

DECEMBER 2021

A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

# NUTLEY

## NEIGHBORS

Creating—  
The Key to  
This Family's  
Life *The Frey/Lobay Family*

Photograph by  
Randall Kenneth  
Photography



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

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## Letter to Residents

# The Year in a View

It all depends on how you look at it. That idea has shaped a large part of my life. The way we view things is how we remember them.

How did 2021 look to you?

Although this year seemed less traumatic than 2020 (with the start of the pandemic) I think it's safe to say that we all had some moments that we would like to forget.

So that's why I am not looking to review the events of this past year, but rather, to view certain themes from these twelve months that have given me hope and confidence to turn the calendar page to 2022.

Our cover story features the Lobay and Frey families and highlights their creativity. Each member of this family loves to create something different each day, and this is the master key to their home, their hearts, and their lives together.

Creativity has always been a big part of my life, and I realized how this trait gives us an adaptability to accept changes and to make something new. Whether it's creating art, finding a way to help others (read about the Blessing Box these families set up), or navigating a year that is not quite normal, being able to see beyond the situation to a different outcome is a view I will take with me into the new year.

Gifts come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and flavors and Nutley's own Denise Sallette is giving her *Nutley Neighbors* a special treat this holiday season by sharing the recipe for Denise's Ultimate Cheesecake.

This is also a view I am going to remember from this year—giving to others. It might be a recipe, or it could be a bouquet of flowers, shoveling a walkway, or a friendly wave. Whether you are giving or receiving, it all comes down to acknowledging the humanity of another person and being kind. I want to do more of that in 2022.

And speaking of giving, be sure to read about Act of Humanity, a non-profit that has been active here in town and across the globe. They have a special outreach on Christmas Eve that helps people in very practical ways.

As we end another year and look toward the new one, let's keep our eyes on those things that build us up, individually and as a community. Creativity and giving are at the top of my list as I will continue to look for ways to adjust to the new normal while practicing the timelessness of giving.

Happy New Year! Let's make it the best one yet!

**Joyce Corey** Content Coordinator



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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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119 Cedar St.	\$539,000	\$494,000	125
145 Centre St.	\$549,888	\$480,000	190
41 Prospect St.	\$539,000	\$545,000	14
124 Satterthwaite Ave.	\$724,999	\$720,000	53
2 Memorial St.	\$600,000	\$565,000	42
388 High St.	\$899,900	\$830,000	68
9 Hetherington Rd.	\$479,900	\$480,000	57
49 Wilson St.	\$445,000	\$475,000	20
59 Coeyman Ave.	\$499,900	\$581,000	28
11 Lake St.	\$525,000	\$560,000	29
26 Daily St.	\$715,000	\$665,000	28
447 Prospect St.	\$669,900	\$669,000	36
30 Hillside Ave.	\$699,000	\$670,000	42
42 Daily St.	\$549,000	\$575,000	27
35 Overlook Ter.	\$549,900	\$557,000	38
487 Chestnut St.	\$599,000	\$630,000	14
174 Conover Ave.	\$624,000	\$624,000	55
22 Harvard St.	\$489,900	\$525,000	17
66 Ravine Ave.	\$489,000	\$530,000	19
29 Newman Ave.	\$449,888	\$485,000	8
9 Faber Pl.	\$500,000	\$305,000	5
31 Evelyn Pl.	\$569,000	\$580,000	16
11 Sylvan Pl.	\$559,900	\$650,000	15
47 Crestwood Ave.	\$519,900	\$545,000	15
8 Evelyn Pl.	\$493,900	\$545,000	16



**Median List Price** **\$539,000**

**Median Sale Price** **\$560,000**

**Median Days on Market** **28**

SOURCE: GSMLS DATA

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Bill, Nick,  
Charlotte,  
Sophie, Laura,  
and Arlene

## Feature Story

# Creating—The Key to this Family's Life

By Joyce Corey Photograph by Randall Kenneth Photography

**F**or the Frey/Lobay family, having a set of house keys is only the beginning. Each member of this family loves to create something different each day, and this is the master key to their home, their hearts, and their lives together.

Laura Frey briefly introduces each one of them through their creative pursuits.

