

FEBRUARY 2020

A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

NUTLEY NEIGHBORS

The Andres
Family is Sold
on Nutley!

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Randall Kenneth
Photography



Best Version Media



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| March 25..... | May 1 |
| April 25..... | June 1 |
| May 25..... | July 1 |
| June 25..... | August 1 |
| July 25..... | September 1 |
| August 25..... | October 1 |
| September 25..... | November 1 |
| October 25..... | December 1 |

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A Bonus!

Don't you love to receive something a little extra? It could be some alarm-clock-free sleep on the weekend, another scoop of your favorite ice cream, or even the gift of time. Yes, time.

February comes with a bonus this year; it's a leap year so we are given one entire day.

Now, since it's February, I must confess that I am not completely thrilled. To be honest, I would rather have an extra day in one of the summer months, but I am not in charge of calendar making. If you were to ask me what I think of February, I would say it is probably the longest, shortest month. Longest because spring is a few weeks away and the cold temperatures, snow, and icicles seem to literally freeze time.

But this month, I am going to grab that extra day with gusto! (Not quite sure what gusto is but it's a cool cliché.)

And the perfect place to start is right here. As I was reviewing the articles for this month's issue, I saw a lot of 'bonuses' that happened in everyday (not even a leap year) moments.

Like when the Andres family, who is on the cover, found the ideal house in Nutley and then got the *bonus* of having that house in the perfect spot for them in town.

When David Wilson decided to write about cookbooks, he had the *bonus* of interviewing many people and collecting, not only their recipes, but their recollections about the role of food in family fun and celebrations through the years. This is definitely an interesting look inside Nutley kitchens.

Barry Lenson, of the Nutley Historical Society, takes us on a virtual walking tour of The Enclosure in his article. The *bonus* is when we see that those apparently ordinary looking houses were homes to some extraordinarily talented people.

Within these pages, you will find other people, places, or events that can give you a *bonus*. Our advertisers help bring this publication to your homes each month and I consider that a *bonus* from them. The Calendar of Events can introduce you to a new event or activity. And let's not forget the Pet Corner, where you have the *bonus* of welcoming a new family member into your home.

Sometimes, the year isn't big enough for all the *bonus* moments we have, not even when the year is 366 days.

See you next month!



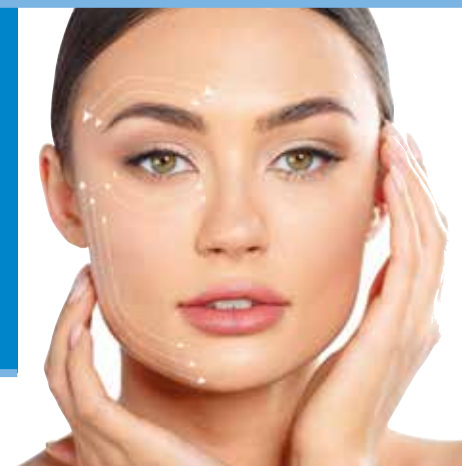
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INSIGHT EYE & VISION CARE

Dr. Theresa Radtke is a 2016 graduate of the Arizona College of Optometry. Through completing a residency and clinical rotations focused in Ocular Disease, she honed her skills in diagnosing and treating a full spectrum of eye conditions. 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.



LIGRESTI DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATES

Doctor Dominick J. Ligresti is a Medical Doctor who is a Board Certified Dermatologist (which is the highest degree in medicine and dermatology). He is also an Adjunct Professor of Dermatology and Clinic Chief at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in NYC.

He teaches medical doctors from Hackensack University Hospital.

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



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|---------------------|----|
| \$400,000-\$449,999 | 11 |
| \$450,000-\$499,999 | 10 |
| \$500,000-\$549,999 | 2 |
| \$550,000-\$599,999 | 5 |
| \$600,000-\$699,999 | 6 |
| \$700,000+ | 4 |

Largest Listing \$1,400,000

Homes Sold in 2019 by Price Range

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| \$400,000-\$449,999 | 75 |
| \$450,000-\$499,999 | 46 |
| \$500,000-\$549,999 | 33 |
| \$550,000-\$599,999 | 7 |
| \$600,000-\$699,999 | 14 |
| \$700,000+ | 6 |

Largest Sale \$925,000



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The Andres Family is Sold on Nutley!

By Joyce Corey

Photographs by Randall Kenneth Photography

If you want to know the best places to live, just ask a real estate agent. But if you want to know the best place to settle down, raise a family, and have a happy and fulfilling life, find out where the real estate agent lives.

