A community magazine serving the residents of Nutley

NEIGHBORS Checking in With the Albert Family

Photograph by Randall Kenneth Photography

JULY 2021

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Independence Days!

he month of July starts with a bang as fireworks light up the dark sky to celebrate Independence Day. I believe I speak for us all when I say that we truly value our freedom. Which is part of the reason why this past year has been so difficult for everyone.

To keep ourselves and our loved ones safe from the virus, we were limited in what we could do. As the situation seems to be currently improving,

certain restrictions are being lifted, and we are cautiously hoping that life will be normal again.

July may be the month when we not only celebrate our country's independence on the 4th, but our own freedom from the fear of a highly contagious virus.

Freedom comes in many forms, and the Alberts, our cover story family, remind us of a place in town that is incredibly empowering. That place is the Nutley Public Library, and Michelle Salimbene-Albert is Director there. Not only can residents find resources of every kind at the library, but the staff seeks to bring the community together through interesting events.

It was wonderful to interview the Albert family this month and see all the ways they interact with and enrich our community. Just like the library does.

When we think of freedom, our thoughts, at some point, will remind us of those in the military who fought for our country. In this issue, we have an article about VFW Post 493. Maria Hamlin is the newly appointed Commander, and she has been overseeing some beautification projects going on there. The building and the grounds around it have received some updates and improvements, and you can see for yourself how things look since the article has some great photos!

Choosing peace is also a freedom, and Nutley Partners for Peace (NPP) are putting together an amazing sculpture. They are inviting everyone in the community to be part of this through the rock painting events they are holding. Read about what they are doing and choose to make your mark (through a paintbrush!) in a celebration of peace.

Let's enjoy and be thankful for all of the days of independence we have, whether in July or thereafter.

It's been a long, stressful, and uncertain year and now it's time to celebrate by watching fireworks, painting rocks, or checking out a book at the library. Let freedom ring with the sounds of a happy community!

Joyce Corey Content Coordinator

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Letter to Residents

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Real Estate

May 2021 Single Family Homes

PROPERTY ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
54 Howe Ave.	\$460,000	\$496,000	87
9 Pomander Walk	\$529,000	\$510,000	66
91 Prospect St.	\$399,900	\$371,000	33
28 Princeton St.	\$369,000	\$363,000	39
141 Lakeside Dr.	\$489,900	\$482,450	9
371 Walnut St.	\$485,000	\$475,000	16
15 Pomander Walk	\$549,000	\$576,000	9
18 Valley Rd.	\$539,000	\$540,000	12
89 William St.	\$599,900	\$629,908	14
32 Brookfield Ave.	\$499,900	\$590,000	13
220 Bloomfield Ave.	\$389,900	\$413,000	14
176 Hillside Ave.	\$525,000	\$575,000	13
177 Hillside Ave.	\$515,000	\$540,000	9
Median List Price	\$499,900		
	¢ = 4 0 000		

Median Sale Price \$510,000 **Median Days on Market** 13

SOURCE: GSMLS DATA

HIGH DEMAND



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.



LOW

Our Thoughts on the Real Estate Market:

HIGH DEMAND

Low mortgage interest rates

- Buyers want more space with "new" living conditions and work from home lifestyles
- Exodus West, away from the city to more open, suburban living
- Millennial population desire for homeownership
- Investors expanding their portfolios into single family homes

LOW INVENTORY

- Home listings are down 8.6% year over year according to NJ Realtors
- Homeowners do not want to list their home over safety concerns
- Homeowners know if they **sell** in this competitive market, they then have to **buy** in the same market
- Lack of new home construction over past decade INVENTORY

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Feature Story

Checking in With the Albert Family

By Joyce Corey Photograph by Randall Kenneth Photography

hat place in town has people who are resourceful, helpful, creative, and are connected to the community through various programs?

If you said the library, I'll give you a few points since that factors into this story, but the place I am talking about is the Albert home. Bob and Michelle Salimbene-Albert are not only lifelong residents, but they are the kind of neighbors who make Nutley that much nicer.