"My husband, Nick, designs entertainment through his jobs for television production companies and builds team communities and confident children in his passion for

coaching," she said. "I create curriculum, as well as music, through my job as an Early Childhood Music Specialist with Music Together Worldwide. Our daughter, Charlotte, paints, draws, sews, and crochets; something she learned from my mother. Our younger daughter, Sophie, creates gardens with her grandfather and friendships with everyone, finding smiles and nature's small joys wherever she goes. Both of my parents create memories through travel, holiday traditions, and within their smaller, everyday moments together."



And at the center of it all is Nutley.

Three generations and 40 years in town make up this Nutley family, but there is an infinite number of shared experiences and memories between them.

Laura's parents, Arlene and Bill Lobay, may be retired but they are never tired of the town.

"We have lived here for 40 years where we raised both of our children, Laura and Bryan," Arlene said. "This has been a wonderful experience. We are blessed with amazing family, friends, and neighbors."

As Arlene and Bill are no longer caught up in the work commute, they're able to enjoy a variety of activities.

"My husband Bill is a teddy bear in disguise; he is gentle, fun loving, and always available to babysit," Arlene said. "As a retired police officer and security investigator, he has time to pursue the things he loves like reading and learning more about our history and ancestry. Most of the summer months are spent outdoors in our yard gardening and swimming, and he loves any



Laura, Nick, Charlotte, and Sophie hiking in Maine

time we spend together with family."

Although Arlene is new to retirement, she already has a full schedule of activities.

"I recently retired in May of this year after working as the office manager for Dr. George Helflich (for 23 years) and then for Dr. Richard Tom in the Chestnut Street location," she

said. "I spend some of my time babysitting a few days a week. I enjoy making baby quilts for family and friends and creating new things on my Cricut machine to give as gifts. One of my biggest joys is watching my granddaughters create things with me during our time together."

The Frey part of this family first made an appearance in 2007 and Laura shares a memory of that first meeting.

"Nick and I met one fateful night in 2007 on the PATH train, traveling from 34th Street in NYC to Hoboken after a night out on the town," she said. "After this first encounter, we reconnected for a date at Thai Essence on Franklin Ave. We got engaged on the 4th of July in 2009, while watching the Macy's fireworks over

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the Hudson River at our Union City apartment and were married the following October at Crystal Springs Resort in Vernon, New Jersey."

Their respective college degrees opened the doors to interesting careers.

"I have a BA in English and initially worked as a writer and managing editor in the city," Laura said. "I made a career change towards education and earned an MAT in Early Childhood Education and then went on to get my MED in Inclusive Education with a certification in Developmental Models of Autism Intervention (DMAI), all from Montclair State University. I am currently teaching part-time Music Together classes for West Essex Music Together."

Nick Frey has a bachelor's degree in communication from East Stroudsburg University.

"He has worked in both creative and corporate roles for a variety of television production companies," Laura said. "He is currently employed at Meredith Corporation as the accounting manager for their television division."

The couple have two daughters, Charlotte (8) and Sophie (3).

"Charlotte and Sophie are two completely different girls," Laura said. "Charlotte loves outdoor activities and getting muddy, while Sophie needs to wear dresses every day and loves pretending to be a variety of Disney princesses. Where Charlotte is serious, Sophie is a character, with her grandmother calling her "pepper pot."

Together with her grandmother, Charlotte created something that showed their compassion for the community.

"We came up with the idea of creating a Blessing Box for anyone to anonymously receive or donate groceries or other household or baby items," Arlene said. "My son, Bryan Lobay, helped cut and build it and we placed it on Passaic Avenue between Fernwood Terrace and Kingsland Ave."

While creativity is the key to their lives, there is one more

## 5 Things the Frey/Lobay Family Loves About Nutley

1. The parks
2. Nutley Public Library
3. The sense of community
4. The small local businesses
5. The school system



Bill, Bryan, Arlene, Laura, Sophie, Charlotte, and Nick

important element that guides this family. Laura sums up the family's philosophy.

"We strive and teach to be an includer," Laura said. "We actively open our friendship circles to anyone, but especially those standing alone, and we encourage one another to listen and empathize with others. We teach and practice compassion and respect and we work to take the time to truly listen to the perspectives of others. With knowledge comes understanding and with understanding comes the power to make a difference."

Arlene shares a visual way that her daughter's family does this.

"Being a mixed religion household, my daughter and son-in-law teach the kids about both Catholic and Jewish religious traditions," Arlene adds. "The menorah is across from the Christmas tree during the holiday season. They feel it's important for their daughters to know, understand, and respect different perspectives."

