

AUGUST 2017

A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

NUTLEY NEIGHBORS



**Dog Days Are
Every Day at the
Johnson Home**



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Salvatore Cocco, Jr. CLU has been with AXA Advisors, LLC since 1995 and has practiced as a generalist in all disciplines of the financial planning services including Investment Planning, Retirement Planning, College Savings, and Insurance. He is a 1977 graduate of Seton Hall University and was inducted into their Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame.

Michael S. Cocco, CFP®, ChFC® is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional with AXA Advisors, LLC where he provides Financial Planning, Investment Advice, and Insurance Planning for his clients. Mike is a graduate of Penn State University and a lifelong Nutley resident.



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Dr. Steven Clarke is a nationally acclaimed chiropractic physician who has practiced in Nutley since 1983. He has had extensive experience with virtually every type of pain condition and has worked with tens of thousands of patients throughout the

tri-state area. He was elected and served as the state president of the chiropractic association for four consecutive years and has been a strong advocate of patient rights speaking in Trenton and Washington, DC. He was named New Jersey Chiropractor of the Year for 2006



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Mr. Garruto partnered with Joseph Calabria, another experienced Certified Civil Trial Attorney in 2011, forming Garruto & Calabria. The firm concentrates the practice to personal injury claims, involving any incident where one's negligence causes injury to another, as well as

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INVESTORS HOME MORTGAGE

Joe Isabella is a Certified Mortgage Planning Specialist (CMPS®). He has been with Investors Home Mortgage since 2010 and is a Circle of Excellence Award winner. Since joining Investors, Joe has helped many families in Nutley and the surrounding area with their home financing needs. He was born and raised in Nutley and still resides in his home town. He is a graduate of both Nutley High

School and Montclair State University.



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June 25.....	August 1
July 25.....	September 1
August 25.....	October 1
September 25.....	November 1
October 25.....	December 1

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Awww...it's August!

August is one of those in-between months. I love that's it is still summer but I know that the days of this wonderful season are drawing to a close. I can see September waving at me and calling me back to a more rigid schedule that doesn't include flip-flops and the sound of the ocean.

August is also known for "dog days," when the hot, sultry air is bit too stifling. But this month, I met Denis Johnson and his delightful doggies and their story put a whole new spin on dog days. Read the article and get to 'meet' the family, both the humans and the furry members. I'm sure the photos will bring a smile to everyone's faces.

There are a few other people you can meet in these pages as well. John J. Robertazzi is our hometown hero. He served in the army and received the Bronze Star and the Good Conduct medal. Our magazine is pleased to keep the memories of these heroes alive and well.

On the football playing field, we meet Hunter Lechthaler. He graduated Nutley High School in June and will be taking his exceptional football skills to college. It was always exciting to see him on the field and I'm sure his *Nutley Neighbors* will be watching him at the college level.

The Nutley Invitational Golf Tournament will be held in September and Jim Piro gave us some interesting information about this long-running and very charitable event. Then, Barry Lenson, from the Nutley Museum, takes us back in time to the original Yountakah Country Club and the golf greats who played there. It kind of made me want to take up this sport!

And I want to encourage you to read Dr. Shannon DiCarlo's article about Chinese Medicine. She is running a very compassionate contest and will tell you all about it. Feel free to spread the word among your family and friends.

Enjoy this issue and the month of August!



Joyce Handzo,
Content Coordinator



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Barbara
and Denis

Dog Days Are Every Day at the Johnson Home

By Joyce Handzo

Feature Story Sponsored by Pro Staff Institute of Physical Therapy

Some people take their dogs for a walk and other people, like Denis Johnson, take a walk and find their dream dog. When Denis met Marty, a neighborhood Norwich Terrier, little did he realize that one day his Nutley home would have a place for the water bowl of his own Norwich Terrier, who would also be a distinguished AKC champion.

Denis and Barbara have lived in this town for 43 years. Their daughter, Tara Spinelli, grew up here and now lives three blocks away with her two children. Oh, and let's not forget the Norwich Terriers that Denis is breeding, raising, and showing.

Denis fills us in on some Johnson family history. "Barbara and I met playing tennis and we were married in 1974. Barbara graduated from Nutley High School and spent her career of 30 years as the president of Waga & Spinelli, a court reporting firm. She was a gold medal award-winning reporter. Some of her most interesting cases were the MGM fire case and the asbestosis cases nationwide. She traveled extensively living for months in Paris, London, Venice, Rome, Puerto Rico, and San Francisco."

Yet, after her court reporting career, Barbara returned to her first love, acting. "She has appeared in several productions including films, TV series, commercials, and voice-overs. She is the voice of "The Wicked Witch of the West" in Disney's animatronic commemorating the 50-year anniversary of "The Wizard of Oz."

Barbara is also a member of Nutley Tennis Club, and still plays tennis most days at where she captains the October League team.