Their story starts right here in town at school.

"Bob and I began dating when we were in Nutley High School," Michelle said. "We were introduced through mutual friends at a school dance that was held in the gymnasium."

After high school graduation, they each



Kittens Misty and Maisy

pursued college degrees in different majors. "I received a bachelor's degree in architecture from New Jersey Institute of Technology," Bob said. "That was fol-

lowed by a master's degree in management. Currently, I'm a senior property manager with a publicly traded real estate investment trust (REIT) based in New York City."

Michelle received a bachelor's degree in photo illustration and a master's degree in digital imaging from the Rochester Institute of Technology. But it was her Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree that led her to her current, and ideal, position as Director of the Nutley Public Library.

"I was looking to pursue a career where I would be able to incorporate my information technology background with education," she said. "Librarianship, and the many diverse skillsets required, wound up being the perfect match."

Michelle has been a librarian for the Nutley Public Library for over 12 years. During that time, she served in various positions such as the children's librarian, department head, and a reference librarian. On February 23rd of this year, she was appointed Director.

While Bob and Michelle have been busy in their respective careers, they have also devoted quality time to building their lives together here in town.



Family outing hiking Mills Reservation during the pandemic

"We have been together for almost 32 years," Michelle said. "That's counting the time from when we met and started dating. We were married at St. Mary's RC Church in Nutley."

"We live in the Spring Garden section," Bob said. "We owned our home here for 21 years. Prior to getting married, I worked in Edgewater and Michelle worked in Manhattan. We chose this location because we wanted to remain near our parents."

"As it is said, it takes a village to raise a family and we are blessed to have the support of our parents who are now grandparents to our daughters, Mackenzie (17) and Makayla (13)," Michelle said. "Bob's parents are Patricia and Bob Albert, Sr. and my parents are Judi and Nicholas Salimbene."

Both daughters are active in various activities as well as volunteering locally.

"Mackenzie is a junior at Nutley High School and plays varsity soccer and basketball," Michelle said. "She plans to pursue soccer in college while she studies animal science. She volunteers at the Nutley Public Library, the All-Star Soccer Camp

in the summer, and Relay for Life. This past winter she participated in the town's safety program, Shovel Out Seniors."

"Makayla is in the seventh grade at John Walker Middle School and has a passion for music and theater," Michelle tells us. "She plays the violin and flute and has performed in the St. Mary's choir for the past four years and has been a cast member in six Parks and Recreation theatrical productions. She also volunteers, along with her grandmother, at the food pantry at St. Mary's."

The Albert house, located at the end of a dead-end street and situated on Nichols Park, is thoroughly enjoyed by the entire family.

"The street is quiet, and the park is a huge bonus,

Feature Story Sponsored by Michael's Roscommon House



especially when you have children and a dog," Michelle said.

The dog is a Whoodle (Wheaten Terrier and poodle) named Memphis, who happily gets along with Princess, the Siamese cat, Maisy and Misty, recently adopted kittens, five hermit crabs, five water frogs, and a goldfish that is over eight years old.

Bob and Michelle both said, "Our neighbors are fantastic! During all seasons, our neighbors meet outside and talk. On the block, everyone knows each other, we look after one another, help each other and enjoy each other's company. We have the only children at our end of the street, so we may be the loudest neighbors!"

There is a strong sense of continuity and community with the Albert family.

"Our children were the third generation to attend Spring Garden School," Michelle said. "In Bob's family, both of his parents, his aunts and uncles, as well as Bob himself, all

went to that school and later, Nutley High School."

The community is also

especially important to the

is the annual holiday tree

lasting memories.

family and has created many

"One of our favorite events

lighting ceremony," Michelle

said. "We compare the event to a moment captured in a

Additionally, we often visit the

Farmers Market, and we love

learning about the history

of Nutley through events

and presentations. Bob and

I never had a doubt that we

Upon entering the Albert

wanted to stay, settle, and

start a family in Nutley."

Norman Rockwell painting.



