

FEBRUARY 2022


A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

# NUTLEY NEIGHBORS

## The Kirby Family Aims High!



Photograph by  
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## Letter to Residents

### Pick a Card. Any Card.

I've always been fascinated with magic. Even though I know that the tricks are done with sleight of hand, some cleverness, and a good deal of trust from the audience (of course I believe the rabbit will come out of the hat!) I enjoy the show and clap wildly.

I also wish I could do something like that.

I see magic as a way to have hope and keep a sense of wonder. To watch a magician perform is to marvel that something happens even though it seems impossible.

Magic is a doubt eraser.

Life is bit magical too, and this issue has reminded me of that with several of our stories.

On the cover is the Kirby family who are fairly new to Nutley. Jason's career in the Air Force has added some very interesting elements to their lives, particularly several geographic locations, danger, the Pentagon, and a major dose of heroism.

Do you remember when the soccer team was trapped in the Tham Luang cave system from June 23 to July 10 in 2018? When I was following that story on the news, I thought it might be impossible to save those boys and their coach. But, as we know, they were all rescued.

No, not by magic but by the dedication and determination of people, like Jason Kirby, who believe in hope. Be sure to read about him and his family. All of them have taken the Air Force motto of "Aim High" to new levels!

Sometimes, having peace of mind can be magical. Feeling safe and secure may seem impossible at times (yes, especially in this world of uncertainty!) but Nutley has an amazing program that focuses on the safety and wellbeing of senior and disabled persons who live alone.

Operation Reassurance is not magical, but it does make something special happen and I applaud that.

Did you ever see a unicorn? You will when you look at some of the artwork featured in our Kids' Corner.

And speaking of unicorns, even though they apparently are mythical, they are here in this issue. That tells me that our neighborhood children have hope and a sense of wonder.

Magic is terrific (and I wish I knew how some of those tricks were done!) but what is even better is seeing something that should be impossible, like a unicorn in Nutley.

I hope you all find the magic that is around us every day.

*Joyce Corey* Content Coordinator





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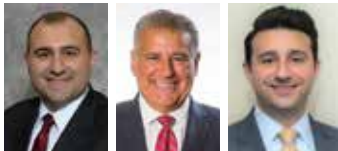
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# 2021 Real Estate Highlights

Single Family Homes in Nutley sold 2% higher than list price, on average, in 2021

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## HIGHEST SOLD HOME:



31 Ridge Road **\$970,000**

## HIGHEST SOLD MULTI-FAMILY:



22 Essex Street **\$705,000**

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## Feature Story

# The Kirby Family Aims High!

*By Joyce Corey Photograph by Randall Kenneth Photography*

While the Air Force has given the Kirby family a broader perspective of the world, the individual personalities and strengths of Melissa, Jason, Megan, Emma, and Erin, gave each of them a pathway to pursue. Changing addresses (and even continents!) may have been a constant in their lives, but as fairly new *Nutley Neighbors*, they have found a place to call home.

Their story starts in a familiar went-to-college-and-met-my-future-spouse way, but Jason and Melissa added to the script of happily-ever-after by including a variety of geographic locations, danger, the Pentagon, and even a major dose of heroism.

"Melissa and I met while we were attending the



University of New Hampshire in 1993," Jason said. "We later married in 1998 after she graduated, and I was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the US Air Force. We were married at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Chapel in Kittery, Maine."

"One of my favorite memories is when Jason proposed to me on the beach in Naples, Florida," Melissa said. "I definitely did not expect him to propose that day!"

Both Jason and Melissa received their degrees at the University of New Hampshire; he in business administration and her in tourism

planning and development. But it was real life experiences that dictated their career paths.

"After being commissioned as a second lieutenant in the



Air Force, I went to pilot training for the first two years," Jason said. "After earning my wings in Corpus Christi, Texas, we were stationed in Little Rock, Arkansas where I flew combat missions in Kosovo and Bosnia. After that assignment, I volunteered to join Air Force Special Operations where I served for the rest of my 25-year career. We were stationed in the United Kingdom (where Megan and Emma were born), Florida (twice), Alabama, Texas, Oklahoma, Washington, D.C. (twice), New Mexico (twice), and Okinawa, Japan."

