

A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

JANUARY 2024

# NUTLEY NEIGHBORS

Chi, Regina, Ryan,  
and Cara Lui

## Diversity and History in Their Story

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Carly Ann Photography

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**Publication Team**

**Publisher:**  
**Michael Stefanelli**



**Content Coordinator:** Joyce Corey  
**Designer:** Marti Golon  
**Contributing Photographer:**  
Carly Ann Photography  
**Contributing Writers:**  
Linda Buset, Barry Lenson,  
Michelle Palmer, David Wilson

**ADVERTISING**

**Contact:** Michael Stefanelli

**Email:** mstefanelli@bestversionmedia.com

**Phone:** 973-277-7301

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**Letter to Residents**

**Are You Making History?**

A new year is both new and old. While 2024 stretches out before us, and our calendar pages are waiting to be filled with important dates and events, there is a bit of the past that we take into every year. And that's not a bad thing.

Our past experiences have prepared us for the present and given us a path to move into the future. We learn from our mistakes and triumphs so when we step into the new year, we have confidence and hope.

Our cover story features the Lui family who not only became our *Nutley Neighbors*, but they have delved into the history of this town. Ryan chose to make a series of videos about the Velodrome, the artists of Enclosure, and Annie Oakley for his Eagle Scout project. And guess what? Those videos have been given to the Nutley Historical Society. Ryan made history—literally!

Guinevere "Guin" DiPaolo is going into the new year with a big win. She was the only girl on the Nutley American JVK team and is quite an impressive player. She has molded her game on Yankee infielder DJ LeMahieu so pin-stripes may be in her future! Be sure to read her story.

The Nutley Hall of Fame celebrates past achievements of people who have a close association with this town. In November, they inducted eight new members, and we applaud them for their individual accomplishments and for bringing pride to the community. The photos tell the story of this wonderful event.

In our Pet Corner feature, we always spotlight a dog and kitten who may not have had a great past but who deserves a better future. Maybe they will find their forever homes this year.

We welcome 2024 that is full of things that have never been and a reminder of all that has gone before.

Let's turn the pages and start reading our first issue of the new year!



**Joyce Corey**  
Content Coordinator

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## Kids Corner

Christmas canvases created with care

Brenna with her cutest book report



## Welcome the New Year with a Memorable Collection of Art

By Michelle Palmer

As we enter a new year, it is a great time to reflect on the many little treasures our children created. They bring us joy and allow us to freeze time for a moment.

Xan was 10 years old when he drew these handmade Christmas cards for his family during the pandemic in 2020. The next year his dad turned them into canvas prints and now they are displayed as decorations. This is such a beautiful way to remember this time of togetherness and family closeness.



Jojo's super sketches of Sonic

Brenna is six years old and completed her first book report. She explored how reading is connected to art and nature. She created a pumpkin to look like the main character in the Skippyjon Jones book series. She was very happy with the finished product, which shows her love for reading.

Jojo is eight years old and enjoys drawing his favorite cartoon characters. He has become very skilled in drawing freehand. He proudly shows two different versions of his Sonic the Hedgehog poses. It is his favorite movie and his motivation to keep creating amazing art.

Elias is 10 years old and already learning to use real tools. He loved attending camp at Pretty Handy. He was very excited to build with a hammer and made a wall complete with holes for piping, cables, and molding. He and his family are very proud of his new talents and he really enjoyed being a builder. ■



Future architect Elias from builder's camp

Michelle Palmer is the author of a children's book, *Brinco Finds His Way Home*, which is available at Amazon and Pretty Handy in Nutley.

324 High Street

Nutley Real Estate

# Nutley Yearly Housing Market Summary\*

The Nutley Market has seen ~35% increase in the median sale price since 2018

Data retrieved from GSMLS: Single Family, Condominiums/Cooperatives, Town Houses.  
\*December 2023 not included in data.

Best Version Media does not guarantee the accuracy of the statistical data on this page. The data does not represent the listings of any one agent or agency but represents the activity of the real estate community in the area. Any real estate agent's ad appearing in the magazine is separate from the statistical data provided which is in no way a part of their advertisement.

