

FEBRUARY 2019

A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

# NUTLEY NEIGHBORS

## Hope Lives In The Soto Home

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Photography



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August 25.....	October 1
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## Word Up!

I love words, but the English language could use a little tweaking when it comes to the word 'love.' To put it simply, we don't have a word that describes the various *degrees* or *kinds* of love.

For instance, I can *love* broccoli, my Aunt Ada, and my Subaru. Definitely all different, but the same word 'love' is used.

The ancient Greeks knew a few things about love and words. In fact, they had eight different words to designate the varieties of love that we all experience.

Since it's February, the month of Valentine's Day and love, I want to look at a type of love that transcends the season and transforms lives. Sounds like serious stuff, eh?

According to the Greeks, *agape* love is the highest and most radical type of love. It's described as selfless, unconditional love. Most interesting, it's not a condition-based love. This is love that is free from desires and expectations, and loves regardless of the flaws and shortcomings of others.

And guess what? I see this type of love expressed in many of the people I interview each month.

Our cover story is about a family who loves in this way. Many of you are already aware of all that Heather Soto does for Relay for Life. She and her family tirelessly work at fundraising for a cure to help save the lives of those in our community. They also honor survivors and spread hope. That's *agape* love.

Read about the Diane Greco Sajle scholarship that was created by her family. This not only keeps her memory alive, but gives a student athlete some much-needed financial support. That's *agape* love.

The Pet Corner is another place where you can see this form of love. Caring for dogs and kittens and finding them homes is truly a selfless love.

*Agape* love can also be found in your neighborhood. Like that person who shovels your driveway or brings your garbage can in so it doesn't get run over. Do you have *Nutley Neighbors* who ask if you need anything at the store when you are sick? That's *agape* love.

Sometimes, love isn't about roses and candy; it might be about Robitussin and aspirin.

Make every day a *love-ly* day in the neighborhood.



**Joyce Corey** Content Coordinator



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InSight Eye & Vision Care is a full service optometric practice and optical shop she opened in 2017 with hopes of providing a one stop shop for excellent eye care, eyewear and personalized service for the community.



### 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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From left: Sophie, Armando, Heather, Emily and Lily

## Hope Lives in the Soto Home

By Joyce Corey

Photographs by Randall Kenneth Photography

**A**lthough there may not be a family member named Hope Soto, for Heather, Armando, Emily, and Sophie, hope is a very real presence in their home. They all believe that miracles happen every day and this expectation is the guiding force within their lives.

Heather believes that "everything happens for a reason, whether as a blessing or a lesson."

"Being asked to be the Feature Family for the February issue of *Nutley Neighbors* magazine is one in a long line of coincidences in my life," Heather explains. "This month has a lot of significance for me and my family. Armando and I had our first date on Valentine's Day in 1992 and his birthday is this month."

Their first date came after many phone conversations but meeting in person was the official start of their relationship. "We met at Michael Angelo's Restaurant in



Family and love is everything.  
Vacationing in Aruba

Newark which has since closed. We were with a bunch of our friends when Armando came in with balloons and flowers. It was very romantic," Heather said.

The couple was married on September 13, 1997. (Make note of the number 13 here!) About a month later, they bought a house here in Nutley. "We had admired the house for a while. It has some beautiful features like stained glass and molding."

Heather and Armando have two daughters, Emily and Sophie.

"Emily is 19 and is enrolled in the fashion program at Bergen Community College," Heather said. "Her goal after graduating is to attend LIM College in New York to pursue a career in this field. Emily has worked in some aspect of the fashion industry since she was 16 and has known from a young age that this is the career for her."

Sophie is a junior at Nutley High School and is active in St. Mary's Peer Leadership program and with the Relay for Life committee. She enjoys her job at Centre Ridge Nursery and is a huge plant and animal lover.

Lily, the family's miniature apricot poodle, can attest to the love and devotion she feels from everyone in the family.

And the love that comes from the Soto family is shown in many ways throughout our town. Heather Soto is going into her fifth year as Event Lead for Nutley's Relay for Life. She said, "It has been an amazing experience and I built beautiful new friendships and connected with my community, in a new positive way."

Heather's involvement with Relay for Life came after her father was diagnosed with melanoma. His death in 2010 led her on a journey to help others while fundraising for a cure for cancer.

"My relay team, created in 2011, is Hearts 4 A Cure and has raised over \$66,000 so far for the American Cancer Society," Heather tells us. "The team size has fluctuated through the years; currently there are five thriving survivors on the team in this short amount of time. Love and hope unite us for the fight against cancer."

Now, let's look at the significance of the number 13 for Heather.



*Hope lives here!*

"Since I believe that everything happens for a reason, my involvement with Relay for Life is no coincidence. I am on the right path," she said. "Although it was heartbreaking to lose my dad to cancer, I am now on a journey to help others."