Denis has high praise for the Nutley school system and teachers. "Miranda, our granddaughter, will be a senior at NHS in the fall. She is an AP student, member of the Chamber Singers and Jazz Lab, an accomplished pianist, and officer of Women's Activism Club. Our grandson Kai, who will be a freshman at NHS in the fall, is an honors student, baseball player, and member of Concert Choir, Concert Band, and Jazz Band who will also play in the NHS Marching Band." Their interest and accomplishments in music are thanks to the Nutley Music Department and Nutley School of Music. Tara is an organizer of grant-funded Yantacaw Walks, Walker Walks, and Nutley Pace Car. As a member of Greenutley, she supports the Nutley

Farmers Market, running the weekly Market Walk & Talk, and is also on the board of Friends of Nutley Singers. She is a communications strategist at YWCA Bergen County. Her husband Jorge is a software engineer at Morgan Stanley, and an active supporter of local not-for-profits such as Nutley Educational Foundation, Academic Booster Club, and Nutley Family Service Bureau.

Denis, who has a Ph.D. in American History from Rutgers University, might seem familiar to some students since he occasionally teaches at the high school and middle school as a substitute. He said, "I taught college for 20 years, Rutgers, Felician College, Montclair State, then started a new career as a self-employed HR consultant."

He plays golf—very well. He is a scratch senior golfer and qualified for the USGA Senior Amateur 2005 and 2014. He also captured the inaugural Essex County Senior Amateur, and has won the Bergen County Senior Amateur 6 times. He said, "I served as president of the Eastern Seniors Golf Association from 2010 to 2014, and a member of the Society of Seniors National golf



ET Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club win

organization. But after being greeted by a Norwich Terrier, I cut down my golf a bit and took up showing my dog Nigel, a grandson of the 1994 Best in Show winner of The Westminster Kennel Club Show, as a favor to his breeder. Now, I groom and show him and his daughter, Frabjous E.T. Elizabeth Taylor."

When still a puppy, Elizabeth Taylor, began her show career with four group wins. She is 15 months old now and is about a third of the way to her championship. Her sister, Zsa-Zsa lives in Finland and has already won a few shows. Also sharing the Johnson home is E.T.'s mother, "CH Littlefield Tesoro (Tess)

Prezioso, ThD," an AKC champion, and the recipient of the Norwich Terrier Club of America's "Ambassador of the Year" award for her therapy work.

Denis described his early recollections of Nutley. "When I was a child growing up in Jersey City, we used to visit my aunt and uncle in Nutley. They lived at 162 Rutgers Place across the street from where our daughter now resides. It was the "country" back then. My uncle was an architect and built, among other buildings, Saint Mary's Church. There was ice skating in the winter at the bottom of the

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Rutgers Place at the ITT building, and small sailboats on the river near the waterfall in the U.N. Park.

Today the Johnson home is Norwich Terrier friendly.

Denis said, "My first Norwich 'GCH Ji-Ros Hotspur - Call Me Nigel' earned his AKC Grand Champion in 2015. We were ranked 3rd in the nation in 2016 among 'Owner Handled' Norwich Terriers. Norwich Terriers are the smallest 'working' terriers, and are described in the breed standard as, alert, curious, affectionate, gregarious and loyal. They are an absolute wonder and make you smile every day, and the Norwich "stink eye," when they are upset with you, is enough to melt the hardest heart."

And if you heard tiny barks coming from the house, it may have been the three new puppies born the week of the Westminster Show on February 5, 2017. Denis also currently serves as the president of the Garden State All Terrier Club and is an active member of the Norwich Terrier Club of America. Their vet is Dr. Crupi, who was featured in a past issue of *Nutley Neighbors*.

"Nigel and Tess have appeared on CBS New York, *The New York Times*, and *Vogue*. Nigel and I did a special feature for Fox News on Line at the 2017 Westminster



Kennel Club Show," Denis said. (video.foxnews.com/v/5323195369001/?#sp=show-clips)

While August is known for its "dog days," this is not a bad thing at the Johnson house but is all part of the fun of opening their hearts to Norwich Terriers. Who would have thought that when Denis

took a walk that day and met Marty, he would be adding another interesting chapter to the Johnson family history?



Things the Johnson Family Loves about Nutley

1. Schools
2. Parks
3. Diversity
4. Ethnic restaurants
5. Sunday Farmer's Market

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 jhandzo@bestversionmedia.com

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Cancer and Chinese Medicine: How Does It Work?

By Shannon DiCarlo

Do you know someone who has been diagnosed or is being treated for cancer and may benefit from Chinese Medicine? Please see the generous offer Dr. DiCarlo is making.

There are few sentences that have the power to terrify us as much as hearing, "You have cancer." Despite incredible leaps in modern medicine, there is still much that is unknown when the diagnosis is first given. People respond to medical treatment in a variety of ways, and it is important to remember that each individual case can present quite differently.

One of the beautiful strengths of Chinese Medicine, and a major factor in why I made a career change from the nursing profession to become a Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, is that we look at each patient from a completely individual perspective. There are no "cookie-cutter" treatments in what we do. For example, during my time directing the Acupuncture and Integrative Oncology



department at Mount Sinai Beth Israel in New York, I may have had ten patients in a row with nausea or fatigue from chemotherapy. Very often, I would have ten completely different acupuncture and Chinese Medicine plans of treatment. This is because the underlying factors that are the root cause of the way the body is handling chemotherapy or radiation treatment may be vastly different.