Visiting Liberty State Science Center



Spring Garden School graduates: Bob (1984), Mackenzie (2016) and Makayla (2020)

Five Things the Albert Family Loves About Nutley

1. BEAUTIFUL PARKS

We walk in our parks daily, throughout all the seasons.

2. LIBRARY

A town treasure with diverse programs and collections for all ages

3. TOWNSHIP PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

There's always something to do in town for all interests and ages

- **4. SCHOOL SYSTEM** Our family has had wonderful and caring teachers
- 5. SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS We enjoy shopping locally and dining at the many choices within town

house, there is a canvas print hanging on the wall that cap-

tures the philosophy of this family. It lists some key life rules that include being grateful, having fun, trying your best, having patience, and helping others.

After spending time with this family, it certainly looks like these rules are not only read but lived in each of their lives. ■

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.



Memphis on his daily walk in Nichol's Park





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Neighborhood News

Take Me Out to the Old Ballgame By Linda Buset

n May 15th, for the 6th consecutive year, the Kingsland Manor presented their annual 1860s base ball game, played by the Nutley Colonels and the Neshanock Base Ball Club of Flemington. If you strolled by the field, located in beautiful Yanticaw Park, you would have believed you had been transported back to the 19th century. The team members wore uniforms of the era and not one player wore a glove. Gloves were not used until the late 1870s and were not common until the 1880s. Can you envision playing baseball with a 'hard' ball without gloves?

Another interesting fact about baseball in this era is that there was only one umpire, and his word was law. Players were not allowed to speak to the umpire unless spoken to and he was to be addressed as "Sir." I am not certain that would work out very well nowadays.

The Nutley 2021 Colonels roster

consisted of Sal "Sally Boy" Balsamo, PJ "Sonny Boy" Balsamo, Eric "Beaner" Costa, Don "Pop Pop" Fernicola Sr., Don "Scungilli" Fernicola, Brian "Spoons" LoPinto, Angel "Baccala" Penna, Timmy "Tim Dog" Pena, Mike "Red" Ryder, Jeff "Kid" Slavinsky, Holden "Little Tuna" Tarna, and Leon "Skipper" Kish, (also known as President of the Kingsland Manor Board of Directors.)

One of the newest and youngest players, PJ "Sonny" Balsamo, was asked how he enjoyed playing in his first game. "It was exciting to learn about the history of the sport that I love and how it used to be played. It was also fun to be able to play the game with my dad."

The Fleminton Neshanock Base Ball Club is one of over 100 vintage baseball teams across the US who try to accurately recreate base ball as it was played in the 19th century. The Neshanock are members of the Mid-Atlantic Vintage Base Ball League and for more information about them you can go to their website www.neshanock.org.

The Nutley Colonels won the game with a final score of 9-7.

It was a close and very exhilarating game, made even more thrilling for some of us, because it was the first time Nutley won.

It is a tradition at these games to recite the famous poem "Casey at the Bat." In past years 'Brooklyn' had recited it, but he has sadly moved, and we thought the tradition would be missed. I saw a friend at the game who I knew had recited this poem many times before and we all encouraged (cajoled) him to help us keep this tradition going. He willingly accepted, and we thank him. Ronn Merritt did an outstanding job with that last minute request





1. The youngest member of the Nutley Colonels, PJ "Sonny Boy" Balsamo hustles with heart to make his way to first base. 2. The President of Kingsland Manor Trust, Leon Kish, and Recording Secretary, Terry Kish, look over the refreshment stand before the game. 3. Nutley resident and "old time" base ball fan, Ronn Merritt, reciting "Casey at the Bat" 4. The winning team, the 2021 Nutley Colonels

and we enjoyed it so much; hopefully, he will continue this tradition next year.

When I asked Ronn how he felt stepping in at the last moment he replied, "I have liked "Casey at the Bat" since my brother used to read it to me when I was a kid. My son is Casey, and we have an illustrated version of the poem hanging in our downstairs bathroom. It wasn't until about eight years ago that I decided to commit it to memory. Since then, I have done it a few times for the Old Guard of Nutley and for my grandkids. When I learned that Brooklyn was no longer attending Neshonock games, I was disappointed that I would not hear him reciting this great American ballad. Although I had a few Prevagen moments, I got across the finish line. Next year I will try to prepare for more than the one hour I had to mull over the lines."