"I love teaching young children and I started my career as a preschool teacher in Clovis, New Mexico in 2012," Melissa said. "We had moved there when Jason commanded a new special operations squadron that was conducting worldwide missions. He deployed often, overseeing special operations missions across Africa focused on targeting al Qaeda and other terror organizations."

Jason's military career held tragic moments (*"I lost nine close friends when they were training for combat missions*



*in 2005.") dangerous missions ("I was deployed to Iraq to oversee special ops missions across the war-torn country at the height of the insurgency.") and prestigious opportunities to serve the country ("I was selected for the Joint Staff at the Pentagon where I was part of a small team coordinating world-wide special operations.")*

In that role, Jason would travel from the Pentagon to the White House to coordinate sensi-

tive operations and obtain presidential approval. His three-year Pentagon tour culminated on May 2, 2011, after coordinating the operational authorities that led to the elimination of Osama bin Laden on that night in Pakistan.

While Jason's service to his country is most impressive, the eyes of the world were watching one particular mission with bated breath.

"The Kingdom of Thailand requested emergency assistance from the United States after a soccer team was trapped in the Tham Luang cave system from June 23 to July 10 in 2018," Jason said. "I deployed a team of 42 special operators to Thailand to assist in the rescue. All 12 boys and their coach were

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## 5 Things the Kirby Family Loves About Nutley

1. Our community and the holiday/seasonal festivals
2. Nutley Memorial Park
3. Rocky's Pizza and Luna's
4. Bagel Boy
5. Nutley High School

recovered from the flooded cave. Members of the team were reenacted in National Geographic's new documentary, *The Rescue*, which was released in theaters in October 2021."

After 25 years of exemplary and exciting military service, Jason decided to try something new.

"I was offered a great position as Chief of Staff to the CEO at Accrete AI," he said. "Accrete is a leading artificial intelligence company based in lower Manhattan in the financial district."

This new position led the family to Nutley which seemed to be the perfect place to settle down.

"After Jason started with the new company in March, we began looking for a new home," Melissa said. "We both wanted a community-oriented town with beautiful neighborhoods, a safe environment for our kids, and a short walk to school and restaurants."

As parents of three children, Jason and Melissa are both proud of them and supportive of their sports and extracurricular activities.

"Megan (19) is a freshman at St. Cloud State University, Minnesota after being recruited following a highly successful high school soccer career in Japan and Florida," Melissa said. "In addition to four years of varsity soccer, Megan



played on a Japanese team (with no coaching in English) as well as a semi-pro team in Pensacola, Florida."

"Emma (17) is having an equally successful high school soccer career and had a great first season with the Nutley Raiders as a forward, as well as playing club soccer with Princeton Soccer Academy," Melissa continues.

"Our youngest daughter, Erin (15), is an accomplished surfer and is now surfing at Rockaway Beach in Queens every chance she gets. She also skateboards every week with her skate club, Boardroom Skate, in Montclair. Erin also had an impressive

cross-country season with the Raiders and has emerged as a leading freshman runner on the team."

Also included in the family is Mochi, the cat, who is nine months old and was adopted in Belleville. Trenton the dog (9) is a mixed breed shepherd adopted in New Mexico. He is often seen around town running at high speeds through the parks.

"Trenton and I hiked 186 miles on the Florida National Scenic Trail while running into bears, wart hogs, an alligator, and a few water moccasin snakes," Jason said.

No matter where the Kirby family is, they seem to aim high in all they do!

Although they have traveled all around the world, they noticed something different about our town.

"Everyone here really seems to care about Nutley," Jason said. "We have lived in many places, and this is rarely the case."

Nutley aims high too! ■



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).





JellyBean, Marcy, Olive, and Chris

## Dr. Christopher Masullo and Marcy Auletta

By Joyce Corey

**B**ean's Backyard Breakout: A Tale of Two Kitties was authored by two of Nutley's residents, Dr. Christopher Masullo and Marcy Auletta. Dr. Christopher Masullo teamed up with illustrator, Jayla Dailey, and veterinary technician and resident cat expert, Marcy Auletta, who served as co-author and technical consultant.

His first book, *Are You My Motherboard?* was a story about a boy named Arty who dreams of building his very own computer. His newest book is a heartwarming tale of a cat who doesn't realize how good she has it at home with her loving family.