"This is Nutley's 13th year in Relay for Life and we are expected to break the \$1.3 million mark in donations. Our theme is 'Believe in Hope.'"

This past Valentine's Day I gave 'hope' a physical form by introducing a giant bear named Hope. She can be seen around town and is a reminder to expect wonderful things to happen."

"Commissioner Tucci and the Parks and Recreation Department allow me the resources to execute a successful Relay for Life each year," Heather said. "Nutley's Relay will be on May 27, 2019 at DeMuro Park from 6:00pm to midnight. We post updates and other important information at [Relayforlife.org/NutleyNJ](http://Relayforlife.org/NutleyNJ)."

The Soto family also supports the cause in other personal ways. "My daughter, Sophie, is very active with Relay for Life as well. She has worn different hats through the years but everyone truly loves her macaroni angels."

At Christmas, their house also becomes a testament to supporting the cause. "We line the walkways to our house with the luminaria bags on Christmas Eve. Many of our

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*The luminaries at Christmas Eve*

neighbors do the same," Heather said.

She also added a special event. "In 2016, I began to organize and celebrate National Cancer Survivor Day annually for Nutley specifically. It's a beautiful time for our survivors and caregivers to enjoy this yearly celebration, have a bite to eat, or win some prizes."

In the community, the Soto family is known for their friendliness and 'open door' approach. Heather said, "Our neighborhood is a little slice of heaven to us. Our neighbors are great, friendly, and genuinely look out for each other. Armando can often be seen in his man cave (aka detached garage). We welcome neighbors who come to visit and are always there for them, as they are for us."

That's the heart of *Nutley Neighbors*, but the Soto family added one more element: hope.

Everything happens for a reason and blessings and lessons abound within this home. Just ask Hope. ■

# 5

## *Five Things the Soto Family Loves About Nutley*

1. Charm and character of town
2. Parks
3. Family-oriented
4. Schools
5. Eateries, especially Ralph's their all-time favorite.

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](mailto:jcorey@bestversionmedia.com).

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# Nutley Raiders Youth Wrestling on the Rise

By Joyce Corey



*Pictured from left to right: Jack Finkelstein, Luke Finkelstein, Liam Murphy, Shane Castellanos, Trace Castellanos, Nolan Brewer, A.J. Maiden, Ethan Maiden, and Nate Brewer at the 2018 Novice Tournament in February, proudly wearing their medals earned*

Coach Michael Blanchard often refers to what the Nutley Youth Wrestling program was like in his early years there. "We were very inexperienced, and we only had three coaches and about 20 kids." Blanchard came to Nutley after close to a decade and a half as a high school wrestling coach at Rutherford High School where he is employed as a middle school teacher. There, his teams amassed over 150 wins, several sectional berths, and numerous county, district, regional, and state medals. "When I left we secured a school record 21-win season and I felt I had been able to help the program achieve the pinnacle of its success. My third son was born in May of that year, and I knew it was time to let younger guys have a crack at coaching the squad."

After a year away from the sport, Blanchard decided to get his oldest son, Matthew, involved in 2014. Shortly afterwards his middle son, Evan, took up the sport.

"Wrestling has always been one of the best decisions of my life. It helped me grow in self-confidence, discipline, and work ethic. I use the things I learned in wrestling every single day of my life. I wanted to share that with my sons and their friends."

Five years later, the program is thriving. There are now over 75 kids wrestling, many of whom have several years' experience. The program also boasts seventeen coaches from the three tiers. "We have a Novice group for our beginners, an Intermediate group for those that have a few years' experience, and then a County team that wrestles an actual dual meet schedule. I'm thankful so many have bought into what we are trying to do here in Nutley. We aren't just developing individuals. We are building a team."

This past year, the program ran a summer clinic that helped attract more kids to the team. Blanchard and several coaches and wrestlers took an 8.5 hour car ride



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out to Ohio State to attend a father/son wrestling camp with head coach, Tom Ryan. "It was enlightening to hear Coach Ryan speak about the sport that did so much for him and his wrestlers. I enjoyed that camp very much. I'm hoping we can give our kids that gift, too."

"This past season, we took about thirty-five wrestlers into our Intermediate group. We set up a schedule that allowed them to wrestle at events with the Novice kids, but also to gain mat experience with dual meets for them as well. The hope was that the Intermediate group would

learn what it was like to be the only wrestler out there at a time."

As the team has concluded another season, Blanchard sees the next season as one that faces two main challenges. First, they will have close to fifty kids on the County level with only sixteen weight classes. This means that they actually have too many kids which is a good problem to have considering where they were just five

short years ago. Second, the wrestling room that houses the program is getting a lot of use. The size presents the second challenge because they can only fit about 25-30 wrestlers at a time.