YEAR	MEDIAN PRICE	# SOLD	MOST EXPENSIVE HOME SOLD	
2018	\$393,000	310	54 Kenzel Avenue	\$895,000
2019	\$385,000	340	170 Satterthwaite Ave	\$770,000
2020	\$425,000	334	39 Beech Street	\$910,000
2021	\$475,000	398	31 Ridge Road	\$970,000
2022	\$520,000	327	116 Satterthwaite Ave	\$1,160,000
2023*	\$530,000	218	324 High Street	\$1,150,000

We are so grateful for the opportunity to have assisted each one of you during such an important milestone in your lives!

**Cheers to a Happy, Healthy & Successful 2024!**

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## Feature Story

Chi, Regina, Ryan, and Cara Lui

# Diversity and History in Their Story

By Joyce Corey

Photograph by Carly Ann Photography

Feature Story Sponsored by Donna Keena,  
Christie's International Real Estate Group

When Chi and Regina Lui moved to Nutley, they were looking for a bigger place to raise their growing family and an ideal work commute into New York City. They got all that and more.

But before they found Nutley, they found each other in a completely different location best described as cyberspace.

"Regina and I met on Match.com in 1999," Chi said.

"We dated for six years before getting married in 2004."

New York was the place where Chi and Regina pursued their educational degrees and embarked on their careers.

"I was born in Hong Kong of Chinese descent and Regina was born in the Philippines, but both of us went to college in New York," Chi said. "I graduated from New York Institute of Technology and Regina from Pace University."

"I have been a digital media producer and manager at the American Red Cross in the Greater New York area for 23 years," Chi adds. "I have also been part of every major disaster response in this area from 9/11 to Hurricane Sandy. Regina has been a registered nurse with New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital for the past 20 years."

Chi and Regina started to look across the border to New Jersey for a new place to live after their son, Ryan, was born in 2005.

"When we got married, we rented in Forest Hills, Queens for a while," Chi said. "I used to live in the Jackson Heights section and Regina was from Brooklyn and it was an easy commute for us to get to work. But after Ryan was born, we wanted to buy a house because we needed more space. We looked at buying a home in Forest Hills, but we couldn't find anything that we could afford."

While Nutley wasn't yet on their list of places to live, the family visited Chi's sister who had moved to Montclair.

"We liked the area but couldn't find any acceptable homes in our price range in Montclair," Chi said. "We had cousins who lived



in Nutley so that's where we started to look."

"We fell in love with the town," Chi said. "The location of Nutley is ideal since we both work in the city. We are near malls and major shopping centers, but Nutley retains its small-town charm. We love all the parks in Nutley! It helps us to feel more connected with nature."

Seventeen years later, the Chi family is still enjoying being our *Nutley Neighbors*.

Ryan has been joined by a sister, Cara, who was born in 2015. With two children growing up here, Regina and Chi have focused on an important issue that is close to their hearts.

"Coming from New York, diversity is something our family values," Chi said. "We have always felt incredibly welcomed in Nutley and all our neighbors are wonderful. When Ryan was younger, our neighbors across the street, Jim and Anne Rohe, used to babysit him. They would invite us every year to their festive annual Christmas party, and we asked them to be godparents to Cara when she was born. Sadly, Jim passed away a few years ago and we miss him tremendously."

As Ryan and Cara have grown up here in town, they have pursued their individual interests.

"Ryan graduated from Nutley High School last June and is attending Montclair State University to study film and television," Chi said. "His biggest passion is video production, and he plans to have a career in it, mainly post-production, but it would be ➤➤



Prom night for Ryan. Cara at her dance recital



# New Year? New Home?

Are you dreaming of a New Home this New Year? Are you curious to learn more about your Nutley real estate market and the opportunities available to you?

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*I wish you a very Happy New Year and warmest wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2024.*



## What's *happening* in the neighborhood?

Nutley Market Snapshot – 2023 Year at a Glance

Single Family/Townhouse/Condo

New Listings .....	236
Sold .....	202
Average Sold Price .....	\$540,900
Average Days on Market .....	30
List to Sale Price .....	105%



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Getting around Tokyo on the Metro was an adventure!

## 5 Things the Lui Family Loves About Nutley

1. The school system
2. The parks
3. Friendly and diverse neighbors
4. Fascinating history of Nutley
5. Convenience and accessibility to other NJ towns and NY

Nutley's history."  
(The videos can be found on YouTube: Tales of Nutley History.)