With creativity as the key to their lives together, their welcoming and inclusive attitude opens the doors in the community for them to interact and be *Nutley Neighbors* that we are happy to know. ■

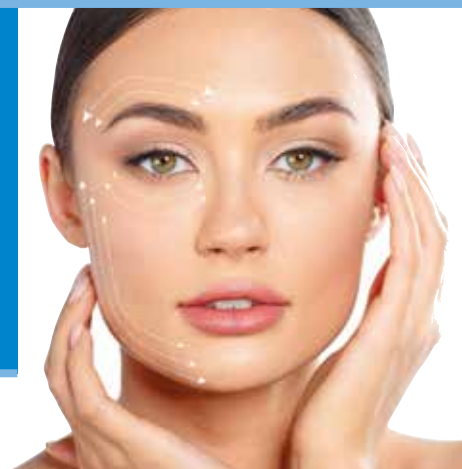
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## Pet Corner

# Adopt Us!

*Submitted by Nicole Milici*



**S**andy is a 1-year-old female who is very sweet and would make the perfect addition to any family. She loves to purr and snuggle each night. She is cat and kid friendly; she has been around very young kids as well. We are unsure about dogs, but she would likely be okay with a mellow one. She is microchipped, FIV/FeLV negative, stool tested negative, dewormed, UTD on vaccines, and spayed. \$175 adoption fee and application apply.

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*Submitted by  
Dani Jay*

**W**ouldn't it be wonderful if Wrinkles found her forever home this year? She loves her amazing foster home but can't help but wonder why no one has wanted to adopt her yet. She spent almost a year



in a local shelter waiting for this chance, and she hopes someone will adopt her soon! Wrinkles is about 8 years old and is such a little hippo mama. She entered the shelter system completely bald due to neglect. Her skin and fur have come such a long way since then; a proper diet and supplements have helped tremendously.

Her adoption fee is sponsored. Contact Jersey Pits Rescue Inc. for more information or to apply.  
[www.jersey pitsrescue.com](http://www.jersey pitsrescue.com) ■



# The Best Kinds of Presents

By Joyce Corey



Denise Sallette

Gifts come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and flavors. Nutley's own Denise Sallette is giving her *Nutley Neighbors* a special treat this holiday season by sharing the recipe for Denise's Ultimate Cheesecake!

"I make it for my customers around the holidays and they absolutely love it," Denise said. "They tell me it's better than a store-bought cheesecake. I also make it for my family and friends and anybody who is inter-

ested in something special for a special occasion. It is rich, creamy and delicious!"

"Everything is handmade," she said.

Take the taste test and try her recipe!

"The crust is made with 1 ½ cups of graham cracker



Denise's Ultimate Cheesecake!



crumbs (you can crush your own), 2 tablespoons of sugar, and ¼ cup of butter melted."

"For the filling, use 5 packages of 8-ounce cream cheese softened, 1 ⅓ cups sugar, 3 tablespoons of flour, 3 large eggs, ½ cup of sour cream, and 1 ½ teaspoons of vanilla extract.

"The topping is made with 1 egg white, 1 tablespoon sugar, and ½ cup sour cream."

"Bake it at 325° for an hour and 15 minutes."

Now if you think that's delicious, Denise has another suggestion.

"Starting at the beginning of December, I put out a little goody box for all the delivery people as a way to show my appreciation to them since I receive so many packages each year around Christmas," she said.

Now *that's* a very sweet idea. ■



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# Designs and Drawings to Remember This December

By Michelle Palmer

One of the most personal and beautiful ways to express our creativity is through art. AJ has been very busy this fall having fun while making some impressive projects. He assembled and painted a haunted house. He also celebrated the changing of the leaves by decorating this fall tree.

Mattie is only five years old but has discovered her wonderful talent in drawing. She shows a big bright smile along with her original pirate picture. She loves to draw and her picture truly inspires us to be crafty.

Mattie and her mom also enjoyed a unique and artistic experience together. They took a virtual painting class to create mommy and me unicorns. The activity was a perfect way to share quality time and their masterpiece fits together like a puzzle.