JellyBean thought she was the queen cat of the house until one day her younger sister, Olive, showed up at the door. When Olive began to take away some of her attention, JellyBean let her jealousy get the best of her and decided to run away from home. Her backyard adventure teaches her about life, love, and the importance of family.

"Marcy thought it would be a good idea for JellyBean to encounter the actual animals we see traversing through the yards in Nutley," Chris said. "Each animal JellyBean meets shares their own story of difficulties surviving in the wild which leads JellyBean to realize what she has back home."

"The story is meant to draw a parallel between the life of cats and the life of humans by showing that we are not all that different," he said. "Cats suffer from the same frailties as their human counterparts. They exhibit jealousy and attachments as well as the need for love and

attention. In this story, the emotions experienced by the cats are the same as those a child might endure when a newborn is brought into the family."

This story is ideal for classroom teachers and includes a variety of activities like puzzles and mazes. There are several places in the story where the reader is asked to "Paws and Reflect" in a journal entry and record how they would feel if they were in a similar situation as the main character cat.

The book is available on Amazon in softcover and Kindle versions.

But Dr. Chris is not done yet. He is already looking forward to his next release that is currently in the works

- *Rocket Boy*, a sequel to *Are You My Motherboard?*, in which Arty builds and launches his own rocket. Chris hopes to turn this into a S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) series. He is dedicating this one to his late friend, Elvira Conlon, who wanted to see the first story have a continuation. ■

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# Getting to Know Your Library Staff

By David Wilson

## ■ What is your name, position, and responsibilities at the library?

My name is Ryan Meier, and I am a librarian working in both the Reference and Youth Services Departments. I am responsible for answering patron reference inquiries, development and management of the adult nonfiction collection, reader's advisory, and assisting patrons with accessibility to our growing library of electronic materials. Additional responsibilities are the planning and implementation of youth programs including a Dungeons & Dragons club, virtual games nights, and supporting my co-workers in any way I can to help better service the Nutley community.



opened, I saw the potential for greater advancement in my chosen career. The Nutley Library has been a great support in that aspect by offering me aid toward my tuition when I decided to pursue a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) and giving me the opportunity to learn from highly knowledgeable librarians.

## ■ What is your educational background?

I received an associate degree from Bergen Community College, a BA in history from Montclair State University, and my MLIS from San José State University.

## ■ When did you start working at the library and why?

I started working at the Nutley Library in 2017. I had worked previously at the Lyndhurst Library for seven years as a part-time library assistant, and when the position at Nutley

## ■ Do you have any childhood memories of visiting the library?

Throughout my life, the library was always a gift. Whether for recreational reads or searching the stacks for sources in my academic affairs, the library was always there.

## ■ What are your hobbies, volunteer work or other leisure time pursuits?

Most of my free time is spent cooking, baking, hiking, rollerblading, and playing videogames with my partner.

## ■ What do you enjoy most about working at the library?

My favorite aspect of working at the library is seeing children, teens, and adults find and develop a new passion or hobby whether that be through a book or one of our many programs and clubs.

## ■ Share a memorable story involving a library patron or program.

My most memorable moments here at the library would have to be through running the Dungeons and Dragons group that I started in 2019. I've had the same group of kids play through several campaigns together and there has never been a dull moment with all the creativity they bring to the game.

## ■ What is your favorite book or author?

My favorite author is Haruki Murakami; his writing is smooth and rhythmic, and his surrealistic style can pull you straight out of reality and take you on a journey together with the characters.

## ■ Your favorite motto or quote

"It is better to go forward without an aim than loiter without an aim, and with surety much better than to retreat without an aim." – Andrzej Sapkowski, *The Tower of Swallows*

## ■ A closing message

One trip to the library can end up leading you down many new and different paths, so always feel welcome to visit! ■



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# Adopt Us!

*Submitted by Christa Milici, Yellow Brick Road Rescue NJ*

**M**organ is a young 1-year-old male! He was rescued from a very bad situation in a very bad area outside. It was seen that he was not feral, just shy. He is doing great at indoor life and just needs a quiet, patient home. He loves other cats, but unsure about dogs. Once he warms up, he is very chill and loves to lounge. He also loves to play. He is microchipped, FIV/FelV negative, stool tested negative, dewormed, UTD on vaccines, and spayed. \$100 adoption fee and application apply.