Cara is also pursuing her interests here in town. "She is eight years old and attends Yantacaw Elementary School," Chi said. "She takes piano lessons at Nutley School of Music and dance classes at The Next Step School of Dance."

As a family, Chi, Regina, Ryan, and Cara love to travel and their destinations contribute to their

fulfilling for him to work in other areas as well."

Ryan combined his passion for video editing with a love of his town for his Eagle Scout project. "He wanted to do something unconventional, so he decided to produce videos about the history of Nutley for the Nutley Historical Society," Chi said. "In June 2022, Ryan started his project by reaching out to members of the Nutley Historical Society and training his fellow scouts to serve as his production crew. Throughout the summer, with the help of his fellow boy scouts, Ryan researched Nutley's history and conducted on-camera interviews with members of the Nutley Historical Society and local historians about three topics: the Velodrome, the artists of Enclosure, and Annie Oakley. Working with two more volunteer video editors, it took Ryan an additional 10 months to produce three mini documentaries that tell the stories of

global diversity.

"We don't travel as nearly as much as we would like, but we visited Japan last year," Chi said. "Japan has been a bucket-list destination for me, and the trip was also a graduation gift to Ryan. Our trip to Japan was every bit the adventure we hoped it would be. Navigating the subways and bullet trains was a challenge, but the Japanese people are so friendly and welcoming. We hope to visit Mount Fuji in the future."

But for now, the Chi family is enjoying being part of Nutley's present, celebrating the diversity here in town, and remembering the history of this place they all call home. ■

**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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# The Nutley Public Library Explores “Where We Come From” During the 2024 Winter Reading Challenge

By Deidra Garcia, Head of Youth Services

The Nutley Public Library is joining other libraries and schools around the world to once again challenge Nutley residents to read (or have read to them) at least 620 minutes in total (20 minutes or more a day) from January 1 through January 31, for the 7th Annual Winter Reading Challenge: *Where We Come From!* This challenge, sponsored by Beanstack, encourages readers of all ages to explore literature, culture, and history to discover what is unique about each of us and what connects all of us. The top-performing libraries and schools will be awarded book collections, virtual author visits, signed copies, and more.

To participate, Nutley Public Library cardholders can register online starting Thursday, December 1 at [nutleypubliclibrary.beanstack.org](http://nutleypubliclibrary.beanstack.org) or on the Beanstack mobile app. Once registered, readers can log their minutes read from January 1 through January 31 to complete the challenge of reading 620 minutes. All reading during January counts,



even if you register in January.

Readers who complete the 620-minute challenge will be entered into a random selection by age (babies/toddlers, grades K-5, grades 6-12, and adults), and grand prize winners selected from each group will receive a gift card to a local Nutley business and their name honored with

a bookplate in the library's collection. Children and teens will also earn a goodie bag just for signing up, and all participants who complete the Winter Reading Challenge can collect a certificate of completion. All goodie bags and prizes are generously sponsored by the Friends of the Nutley Public Library. ■

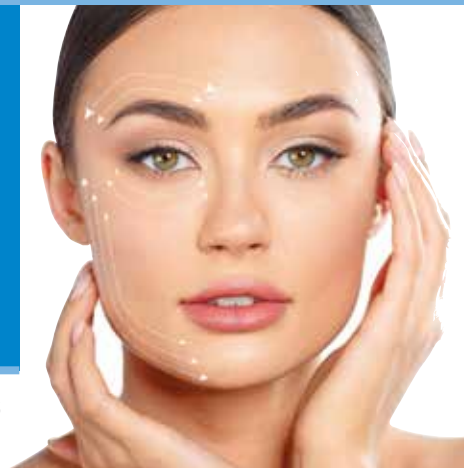
For further information, please visit [nutleypubliclibrary.beanstack.org](http://nutleypubliclibrary.beanstack.org), contact Deidra Garcia at [deidra.garcia@nutley.bccls.org](mailto:deidra.garcia@nutley.bccls.org), or call the Youth Services Department at 973-667-0405 ext. 2623. #WinterRead2024

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# Nutley Hall of Fame

By Joyce Corey

Photographs by Chris Osieja, Hall of Fame Committee

The people honored on November 19, 2023 all have had a close association with Nutley through birth, long-time residence, graduating our high school, or a combination of these criteria. Inclusion in the Nutley Hall of Fame is based on outstanding accomplishments beyond our borders on a statewide, national, or international level. The achievements of the honorees make us, as Nutley citizens, proud of their association with Nutley. They serve as inspirational examples for our young people to emulate. Each of the honorees presents us with a great American success story, where opportunity beckons to all regardless of the obstacles that may have to be overcome.