One of the questions that I get asked frequently is whether Chinese Medicine will cure cancer. I do not present to my patients that this is a cure. Rather, acupuncture and Chinese Medicine help the body process the prescribed treatment, allowing the body to respond to treatment in the most favorable way. Because it also addresses the side effects quite well, patients find that the quality of life during and after treatment is remarkably better.

I often see patients who have had a cancer diagnosis and treatment years before, yet still have issues related to either the diagnosis or the treatment. It is not uncommon to experience negative symptoms such as pain, fatigue, neuropathy, poor digestion and other issues well past treatment has ended. The good news is, it is never too late to resolve these issues and I see a great deal of progress made with patients who are years beyond treatment.

While many insurance plans do cover acupuncture, there are many that do not. While working at Mount Sinai, my program was grant funded. This was important because it allowed us to treat cancer patients at no charge.

Now that I am in private practice, I treat patients for a variety of illnesses and issues, including oncology. This specialty is one that is close to my heart, and each year I offer a program whereby a patient can be nominated for one month of treatment in my office at no cost.

If you or someone you know is battling a cancer diagnosis, or has undergone treatment and is still experiencing symptoms, feel free to nominate them. I work closely with a social worker who will select a patient who needs care to live a fuller, healthier life. Please submit a short essay on why you or a loved one would benefit to njnaturalfamilyhealth@gmail.com. The deadline for submission is October 1, 2017 and the patient who is selected will be contacted by October 15, 2017.

If you or someone you know would like more detailed information on how acupuncture and Chinese Medicine can assist those with a cancer diagnosis, feel free to contact my office.

New Jersey Natural Family Health

Dr. Shannon DiCarlo
RN LAc DAOM

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- On-site Herbal Pharmacy
- Nutrition and Lifestyle Counseling
- Auriculotherapy

Our goal at New Jersey Natural Family Health is simple:

to naturally relieve negative symptoms within the body, treat the underlying cause, and restore proper balance to maintain optimal health. Whether you are experiencing pain or other symptoms from a recent issue or a chronic illness, we can help. Combining her western medical knowledge with traditional Chinese Medicine, Dr. DiCarlo will develop a treatment plan to address any medical concern.

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New Jersey Natural Family Health offers unique natural healthcare strategies that will address both recent health issues and chronic disease. Dr. Shannon DiCarlo RN LAc DAOM utilizes her nursing background with her extensive experience in Chinese Medicine to develop an individualized treatment plan for each patient. Through acupuncture, Chinese Medicine therapies, and an on-site herbal dispensary, Dr. DiCarlo can restore true health to the body, mind, and spirit. Call her at (646) 422-9199 or visit the office at 366 Passaic Ave in Nutley.

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14 Cadmus St	\$529,900	4	3	2595
165 Whitford Ave	\$549,900	4	3	
12-14 Franklin Ave	\$549,900	8	4	
51 N Spring Garden Ave	\$578,000	4	3	
188 Hillside Ave	\$599,900	4	3	2230
52 Povershon Rd	\$599,900	4	3	2531
78 Yantacaw Pl	\$619,000	5	5	7700
46 Lake St	\$619,998	4	3	2392
57 Beech St	\$659,000	4	4	
88 Hillside Ave	\$699,900	4	4	
200 Nutley Ave	\$699,998	5	5	3242
388 High St	\$735,000	5	3	
158 Walnut St	\$749,900	4	4	
375 Chestnut St	\$769,000	4	4	
199 Rutgers Pl	\$849,900	4	3	
80 Howard Pl	\$849,900	5	4	
54 Brookfield Ave	\$859,000	6	5	3784

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Aug. 1, 15, Tue.**Board of Commissioners Meeting**

@Township of Nutley Municipal Building, Third (3rd) Floor, Commission Chambers, 1 Kennedy Drive

Time: 7:30 pm

Open to the public

www.nutleynj.org/board-of-commissioners

Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Tue.**Bridge**

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Drive

Time: 1-4pm

Cost: Free

www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/

Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Wed.**Wednesday Afternoon Knitters**

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Drive

Come share your love of knitting and crocheting with both beginning and experienced knitters. Meet fellow knitters, brush-up on your skills, and learn some new techniques. Please bring your own supplies.

Time: 1-3pm

Cost: Free

www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/

Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Wed.**Essex County Aerobic Exercise Program**

@Parks and Recreation Bldg., 44 Park Ave.

Time: 9:30am

To register or for more information: (973) 735-6228.

Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Wed.**Senior Bingo**

@Nutley Senior Citizen & Recreation Center (transportation

available)

Time: 12:30-3pm

For information concerning programs, please contact Linda Hamilton, Senior Citizen Coordinator at 973-284-4966.

Aug. 2, Wed.**Essex County Clerk Program**

@Recreation Department, 44 Park Ave.

On the first Wednesday of each month the Essex County Clerk's office is available at the Recreation Department for residents to obtain passports and Notary Public services.