This month, we visit the Andres family, Chris, Melissa, and their two children, Olivia and Anthony. Chris works for Weichert Realtors in Clifton and, after visiting with them this month, it's pretty clear why they are all sold on Nutley.



Olivia is a Nutley cheerleader. Anthony played soccer on the Nutley Parks and Recreation AS Roma team last fall.

Chris and Melissa started their life's journey together in 2002. "That's when we met at a mutual friend's event at a bar named Apple in New York City," Melissa said. "On June 16, 2007, we were married at Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield."

As mentioned, Chris works for Weichert Realtors where he recently earned the award of 'Rookie of the Year.' He is also the manager at LJDJs Event Design and Entertainment in Clifton and works as a DJ

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and MC for events. He graduated Rutgers University-Newark in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Melissa graduated from Rutgers University-New Brunswick in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences and then continued her education. She said, "I attended Montclair State University for my master's degree in business administration and was a January 2020 graduate. I work full time as a nuclear medicine technologist performing cardiac nuclear stress tests for Magnus Imaging of Englewood Hospital in Glen Ridge, New Jersey."

"Working, earning a master's degree, and being a mom has not been easy but completely worth it," she said. "It's great that Chris is not a typical nine-to-five dad since his work in real estate and DJ events allows him to be around a lot for the children and their activities. We definitely have a great tag-team partnership."

Chris and Melissa are the happy parents of Olivia and Anthony, who are active in school and recreation events.

"Olivia is in the fourth grade at Lincoln School and loves her friends and all her teachers," Melissa tells us. "When she made her first Communion, she invited all of her teachers. She plays the viola and enjoys math as her favorite subject. Attending the Kumon Center for Math and Reading in Nutley gives her more time with that favorite subject! She has been a Nutley cheerleader for the past two years and likes that very much."

"Anthony is the big soccer fan," Melissa said. "He played for the Parks and Recreation team, AS Roma, this past fall. He is in the second grade at Lincoln School."

His dad's DJ skills were seen at Anthony's school at some of the winter socials. "Chris loves to be able to contribute in that particular way for our school community," Melissa said.

Choosing Nutley had a touch of serendipity in it for the family. "We tried out Passaic County but it put us far away from our families," Melissa said. "We seriously considered Paramus in Bergen County but couldn't find the right spot. Nutley turned out to be the perfect midpoint for the children's grandparents to stay active in all of our lives."



The Andres love to take family vacations.

"Another big consideration for us was that the town has an excellent school system and many events for everyone," Chris said.

"Serendipity showed up in how we found our neighborhood," Melissa tells us. "We first fell in love with the house which is a wonderfully unique, older Tudor. Then we realized how central it was to everything in town. We live in the downtown area, Ravine Avenue, one block away from Franklin Avenue or 'The Strip' as I like to call it."

"We are both very much into health and fitness," Chris said. "We try to eat right and go to the gym at least three times a week. That's also why this location is so perfect. Everything is within walking distance—Blink Fitness, parks, barber shop, dry cleaners, all the events at the Oval and the countless number of restaurants!"

As fans of the New York Mets and the New York Giants, the family is close enough to the action, whether at in-person events or cheering from the sofa in their living room.

Since we always like to hear about *Nutley Neighbors*, Melissa tells us about the friendliness of those on her block. "Our neighbors are great! From the week we moved in, they introduced themselves right away and there were even kids close to our children's ages so we constantly had playdates and formed close relationships with them."

When the family isn't home enjoying the town and their neighbors, they love to travel. Melissa said, "We always try to take two vacations a year: one to a new place we have never visited before and another one as a relaxing mini vacation. It's our family's goal to visit as many new places as possible so the children can broaden their worldview. They always read about the places we are traveling to before we go."

The places they choose seem to also capture the love they have for each other.

"In 2019, we traveled to Las Vegas, where we got



The Andres family enjoys spending time together and everyone is active in town events, school activities, and sports programs. They not only made Nutley their home, they made a home in Nutley.

"As a real estate agent, Chris has helped many families find their homes and relocate to Nutley," Melissa said.

While the welcome mat might be by their front door, they all have a "Sold on Nutley" feeling that is expressed in their fulfilling and fun-filled lives.

In real estate, it's all about location, and Nutley is definitely the right place for this family. ■

engaged," Melissa said. "In 2017, we went to Saint Lucia where we had honeymooned."

The children may have had a hand in selecting the vacation locations as well, since the family went on a Disney cruise to Alaska in 2018, visited Disney World in Florida in 2016, and planned a trip to Disney Land in California this month.