Recycling and using imagination adds to some of the most memorable childhood experiences. These siblings and neighbors got together with their cardboard boxes. They cut and taped them together to form a huge playhouse. Here are Sammy, Garrett, Sophia, and Mila posing in their recycled creation. ■

Did you just create an amazing piece of art? Whether you colored it, glued it, cut it, or even baked it, send us a photo with your name and we will print as many as we can. Let's make our world a bit more beautiful with your creations and smiles! Email me at: [jcorey@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:jcorey@bestversionmedia.com)



Clockwise from top left: AJ and his fall tree. G'artbage project by Sammy, Garrett, Sophia, and Mila. Mommy and Me unicorns. Mattie says Ahoy Matey!





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# Act of Humanity

By Joyce Corey

Every Christmas Eve, Act of Humanity gets families and friends together to give out food, apparel, cold weather clothing, and blankets.



"We act in the name of humanity. Let's start today to change the world tomorrow."

—ACT OF HUMANITY'S MISSION STATEMENT

For Sunil Advaney, Christmas Eve has always been about giving. As the vice-president of Act of Humanity (AOH), he started setting aside this particular day since he was 14. Today, he has enlarged both his vision and his scope of outreach.

"My brother, Suraj, and I decided to do charitable work in our community when we were growing up," he said. "We made sandwiches or gave out candy canes, whatever we were able to do."

The brothers along with three of their close friends, Roland Nezaj, Jay Budhrani and Tanuj Bhatnagar, eventually started a nonprofit to better serve the needs of people who are affected by poverty, disasters, or other misfortunes. Suraj is the president of this organization.

Their Christmas Eve contributions look a little different now since they have over 150 volunteers collecting donations and giving them out.

"This year, AOH is targeting donations for 200-300 individuals," Sunil said. "AOH has kept the tradition for all of us and our kids to physically help and interact with the less fortunate."

On Christmas Eve, volunteers from this group set up tables in New York City and give out the donated items which include cold weather clothing, snacks, fruit, and toiletries, among other items.

But Act of Humanity is not only about Christmas Eve.

"We want to help the local community, our neighbors, and the places around us," Sunil said.

AOH donated masks, sanitizers, and PPE to Nutley public schools and Good Shepherd Academy.

"When we see a need, we act on it," Sunil said. "We handed out free KN95 masks, hand sanitizers, and face shields just outside the Rock Ridge Pharmacy on Rock Road. We have also donated thousands of masks and sanitizers to the Superintendent of Edgewater School District, and over 50,000 masks to the Superintendent of Paramus School District."

The philosophy behind this charitable organization is simple.

"We want to give directly to people without the donations being used to pay administrative costs through other charities," he said. "We want to make a real difference in the lives of people in very practical ways."

His current long-range plans include growing this organization nationally.

"We have already started a chapter in Michigan and will be opening in Los Angeles in the new year," he said. "We want to expand our outreach in every state."

As a Nutley resident for 20 years, Sunil would like to offer more to those in his community.

"I want my Nutley Neighbors to know that Act of Humanity has the resources and the motivation to help those in need right here in town." ■

To find out more or to become involved in this outreach call 917-617-4328, visit their website, [www.actofhumanity.org](http://www.actofhumanity.org), follow them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or email them at [info@actofhumanity.org](mailto:info@actofhumanity.org).



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# Nutley Relay for Life Fall Festival

By Heather Soto

September's Festival in the Park was held on a gorgeous day, and it felt great to connect with our community again and share the afternoon with both Denise Costantino and Mayor Mauro G. Tucci.

Denise's annual hand-painted pumpkin patch for Nutley Relay has now become renown and loved by all our annual supporters. Each year's design is always beautiful and unique in its own way and the funds raised continue to support our registered survivors every June to honor National Cancer Survivor Day in Nutley.

Our 2021 Nutley Relay for Life event, "Hope Prevails," raised close to \$62,000 for the American Cancer Society and was held in Memorial Park this past May. Our event night was a memorable walk through Memorial Park



Denise Costantino, Heather Soto, Mayor Tucci. This year's magical Hope pumpkins, hand painted by local Nutley artist Denise Costantino, sold out and all profits benefit the Relay survivors

with a magical ambiance among all our participants.

The luminaria bags lining the pathway honoring all those affected by cancer, the purple fountain, purple lights along the park, and the illuminated cancer ribbon all connected the dots and created a meaningful and heartfelt event for our community. ■

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# 100 Years of Good Turns

By Linda Buset

Scout spirit is a simple concept; "Live by the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life."