But there are solutions to both challenges and with the support of the many people involved, they will start to see Nutley Youth Wrestling transform even further. "What helps our program most is the support of Parks and Recreation - particularly Superintendent Frank DeMaio, and Michael DiPiano, head coach of the Nutley High School wrestling team. We are in constant communication and they support us in so many ways. We are very lucky to have them in our corner." ■



*Evan Blanchard and Valen DeLaney garner medals at the Novice Tournament in Clifton in February of 2018. Twenty six wrestlers placed in the top 4 of the tournament.*

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*Submitted by Tiffany Servidio*

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*Submitted by Christa Milici*

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# Nutley Spring Garden Hosted Jessie Chris, Country Singer

By Paula Miller

Spring Garden Elementary School in Nutley hosted Jessie Chris, the 2018 Billboard "Artist to Watch" and Elvis Duran's "TODAY Show Artist of The Month," on November 14, 2018. This was part of a national tour which also included Nutley's Radcliffe Elementary school. Jessie Chris was a victim of bullying growing up and music became her way of coping with these experiences. Her tour includes visiting 100 schools across the country to speak with students about her story. Through her kind efforts, she hosts school assemblies where she plays some of her music and talks to the children about what bullying is and



Jessie Chris (right), with Rickie and Ava Dooley

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how music can help them cope through difficult times. She wrote a children's book which was sold by both Nutley elementary schools and a dollar from each sale was donated to the schools. Philanthropy is important to this artist and her kindness clearly shined throughout the Nutley community. It sends an astounding message to the youth that being mindful of your feelings and learning healthy coping skills is crucial when you are young. Her message complements the great work provided by our Nutley educators today. ■

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# DIY Dog Food & Treats

By Chelsea Scott



For most dog owners, purchasing dog food and treats from the grocery or pet store is the way we've always done it. We have a favorite brand that we trust and our furry companion finds delicious.

But maybe there's a better way. Mass-produced pet foods might contain chemicals, hard-to-pronounce ingredients, byproducts and fillers. And let's face it: the cost adds up. Making your own dog food at home is an easy way to ensure that you know exactly what's going into Fido's bowl. And it's surprisingly simple to do. There's no shortage of treat recipes out there, either. DIY dog food and treats are scrumptious, healthy and affordable. Check out my pup's favorite recipes:

## "EAT YOUR VEGGIES!" DOG FOOD

- 1 cup white rice (cooked according to package directions)
- 2 pounds ground beef
- 2 pounds ground chicken
- 2 sweet potatoes, cubed
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 2 cups baby spinach, chopped

- 2 carrots, chopped
- 1 cup organic beef broth
- 1/2 cup water

Brown the meats in a large pot over medium heat. Add the sweet potatoes, peas, spinach and carrots. Continue cooking for another 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add broth and water. Cover and cook for another 20-30 minutes or until the sweet potatoes are fork-tender. Stir in the rice and let it cool. Package it into 1/2 cup or cup portions, and keep them in the refrigerator. Refrigerated food will keep for a week. Store remaining portions in the freezer for up to two months.

## BLUEBERRY BANANA ICE CREAM TREATS

- 2 cups plain yogurt
  - 1/2 banana, sliced
  - 1/4 cup blueberries
  - 1 tablespoon peanut butter (free of xylitol)
- Blend everything in a food processor or blender. Then, spoon it all into ice cube trays. Store these trays in freezer bags. Place them in your freezer for three hours or overnight. ■

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# Tyler Genitempo Named First Recipient of the Diane Greco Sajle Scholarship

By Alana Bonillo

Family and football are some of the many things the Greco family of Nutley holds dear.

"For the past five decades, there has been at least one member of the Greco family involved in some type of Nutley football program in one way or another," explains Thomas Greco, lifelong resident and founder of Thomas Greco Publishing (also based in Nutley). Members of the family have coached midget football or flag football and played at the junior high and high school level since the 1950s, ending in 2015 when his son graduated high school.

Always looking to give back to the town he has called home his whole life, Greco was working on his company's yearly ad for the Nutley High School football program when the idea came to him: a small scholarship in honor of his sister, Diane, who passed away earlier in the year from pancreatic cancer. It was then that the Diane Greco Sajle Scholarship was born.

Although Diane, a Class of 1974 Nutley High School graduate, was not an athlete, football and the Nutley community were very important to her. Her brother decided to create a scholarship that would be awarded to the "most valuable teammate," who, along with displaying athletic abilities, also exhibited the qualities Diane was most known for: compassion, dedication, and selflessness towards



Above: Tyler receiving his scholarship  
at a recent football awards dinner  
Left: Diane Greco Sajle



family, friends and community.

"Even though Diane left Nutley when she got married, she never stopped loving the town and always wanted to move back. Unfortunately, she never got the chance. I know she'd love the idea that we are keeping her memory alive in Nutley and through Nutley football, because it was always such a big part of our family."