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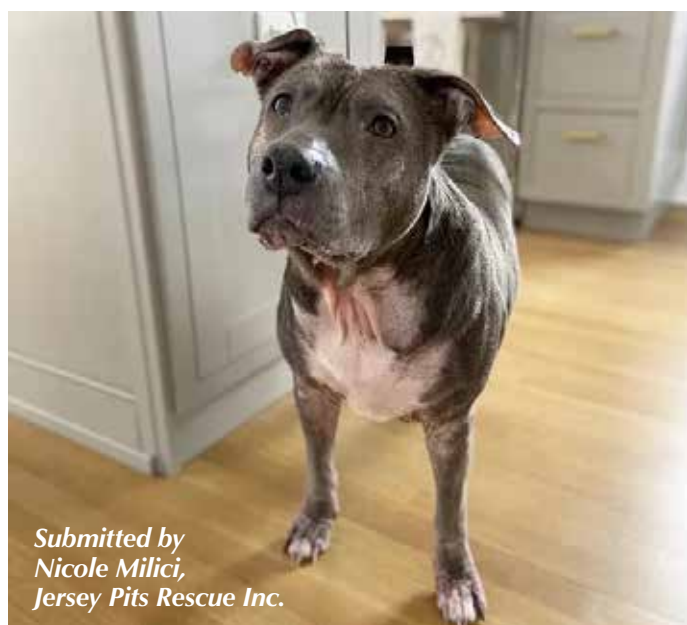
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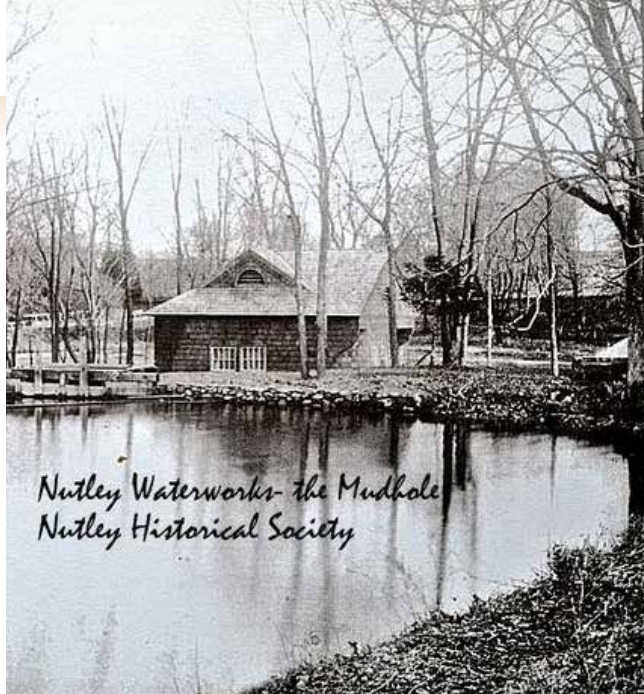
*Submitted by  
Nicole Milici,  
Jersey Pits Rescue Inc.*

**W**rinkles is wondering why she is still not adopted! She is in an amazing foster home, but she would like to find her forever family. 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! Her foster describes her as super easy, laid back, and loving. She is amazing with children but prefers a home with no other pets. Her adoption fee is sponsored. Visit the website [www.jersey pitsrescue.com](http://www.jersey pitsrescue.com) for an adoption application. ■



# A Very Personal History of the Mudhole

By Barry Lenson, Art Historian,  
Nutley Historical Society



Nutley is full of landmarks – the Oval, the railroad trestle, Town Hall. The list goes on and on. Chances are you will realize that one of these places has special meaning for you.

I have had the closest relationship with the Mudhole, which was right behind the house where I grew up.

When I was a little kid, the Mudhole was a place where people skated. Maybe the winters were colder back then, because the pond froze for a large part of the winter. In those days there was a big stone fireplace at the east end of the pond where kids would build fires. At a certain point, a neighbor of ours on the Enclosure told my father that the fires were made using logs that kids were stealing from the woodpile outside our house. My father just smiled. He already knew that kids were stealing his logs, but he thought it was a contribution he was making to keep the skaters warm. I remember that story as an example of how kind my father was.