There was also an old-time refreshment stand where Terry Kish, wife of "Skipper," sold popcorn and lemonade. All the profits went to support the Kingsland Manor and kept everyone from going hungry on such a beautiful sunny day at 'the old ball game.'

The hat was passed around and everyone was very generous. These donations keep our lovely and historic Kingsland Manor true to its era and in tip-top shape. ■

The Kingsland Manor is located on the corner of Kingsland Street and Lakeside Drive. For more information call 973-661-3410 or email our Gmail account: KingslandManorNutley@gmail.com or look for more information on our website: www.kingslandmanornutley.org, and our Kingsland Manor Facebook group.

Neighborhood News

Peace Rocks!

By Dorothy Huey

utley experienced two extraordinary peace-building projects in the past with Carpeting the Town and the United Nations in Peace through the Pathways to Peace cultural exchange project initiated by Nutley residents Sandra (Sam) Carella, Assistant to Director of Nutley Public Safety, Theresa Lappostato, Nutley High School art teacher, Rev. Jill Fenske of the Franklin Reformed Church, and Carol Pobanz, member of the Universal Peace Foundation.

To continue their work and the theme that "peace is not simply the absence of war, but the development of friendships," the Nutley Partners for Peace (NPP) came together again, adding members Angela

Melchionne, Nutley High School art teacher, Dorothy Huey from Nutley Rotary, Patty Vangieri, owner The Glass Gallery, and Katherine Carmichael, Executive Director, Nutley Family Service Bureau.

Carol Pobanz shared an idea based on a project she had worked on in Tela Honduras to create a sculpture of peace. This unusual sculpture takes the form of individual letters created from gabion wire and filled with river rock. The Nutley version of this project is an art installation spelling out the word UNITY filled with river rocks painted with peace messages from town residents. The NPP is issuing an invitation to the community to get involved through a series of rock painting events in Yanticaw Park entitled ROCK ON.

The NPP invites the entire community to take part in this project, especially all Nutley school children, by contributing a message of hope or peace. The goal is to include all sectors of the community – residents, church members, organizational members, and businesses – to create a representative







Scale model of UNITY sculpture (above) Nutley High School students cleaned and distributed rocks (below)

rock to be included in the sculpture.

Carol states, "The objective of the summer ROCK ON events is to generate interest in the final unveiling of the UNITY sculpture in September 2021. We want all Nutley residents to have a chance to contribute to the sculpture and, in this way, we hope to inspire their appreciation of the value of individuals sharing as a whole community."

Chair of the NPP, Sam Carella, whose energy and enthusiasm are integral to the progress of the UNITY project, told us "This experience exemplifies what Nutley is all about." She added "Commissioner Alphonse Petracco, an honorary committee member,

believes that having all residents be a part of this event is what will show the inclusiveness and acceptance we all experience living here."

Patty will design and install the letters P E A C E in mosaic on either side of the letters in UNITY. "My hope is that the combined message of peace and unity created by this sculpture has a lasting effect on our community that transcends generations for as long as it stands in the park," she said. "I am proud to be part of leaving the world a bit better with my fellow Partners for Peace."

Theresa shared, "I am so fortunate to work with our amazing Nutley Partners for Peace team! Through this collaborative project, our students are empowered to experience an art voice beyond a classroom. Art is the universal language that interconnects them with the bigger world."

"Theresa's students have helped design the sculpture, volunteered at events, and even designed the Peace Rocks T-shirt!" Dorothy said. "I am thankful to do what I can to help this project succeed. We have talented artists in Carol, Theresa, Angela, and Patty. I help spread the word on social media and pitch in where needed."

The Franklin Reformed Church is pleased to sponsor Nutley Partners for Peace and Rev. Jill has a strong vision of what is possible. "The first step towards unity is getting to know our neighbors and the ROCK ON events create that opportunity," she said.