An example of doing this was seen when seven of Troop 147's scouts, Ethan Wanko, Ryan Lui, Nick Buset, Anthony Rodier, David Crecco, Joseph Buset, and Joey O'Halloran, volunteered to paint the outside of the Nutley VFW's building for our veterans. The task was big, but the scout spirit was bigger. Ethan, in addition to painting, is also working on his Eagle Project, painting and repairing the front porch of the Van Riper House.

Troop 147 is enormously proud to be celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Franklin Reformed Church has been their chartered organization since its formation in 1921. Rev. Jill Fenske, pastor, stated, "We congratulate the troop, current and former scouts, leaders, and parents who have supported them over a century of growth and service."

The troop is made up of 23 Scouts who meet every week on Tuesday evening, as well go on camping trips one weekend every month. During their meetings and camping trips they develop self-confidence, build character, ethics, and are taught leadership, survival, and citizenship skills.

They also learn lessons like staying one step ahead of the task and to never give up. These principles prepare them to make ethical choices and instills in them the Scout Oath and Law for a lifetime.

When the troop was approached by Commander Hamlin to help paint the VFW building, they immediately agreed.

Joe O'Halloran, who is close to becoming an Eagle Scout said, "Our veterans have given so much for us that even the

smallest thing we can do for them is well worth doing."

Supervising the work was Eric Buset, who is Committee Chairman and the Chartered Organization Representative, and Mike DeCarlo, the Scout Master.

I asked Eric how he felt about the young people in his troop and his response was, "I am proud of them and the work they do for our community. I can always count on them to live up to 'Do a good turn daily,' the Boy Scout slogan."

Maria Hamlin, Commander of VFW Post 493, was appreciative of the challenging work and amount of time the Scouts put into painting the outside of the building. "It is heartwarming, and we are very blessed to receive all of this help from the community, I cannot thank everyone enough," she said.

Happy 100th Anniversary to Nutley Troop 147, and all who came before you, on this great milestone in your history. ■



Ryan Lui, Anthony Rodier, David Crecco, Maria Hamlin, Joey O'Halloran, Joseph Buset, Ethan Wanko, Nick Buset, Eric Buset



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# WHAT NUTLEY'S ALL ABOUT: Community, Altruism, and Resilience

By Mariely Moronta-Sanchez

**A**s a new family to Nutley, we were happy to meet new friends, Jenna and Jose Maldonado. This dynamic duo volunteers their time all over the town, coaching softball, basketball, running groups, and all sorts of activities. They're the kind of family that makes this Nutley town not just charming, but resilient.

On September 1st, the day Ida hit, our kids hung out at our house while we all went out to dinner. Like many, we did not get emergency warnings and were unaware of how bad the storm was expected to be. We were only about 15 minutes away when we saw the flooding rain waters so we turned back to go home. We called the kids, and things

were okay at first, but then the basement started to fill up and the carbon monoxide alarm went off. The roads were flooded at every turn we took. We called the fire department, who initially said they were going to get them out, but later told us they were unable to get there. They advised us to tell the kids to open the windows and get to the highest floor. Eventually, we got to them and got them safely out of the house.

Our house was surrounded by water, the most water I have ever seen. We couldn't go back home, not that night. Without even a moment's pause, Jenna and Jose brought us back to their house where they offered us shelter for several days. They opened their hearts and doors so that we would be comfortable and safe during and after Ida passed through the area.

In the wake of the storm, I witnessed a level of community building, kindness, and love that was so beautiful. Once we were back home, they continued to offer their hot showers, laundry room, dinner invites, and even help to clear out the basement walls. We had some additional support from our employers and loved ones, but this gratuitous and selfless act of kindness was the most impactful during our time of need.

The Maldonados are an incredible family, a family that defines the values of this town, that make our community stronger. It is an honor to know them and to call them our friends. We are forever in their debt. ■



Left: Jose, Jenna, Jalapeno and Jiana Maldonado. Below: Jenna, Jalapeño and Jose Maldonado, Carlos and Mariely Sanchez



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# First Place Winner of Essex County Parks Photography Contest

By Joyce Corey



**C**ongratulations to Nutley resident, Gary Wiener, who won first place at the Essex County Parks Photography Contest! And *Nutley Neighbors* magazine played a part in this!