The scholarship is funded by members of the Greco family and a close family friend, Glenn Villacari of Parkway Auto Body in Nutley.

"We are so thankful to him for his contribution," shares Greco.

Since the family is not currently involved with Nutley High School football program, Greco reached out to Coach Steve DiGregorio entrusting him and the rest of the coaching staff to choose the most deserving team member who best fit the qualities of "most valuable teammate."

Tyler Genitempo, Class of 2019, was chosen as the first recipient of the new scholarship. He was named the recipient of the award at a recent football awards dinner by Rob Melillo, assistant coach and Greco family friend. This past December, members of the Greco family gathered

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with Genitempo and the football coaching staff to formally present him with the \$2,000 award.

"It felt great. I didn't expect it and was completely taken by surprise," shared Genitempo.

Knowing it was the first year the award was being given out, he was extremely happy to receive it. When asked what his plans for the future involve, Genitempo says he is interested in studying criminal law with the possibility of pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Coach DiGregorio shared examples of Genitempo's selfless nature which made him the right choice for this scholarship. The young athlete willingly volunteered to give up his position as wide-receiver in order to fill the team's need for a tight-end, which his coach recognized as a selfless gesture.

"Tyler is a hard worker and terrific teammate," he added. "He gives 100 percent in everything we asked him to do. He excels in the classroom and we have always been impressed with the way he carries himself and how he treats his teammates. The success he had this year led to him being honorable mention All-League and we are very proud of him."

"I want to thank Coach DiGregorio for so willingly helping to honor my sister and share in this new family tradition," says Greco.

The Diane Greco Sajle Scholarship will be awarded annually at the conclusion of the Nutley High School football season each December. ■



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# The Quest for Seed Supremacy

By David Wilson

Gardeners everywhere are constantly seeking the perfect crop or flower. Every year we are inundated with seed catalogs, e-mails, and advertisements as merchants compete for our loyalty and gardening monies. Accelerated seasons ensure garden catalogs that used to start arriving in January are now appearing two months earlier in November. Gazing out the window at dreary winter landscapes makes us long for that first flower in spring, fresh sugar snap peas, or a ripe tomato. We want to order one of everything in the catalog and start now!

First we need to control our enthusiasm, as we review yard pictures and journals from previous years to see what grew well and how much space we have to plant. Read each catalog's business statement to ensure they have taken the "Safe Seed Pledge." This means the seeds will not be chemically treated or genetically modified (non-GMO) and may be certified organic. Hybrid selections incorporate the best traits of a species to ensure strong, successful plants. Heirloom and open pollinated varieties are important to gardeners for retaining old world flavors and plant characteristics.

The choices can be overwhelming and I am impressed that writers can describe twenty varieties of a crop, each in a different way. Start to breakdown the descriptions for space requirements. Compact or bush varieties work in small gardens, vining or plants that require support



Left: Seeds come in all shapes and sizes.

Above: The garden bounty from nature's miracle.



indicate large space needs. Next, look for weather requirements that can include planting zones, temperature extremes, moisture requirements, and days to maturity. Shorter maturity times may mean you can beat hot weather or frost to ensure plant production and allow for succession crops in that same space.

Compare several catalogs to find exclusive varieties that are successful or offer a new twist on old classics. Look for AAS winners, staff favorite, easy-to grow, footnotes, and other key phrases to aid you. I prefer smaller seed companies that are independent and offer quality customer service. You will find that many companies use the same mailing address, a sure sign of a disguised large centralized seller offering the same seeds under several aliases. Pinetree Garden Seeds, [www.superseeds.com](http://www.superseeds.com), is perfect for home gardeners.

Other characteristics to watch for are disease resistant or good disease package to ensure healthy plants without spraying. Harvest tips include good picked raw, suitable for canning, or great for freezing. Isolation of some corns and other crops may be needed to prevent cross-pollination that could produce poor quality crops.



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Here is where neighbors must work together and share compatible seeds. Donate any surplus seeds to your community garden. Store seeds in glass jars with desiccant in a cool place. [VernonBean.com](http://VernonBean.com) is another good seed company.

You have made your selections and just like packing for a trip, eliminate twenty-five percent for lack of space. Look for small seed packets if home gardening and don't try to plant every seed. Hold some back to replace sprouting failures and to stagger crops for harvesting. Some seeds are directly planted in the soil. Others that produce long season plants have to be started indoors to be ready for transplant when weather settles. Many catalogs offer growing tips including soil temperatures, spacing, and harvesting. [GardensAlive.com](http://GardensAlive.com) offers seeds, plants, lawn care, and household items.