NPP's hope is to build a stronger community in all the town sectors by expanding their reach with ongoing projects and initiatives.

The community is invited to future rock painting events on Thursday, July 22 and Thursday, August 19 from 12-3pm in Yanticaw Park across from the playground. ■

For more information, please visit their Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages, email nutleypeacerocks@gmail.com or contact one of Nutley Partners for Peace committee members.



Home Depot to the Rescue!

By Maria Hamlin, Commander Stuart E. Edgar VFW Post 493 Nutley

ur VFW post began a beautification project a couple of years ago, and then the pandemic hit. During that time, we began searching for grants and donations to help bring new life to our post.

Well, the Home Depot Foundation came through, and not only provided us with a grant, but also with Home Depot team members to help bring this project to fruition!

I had the opportunity on May 5th and 6th to meet and work with some of the most amazing people and volunteers from Home Depot District 15 and from the 108th Wing at the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ (JBMDL).

Words cannot express how thankful our post is for The Home Depot Foundation, District 15 associates, assistant managers, store managers, and the regional manager who came to the VFW's rescue!

We would like to personally thank everyone who was there. Tammy, Tereli, Sal, Sasha, Rodrigo, Kaitlyn, Kathie, Frank, Kayla, Manny, Marissa, Jessie, Johanna, Manuel, Nate, Dawn, Dannielle (108 Wing, JBMDL, NJ) Watson, William, Wolfgang, and Tino. This amazing team volunteered their time to create an amazing space for our veterans.

And not only did they volunteer their time, but they also stuck it out through the pouring rain! We will be forever grateful to every one of them.

We would also like to thank Mayor Mauro G. Tucci and Commissioner Dr. Joseph Scarpelli for stopping by to thank the team. Mayor Tucci closed out the day by thanking all our veterans for their service. He also thanked Home Depot for its dedication to our community and was amazed at the amount of work the team was able to accomplish in just two days.

This team truly lives up to the Home Depot core values. \blacksquare

Neighborhood News





Home Depot Foundation team members. Maria Hamlin and Home Depot District 15 regional manager Tino Longobardi (bottom right).



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Best Summer Reading 2021

Summer is here and that means the Nutley Public Library will have many books for you to enjoy by the pool or lake, on the beach, or on your couch! A good book can make any day feel like an escape or getaway. We have suspenseful thrillers, steamy romances, light and easy reads, rich and detailed histories, true-crime stories, memoirs, and so much more, to please anyone's interests. Many of these books are from best-selling authors, but several are from new and promising ones. Come to the library and check out our book displays that will feature great summer reads.

Don't forget about our digital collections of eBooks and eAudiobooks available from Hoopla and Libby (OverDrive) for streaming or downloading on your smart device. Be sure to include the Nutley Public Library as part of your vacation or staycation planning!

The theme for this year's summer reading program is "Tails and Tales." The Nutley Public Library will be showcasing books with an animal-related theme, and the library will also be accepting donations to support the Bloomfield Animal Shelter and CPAW-NJ. Come to the library to find out how you can help local animals, check out our new displays, and get some great books. Be sure to sign up for the Adult Summer Reading Program online, and all Nutley participants will be eligible to win prizes from local merchants at the end of the summer. By Jeanne Sylvester, Supervising Librarian

Popular Fiction & Thriller

- The Cellist by Daniel Silva
- Dream Girl
- by Laura Lippman
- Golden Girl by Elin Hilderbrand
- The Guncle
- by Steven Rowley
- Legacy by Nora Roberts
- The Maidens
- by Alex Michaelides
- The Other Black Girl
- by Zakiya Dalila Harris
- People We Meet on
- *Vacation* by Emily Henry
- A Special Place for
- Women by Laura Hankin
- Summer on the Bluffs
- by Sunny Hostin
- Survive the Night
- by Riley Sager
- That Summer by Jennifer Weiner