"I saw the contest listed in the Calendar of Events and thought this was something fun and creative to do," Gary said. "Years ago, I had a darkroom and developed my own black and white photos, but I haven't been active in photography for a long time. This

contest gave me the motivation to take some pictures again."

And one of those photos captured the eyes of the judges and won first place.

"I was out walking with my wife and son at Yanticaw Park, and we stopped at the bridge there," he said. "I snapped some photos with my iPhone and then decided to take a picture with a more interesting perspective."

Winning the contest was a nice surprise for Gary, and hopefully, a confirmation that he should be behind the camera more often.

After a 30-year career in printing, Gary is now semi-retired and has his own photo retouching service.

"I enjoy the creative process involved in taking photos," he said. "While photography was never a passion of mine, the contest certainly inspired me."

Although he was not able to attend the awards ceremony, ("It was held in Roseland at a time that wasn't convenient for me.") he received a camera bag and some very nice prizes.

All winning photographs were displayed at the Essex County Environmental Center through the month of October.



The Essex County Parks Photography Contest was sponsored by the Essex County Environmental Center and judged by members of the Essex County Photography Club. Anyone with a camera was encouraged to participate and all photos needed to be taken within the boundaries of the Essex County Parks System during the past year.

Entries were judged on creativity, technical superiority, composition, and the photograph's depiction of the uniqueness of the Essex County Parks System.

Gary Wiener's photo, taken at Yanticaw Park, not only gave us a different view of a familiar place but made him a top-placed winner.

Let's hope we see more photos from him in the future! ■

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## Nutley Authors

# The Writing Process, a Family Affair

By Maureen Saar

I recently published my second children's picture book, titled *Sam and the Family Tree*, and thought it might be of interest to know how it came to be.

When I took a course on writing children's books, my first assignment was to write a modern take on an old fairy tale. I chose "The Ugly Duckling" by Hans Christian Anderson and titled my story "The Ugly Christmas Tree." As in "The Ugly Duckling," the premise was how could something perceived as ugly become beautiful. The story evolved into a family's predicament of how to prepare for Christmas when the dad was away. Among other things, he always found the perfect tree!

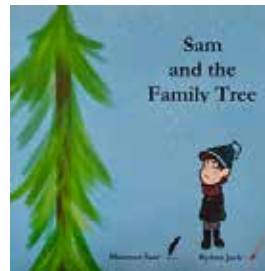
I had learned in my course that a typical format for a children's picture book is to address a dilemma with at least three obstacles that need to be overcome. The problem solver should be a character that children can identify with, in this case it is Sam.

Influences from my life are evident in the story. For example, the family's last name is Bigley. Many in Nutley may know someone from the Bigley family as it was a family of thirteen children in town! I met Mrs. Bigley (Marie) through the adult choir at St. Mary's in Nutley. The children in the story, Sam and Emma, are named after my friends' cats. The father of the family is serving in the Air Force, as did my husband, John. Emma's depiction as Asian added some diversity which I felt was important. John and I have an adopted daughter who is Korean.

The dilemma of the story is solved when Sam has the idea of putting family pictures on the garland and "wrapping it around the tree like a



John and Maureen Saar



big hug." I have often thought of using pictures of loved ones on our tree, although I had never done it. But I got to do it in my story!

My niece, RyAnn Jack, once again brought my story to life through her illustrations. I gave her

ideas of what I wanted, but she had lots of leeway to use her own creativity. Since the dad in the story is in the Air Force, RyAnn's illustrations include a teddy bear wearing an Air Force uniform. She also added a dog and cat to the family group of pictures on the tree.

I have a cousin, Mary Hudak, in Hawaii, who is also a writer, and she got involved by giving me some valuable input on my first draft. Mary helped me establish why the dad was not home and suggested that the mom be a more engaged character.

My husband, John, was determined to format my book this time, and he spent hours on the computer figuring it out. Not an easy process, but he enjoyed it and had great satisfaction when it was finally approved!

Now you can see why, in my case, writing is a family affair. ■

*Sam and the Family Tree* by Maureen Saar is available on Amazon.



# Getting to Know Your Library Staff

By David Wilson

■ **What is your name, position, and responsibilities at the library?** My name is Lucia Alvarez, and I am a youth services librarian that oversees the young adult collection, teen clubs and events, and the volunteering program for high school students. I also create promotional materials for the department, prepare crafts for children, and oversee special annual events like Maker's Day and Free Comic Book Day. You'll also see me during Preschool Story Time and Two-Year-Old Story Time reading silly stories and sharing my favorite pop-up books.