Enjoy reading these catalogs as we get ready for another growing season and try at least one new type or variety of seed in your backyard garden. Nutley's own Joey Bee offers educational talks at [joeybeepodcast.com](http://joeybeepodcast.com). ■

*David Wilson is an expert organic gardener, who also enjoys researching and sharing Nutley history. His new release, Fire in Our Lives, is an encyclopedic book of advice and experiences taken from a forty-year career in public service, emphasizing fire safety and severe weather preparedness. Available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.*



## Ribbon Cutting

Submitted by Nutley Chamber of Commerce



The Nutley Chamber of Commerce welcomes, **Nutley Family Dentistry**, 422 Franklin Avenue, Nutley, 973-235-9440, [www.nutleyfamilydentistrynj.com](http://www.nutleyfamilydentistrynj.com), [info@nutleyfamilydentistrynj.com](mailto:info@nutleyfamilydentistrynj.com), as a member.

When it comes to preserving, enhancing and beautifying our smiles, we all want the best. The best care, the best service, the best results. It's as simple as that for Nutley Family Dentistry's Dr. Vicmary Kritharis. Dr. Vicmary is a unique kind of dentist. She takes a gentle approach, easing any concerns you might have by providing valuable patient education. She listens so she can best understand your particular needs. Then she strives to provide the highest standard of personalized dental care using her skilled training in the latest advances in dental technology. ■

L-r: attorney Andy Garruto, Rula Abualhuda of Spencer Savings Bank, Tara Yasenchak of Talent Hub 360, Frank Turano of American Made Custom Cabinets, Wilma of Nutley Family Dentistry, Kim Garner of Absolute Rehab, Dr. Vicmary Kritharis, Nancy Shaulis of Valley National Bank, attorney Frank Costenbader, Neil Henning of Fortress Financial, Marlene of Nutley Family Dentistry, Jessica of Nutley Family Dentistry, Mike Stefanelli of *Nutley Neighbors Magazine*

\*Photo courtesy of Chamber Member Randy Frum of Randall Kenneth Photography

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# Love is in the Nutley Air

By Scarlett Morris

There's something so charming about thoughtful, creative dates. You get so used to living somewhere, you may not think there's much old-world romance left there, but you may surprise yourself (and your partner!) by taking advantage of the simple pleasures in town. Try these date ideas and explore Nutley in a new way with your Valentine! Love is in the air, after all.

## PIZZA TOUR

It's a known fact. The way to ANYONE'S heart is through their stomach. Forgo the candlelit dinner this year in favor of a DIY pizza tour right here in Nutley. There are at least 10 pizzerias in town, all with a 4+ star rating on Google. Start at one end of town and stop for a slice at each one along your route! Create your own rating system and vote for your favorites at the end. Maybe you'll discover a new go-to for your next pie.

## EXPLORATORY WALK

If the weather is mild, go for a winter stroll. Nutley's park system heads straight through town from end to end. Start at Kingsland Park by the Kingsland Manor and walk all the way to Booth Park at Harrison Street. Even though you may spend your days driving up and down the same streets in town, walking will get you to notice an unexpected amount of new details. If you get chilly, veer off path to warm up with a cup of hot cocoa. Add another element to the

adventure by making up a scavenger hunt of things to look for along the way!

## A MAGICAL SUNRISE

Early risers, make a date of it! Wake up in the dark and stop to pick up some bagel sandwiches and coffee. Head to one of Nutley's high points near East Passaic, park your car facing the city and put on some music to catch a one-of-a-kind sunrise over the skyline. There are not many places with such an amazing view, so take advantage of this feature right in your town!

## PICNIC AT HOME

There are not many opportunities to picnic in New Jersey in February, so make your own! If you have kids, this is a special night for the whole family. Head to the Nutley Public Library and pick out a romantic comedy - or treat your kids to your favorite old classic that they might love (my mom showed me West Side Story when I was six, but full disclosure: that was probably a tad too intense!) If you really want to create the perfect atmosphere, bring your beach umbrella inside and lay it on the floor with a blanket in front. Spread out some sandwiches and picnic fixin's and huddle up together to watch!

Make date night a regular habit, not just a Valentine's special by incorporating some new ideas into your routine. Keep the love alive between you and your partner...and, of course, Nutley! ■



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## Love Your Phone? You are Going to Love These New Library Apps

By Nick Van Dorn, Senior Librarian

In the March 2016 issue of *Nutley Neighbors*, we spotlighted free digital materials to access and borrow from the convenience of your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Since that time, newer apps have been added to our website with improved search features, easier to navigate screens, and fewer overall steps. As before, to access these apps, all you need is your Nutley Public Library card. Whether you are looking to borrow digital books, audiobooks, or magazines, take a class on photography, or learn how to speak a new language, the Nutley Public Library is your digital source to help you meet your personal, professional, and leisure-time goals.