The Mudhole was the setting for another story I remember about my dad. One day when I was fishing there, my father came by to see what I was doing. He asked if he could cast my line for me just once, and of course I said yes. He took my rod to cast the line but when he did, he threw my entire rod and reel right into the middle of the Mudhole. He was obviously embarrassed by his mistake, but all he said to me was, "Let's get in the car." He drove me to a sporting goods store and bought me a new rod and reel. To this day, so many years later, I wonder whether the rod my father threw into the Mudhole is lying on the bottom under a layer of leaves and sludge. If it is, a little piece of my relationship with my father will be preserved in the Mudhole forever.

I have one more story about another experience at the Mudhole. About 10 years ago my wife gave me a new digital camera for my birthday. I went to the Mudhole – where else? – to try it out. But when I got there and started to take pictures, my legs slid out from under me, and I found myself lying flat on my back in the mud with my right leg bent up behind my back.

I realized at once that I had torn my right quadriceps off my kneecap, but I was somehow able to crawl to a bench, where I sat for about 30 minutes until my wife came to take me to the hospital.

While I was sitting on that bench by the Mudhole that day, I saw a lifetime of experiences pass by.

What is your personal town landmark, and what experiences have you lived there?

We live such a rich life in our town, don't we? ■



**Please Join the Nutley Historical Society and Museum Today**

The Nutley Historical Society has big plans that you and your family will want to be part of. You will find a membership form on the Society's website at [www.nutleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.nutleyhistoricalsociety.org).





# Recorded Presentations on the Nutley Public Library's YouTube Channel!

By Nick Van Dorn, Senior Librarian

**D**id you know the Nutley Public Library has a YouTube channel? The library staff often records in-person and virtual programs that can be viewed online. Check out the complete list of recorded programs at [www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/recorded-programs](http://www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/recorded-programs).

## Here are some highlights of recorded presentations:

■ **SEPTEMBER 2019** Town Historian John Demmer, along with local author and historian, David Wilson, presented an hour of history on the northwest section of Nutley. Their "today and yesterday" format let you place yourself in twenty historical locations. Early industrial development in Nutley was also discussed including the first electric power plant, quarry, hat factory, and more.

■ **JUNE 2020** Nutley Public Library hosted an online Zoom discussion with author, Michael Gabriele, to discuss his recent book, *Stories from NJ Diners – Monuments to Community*. If you are a fan of NJ diners, you are going to want to check this out!

■ **SEPTEMBER 2020** New Jersey author and Nutley resident, Anthony Buccino, discussed his book, *Nutley Snapshots in Plain View*, via Zoom, in celebration of Library Card Sign-up Month. Test your Nutley geography knowledge and see how many places you recognize through Anthony's photographs!

■ **FEBRUARY 2021** Discover the beauty, the challenges, and the meaning of murals—with an emphasis on Nutley's own—with Nutley Museum Director, John Simko.

John spotlighted murals in buildings throughout town including the library, post office, Lincoln and John Walker Schools, and Grace Episcopal Church. He also highlighted Nutley muralists who have painted works in buildings such as New York's Customs House, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, and Newark's City Hall.

■ **MARCH 2021** Learn the true and inspiring story of centenarian Agnes Joan Negra. During World War II, using her shortwave radio from her home in Nutley, she listened to to Radio Berlin each night and notated the names of U.S. prisoners of war as they were announced. Agnes then went on to send personal letters to each family to inform them that their loved ones were still alive.

■ **APRIL 2021** On March 27, 1894, a unique fundraiser was held in Franklin Township, New Jersey, to start a local Red Cross chapter. The Nutley Amateur Circus was staged in an old training pavilion on Eaton Stone's 40-acre farm just outside town. The circus became the social event of the year, and the whole town was involved in its



preparation. The fundraiser showcased local talent, Wall Street brokers became ushers, and lawyers acted as clowns. And Molly, a local delivery horse, performed flawlessly as "Little Surefoot" while Nutley resident, Annie Oakley, unveiled a new act.

Relive this exciting event with an online presentation by John Simko, a Nutley historian and the Director of the Nutley Museum.