■ **When did you start working at the library and why?** I was hired as a part-time youth services library assistant six years ago. Previously, I had done volunteer work and internships with the North Arlington Public Library and the Msgr. William Noé Field Archives and Special Collections Center at Seton Hall. At the time, I didn't really know what I wanted to do when I graduated, but I ended up really loving the work and environment of the library.

■ **What is your education background?** At 17, I completed the Agrupación de Lengua y Cultura Españolas (ALCE) program in Newark. I attended William Paterson University of New Jersey and received a bachelor's degree in history. In 2018, I enrolled in the librarianship program at San José State University of California and completed my Master of Library and Information Science in 2020.

■ **Do you have any childhood memories of visiting the library?** As a kid, I had gone to the North Arlington Public Library often with my mom. My favorite book at the time was Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion and I always borrowed it whenever I saw it. I also enjoyed playing pretend with the library's puppets and would often make friends with other children as we put on little puppet shows for our parents. It was a blast!



■ **What are your hobbies, volunteer work, or other leisure time pursuits?** I have always been a huge fan of video games and I still often play during my free time. I have also been playing Dungeons & Dragons with friends on the weekends for many years now.

■ **What do you enjoy most about working at the library?** I enjoy interacting with the public and promoting inclusivity, especially with the youths of the community.

■ **Share a memorable story involving a library patron or program.** I'll never forget how kind patrons were to me when I was just starting out in the Children's Department. I had little experience with running story times and was very nervous, but I received so many supportive comments from patrons that it really shaped me into being the librarian I am today.

■ **What is your favorite book or author?** I enjoy reading historical literature, especially if it takes place in the American Old West, so I became a fan of Larry McMurtry after a friend introduced me to a few of his books.

■ **Your favorite motto or quote?**  
"The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time."  
– Marthe Trolly-Curtin ■

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# Library Staff's Favorite Books, Music, Movies, and Video Games for 2021

By Michelle Salimbene Albert, Library Director

There are thousands of items at the library to choose from that will satisfy interests across all ages. Throughout the year, staff members compiled their favorite library items they read, listened to, watched, and played. The following is a list of our favorite books, music, movies, and video games that we recommend.

## ■ BOOKS

*The Book of Form and Emptiness*

by Ruth Ozeki

*Crying in H Mart*

by Michelle Zauner

*Eva Evergreen*

*Semi-Magical Witch*

by Julie Abe

*Fuzz* by Mary Roach

*Heroes' Feast*

(*Dungeons & Dragons*): *The Official D&D Cookbook*

by Kyle Newman, Jon Peterson, and Michael Witwer

*The Night Watchman*

by Louise Erdrich

*Sinatra and Me*

by Tony Oppedisano

with Mary Jane Ross

*The Storyteller*

by Dave Grohl

*Subpar Parks*

by Amber Share

*Tune It Out*

by Jamie Sumner

*Unstoppable!*

by Adam Rex

*World Travel*

by Anthony Bourdain

and Laurie Woolever

## ■ GRAPHIC NOVELS

*Fangs*

by Sarah Andersen

*The Girl from the Sea*

by Molly Knox

Ostertag

*The Magic Fish*

by Trung Le Nguyen

*You Look Like Death*

by Gerard Way,

Shaun Simon, I.N.J.

Culbard, and Nate

Piekos

## ■ MUSIC

*All Things Must Pass*

by George Harrison

*Daddy's Home*

by St. Vincent

*Harmony*

by Josh Groban

## ■ MOVIES

*12 Mighty Orphans*

*Black Widow*

*Breaking News in Yuba County*

*The Green Knight*

*Godzilla vs. Kong*

*The Masque of the Red Death*

## ■ VIDEO GAMES

*It Takes Two*

*Pikmin 3 Deluxe*

*Yoshi's Crafted World*

The staff of the Nutley Library wishes everyone a safe, healthy, and happy new year! ■

For the latest information about programs, events, and library happenings, stay connected with the Nutley Public Library through the following: [www.nutleypubliclibrary.org](http://www.nutleypubliclibrary.org); on social media at Facebook, Instagram and Twitter; email the librarians at [reference@nutleynj.org](mailto:reference@nutleynj.org); or at 973-667-0405. Our friendly staff members are available and always happy to assist you.

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