Time: 2-8pm

For more information: www.nutleynj.org/recreation

Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Thurs.**ESL Classes**

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Drive

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

For more information about other class days and times, please contact the library.

www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/

Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25, Fri.**Old Guard Club**

@Nutley Senior Citizen & Recreation Department, 44 Park Ave.

Time: 9am

Cost: Free

For information concerning programs, please contact Linda Hamilton, Senior Citizen Coordinator at 973-284-4966.

Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27, Sun.**Nutley Farmer's Market**

@Municipal Parking Lot #1 The Nutley Farmers Market, established in 2009, features live

musical entertainment and a wide variety of fresh regionally-grown produce, as well as cut flowers, homemade cheese, dried fruit and fresh nuts, pickles, bread and more. The market helps New Jersey

family farmers, enables people to meet, talk to and ask questions of the person who grew their food, brings shoppers into our local business districts and is a great place to meet friends and neighbors.

Time: 9am-2pm

Cost: Free

For more information please contact the Department of Public Works at (973) 284-4959 or visit www.nutleynj.org/farmersmarket

Aug. 6, Sun.**Peach Party at the Farmer's Market**

@Municipal Parking Lot #1

Come down to the Farmer's Market for our annual party celebrating the Jersey Peach in conjunction with the NJ Peach Promotion Council.

Time: 9:00am-2:00pm

Cost: Free

For more information please contact the Department of Public Works at (973) 284-4959 or visit www.nutleynj.org

Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28, Mon.**Senior Art Program**

@Parks and Recreation Bldg., 44 Park Ave.

Time: 1-2:30pm

For information concerning programs, please contact Linda Hamilton, Senior Citizen Coordinator at 973-284-4966.

Aug. 7, Mon.**Monday Night Book Club**

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Drive

Time: 7-8pm

Cost: Free

www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/

Aug. 9, Wed.**Planning Board Meeting**

@Township of Nutley Municipal Building, Third (3rd) Floor, Commission Chambers, 1 Kennedy Drive

Time: 7pm

Open to the public

www.nutleynj.org/meeting-schedules

Aug. 13, Sun.**Biggest Tomato and Zucchini Contest**

@Municipal Parking Lot #1

Think you have grown the biggest tomato or zucchini in Nutley? Find out at this special event as we celebrate the Jersey Fresh tomato and zucchini!

Time: Weigh-in at 12:00pm

Cost: Free

For more information please contact the Department of Public Works at (973) 284-4959 or visit www.nutleynj.org

Aug. 17, Thurs.**Historic Preservation Committee Meeting**

@Town Hall, 3rd Floor Commission Chambers, 1 Kennedy Drive

Time: 7pm

Open to the public

www.nutleynj.org/calendar/20

Aug. 20, Sun.**Kingsland Manor Open House Tour**

@3 Kingsland Street

Time: 1-4pm

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Aug. 20, Sun.

Ink Cartridge Recycling Day

@Municipal Parking Lot #1
Ink and toner cartridges will be collected for recycling. Open to all Nutley businesses and residents.
Time: 9:00am-2:00pm
Cost: Free
For more information please contact the Department of Public Works at (973) 284-4959 or visit www.nutleynj.org

Aug. 22, Tue.

Nutley Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Drive
Time: 6:30-8pm
www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/

Aug. 26, Sat.

Electronics Recycling Collection

Day

@Municipal Parking Lot #8
Consumer electronics will be collected for recycling.
Time: 9:00am-1:00pm
Cost: Free
For more information please contact the Department of Public Works at (973) 284-4959 or visit www.nutleynj.org

Nutley Department of Public Affairs

FACEBOOK pages

Type these into the Facebook search bar to find:

Nutley NJ Public Health Resource Center
Nutley NJ Young Women's Initiative
Nutley NJ Military & Veteran's Affairs Bureau
Nutley NJ Department of Public Affairs Pet Health Resource Center
Nutley NJ Bernie's Club

Nutley Health Department

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When Nutley Was a Golfer's Heaven ... Remembering the Yountakah Country Club

By Barry Lenson

Let's pretend we're in Nutley on a bright summer day in 1938. It's a perfect day for golf, so you toss your clubs into your Packard or Ford and motor off to play a round on one of the most beautiful golf courses in America. And you don't need to leave Nutley to do it - you're just driving down to the Yountakah Country Club on Washington Avenue. Yountakah had it all, including a challenging 18-hole golf course, an elegant clubhouse, and even a swimming pool. This was living! Don't we all wish it was still there today?