Non-Fiction & Memoir

 BRAT: an '80s story by Andrew McCarthy
 Couple Found Slain: After a Family Murder by Mikita Brottman

Facing the Mountain: A True Story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II by Daniel James Brown

■ How Stella Learned to Talk: The Groundbreaking Story of the World's First Talking Dog by Christina Hunger

Madhouse at the End of the Earth: The Belgica's Journey into the Dark Antarctic Night by Julian Sancton

The Ugly Cry
 by Danielle Henderson
 World Travel: An Irreverent
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Getting to **Know Your Library Staff**

By David Wilson

What is your name, position, and responsibilities at the library? Jeanne Sylvester, **Supervising Librarian**

I manage the Circulation and Interlibrary Loan Departments and

supervise the staff team. I order adult fiction, DVDs, and Blu-ray. I present adult programs for the public such as concerts, lectures, and demonstrations. Now, during the pandemic, all these programs are virtual through Zoom. I have created a new DIY Jewelry Making program which I present via Zoom. When did you start working at the library and why?

I started working at the Nutley Public Library in 2001, the year after I graduated from Rutgers School of Library and Information Services.

What is your educational background?

I have a B.A. in anthropology, with a minor in music from Rutgers University in Newark.

Do you have any childhood memories of visiting the library?

I grew up in Clifton, but as a youth my mother and I would visit the Passaic Public Library. I was always in awe when we visited this majestic structure with a whole floor for the children's room, the wood floors, wooden tables, and chairs for reading and writing on the main floor.

Tell us about your family

I share my home with my husband, Rich, and a dog, Daisy, and two cats, Marley and Peanut. Rich enjoys visiting the Nutley Public Library when there are special events. I also have an older brother living in Bloomingdale, New Jersey.

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

My primary passion is helping animals. I have volunteered at the

Nutley Community

Bloomfield Animal shelter and I currently volunteer at Skylands Farm Animal Sanctuary and Rescue in Wantage, NJ. I have played the clarinet and performed with two

community concert bands for the last 34 years. Of course, I love reading, mainly fiction and historical fiction.

What do you enjoy most about working at the library?

I have worked at the Nutley Public Library for 20 years and have never wanted to leave. We have always had a great staff with positive atti-

tudes who enjoy helping people, and wonderful Nutley patrons who use and appreciate the library.

I have been fortunate to spend time working in both Adult and Youth Services and have participated on several committees in the Bergen County Library Consortium. I have always been offered opportunities for networking and professional development, and to initiate new programs and services. I appreciate how much the Nutley community respects its library, staff, and all the services we offer to the public.

Share a memorable story involving a library patron or program

Celebrating the Nutley Public Library's Centennial in 2014 is my memorable moment.

The Centennial Committee was comprised of library staff and library board members and many Nutley citizens who are actively involved in local history and community services. We presented unique programs every month that showcased the Library's history, and its place in the community. The grand finale was the Centennial Gala offering gourmet food, live music, and comments from elected officials.

What is your favorite book or author? I enjoy many authors such as Kurt Vonnegut, Isabel Allende, Debbie Macomber, and Sarah Jio. Historical fiction is my current favorite genre.

What is your favorite motto or quote? "The future depends on what we do in the present." Mahatma Gandhi A closing message

I hope to see you at the library soon! July 2021 13



Pet Corner

Adopt Us!

Please join us in welcoming sweet puppy, Lucy, to Jersey Pits Rescue. Looking at this beautiful, happy girl's face makes it hard to believe that she was dumped at the shelter by the only family that she has ever known. Lucy is a perfect, beautiful, Pittie puppy. She is only 10 months old and has the most happy and friendly personality. Lucy is about 35 lbs. and is currently staying





at our vet's office where she will be getting spayed and up to date on all vaccinations. She is incredibly sweet and loving and did extremely well during her dog test. Her owner stated that she loves other dogs and often spent time at the local dog park and has lived in a home with children. She has not been tested with cats. She will need a foster or adoptive home to recover in after her spay. If you are interested in fostering or adopting this angel baby, apply today at www.jerseypitsrescue.com.