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Five Things the Andres Family Loves About Nutley

1. Sense of community
2. Variety of restaurants
3. Parks and Recreation programs for the kids
4. Close proximity to everything
5. Santa's helicopter ride

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.

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Submitted by Tiffany Servidio



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basic commands and is full of energy. She is a young pup of about 1.5 years old and would thrive with an active family. She has so much to offer and is such a good girl. She would make a great addition to any family and is dog friendly so if you have a fur sibling for Lily she would love to meet them! Go to www.brickcityrescue.com or email info@brickcityrescue.com to apply for Lily!



Submitted by Christa Milici

Einstein is about four months old and is looking for his forever home! He was found outside by himself very sick and we nursed him back to health. He is a beautiful dark gray color with such a silky coat. He is FIV/FelV negative, vaccinated, stool tested, dewormed, microchipped and will be neutered. He will make the purrfect addition to any family! Visit the website for more information and an adoption application: www.yellowbrickroadrescuenj.com ■

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Nutley Lions Club Hosts Annual Spelling Bee

Submitted by David Harrison

The Nutley Lions Club hosted its annual spelling bee on Saturday, November 23rd. We have been holding this event for over 40 years. This year, 41 third and fourth grade students from the Nutley public schools, the Good Shepherd Academy, and the Abundant Life Academy turned out to compete for the top prizes.

The winning students for this year's spelling bee are as follows:

- 1st Place- Perry Tima
- 2nd Place- Matthew Hui
- 3rd Place- William Cruz
- 4th Place- Abigail Sanafrina

The Nutley Lions Club is an organization of volunteers who serve to prevent avoidable blindness and improve the quality of life for people who are blind and visually impaired. If you are interested in making a difference in our community you can contact Dave Harrison at 973-662-0062 or meet us for lunch at Ralph's Pizzeria, 564 Franklin Ave Nutley, at 12:15 PM on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. ■



From left: Abigail Sanafrina, William Cruz, Matthew Hui, Perry Tima

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A Walking Tour of Nutley's Artistic Past

By Barry Lenson

Where were you on the afternoon of October 28th, 1973? I know where I was. I was one of the hosts who was greeting Nutley history buffs who were taking a walking tour of The Enclosure. The Enclosure, if you don't know it, is a small dead-end street that runs west off Passaic Avenue. It sits between Chestnut Street and Calico Lane, parallel to both.

The people on that tour were interested in The Enclosure because it was an artists' colony back in the late nineteenth century. The tour gave them a chance to visit some of the studios that were once occupied by those artists.

Retracing the Tour Today

I recently found a printed flyer for that 1973 tour and took the same tour again. My reason was to see whether those studio homes were still there. I found that all but one of



The Enclosure circa 1895

those studio homes are still standing on The Enclosure. If you want to recreate that tour of 1973, here's what you should look for.

WHAT YOU CAN STILL SEE TODAY

The Frank Fowler Studio Home

16 Enclosure

Of all the homes on The Enclosure, this one is the richest in history. Frank Fowler, the first artist to move to the street, bought this home in about 1880 and built a large studio behind it. He sold the house in 1901 to Frederick Dana Marsh, another artist, who raised his sons there. One, Reginald Marsh, grew up to become one of America's most famous painters. Another famous artist, Guy Pene du Bois, rented the house from the Marsh



The house at 16 Enclosure, which was the studio of Frank Fowler, Frederick Dana Marsh, Guy Pene du Bois and my father, Michael Lenson.