Here are some of our recent additions:

### ■ LIBBY

Meet Libby, the one-tap reading app from your library. Browse through a collection of over 24,000 popular and classic titles consisting of fiction, nonfiction, and biographies. With Libby, you can read books and listen to audiobooks, instantly, with little or no steps required. Libby offers you the option to download these materials for offline reading or you can stream them to save space on your device. Keep track of your reading history by adding bookmarks and notes and then sync them across multiple

devices, so you can easily pick up where you left off no matter what device you choose to read from.

### ■ RBDIGITAL

If you remember Zinio, then you will love RBDigital. RBDigital is Zinio with a new name and improved features. Browse through this digital newsstand that consists of over 250 magazines! The best thing is there are no checkout limits, returns, or hold lists. You can also access archives to download magazines you may have missed throughout the year. Plus, once you download a magazine it is yours to keep, but you can always delete it from the app if you no longer wish to read it.

### ■ LYNDIA

Looking to improve on your time management, discover new features in the latest Microsoft Office, or ace that upcoming job interview? Lynda.com can help. Lynda is an online learning site that hosts a constantly growing library for nearly any subject you can think of, now with over 7,000 courses! In addition to a tablet, phone, or computer, you can also access Lynda through your Roku or Apple TV. These courses are delivered by expert instructors in their fields and feature searchable transcripts that make it easy to find quick answers to questions. There are also certificates of completion that you can upload to your LinkedIn profile.

### ■ ROSETTA STONE

This award-winning language-learning tool, provided to all New Jersey libraries through funding by the State Library of NJ, gives you the option to learn from over 30 languages. Rosetta Stone's learning is structured around core lessons to build reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills and also includes focused activities to refine grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Please note in addition to Rosetta Stone, we still offer access to the popular language learning tool Mango and Little Pim for children. ■

All of these new additions are available on our website at [NutleyPublicLibrary.org](http://NutleyPublicLibrary.org). If you need help getting started or just want some more information, stop by at the Reference Desk, call us at 973-667-0405 x2604 or email us at [library@nutleynj.org](mailto:library@nutleynj.org). We are always here to help.

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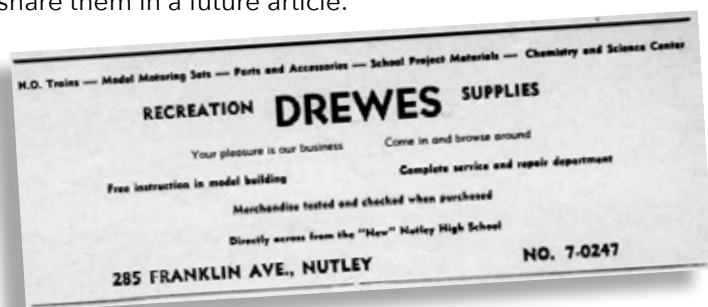
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# Three Nutley Merchants Who Changed Our Lives

By Barry Lenson

All the advertisements you will find in *Nutley Neighbors* prove the point that Nutley businesses do so much to make life in our town so much better. Whether you need a massage, financial counseling, a dinner, or a watchband, they are there for you.

And they always have been. In this article, I would like to reflect on three Nutley merchants who contributed so much to my childhood in Nutley back in the 1950s and 1960s. Perhaps you remember them too, or you would like to mention other Nutley merchants from years past? I would encourage you to send me an email at [barrylenson@aya.yale](mailto:barrylenson@aya.yale) and share your memories. Perhaps I can share them in a future article.



## DREWES RECREATION SUPPLIES

Drewes was more than a hobby shop. It was a family you could join if you wanted to, and everyone was warmly welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Drewes and their two sons Bobby and Buddy. When I first visited Mr. George Drewes, he wasn't actually operating a store. He was dispensing hobby advice from his basement on Church Street. I remember walking down his driveway and going down his cellar stairs and there he was, helping boys (mostly) build model cars, boats, and planes. Mrs. Drewes would pop in to say hello. She knew all our names, the sports we played, everything.

At a certain point, Mr. and Mrs. Drewes moved to a storefront right across the street from Nutley High and became a real store. Mr. Drewes still offered advice. Plus, he installed a slot car track and held weekly slot car races. There were also contests where you could enter the models you built. Mr. and Mrs. Drewes enriched the experience of what it meant to be a kid who was growing up in town. Did they change your life too?