When Nutley Was Heaven for Golfers

The club was founded as the Nutley Golf Club in 1894. Five years later, it took its new name, which is based on the Lenni Lenape word for "Gathering Place" - the same word that lent its name to Nutley's Yantacaw School. The course occupied 126 acres that bordered River Road, Kingsland Avenue, Washington Avenue and White Terrace. A 1934 map shows seven holes and the clubhouse on a parcel of land that bordered River Road, Kingsland Avenue, Washington Avenue and White Terrace. The other 11 holes were located across Kingsland Road. Over the years there were three different clubhouses. Fire destroyed the first two in 1917 and 1923, but then members pooled their resources and spent \$125,000 on an elegant new clubhouse, designed by Clifford Wendehack, who also designed clubhouses at courses in Ridgewood and Bethpage. The new clubhouse, situated at the end of a long rambling driveway,



Above: Country Club
Early Clubhouse
Right: Golf immortal,
Gene Sarazen, who
played at Yountakah

hosted annual Harvest and Christmas balls, as well as nightly dining for members. It was definitely the place to be for those with the means to join. According to the New Jersey State Golf Association, Yountakah is still considered one of the greatest golf courses ever to exist in our State. Great Golfers Come to Nutley Over the years, golfing legends came to play the course too. In a charity exhibition game in 1924, golf legends Gene Sarazen and Johnny Farrell defeated Yountakah pro Jack Beckett and Englewood pro Cyril Walker in a game that attracted hundreds of Nutleyites. According to the New Jersey State Golf Association, Yountakah also hosted two New Jersey State Opens. The first of them, in 1939, was won by "Long Jim" Barnes, a World Golf Hall of Famer who had won four majors, including the U.S. Open (1921) and the British Open (1925). Yountakah closed its doors in 1943.

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America's young men were too busy winning World War II to play golf. The property was sold to ITT, where its clubhouse served as a dining hall and meeting center until it was demolished in 1996. The pool was still in use in the 1960s, when the Nutley Red Cross gave swimming lessons there. If you take a walk along River Road on a quiet night and you think you hear the "thwack!" of a golf ball being hit in the distance, don't be surprised. It's just another echo of Nutley history that we can still hear today.

*Schedule a Tour or Event at the Nutley Museum
For school groups and private museum tours, please call Kerry Flynn, caretaker, at 973-667-1528, or Suzanne Hagert at 973-667-4270. The Nutley Historical Society is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to serve the educational, cultural, and historical needs of our community.*



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Nutley Invitational Golf Tournament

By Joyce Handzo

Do you know the name of the longest-running charitable golf event in the country?

If you said, the Nutley Invitational Golf Tournament, you would be right. This event started in 1909 and will be hosting its 109th competition on September 25, 2017 at the Forest Hill Field Club. The tournament was originally held at the Yountakah Country Club which is no longer in existence.

The idea is simple and powerful: people play 18 holes of golf, a winner is announced, and the proceeds go to local charities. But this event is more than that. Jim Piro, longtime participant in this event (since 1991) said that "this is a joyous tournament, promoting camaraderie and community spirit."

Jim also knows a good deal of the history behind this competition. And perhaps we should say "friendly" competition, since the scores are calculated using the Callaway System. This type of scoring is a handicapping method that requires only the score the golfer shoots in the event and applying the handicap deduction.

Jim said it well: "It may not be the best golfer who wins, but the golfer who plays the best."

This is a fun event and since it supports local charities, everyone who attends or participates goes home with a great deal of satisfaction. But there will be a winner chosen and Jim explains the process.

"The tournament is always held on the 3rd Monday in September with the winner being announced at the awards dinner that same night."

The history of this event shows how it has evolved over time, Jim said, "Originally, in 1909, all the participants were affluent males, most working on Wall Street. The awards dinner, at which the winner was announced, was held the night before Thanksgiving and was a black-tie affair. As the name of the tournament implies, it was by invitation only. Now, it's open to the public and the celebratory dinner is much more casual."

It's also open to women now although a woman has not yet won the event.

"The trophy cup is silver and very ornate,"



Michael Stefanelli, last year's tournament winner and this year's chairperson.

Jim tells us. "The original cup from 1909 had all the names of past winners inscribed on it. In 2000, they dedicated a new cup."

This trophy cup was originally part of the announcement of the winner. "Champagne would be poured into the cup and everyone would drink from it," Jim said.

The tournament was held every year except in 1990. Jim explains, "There were several circumstances that led to the cancellation of the event. But Frank Cocchiola revived the event in 1991 and it's more successful than it's ever been." Frank

is a former Town Commissioner and member of the Board of Education.

Proceeds from the tournament are given to local charities, like the Nutley Family Services Bureau, the Nutley First Aid Squad, Kingsland Manor and the Nutley Museum to name a few. Jim said, "The event is supported by the generosity of sponsors."

This year's event will have about 100-120 participants, and those will be either Nutley residents or people connected to the town.

The tournament's winner also has the honor of being the following year's chairperson. Last year, Nutley Neighbors publisher, Michael Stefanelli, won the tournament. Well done!

Michael shared some of his thoughts about the event. "Last year was the first time I played in this event and I was really thrilled to hear about the history and tradition of it.

I never really knew much about it. As an avid golfer, I wish I got more involved with it many years ago but I'm happy for the opportunity to share in this tradition for years to come."

"It's a fantastic tournament because most golf outings are run in a scramble format and I loved the fact that everyone plays for an individual stroke play score. As far as winning, Forest Hill has always been a course that suits my eye well and I absolutely love putting on their greens. The course was in fantastic shape and I look forward to returning to the event and defending the Mayors Award Trophy."

The Nutley Invitational Golf Tournament may have one person winning the trophy, but there are actually many winners: the people who participate for community enrichment, the charities who benefit, and the town itself for having the distinction of holding such a noteworthy event for over 100 years.