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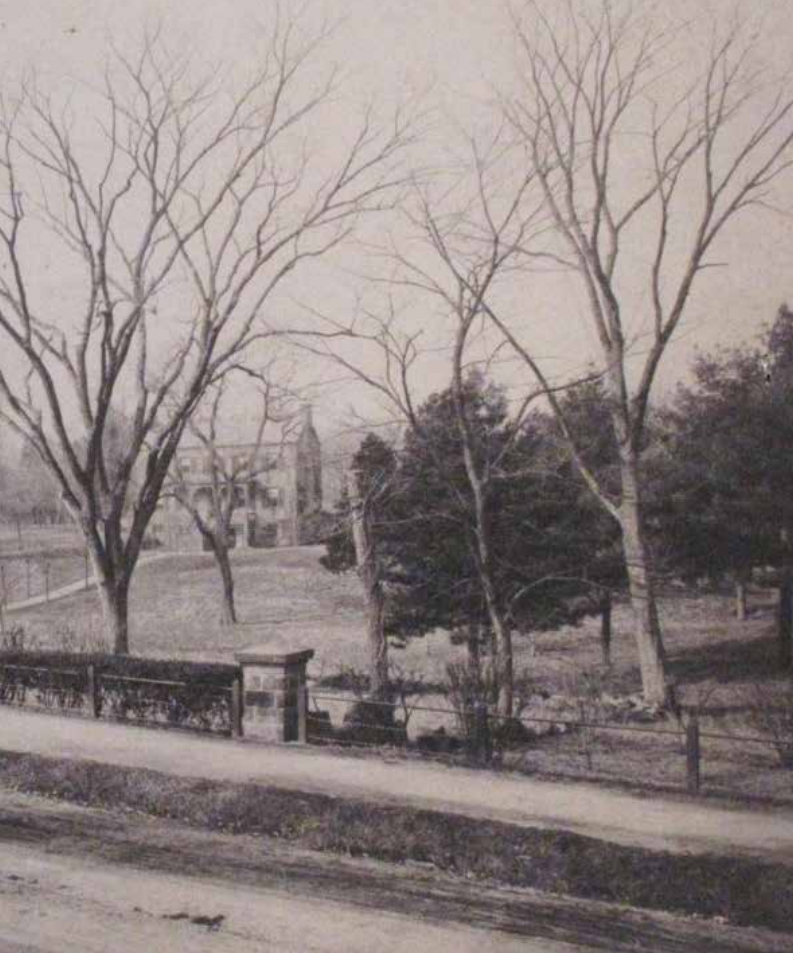
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miss the large skylight window that faces the street. Just a gorgeous house.

The Arthur Hoeber Studio Home

55 Enclosure

Arthur Hoeber was an American landscape painter and art critic. He was inducted into the Nutley Hall of Fame earlier this year and two of his beautiful landscapes can now be seen in Nutley: one in the Nutley Public Library and the other in the Nutley Museum.

What to look for: From the street, you can see the large glass skylight that brought natural illumination into Hoeber's studio on the right side of the house.

WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE TODAY

The Albert Sterner Studio Home

40 Enclosure

Albert Sterner, a successful illustrator, moved to the street in the late 1890s and built his studio there. His home has been replaced by a beautiful new house, so you can only look at where the house once stood.

What to look for: A drawing by Albert Sterner is in the permanent collection of The Nutley Museum. Stop by and have a look.

What Other Historical Sites are Near The Enclosure?

The 1973 tour also visited the former Nutley Public Library (181 Passaic Avenue), The John Mason House, a stone mansion (19 Calico Lane) and the colonial-era Abraham and Warren Vreeland House (51 Enclosure) that was moved to the street from Franklin Avenue 1924.

Those buildings are still there, and you can see them. History never stops in Nutley. If you put on your walking shoes, you can relive it every day. ■

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.

family for a few years. Then in 1941, the Marsh family sold the house to my father, the painter Michael Lenson, who continued to live and paint there until he died in 1971.

What to look for: The studio is hard to see from the street. But if you look to the right of the house from in front, you will see a large door that leads to the studio. It was made big to allow murals and large works of art to pass through.

The Earl Stetson Crawford Studio Home

41 Enclosure

Earl Stetson Crawford, who moved into this home in 1904, was a highly accomplished painter who created murals for the Albany State House, as well as some of New York's public libraries. He also taught Norman Rockwell to paint.

What to look for: Of all the studio homes on The Enclosure, this is the most rewarding to look at. You can't



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Nutley Cookbooks

By David Wilson

Food is involved in our lives on a daily basis and provides nourishment. Meals and celebrations are shared with those we love. During enjoyable interviews, conducted while gathering the books, I learned the passion for sharing recipes can be documented in Nutley cookbooks dating back to 1907.

These books are a treasure trove of family recipes from all nationalities and the contributors' names started an avalanche of memories for me. Not only are there recipes, but sources for local history research. Primarily published as fundraisers for churches, schools, and service organizations, they are limited editions and varied in size. Some books are lovingly used with lots of food stains and notes, while others appear to be unused and purchased as collectibles.



Great mixture of books 1955 through 1990

Carol Greengrove, a Girl Scout leader, helped many get their cooking badges. She used the books for dinner inspirations from recipes her family selected. Margaret Peters used her books to find recipes for her five girls to try out for potluck and covered dish dinners. Beverly Apple holds the prize for most books supplied. No surprise considering her career as Lincoln School librarian. Bette-Ann Marko Van Etten Rebenack provided us with more books and stories.