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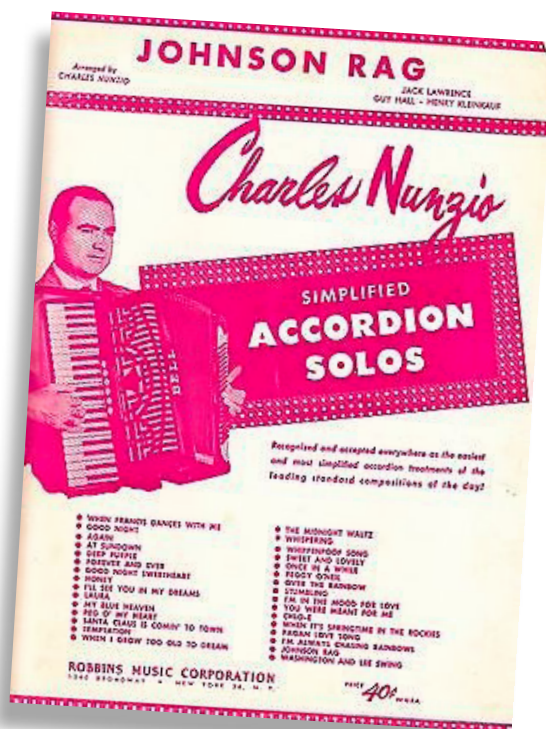
## GANTNER'S HARDWARE

Gantner's Hardware changed everyone's life in Nutley. It was located at the corner of Franklin Avenue and Stager Street. My dad and I would go there when we had any kind of home fix-up problem, and John Gantner would answer our questions and propose a solution, usually in the form of a tube of putty, a box of rubber washers, or a particular screw or bolt.

Gantner's was a true hometown Nutley business, a magical place if you were a kid. I really miss it. And all of us in Nutley are privileged because Mrs. Wilma Gantner, John's wife, chose to call Nutley home until her recent death in January, 2019.

## NUNZIO'S MUSIC

I started taking accordion lessons from Charles Nunzio at his music shop on Franklin Avenue when I was about six. I then went to a few other music schools in the area, but returned to study with him when I was in high school. Charles Nunzio was a master musician. After I graduated Nutley High School, I went off to study with world-renowned musicians at two of the most prestigious music



conservatories in North America. But Charles Nunzio knew just as much as those teachers did, and probably more, about how to shape a musical phrase or make a piece of music come alive.

He was a master musician who chose to make Nutley his home, and the home for his business. Did he change your life too? Today, several private music studios in town carry on the tradition.

If you have memories of Nutley merchants who changed your life, please take a moment to let me know. I bet that some of the businesses who you will find in Nutley Neighbors are changing your life today. Please take a moment to let me know at [barrylenson@aya.yale.edu](mailto:barrylenson@aya.yale.edu). ■



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John Gantner of Gantner's Hardware

**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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# EVENTS CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2019

**Feb. 3, Sun.**

**Maternity Meet and Greet:  
Maternity Center Tour**

@Clara Maass Medical Center,  
1 Clara Maass Dr., Belleville  
Prepare for the birth of your  
child by meeting staff, touring the  
Maternity Center, and learning  
about various parent education  
classes. Get to know the Labor-  
and-Delivery unit and ask about  
admitting procedures and childbirth  
options. Tours are also available by  
request.  
Time: 9-10am, 10-11am  
For more information or to register  
call 1-888-724-7123

**Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, Mon.**

**Self Help Program: Tai Chi,  
Qigong, Yoga, Stress Technique,  
& Meditation**

@Parks and Recreation Bldg.,  
44 Park Ave.  
Time: 10-11am  
For more information contact the  
Recreation office at 973-284-4966

**Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, Mon.**

**Senior Art Program**

@Parks and Recreation Bldg.,

44 Park Ave.

Time: 1:00-2:30pm

For more information contact the  
Recreation office at 973-284-4966

**Feb. 5, 19, Tue.**

**Board of Commissioners  
Meeting**

@Town Hall, 3rd Floor Commission  
Chambers, 1 Kennedy Dr.  
Time: 7pm  
Open to the public  
For more information visit  
[www.nutleynj.org/board-of-commissioners](http://www.nutleynj.org/board-of-commissioners)

**Feb. 5, 12, Tue.**

**Infant Massage Class**

@Clara Maass Medical Center,  
1 Clara Maass Dr., Belleville  
Parents and caregivers will learn  
the benefits of massage as a  
way to improve bonding and  
communication, improve sleep and  
digestion, and reduce stress and  
depression in both parents and  
babies. Parents-to-be and those  
with children from 2 weeks to age  
1 may participate. For expecting  
parents, a doll will be provided for  
in-class practice.