The original 1909 NIT trophy

Time for a Home Plumbing Check

Contributed by All Clear Plumbing & Heating

Summer is in full swing. With warmer temperatures, now is the perfect time to check your plumbing system for maintenance and repairs. As water usage increases over the warmer months, it is important to check for drips and leaks. A single dripping faucet can waste hundreds of gallons of water in a year. Homeowners should check all parts of the plumbing throughout the home. Inspect faucets, outside spigots, and all parts of your plumbing inside and outside. Make sure the valves work properly, check for leaking pipes and puddles of water on the ground and floor.

Save Money by Conserving Water in the Kitchen and Bathroom

Check the dishwasher, washing machine and icemaker supply hoses for bulges or leaks. Replace hoses which are showing signs of weakness or those older than ten years. Use stainless steel hoses wherever possible. They are more reliable and less prone to bursting than other types. Make sure toilets flush properly. If you have to hold the handle down to get a strong flush or have to jiggle to stop the running water, it may be time to replace worn parts in the tank. A leaking or noisy toilet may indicate it's time to inspect, adjust or replace parts.

Check toilets for hidden leaks and inspect the tank for cracks. To find out if your toilet is leaking internally, place a few drops of food coloring into the tank. Wait about a half hour, and then check for food coloring in the bowl. If you find coloring there, you do indeed have an internal leak. This is usually the time to call a home plumbing professional.

Clean mineral deposits from showerheads. Unscrew it and soak in white vinegar. Place it in a plastic bag, hang that bag on the faucet with a rubber band, and let it soak for twenty-four hours. The vinegar naturally breaks down mineral deposits that have built up over time causing limiting water pressure.

Clean your drains

Drains should have strainers to prevent debris clogging the drain lines. Pour a gallon of water into infrequently used drains (including floor drains) to fill the trap and prevent odors from entering the house. If your home has a sump pump, make sure it operates properly by

pouring a few buckets of water into the sump pit. The pump should quickly turn on. Go outside to check that the pump is actually discharging water (sometimes the pump will run and not pump any water out) without any problems. Sump pumps have screens or openings where water enters the pump. These sometimes get clogged and require cleaning.

Check outside the home

Check faucets and hose bibs to make sure water flows freely. If an outdoor faucet drips or if there is leakage inside your home the first time the hose is turned on, you may have had a frozen pipe that cracked and needs to be replaced.

Make sure yard drains, gutters and downspouts are cleaned out, open, and free of debris. Cleaning gutters, drains, and downspouts of debris can prevent leaks as well as mildew and mold growth. Once your roof's drainage system is clear, examine your property for plumbing vents. Check that each vent is clear of sticks, leaves, dirt and debris. If you don't have a ladder to check high vents, you can call a plumber for assistance.

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Hunter Lechthaler

By Joyce Handzo

Some athletes make playing football look easy; others make it look exciting. Hunter Lechthaler does both.

As a kicker and defensive end on the Nutley High team, his impressive stats tell the story. His awards include All Conference, All Division, Special Teams Player of the Year and the All Kicking record in Nutley. In fact, he broke eight Nutley High School records. Lechthaler was 5-for-5 in field goals last season for the Raiders and helped the team qualify for the NJSIAA playoffs for the second straight year. He accounted for 40 points overall.

He brought his senior year to a stellar close by playing in the Robeson Football Classic on June 15 of this year.

How did it all start? Hunter tells us "I became interested in sports at birth." Now, in his senior year in high school, that interest and commitment is still a motivating force in his life.



When asked about his training schedule, he said, "I spend six days a week practicing. School starts off my day, training comes after, and social activities come last."

He honestly admits that "my grades are not so hot, but I plan to change that in college." And, yes, Hunter has already decided on a school. "I plan on attending Dean College in Franklin, Massachusetts and playing football



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there. I would like to eventually become a Division 1 athlete."

When asked how important sports are in his life, he said, "I rank them a 9 out of 10. Sports are extremely important in my life. They keep me out of trouble, build character, and there is always competition, similar to a job environment."

Inevitably, there are sacrifices when playing sports and Hunter acknowledges his. "Every summer is taken away due to sports, along with some social time, but I don't mind it." The time he spends in training clearly shows on the field, highlighting his dedication to the game and his commitment to his team.

He also has a physical consideration. "My injury (ACL) is always in the back of my mind."

Like every successful athlete, Hunter understands the motivating presence of people in his life. He said, "I know my mom would always be there to push me to my limits, so I do it for her."

He also admires Pat Sempier, a kicking coach for Seton Hall. "He is one of the few people I look up to. He has the heart of a lion and I admire that, but most importantly, he never gives up on anything. He is always there when you need him and is quite a character."

Hunter is always there when his team needs him too and has been described as "Nutley's secret weapon." There is no doubt that he is a talented player who makes watching the Raiders take the field an even more exciting experience.