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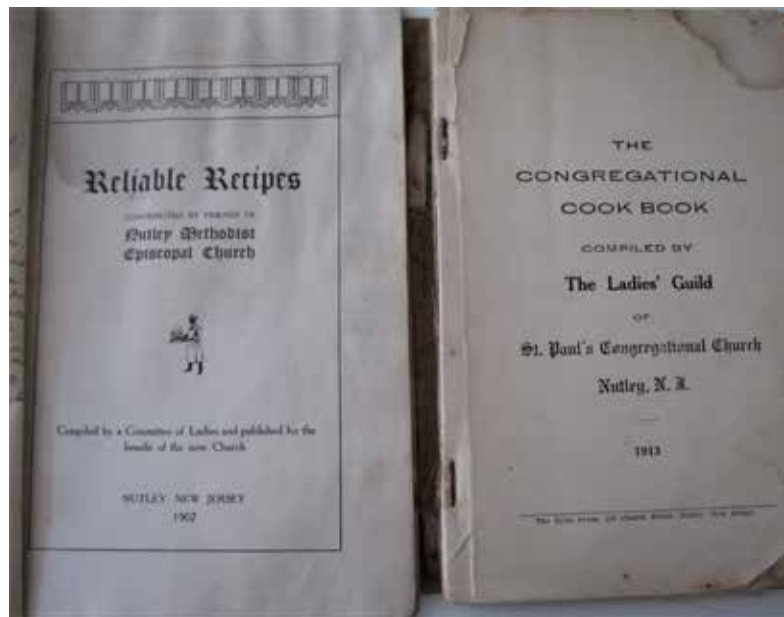
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Nutley cookbooks from many sources



Oldest books 1907 Methodist and 1913 Congregational

These books became cherished heirlooms as contributing families enjoyed local fame. Grace Arnold put inscribed cookbooks in her daughter Nancy's hope chest. Another favored book was interred with the departed cook in a local cemetery. Prize for oldest book goes to John Demmer for the 1907 Nutley Methodist Episcopal Church's Reliable Recipes, published to fund their new church. This book is a fantastic time capsule

of Nutley families and businesses.

Titles were varied including: *Cook's Delights*, *Incredible Edibles*, *Favor-Eats*, *The Best of Nutley*, *Heavenly Temptations*, and *Kitchen Magic*. The title pages attest to the multi-generational families that built our village and kept us well fed. We found books from St. Paul's, Vincent Methodist, Grace Episcopal, Holy Trinity, Franklin Reformed, Temple B'Nai Israel, and Yantacaw School.

The books offer insight into the evolution of cooking styles and ingredients. Recipes provided quick and economical meals for large and busy families. Most books are dessert heavy using lots of sugar, flour, butter, cream, lard, and Jell-O. Lincoln School's book has five cheese-cake recipes. Mom spent many hours baking with our help, as we knew licking the bowl and beaters would be our reward. The only lament from this time was when I melted the spatula. The new one scraped the bowls too well.

Most ambitious book award goes to Franklin Reformed Church for their *Soup to Nuts* masterpiece, a 1962 compilation of Bible verses, anecdotes, illustrations by local artists, and recipes contributed by First Ladies Mamie Eisenhower, Jackie Kennedy, Lady-Bird Johnson, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Several colleges, Nora Chenoweth, AAUW, and the Bank of Nutley provided support. This 341 page book was hand typed by Til Muller. Our home was the distribution center for this book. For \$3.95 plus 25 cents shipping, my brother or I would run to the attic and fulfill the order.

More cookbooks are out there, maybe in your pantry. Dust them off and have a family fun day trying out recipes. Take time to appreciate the effort that went into compiling these books and soak up their history and flavors. ■

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

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Love Nutley History? You will Love these Digital History Resources

By Nick Van Dorn, Senior Librarian

Did you know that the Nutley Public Library is a premier destination for digital research on Nutley history? So much so that we have a dedicated site within our website? The site: nutleyhistory.nutleypubliclibrary.org, was designed a few years ago by, now retired, Senior Librarian, Trina Staropoli, as a way for patrons to easily access Nutley history online. There are pages spotlighting the Frank R. Stockton Room and the Arthur Hoeber Memorial Bookcase, both located within the library, a slideshow of *Lost and Found: Beautiful Buildings that Once Graced Nutley*, and videos of recent Nutley history presentations held at the library. There are also helpful links highlighting Nutley history and, while there are far too many to list, they include the Nutley Hall of Fame, the Nutley Historical Society and Museum, the Kingsland Manor, and Township Historian John Demmer's Facebook page.