■ **SEPTEMBER 2021** On Thursday, September 23, Town Historian, John Demmer, and lifelong Nutley resident, David Wilson, along with projectionist, Don Lee, presented a fascinating program on the Franklin Theatre. Pictures, stories, advertisements, and news accounts of this beloved epicenter of Nutley's recreational life were featured. In addition, photos from a private collection, featured during this program, are the only known interior views found to date. ■

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# Industrial Arts

By David Wilson

Industrial Arts teaches skills needed for measuring, laying out, cutting, forming, fastening, smoothing, and finishing of materials. It includes the safe and effective use of common hand tools and the operation of conventional power tools such as drills, grinders, saws, and sanders. Personal traits like honesty, reliability, willingness to work, and loyalty are developed. The Nutley High School shop classes accomplished all of this at the highest levels. There was wood, metal, printing, mechanical drawing, electrical, and automotive courses of elective study.

School was fun since the lessons about rulers, knots, scissors, glues, safety, cooperation, and imagination could now be applied. The models, craft kits, and slot cars we purchased at Drewe's Hobby Shop introduced us to building, creativity, and repairing. The path to stimulate our spatial awareness was being laid by many.



Boys got their first exposure in Bob Ash's woodworking classes at the middle school making spice racks, lazy Susans, and napkin holders. Mr. Ash nurtured many little saplings and we all signed up for woodshop in our freshman year. Popularity and overcrowding necessitated dividing students into alternate classes, my first taste of serendipity as I was assigned to metal shop. Metals offered many educational opportunities and Dad could teach me woodworking at home. I met lifelong friends and outstanding educators, besides getting the skills we baby boomers needed in the adult world of employment and homeownership.

We had a well-equipped metal shop with Tom Barone as our instructor. There were lathes, power saws, arc welders, oxygen/acetylene tanks, foundry for sand castings, milling machine, drill presses, and a closet full of hand tools. Projects included: candle holders, wrought iron tables, log holders, cannons, and barbell racks. The shop steward helped the instructors with oversight, yelled "Clean Up!" and hit the power shut down button a few minutes before class ended.

The new auto shop, designed by Tom Barone, had the latest Sun Engine Analyzer, brake drum lathe, Quick Way valve machine, and specialty tools. There was an Opal



Tom Barone (right) and author David Wilson with 1971 Build-a-Lamp winner 50-year anniversary (above). Tom Barone and Frank Wiggins 1971 NHS metal shop (left). Tom Barone 1973 auto shop (far left).

Cadet, Ford chassis, and Cummins diesel engines for training, all donated due to transit damage. Some students had work

experience jobs in the afternoon, and there were adult school classes at night.

Class trips included a jaunt to the Mack Truck factory in Pennsylvania to see the assembly line and how our skills could be applied. An excursion to the NJ State Police training center in Sea Girt showed us recruits training and qualifying on the pistol range. Films included the Ohio State Police's gruesome *Wheels of Tragedy*, edited to shock us into safe driving and injury prevention movies with very graphic trauma scenes.

Faculty included Joe Mattiucci, Tom Barone, Frank Wiggins, Andy Retz, Manuel Cantor, George Ackerman, Phillip Perello, and Vito Ziccardi. Many of these instructors advised clubs including Rifle Team, Weightlifting Team, Marine Corp Physical Fitness Team, Radio Club, Wrestling, Stage Crew, Industrial Arts Club, and Plymouth Trouble Shooting Competition.

Thanks to the Industrial Arts teachers for stimulating our talents and preparing us for life's adventures. ■

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.



# Young Artists Making Memories

By Michelle Palmer

Books take us on our greatest adventures. They stretch the imagination and inspire us to keep exploring. JT, age six, has a big smile after reading the popular story *Dragons Love Tacos*. Together, with his mom, he created a dragon pumpkin based on the funny book. He included lots of originality but made sure to keep the spicy tacos hidden.



## Kids Corner



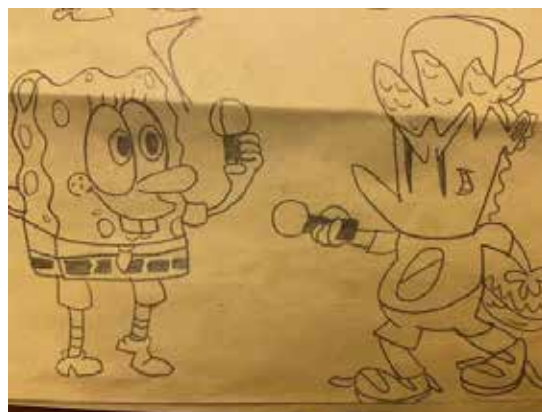
*Painting unicorns together*



Drawing brings our favorite things to life! It's relaxing and fun. For eight-year-old Jack Dwyer, his talents are displayed through his sketches. He loves to draw his favorite cartoon characters, but he also designs his original ideas alongside them. He is an incredible artist with such impressive works of art.