- The Nutley Hall of Fame Committee



2023 Nutley Hall of Fame Inductees (top, l-r): Michael Volpe, Kathy Schermerhorn (accepting posthumously on behalf of her mother Geri Bergen), Patty Coaley (accepting on behalf of her father William Callanan Jr.), Louis Brooks, Steve Palmisano (accepting on behalf of Ron Corio), and David J. Verdi; (bottom, l-r): Silas Mountsier III and Louis Joseph Riccardi. Inductee boutonnières compliments of A Personal Touch Florist, Nutley.



Nutley High School culinary arts/hospitality students and instructors Lisa Boyman and John Gulardo served delicious food compliments of Nanina's in the Park, Nutley Park ShopRite, and Plaza Pastry Shop (above right) Hall of Fame cake compliments of Plaza Pastry Shop, Nutley (above)



Sharon Perrelli, Commissioner Alphonse Petracco, and Hall of Fame Judge Fred Scalera



Inductee David J. Verdi and Nutley Hall of Fame Committee Chairperson Pat Ritacco



Music compliments of pianist Mark Jonathan Schiffert, Nutley



Hall of Fame Judge Joseph Cervasio, Ceremony Narrator Joann Cocchiola, and Inductee Michael Volpe



Historian and Nutley Museum Director John Simko accepting posthumously on behalf of Eaton Stone



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# Rising to the Occasion

By Joyce Corey

Teenagers have an optimistic worldview unique to their life stage. Many young people are indeed thoughtful, generous, and possess a sincere desire to help others. That's a fact that's easy to forget, unless you spend time watching them work together.

Last July, 10 young people and four adults from Vincent United Methodist Church (VUMC) in Nutley headed up to Friendship, New York for a week of hard work, fellowship, and giving back to the community. The Risingville Intercommunity Service Effort (RISE) repairs homes for those whose living conditions are unsatisfactory and who cannot help themselves, due to physical or economic inability. The program is affiliated with the United Methodist Church (UMC) and takes place in the southern tier of the Appalachian Mountains in New



*All hands on deck to finish the project!  
Photos courtesy of 2023 VUMC RISE team*

York using volunteer labor of church high school youth groups. RISE was founded in 1980 by the late Rev. Dale H. Forsman through the efforts of adults and young people in the United Methodist churches in Chatham, New Jersey and Risingville, New York.

This program has proven to be a positive experience, truly taking off in recent years. Tricia Blanchard, trip coordinator, says, "Our young people at Vincent United Methodist church have discovered how valuable it is to help others. They get something positive and uplifting from helping people in need." She continues, "It

was nice to see the kids connect not only with other youth but with each other outside of our church home. They truly disconnect for a week and can bond over their shared work experience. It definitely takes them out of their comfort zone and pushes them to try new things."

Parent volunteer Danielle Blair explains, "The work on the homes helps in three main ways. It provides Vincent UMC with a mission program by helping others who don't have the means to help themselves; it provides a discipleship program so that faith becomes a movement of deeds and actions; and it provides an educational opportunity because the young people get to learn new skills and develop work habits that will serve them well in life."

RISE is a work camp, a "hands on" experience. Those who participate need to be ready to work, to learn, and to be creative. The team explores how to design a project, how to organize and execute a plan of action, how to work power tools, and how to work together to achieve the end goal.

Teenagers from any church denomination may apply after having completed at least eighth grade. Young people learning to volunteer their time and talents is a valuable trait to foster. The RISE team hopes more will feel the call of service and join them.