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4 Mistakes Dads Make When Seeking Full Custody

Contributed by
The Micklin Law Group

When it comes to custody issues, dads often feel like they're fighting an uphill battle. But as fathers fight for custody – either full or joint – courts are favoring arrangements that give dads more time with their children. While gender bias is still an issue, more dads are fighting for and winning full custody of their children. Those that fail usually make at least a few of these mistakes:

1 Not Understanding How the Courts Determine Custody

The courts consider several factors when determining child custody arrangements. But at the heart of it all, the most important thing is the child's interest. Understanding how courts determine custody is the first step to helping prove your case that you deserve full custody. The courts will consider the following when making custody decisions:

- The child's relationship with each parent

- The age of the child
 - The parent's ability to give the child a stable environment
 - The child's wishes (if old enough)
 - The parent's willingness to support the child
 - The state of each parent's physical and mental health
- If you have thus far maintained a good and active relationship with your child, you've already made an important step towards gaining full custody.

2 Not Willing to Compromise and Being Disrespectful

Divorce is never easy. Right now, you may be feeling a whirlwind of emotions, but your anger may yell the loudest. If you allow your temper to get the best of you, you may say or do something that will sabotage your chances of gaining custody. Keep calm, and always be respectful to the mother of your child – even if she gives





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you reason not to. Be willing to compromise and be as agreeable as possible when going through divorce proceedings. The judge will recognize your willingness to compromise (an admirable trait) and the respect you've given your ex. Your behavior will be taken into consideration when making custody arrangements. Keeping your cool when things get heated will help support your case.

3 Not Taking an Active Role in the Child's Life

You work hard to provide for your family, but if you're not making time for your child, the court will have a difficult time granting your request for full custody. Make it a point to attend your child's school and social gatherings whenever possible. Be there for those early morning soccer games on Saturday. Attend every band concert you can. Be the first one there at your child's birthday party or other important celebrations. By making your child a top priority, you're supporting your case for custody.

4 Not Planning or Preparing

The courts will ask questions about the child's education, living accommodations, and your financial preparedness for taking on full custody. If you don't prepare intelligent responses to these questions and have a sound plan in place for taking on these responsibilities, you're hurting your chances of gaining custody.

As a father, you have every right to pursue full custody of your child but the court will ultimately decide whether your home is the better option for your child. If you can avoid making these four mistakes, you can support your case for being the better fit for child custody.

The Micklin Law Group offers more than 20 years of experience and focused legal representation to clients across New Jersey facing divorce, separation or other family law issues. They also provide comprehensive estate planning and probate services.

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New Volume of Literary Criticism Emphasizes the Inner Values of Its Characters

Submitted by Joyce Handzo

"I believe the Cavalcade series is unique," says Nutley resident Robert A. Parker as he releases the seventh volume of his critical work called *A Literary Cavalcade*. "Like most critics, I approach a novel in terms of style, theme, character, and plot. But I am also drawn to works that explore the inner life of its characters, which means a focus on the moral, ethical, and spiritual values revealed in their inner lives. As a result, I often approach a work with a different point of view from most critics."

The current volume, number seven, follows the first six volumes of *Cavalcade* that were published in 2013. Those volumes covered criticism beginning in the 1950s. The new volume covers from 2013 to 2017.

Included in the new volume are works by more than 125 authors. They range from Kate Atkinson, John Banville, and Kazuo Ishiguro to Ian McEwan, Ann Patchett, and Jose Saramago. Also covered are such classics as *Gone With the Wind*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. As a bonus, the volume also includes comments on the Broadway and off-Broadway theatre from 1975 to 1980.

The new volume's overall critical approach is a blend of two schools. It is somewhat conservative on the literary side, and somewhat liberal on the moral and spiritual side. The result is somewhat opinionated, and not every reader is expected to agree with a given evaluation. But at a minimum, the comments are intended to stimulate the reader's thinking. Most works commented on are serious novels, with about five percent consisting of mysteries or works of history. An overview of the first six volumes, written by Brian Doyle, may be found in the Summer,

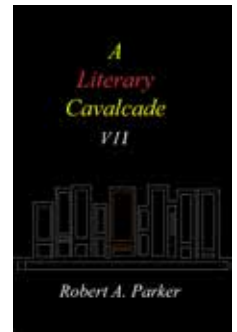


2003 issue of *Boston College Magazine*.

Entries in the new volume first appeared in the author's blog, also called *A Literary Cavalcade*, at WordPress.com. That blog continues with new work read since the publication of this new volume.

Volume Seven, and the entire *Cavalcade* series, is available in hard and soft covers at the Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Ingram web sites, and available as an ebook at the Kindle Bookstore, the Apple iBookstore, the

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By Jeanne Sylvester, Supervising Librarian

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Our Adult Summer Reading Club is playing Reading Bingo this year. You can pick up your bingo board at the Front Desk. It's a great opportunity to read a wide variety of books and a chance to win some prizes at the end of the summer.

These hot new summer titles are sure to be popular, so get your name on the waiting list!

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John J. Robertazzi—United States Army

By Frank Turano, Jr.

What is the definition of an American hero?

One might say it is the courageous men and women who represent our police and fire departments across this great nation, who deal on a daily basis the trials and tribulations of their respective jobs. This statement of course, is unmistakably true.