Painting can turn into something magical! Young

artists, Luke, Garrett, and Mila took a guided painting class. They ended with bright, beautiful unicorns to enjoy forever. Their canvases are all different, but absolutely awesome. Their personalities shine through each of their paintings as well as their skills with a paint brush.



*Book-inspired pumpkin (top left). Colorful creativity (above). Creating original cartoons (left).*

Adding some sparkle to the season makes it even merrier! David is six years old and focuses on his artwork precisely by selecting colors and structure. His favorite activity is to watch YouTube Kids on how to draw and color figures. Then, he mirrors what he learned to create an amazing new art project from scratch. ■

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)

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# Operation Reassurance

By Joyce Corey

*"I have peace of mind."  
"It's a relief."  
"I feel secure."*



Those are the types of things everyone wants to experience, and in today's world, filled with uncertainties and fears, it's possible to have this level of peace and independence right in your own home.

Operation Reassurance can make it happen.

This initiative was created three years ago under the direction of Commissioner Alphonse Petracco and continues to be an important program focusing on the safety and wellbeing of senior and disabled persons who live alone.

"Operation Reassurance will help to save lives," said Commissioner of Public Safety Alphonse Petracco. "There are many senior residents who have lived in Nutley for many years and would prefer to stay in their own homes as they age. This program helps to make that possible."

The program is free to all senior and disabled residents in Nutley. Once the application is submitted, the person must call 973-284-4930 between 8:30am and 10:30am every day and say that they are okay or need help.

"If we do not hear from the applicant during the designated times, we will call you," Petracco explained. "If there is no answer at that home, a police officer or firefighter will go to the applicant's house to make sure everything is okay."

Maria Spafford was the first person who signed up for Operation Reassurance, and she knows she made the best decision.

"I'm 78, I live alone, and I started worrying about what would happen if I needed help and no one was around," Maria said. "My daughter is in the military and it gives her peace of mind to know that someone is watching out for me. All of the ladies who take the calls are dolls! They are all sweet and caring. One time I forgot to call, and I went out and left my phone in my car. When I got home, there was a policeman at my door."

Carol Gommoll is 80 and has been a widow for six years.

"I don't have any family nearby. I have wonderful neighbors who check on me, but it's not the same. I signed up for the program as soon as I heard about it. Operation Reassurance makes me feel secure. I forgot to call in one day and at 10:05am my phone rang! I don't have to worry about all the 'what ifs' anymore. This is the best thing Nutley has ever done!"

Carol Gabriel signed up for Operation Reassurance after reading about it here in *Nutley Neighbors* magazine.

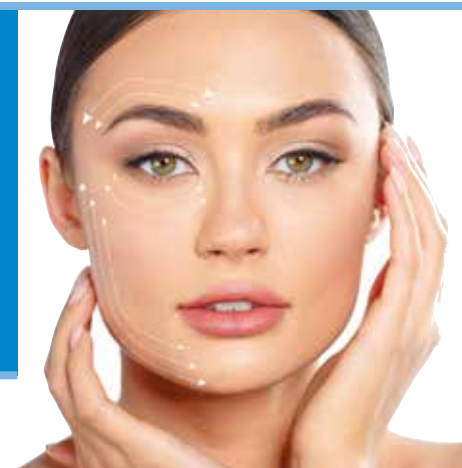
"I moved to Nutley from Jersey City and love this program!" she said. "It's a relief! I have no family in Nutley and my neighbors are wonderful, but I don't want to impose on them. The whole idea is simple—if no one hears from me in 24 hours, someone will come to my house. This is a very caring community!" ■

Seniors and those with disabilities who live alone who would like to apply for the program should call 973-284-4930 and leave their name, address, and phone number for an application.

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# Nutley Through the Lens

A few more beautiful photographs of scenes around our town contributed by Nutley resident and photographer, Alex Nicholas.

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# FEBRUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

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

## Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, Tue.

### General Wellness Class with Stephanie Bini

@Nutley Public Library,  
93 Booth Dr.