In addition to these various links, we provide a robust

digital archive, that due to copyright and licensing, is available to access only on Nutley library computers. These digital archives were meticulously scanned professionally to obtain the highest quality of resolution. Since the archives are digital, the search function is enhanced for both the librarian and the patron. Below are some of the digital archives available at the Nutley Public Library.

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

The Nutley library offers a comprehensive archive of the *Nutley Sun* newspapers dating from the early 1900s to present day. When looking for names, addresses, historic events, obituaries, maybe even the score of that 1973 Raiders' football game, you can type in a keyword search similar to searching in Google. You can also search by a specific week, month, or year. In addition to the *Nutley Sun*, the library also provides access to the *Nutley Journal* dating back to 1995; we have the full archives of *Nutley Neighbors* magazine.

VERTICAL FILES

As a supplement to the newspaper articles, we have nearly 100 digital vertical files focusing on Nutley biographies. These files combine newspaper clippings and materials such as pamphlets, programs, newsletters, etc. into one searchable file. This, along with Ancestry.com (provided by the Nutley Public Library), is especially



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helpful when doing genealogy research.

CITY DIRECTORIES

The Nutley library has made available historic city directories of the Nutley/Belleville area. They date from 1927 to 1972. This is a great resource especially when searching for the history of your home or the history of a local business in town. The directories are indexed numerically and alphabetically, and there is a Buyer's Directory section as well. The Buyer's Directory section lends itself to easy viewing with full-page advertisements for businesses of today and yesteryear.

NUTLEY HISTORY BOOKS

We have a growing collection of Nutley history books converted to digital formats. These books are also available in print and can be read at the library. Some highlights include *Lambert's Suburban Architecture* which feature select homes built in Nutley, *Nutley 100 Years 1902 - 2002* by the Nutley Centennial Gala Committee, *The Fabulous Nutley Velodrome* by Michael Gabriele, and *The Free Nutley Library* by Julia Nakamura.

KINGSLAND MANOR

We have a large collection of Kingsland Manor documents generously donated to us. There are personal letters, deeds, and detailed documents which date from the 1700s to the 1900s. We have a few hundred

of these documents available to view. The Kingsland Manor, listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, is a significant landmark, museum, and local activity resource in Nutley. For more information on this historical landmark and for a schedule of upcoming events check out www.kingslandmanor.org.

VIDEOS

One of my favorite digital materials found amongst these archives is a film of the late Nutley Mayor and Commissioner, Harry W. Chenoweth. In this video, filmed nearly three decades ago, Mayor Chenoweth recollects on Nutley. Some of the topics he discusses are his dedicated public service to Nutley, the history of Nutley Township, events that shaped Nutley, historic buildings of Nutley, the Enclosure, monuments in Nutley, and Nutley today.

To access the above resources and to discover more about Nutley's history check out nutleyhistory.nutleypubliclibrary.org. If you need help getting started or have any questions stop by the reference desk, give us a call at 973-667-0405 or email us at library@nutleynj.org ■

For more information, visit the library's website at www.nutleypubliclibrary.org. The library is located at 93 Booth Drive and is barrier free. Hours: Mon. Tues. Thurs. 9am - 9pm. Wed. Fri. Sat. 9am - 5pm.



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Mastering the Art of the Macaroon

By Madison Farkas

Unlike the similarly named coconut macaroon, with which it is often confused, the delicate French sandwich cookie known as the macaroon is notoriously finicky to make and easy to get wrong! If you apply these techniques properly, yours will turn out perfect every time.

USE A KITCHEN SCALE

Most macaroon recipes give ingredient amounts by weight. It seems odd to measure something like egg whites in grams, but precision is essential here.

AGE YOUR EGG WHITES

At least a day before you plan on making your macaroons, measure out your egg whites, cover the bowl with plastic wrap (punctured with several holes) and leave them in the fridge. This will dehydrate them slightly, which makes whipping easier. When separating the eggs, take care that not a drop of yolk makes it into the bowl.

MAKE SURE YOUR TOOLS ARE CLEAN

Before you whip the egg whites, wipe both your mixing bowl and mixer attachment with white vinegar. You want to make sure to remove any leftover fats from previous baking, as even trace amounts will interfere with the meringue process. It's a small step, but details matter with macaroons. And you can't cut any corners.

SIFT, SIFT AGAIN, THEN SIFT SOME MORE

Your dry ingredients (powdered sugar and almond flour), don't just need to be fine, they need to be pulverized. Buzz the mixture in a food processor, sift it in a fine mesh sieve, then repeat that whole process at least twice more so there are no clumps or even larger pieces remaining. Make sure your recipe compensates for the fact that you'll lose between 5 and 10 grams of your dry mixture when you sift out and toss the clumps. Improperly sifted macaroons will result in lumpy shells.