But the definition of a hero, a person noted for feats of courage especially one who has risked or sacrificed his or her own life, is most justly applied to the men and women serving in all branches of our military. Every so often, one individual separates himself to an even higher level, and it would be my honor to introduce you to a true American hero.

Sergeant John J. Robertazzi is an American hero. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Robertazzi who resided on 159 Centre Street in our small picturesque town of Nutley. This is what we know about Sergeant John J. Robertazzi.

He joined the United States Army.

He served in World War Two.

He received the prestigious Bronze Star with Valor.

He received the Good Conduct medal.

He received the European, African, and Middle Eastern Service medal.

Other than his family passionately informing me that he is one of the greatest human beings to have ever prospered from our town, we know nothing else, and this is where the intriguing story begins.

From my personal studies on veterans, especially from World War Two, there seems to be a connective thread among the men, where speaking and remembering verbally about that event is taboo. We romanticize about the war, with movies and books and even video games still being released 72 years after its climatic end. Even I have been swept up at times, and though it is true, there may be some small aspects of idealistic glory about the war, there is nothing romantic on the battlefield when prayers and profanity all called out to the heavens while under heavy fire, and a solider turns to his side and discovers the solider next to him is missing half his skull, and he is



splattered with most of it.

Nothing romantic at all.

So, what happened? We know it was a high act of nobility and heroism. But to return home in one piece and never discuss what it was he saw and encountered, not to mention to receive awards of such high distinction, speaks volumes about the man. We have to wonder with a spirit of curiosity, was he a young boy for a fleeting moment in time who suddenly became a man

when he fired his first shot at the enemy. Did John lose his innocence on the battlefield like most men? Was there an inner turmoil and sadness that he wished not to burden on his family? That alone would attest to what a great man he was with his quiet strength. He was strong willed and good natured. He was the type of man that would give the shirt off his back should a stranger need it more. But with all his generosity, had he lost his ethical convictions in the vanishing American landscape? War never stops. What did John think about on the Korean War and the Vietnam conflict and the endless cycle of senseless death and destruction?

Were there times that he envied the dead?

We will never know.

We have allowed greed and vanity to become virtues in our society. It is a sad state of affairs. But men like John are a beacon of hope. They represent the motto that "you should put more in than you take out."

His nephew and godson, Bill Robertazzi, a great man himself and my friend, had said it best. "I am so thankful and proud to God that Sergeant John J Robertazzi is my uncle and godfather, and until we meet again, I thank Jesus." Amen.

Frankie Turano Jr. is the owner of American Made Custom Cabinet Company located at 95 Stager Street. He has been in business for over thirty-seven years. He designs and sells all wood cabinetry, stone countertops, and knobs and handles for kitchens and bathrooms. www.amccc.us.

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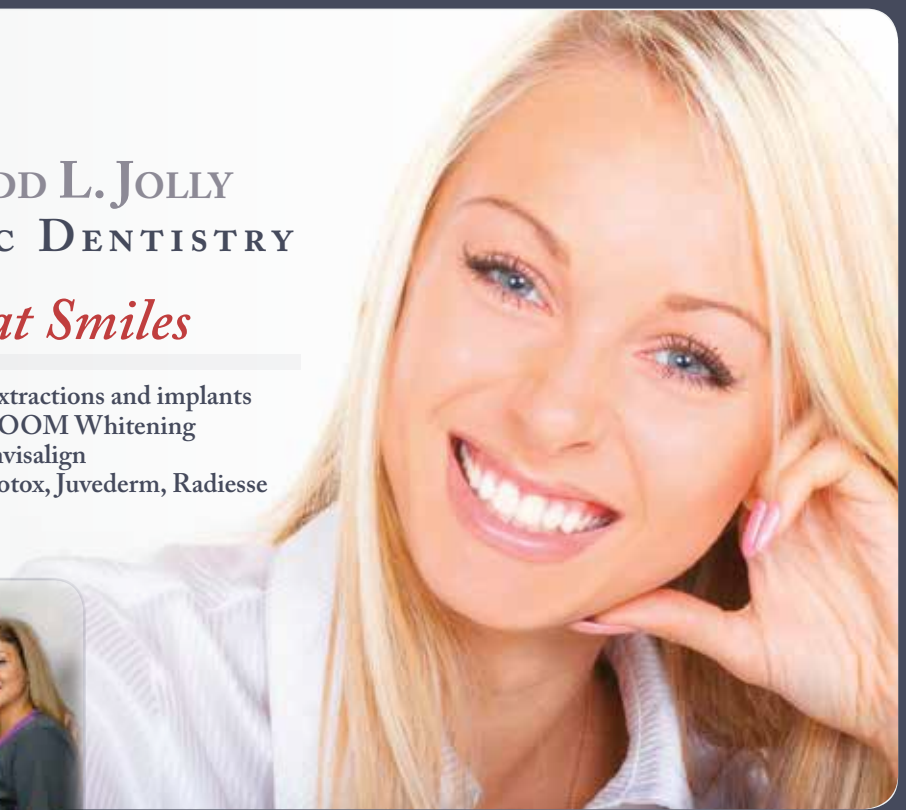
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