Time: 6-8pm

Cost: Free

For more information or to register  
call 1-888-724-7123

**Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, Wed.**

**Essex County Aerobic Exercise  
Program**

@Parks and Recreation Building,  
44 Park Ave.  
Time: 9:30am  
For more information and to  
register call 973-735-6228

**Feb. 6, Wed.**

**Essex County Clerk Program**

@Parks and Recreation Building,  
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  
Cost: Free  
For more information visit  
[www.nutleynj.org/recreation](http://www.nutleynj.org/recreation)

**Feb. 10, Sun.**

**Nutley Winter Farmers Market**

@Vincent Methodist Church,  
100 Vincent Pl.  
The first ever Winter Market will  
offer a variety of local foods and  
handmade products – a bright spot  
in winter for shoppers from the  
Township of Nutley, NJ and the  
surrounding communities.  
Time: 1:30-5:30pm  
For more information call co-  
Market Manager Meredith Blank  
at 973-284-4951 x2424, email  
[mblank@nutleynj.org](mailto:mblank@nutleynj.org), or visit  
[www.nutleynj.org/farmersmarket](http://www.nutleynj.org/farmersmarket)

**Feb. 11, Mon.**

**Breastfeeding Workshop**

@Clara Maass Medical Center,  
1 Clara Maass Dr., Belleville  
Learn more about resources  
that can help you choose the  
best option for you and your  
baby. Trained lactation experts  
will give expectant mothers  
information about the advantages  
of breastfeeding, maternal nutrition,  
breast care, and breastfeeding tips  
for the working mother.  
Time: 7-9pm

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Cost: \$25 per person  
For more information or to register call 1-888-724-7123

**Feb. 16, Sat.  
Build a Bird House**

@Essex County Environmental Center, 621-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland  
For adults and children ages 10 and older who are accompanied by an adult. Build a home that encourages breeding birds and other wildlife to take residence. Putting out your bird house now creates a good chance of having a nesting pair of songbirds in your garden by spring.  
Time: 11am-12:30pm  
Cost: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult  
For more information or to register call 973-228-8776

**Feb 16, Sat.  
Electronics Recycling  
Collection Day**

@Municipal Parking Lot 7, 507 Franklin Ave. (behind Bella Luce)  
Acceptable items include computers, laptops, fax machines, microwaves, monitors, printers, scanners, stereos, speakers, VCR and DVD players, and televisions.  
Time: 9am-1pm

For more information call the Department of Public Works at 973-284-4984

**Feb. 17, Sun.  
Kingsland Manor  
Open House Tour**

@3 Kingsland St.  
Come explore the historic homestead of the Kingsland family and beyond, set within park-like grounds overlooking a pond and waterfalls.  
Time: 1-4pm  
For more information visit [www.kingslandmanor.org](http://www.kingslandmanor.org)

**Feb 21, Thurs.  
Family Walk and Campfire**

@Essex County Environmental Center, 621-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland  
Join a naturalist for a short walk on the trails and experience forest life at night. After the walk, enjoy a campfire with organic fire-popped popcorn and mint tea.  
Time: 6-7:30pm  
Cost: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult  
For more information or to register call 973-228-8776

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**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**

They conduct a number of health workshops throughout the year as well as provide resources to some of the finest health service organizations in New Jersey. These resources include home care planning, family/caregiver support and respite, medication management options and home safety. They also conduct screenings

for skin cancer, adult vision, and colorectal cancer. Immunizations and a children's clinic are also available.

Call for more information:  
973-284-4976  
[www.nutleynj.org/health](http://www.nutleynj.org/health)

**Nutley Corps**

Nutley students from grades 6 to 12 are invited to assist the Department of Public Affairs with a number of our senior citizens, health and veteran programs, and other community services. Nutley Corps is a very rewarding and educational experience for all the students who participate. Email Commissioner Rogers for more information: [commissionerrogers@nutleynj.org](mailto:commissionerrogers@nutleynj.org)  
[www.nutleynj.org/nutley-corps](http://www.nutleynj.org/nutley-corps)

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## ***Homes Currently for Sale by Price Range***

200,000 - \$300,000 – 13

\$300,000 - \$400,000 – 8

\$400,000 - \$450,000 – 6

\$450,000 - \$500,000 – 8

\$500,000 - \$600,000 – 3

\$600,000 + – 4

**Largest Listing \$879,999**

## ***Homes Sold Last 90 Days***

\$200,000 - \$300,000 – 11

\$300,000 - \$400,000 – 19

\$400,000 - \$450,000 – 12

\$450,000 - \$500,000 – 7

\$500,000 - \$600,000 – 8

\$600,000 + – 5

**Largest Sale \$802,500**

Best Version Media does not guarantee the accuracy of the statistical data on this page. Any real estate agent's ad appearing in this magazine is separate from any statistical data provided which is in no way a part of their advertisement.

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### Important Phone Numbers - [www.NutleyNJ.org](http://www.NutleyNJ.org)

Emergency ..... 911  
 Police Department..... (973) 284-4940  
 Fire Department..... (973) 284-4940  
 Town Hall ..... (973) 284-4951  
 Library ..... (973) 667-0405

Parks and Recreation ..... (973) 284-4966  
 School District..... (973) 661-3500  
 Chamber of Commerce ..... (973) 667-5300  
 Public Affairs & Health Dept. .... (973) 284-4976  
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