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland Time: 4-5pm https://www.essexcountyparks. org/facilities/environmental-center/ calendar/april-earth-monthcelebration-2021-frog-pond-funecology

Apr. 26-30, Mon.-Fri.

April Earth Month Celebration 2021 – Wild Edible Plant Walks

@Essex County Environmental Center, 62 I-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland

Time: 4-5pm

https://www.essexcountyparks. org/facilities/environmental-center/ calendar/april-earth-monthactivities-wild-edible-plant-walks



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