**Time:** 1:30-3:30pm

**For more information**  
and to register visit [www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/calendar](http://www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/calendar)

## Feb. 5, Sat.

### All Recovery Meeting

@virtual event from Clara Maass  
Medical Center

Come with a Purpose, Leave with a Plan. All Recovery Meetings are for everyone who supports recovery. They honor all pathways to recovery, acknowledging that each person's path is unique and reflects their personal strengths. The meetings are non-denominational and offer an opportunity to focus on the hope found in recovery. Recovery does not happen alone. Join and connect with others who are initiating and maintaining a recovery lifestyle. All Recovery Meetings are facilitated by trained and certified IFPR Peer Recovery Specialists and provide

social support for those seeking or maintaining recovery, as well as family members, friends and supporters of those who have been influenced by substance use.

**Time:** 12-1:30pm

**For more information,** meeting link, or other dates and times visit [www.nwjbh.org/events/](http://www.nwjbh.org/events/)

## Feb. 7, Mon.

### DISH! The Monday Night Cookbook Club

@Nutley Public Library,  
93 Booth Dr.

Each month participants will choose, prepare, and share a DISH! from a selected cookbook. Then, gather to discuss each other's recipes, cooking techniques, and share stories. This month, choose a recipe from either *All-Time Best Soups* or *The New England Soup Factory Cookbook*. Books can be picked up at the Circulation Desk. Registration is required.

**Time:** 7-8:30pm

**For more information**  
and to register visit [www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/dish-cookbook-club](http://www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/dish-cookbook-club)

## Feb. 8, Tue.

### Bitcoin and Cryptocurrency with Lindsley Medlin

@virtual event from Nutley Public Library

Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are a form of digital money that can be exchanged directly, person-to-person, without the need of a third party or bank intermediary. It is a technological breakthrough that allows everyone to be their own bank. It is not controlled by any group or government, so it can't be manipulated, devalued, confiscated, or shut down. In this online presentation, learn about bitcoin and why it is important. You'll get an understanding of how bitcoin and cryptocurrencies work and how to get started with bitcoin yourself. It will also clear up some of the misinformation about bitcoin being reported in the media. You don't need to be a technical person; the class is designed for beginners.

**Time:** 7-8pm

**For more information**  
and to register visit [www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/calendar](http://www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/calendar)

## Feb. 10, Thurs.

### Meet and Greet with Author Christina Baker Kline

@virtual event from Nutley Public Library

A #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of eight novels, including *The Exiles*, *Orphan Train*, and *A Piece of the World*, Christina Baker Kline is published in 40 countries. Her novels have received the New England Prize for Fiction, the Maine Literary Award, a Barnes & Noble Discover Award, among other prizes, and have been chosen by hundreds of communities, universities and schools as "One Book, One Read" selections. Her essays, articles, and reviews have appeared in publications such as the *New York Times* and the *NYT Book Review*, *The Boston Globe*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *LitHub*, *Psychology Today*, and *Slate*.

**Time:** 4:30-5:30pm

**For more information**  
and to register visit [www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/calendar](http://www.nutleypubliclibrary.org/calendar)

## Feb. 15, Tue.

### Family Walk and Campfire

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



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For all ages. 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. Advance registration required.

**Time:** 6pm

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

**To register** call 973-228-8776.

**For more information** visit [www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/calendar](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/calendar)

**Feb. 19, Sat.**

### Build a Bird House

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

For adults and children ages eight and older who are accompanied by an adult. Let's build a home to encourage breeding birds and other wildlife to take residence! Putting out a bird house now creates a good chance of having a nesting pair of songbirds in your garden by spring. Advance registration required.

**Time:** 11am-12:30pm

**Cost:** \$10 per child, \$12 per adult  
**To register** call 973-228-8776.

**For more information** visit [www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/calendar](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/calendar)

**Feb. 23, Wed.**

### Winter Campfire and Charcoal Art

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

For all ages (children under age five require supervision). Come alone or bring a group to enjoy a winter campfire and make your

own charcoal art stick. Collect the perfect charcoal pencil and watch it turn into a tool of art magic! Charcoal art paper will be provided. Expect to get your hands dirty with this fun project! Dress warmly. Advance registration required.

**Time:** 5:30pm

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

**To register** call 973-228-8776.

**For more information** visit [www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/calendar](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center/calendar)

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