Vincent United Methodist Church is living out its motto, "It's All About Love," and the young people who serve each summer are bringing that mission into the next generation! ■



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# Nutley High School Performing Arts Presents *Urinetown: The Musical*

By Deb Alper

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Nutley High School performances of *Urinetown: The Musical*.

**March 8**, Friday, at 7pm  
**March 9**, Saturday, at 7pm  
**March 10**, Sunday, at 2pm

All performances will be held in the Nutley High School auditorium. Tickets go on sale February 2024.

## Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Promote your business with a potential reach of over 2,000 people in Nutley and beyond in the official *Urinetown: The*



**URINETOWN**  
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*Musical* playbill and on exclusive apparel. Discover more about this unique opportunity and additional sponsorships at [www.nsts.membershiptoolkit.com/sponsorships](http://www.nsts.membershiptoolkit.com/sponsorships) or email [sponsorships@nutleytheatre.com](mailto:sponsorships@nutleytheatre.com).

The Nutley School Theatrical Society (NSTS) is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit theater organization that was formed to provide support for theater programs in the Nutley school district. Funding is derived from playbill ads, sponsorships, ticket sales, and participation dues.

The core mission is to cultivate confidence, character, and creativity for Nutley middle and high school students through the medium of theatrical arts. The unwavering support received from the Nutley school district and the Nutley community is a testament to the power of the arts in our lives. NSTS is profoundly grateful for all donors' continued encouragement and partnership.

## *Urinetown: The Musical*

Recipient of three Tony Awards, three Outer Critics Circle Awards, two Lucille Lortel Awards, and two Obie Awards, *Urinetown: the Musical* is a funny and intelligent satirical comedy. It dissects many themes including the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, and environmental collapse.

Come join the fun as Nutley High School's performing arts students bring their interpretation to the stage. ■

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## Pet Corner

# Adopt Us!

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

**C**arrot is blind. He is a 3-month-old male who was taken in from one of our local shelters. Unfortunately, he did not handle anesthesia well during his neuter surgery, which has left him completely blind. For a kitten that was once able to see, and now can't see a thing, he has adjusted very fast and very well. He is able to get around his foster home and uses the litter box. He doesn't require any extra care, but a home without stairs is preferred.



He would make a great addition to any family. Carrot is being fostered with other cats and dogs. He gets along with everyone and is such a happy little guy despite what he has been through. He purrs the second you pick him up and just loves being around people. He would be great with kids as well! He is up to date on vaccines, microchipped, dewormed, and tested FIV/FelV negative. He is also neutered. Application and \$185 adoption fee apply. ■

**To apply for Carrot: <https://form.jotform.com/231577667522060> or email us at [yellowbrickroadnj@gmail.com](mailto:yellowbrickroadnj@gmail.com).**



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

**P**umpkin is only 1.5 years old, and she has already been forced to carry and raise two litters in her short life. She was robbed of the chance to just be a puppy by irresponsible and greedy humans. Once her babies are fully weaned and she is done nursing them, Pumpkin will be spayed and finally free to enjoy life just being a dog again. So, before we even think about placing her puppies, finding

Pumpkin a home will be our number one priority!

She's an absolute sweetheart who weighs about 50lbs, loves people, and has previously lived with other dogs. She is housebroken and walks nicely on a leash. When she's not caring for her little ones, Pumpkin enjoys stalking squirrels and zooming around the backyard. She would make a great addition to an active family or single person looking for a hiking and snuggle buddy. If you're interested in adopting Pumpkin, please fill out an adoption application at [jerseypitsrescue.com](http://jerseypitsrescue.com). ■

**Already have an application on file? Send us an email at [jerseypitsrescue@gmail.com](mailto:jerseypitsrescue@gmail.com) to express interest.**

# Guinevere DiPaolo

By Bill Chivil

It was the 5th inning of the championship game and the Nutley American JVK team was down 10-1 with bases loaded. Guinevere "Guin" DiPaolo, the only girl on the all-boys baseball team, stepped up to the plate, hit a triple, and drove in three runs. The team rallied for five more but lost the game 10-9.

DiPaolo's focus on winning impressed her coach and teammates, and she made Nutley's all-star boys travel team after the season. She was the only female baseball player in the league that year.

Guin DiPaolo's favorite subject is math. But the 11-year-old, who attends Spring Garden School, lives and breathes baseball.