ADD THE SUGAR SLOWWWWWLY

When it comes time to add granulated sugar to your egg whites, do it so slowly that you can see the individual sugar crystals as they cascade gently into the bowl. If you dump it in all at once, it will overwhelm the meringue and stop it from forming properly.

BEAT THE TAR OUT OF YOUR MERINGUE

An under-whipped meringue is the first major stumbling block that can spell immediate disaster for macaroons. They don't contain any chemical leaveners (like baking powder or baking soda), so the air you whip into the egg whites provides all of the lift. The peaks need to be so stiff that they stand almost straight up off the whisk, and the mixture should be as smooth and glossy as marshmallow and so thick that it's difficult to whisk by hand. It will take several minutes even in a stand mixer, and when it's done, you should be able to hold the bowl completely upside down without your meringue so much as moving.

MASTER MACAROONAGE

Macaroonage, the stage when dry ingredients and meringue are mixed together, tends to be where most failed batches of macaroons went wrong. There's a very small window between undermixed and overmixed at which they're perfect. Too little and the shells will have points, surface imperfections or lumps. Too much and they'll be misshapen and won't rise properly. Gently fold the ingredients together. They'll gradually liquify until the batter flows off the spatula like lava. You should be able to draw a complete figure-8 shape, letting the batter fall off the spatula, without the line breaking. Test it continuously as you get close. Then, as soon as you pass the figure-8 test, stop folding immediately.

PIPE THE BATTER PRECISELY

When you transfer the batter to your piping bag, don't fill it all the way. If the batter is runny and flows easily out of the tip without squeezing, that's a sign that you've overmixed it. You can buy specialty baking sheets for macaroons with pre-made wells, but I find these aren't worth it. They tend to under-bake the shells, and (since you need to hit the wells dead-center) they actually require more

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precision. Instead, pre-cut a piece of parchment paper to fit your baking tray and use small dots of batter to anchor it in the corners. If you still need extra help, trace a half tablespoon-sized measuring spoon onto the parchment and use that as a guide. Hold the piping bag completely vertical (if you come in at an angle, you'll get lopsided macarons) and keep the tip very close to the tray—so it forces out any large air bubbles and the shells stay flat. Don't crowd them; they'll spread out a lot in the later stages. I like a good inch between each dollop of batter.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO SLAM YOUR BAKING TRAYS

Next you'll need to slam your baking trays against the counter to get rid of any last air bubbles. You'll want to be pretty aggressive with this. I lift my baking tray a few inches off the counter and let it fall back down several times. If you're making a lot of loud noise, you're doing it right. I sometimes go in with a toothpick and smooth over any remaining air pockets if necessary.

LET THEM DRY COMPLETELY

In this stage, the macaroons form a skin, which creates a ridge at the bottom known as the "foot" once they're baked. Leave them under a range hood or ceiling fan for 45 to 60 minutes (depending on the ambient humidity). If they're dry to the touch, they're ready.

GET AN OVEN THERMOMETER

If your oven runs hot or cold (as most do) these can be

a lifesaver! Make sure that you're accounting for the real internal temperature, as the display temperature isn't always completely accurate. Your oven may also have hot or cold spots that you'll want to avoid. The macaroons are done when they lift cleanly away from the parchment paper without sticking. If you reach the later end of the recommended baking time range—and they seem firm but still stick—take them out anyway. The residual heat from the pan will cook them a little more, and they should release after a minute or two. Any longer in the oven and you risk burning them.

CHOOSE A FILLING

Once your macaroon shells are completely cool, you can fill them with whatever you'd like: Swiss meringue buttercream, chocolate ganache, lemon curd—even jam. One filling I wouldn't recommend is plain American-style buttercream made with butter and powdered sugar. It's too sweet, and the shells don't absorb it. I'm a big fan of French buttercream—made with egg yolks instead of the usual egg whites. It finishes a gorgeous soft yellow, and it tastes like custard.

LET YOUR MACAROONS MATURE

Once you've assembled your macaroons, let them sit in the fridge for at least a day to let the filling slightly soak into the shells and flavor them. Take them out of the fridge and let them come up to room temperature before serving. ■



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EVENTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2020

Feb. 3, Mon.

DISH! The Monday Night Cookbook Club

@Nutley Public Library,
93 Booth Dr., Stockton Room
Each month patrons will choose, prepare at home, and share a DISH! from a selected cookbook. Then they gather to sample each other's recipes, discuss cooking techniques, and share stories and culture. The selected cookbook will be available to be borrowed from the Circulation Desk. Registration required.

Time: 7pm

For more information contact Michelle Albert at michelle.albert@nutleybccls.org or 973-667-0405 x2632. To register visit www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/dish-cookbook-club or stop by the Reference Desk.

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, Mon.

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

@Parks and Recreation Building,
44 Park Ave.

Time: 10-11am

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

Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, Tues.

Little Explorers Winter Nature Program

@Essex County Environmental Center, 621-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland

Children love to explore nature and observe all the natural wonders around them. They will take magnifiers and their imaginations into the wooded wetland to observe what winter means to the forest plants and

animals around the Environmental Center. Come dressed for the weather since they will be spending time outside. Programs are age-specific from toddlers (2 years old) to Pre-K (4-5 years old). Advance registration and payment are required.

Time: Days and times vary per the age group

Cost: \$12 per child per session

For more information call

973-228-8776

Feb. 5, 19, Wed.

Essex County Clerk Program

@Parks and Recreation Building,
44 Park Ave.

The Essex County Clerk's office is available at the Recreation Department to process Passports and Notary Public Oaths.

Time: 10:30am-4pm

For more information or current hours and dates visit www.essexclerk.com

Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, 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. 5, 19, Wed.

Families Coping with Addiction Support Group

@169 Chestnut St.

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codependency can reinforce and perpetuate this disease's debilitating dynamics. To learn how to break this dysfunctional cycle, join Staela Keegan, MSW, LCSW, LCADC, in this support group which provides a confidential, psychologically-safe place to learn about self-care, non-judgmental detachment, resource options, and other ways to foster positive mental health.

Time: 7-8pm

Cost: Free

For more information call 973-667-1884

Feb. 6, Thurs.

Nutrition Support Group

@Clara Maass Medical Center; Resource Room in the Cancer Center; 1 Clara Maass Dr., Belleville Medical Nutrition Therapy is essential for the treatment of chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease.

Speak with a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist about nutrition as it relates to a diagnosis or side effects from treatments. Refreshments are provided and your parking garage ticket will be validated.

All are welcome, including friends and family members.

Time: 6-7pm

Cost: Free

For more information call 973-450-2328

Feb. 8, Sat.

Family Yoga

@Essex County Environmental Center; 621-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland

For ages 5 and up. Happy Baby, Cats and Cows, Tree, Elephant, and Child's Pose. At this class, you'll share and enjoy an adventure of calming breath, fun asanas/poses, and gentle stretches with your nearest and dearest in a friendly,

go-with-the-flow atmosphere.

Registration required.

Time: 11am-12pm

Cost: \$30 per family (up to 2 adults and 2 children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult

For more information call 973-228-8776

Feb. 10, 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. Clara Maass Medical Center nurses, who are 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

Cost: Free

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Feb. 15, Sat.

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Feb. 16, 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

Feb. 22, 29, Sat.
Essex County Beekeepers Society: Basic Beekeeping 3-Day Short Course
@Essex County Environmental Center, 621-B Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland (meet in Garibaldi Hall)
For adults and children ages 12 and older. This class will cover everything beginning beekeepers need to know, from purchasing equipment to harvesting honey and the basics of disease and mite management. The third day of class will be a hands-on Field Day to be held in April at various area apiaries.
Time: 8:30am-4pm
Cost: \$130 which includes all class materials, continental breakfast, and afternoon snack
For more information contact

registrar Pat Gamsby at BJORNKLASS@aol.com or 973-960-2997 (email preferred). Online registration is available at www.njba38.wildapricot.org/events

Feb. 22, Sat.
NJ Audubon – Urban Oasis Birding Field Trip
@Stop & Shop, 875 Bloomfield Ave. West Caldwell (meeting place before carpooling to trail head)
Designed for ages 12 and up. Take a journey into the frozen swamp to search for winter visitors and early spring migrants that call the heart of western Essex County home. Footing could be icy or muddy depending on the weather.
Time: 8:30-11am
Cost: \$6 for NJA members, \$8 for

non-members
For more information and to register call the Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary at 908-396-6386

Feb. 26, Wed.
Infant Care Class
@Clara Maass Medical Center, 1 Clara Maass Dr., Belleville
In two hours, learn what you need to know about parenting in an interactive "University" for parents-to-be. Learn about the basics on how to navigate parenthood including topics such as newborn and post-partum care. Parents are welcome to attend at any time.
Time: 7-9pm
Cost: Free
For more information and to register call 1-888-724-7123

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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. For more information visit www.nutleynj.org/health or call 973-284-4976

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