"Her drive is above what most kids come with, and it shows on the field," said Fred Beyer, manager of the Nutley Generals 11U travel team, who has coached DiPaolo. "She can compete with anybody. She works hard because she knows she's playing with a bunch of boys."

Guin's father, Anthony DiPaolo, realized his daughter's potential at a young age. "As soon as she could stand, she asked me to put a ball on the couch and she would swing and hit it," he recalled. "When we signed her up for T-ball, she'd refuse to use the tee and I would have to pitch to her." DiPaolo, a former minor league ballplayer, sensed that his daughter was a natural.

Guin DiPaolo played second base and outfield on the Nutley Generals travel team, which has made it to the playoffs.

DiPaolo has managed to balance her on-field accomplishments with friendships off the field. "She hangs out with the boys after the games," her father noted. "They all go bike riding together and hang out at our house afterwards." DiPaolo's acceptance by her male teammates



and the camaraderie they share has inspired other girls to pursue baseball as well.

This spring, DiPaolo plans to continue playing baseball and improving her game. It will be her second year playing on the Majors team in Little League.

"She's a pleasure to coach," added Beyer. "Always willing to learn. Always smiling."

DiPaolo's goal is to continue playing through high school and one

day become the first woman to play Major League Baseball. She has molded her game on Yankee infielder DJ LeMahieu. If her drive and focus are any indication, we may someday see Guin DiPaolo in pinstripes herself.

As her team captain said early on, "Guin's not a girl, she's a ballplayer!" ■



Photo credit:  
Anthony DiPaolo

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# JANUARY 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

**Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Wed.**

**Nutley Senior Citizen Club**

@Parks and Recreation,  
44 Park Ave.

This club is open for the fall session, meeting every Wednesday.

For more information call Eileen Luberto at 973-632-0763

**Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26, Fri.**

**Moms Healing Together: All Recovery Meeting**

@virtual event

Join for a safe space to discuss the challenges of recovery, pregnancy, and parenting. 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:** 10am

For more information and other All Recovery meeting dates and times visit [www.rwjbh.org/events](http://www.rwjbh.org/events)

**Jan. 12, Fri.**

**Friday at the Movies**

@Nutley Public Library,  
93 Booth Dr., Stockton Room  
Watch *The Name of the Rose* (1986), the film based on Umberto Eco's classic novel.

**Time:** 1-3pm

For more information visit [nutleypubliclibrary.org](http://nutleypubliclibrary.org)

**Jan. 22, Mon.**

**Pajama Story Time**

@Nutley Public Library,  
93 Booth Dr.,  
Children's Room

For all ages. Snuggle up in your pjs and get ready for a slumber-tastic story time and craft!

**Time:** 6-7pm

For more information visit [youthservices.org](http://youthservices.org)

[nutleypubliclibrary.org](http://nutleypubliclibrary.org) or call the Children's Room at 973-667-0405 ext. 2623

**Jan. 23, Tue.**

**Palisades Amusement Park Presentation**

@Nutley Public Library,  
93 Booth Dr.,  
Children's Room

Vince Gargiulo is the author of the book *Palisades Amusement Park: A Century of Fond Memories* and Executive Producer of the NY/Thirteen PBS documentary of the same name. This popular and informative lecture is a comprehensive history of the world's largest outdoor salt water pool, the musical groups, the rides, the pageants, and the disasters, until its ultimate demise in 1971. Throughout the show, the history of the park comes alive through audio and video clips, music, and over 100 rare photographs

collected by the Palisades Amusement Park Historical Society.

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

For more information visit [nutleypubliclibrary.org](http://nutleypubliclibrary.org)

**Feb. 3, Sat.**

**Take Your Child to the Library Day**

@Nutley Public Library,  
93 Booth Dr.,  
Children's Room

For all ages. Explore your library with activities, games, and crafts all day! Caregivers and homeschool groups welcome. The day starts with story time and a craft at 10:30am, followed by drop-in programs from 11am-4pm including LEGO station, maker/STEM activities, and a library scavenger hunt.

**Time:** 10:30am-4pm

For more information visit [youthservices.nutley-publiclibrary.org](http://youthservices.nutley-publiclibrary.org) or call 973-667-0405 ext. 2623

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