Meet MooCat! MooCat is a 3-4 year-old male. He is very sweet once he warms up. He has a sad story. He was pulled off the streets with an infected leg and a heart of gold but had trust issues with humans since they failed him. He now trusts humans again and he would love a nice, loving, warm home. He would do fine with older kids, but we are unsure of how he is with other cats or dogs. He is microchipped, FeLV negative but FIV positive, stool tested negative, dewormed, UTD on vaccines, and neutered. \$100 adoption fee and application apply.

To apply for MooCat visit https://yellowbrickroadrescuenj.com/cat-adoption-application/ or email us at yellowbrickroadnj@gmail.com ■

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Nutley Historical Society

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE Why I Love Being the Art Historian & Director of the Nutley Museum

By Barry Lenson, Art Historian, Nutley Museum

am delighted that *Nutley Neighbors* asked me to contribute this short article about why I became Art Historian of the Nutley Historical Society and Museum. So, because you asked, here is the story.

It started one day back in about 1958, when I was nine years old. I was in the studio where my father, Michael Lenson, painted. He was one of the most notable artists to ever live in Nutley.

I asked him, "Can you teach me to draw?" (Vincent Canby, the art critic of the *New York Times*, once

told my father that he was among the 10 finest draftsmen working in America, and he was right. My dad could draw absolutely anything, beautifully.)

For my first lesson, my dad put a white plaster ball on top of a table, gave me a stick of charcoal and a sheet of paper, and said, "Draw that." He left me alone to try, and I got to work.

When he came back a half hour later, he looked at my work and said, "You were only supposed to draw the ball, not the whole table." And he was right. After I drew the ball, I kept working and tried to draw the entire surface of the table, one little stroke at a time. If he hadn't stopped me, I would probably have tried to draw the whole room.

I think at that moment, my dad realized I wasn't cut out to be a great artist. But he put me to work doing other jobs in his studio.



Trivia Night Wednesdays Karaoke on Thursdays Live Music on Weekends! Check Website, Facebook or Instagram for Details



My dad and I, a few years before he gave me my first drawing lesson.

He taught me how to mount canvas on stretchers. He taught me how to prime those canvases with special white paint. He taught me how to make picture frames, and I made a lot of them. He taught me how to construct a large panel for a mural. And on several occasions, he and I hung his paintings on the walls of museums for exhibitions of his work.

I was a lucky kid because growing up in our house was like being raised in the studio of a Renaissance master. Although I have never worked professionally in a gallery

> or a museum, I have never forgotten the skills I learned under my father's tutelage. Over the years, I have continued to make frames, hang exhibitions, and do the things my dad taught me to do.

I was absolutely delighted when the Nutley Historical Society asked me to join the board as Art Historian. It has brought my life back to where I started out, full circle, right in Nutley. I love the Museum, I love the other trustees who are on the board, I love the town of Nutley, I love the people of Nutley. And I love the incredible artistic history of our town. What could be better than that?

The Nutley Historical Society is looking forward to welcoming you and your family back to the Nutley Museum soon! For more information, visit www.nutleyhistoricalsociety.org



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Skin Care

Skin Cancer and Summertime

Submitted by Ligresti Dermatology

fter a long, cold winter, we are looking towards an increase in summer outdoor activities. However, this additional sun exposure could result in a greater risk of sun damage, including the risk of developing skin cancer.
 What is Skin Cancer? This is an abnormal growth of skin cells that can result from overexposure to the ultraviolet rays in sunlight, specifically UVA and UVB rays, as well as tanning beds. All skin types, light or dark, exposed to high amounts of the sun's rays can develop skin cancer.

The American Cancer Society states that skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. According to one estimate, about 5.4 million basal and squamous cell skin cancers are diagnosed each year in this country. There are about 75,000 cases of the more aggressive melanoma diagnosed, which results in 10,000 deaths per year.

There are three basic types of skin cancer.

1. Basal Cell Carcinoma

2. Squamous Cell Carcinoma

3. Melanoma

■ Basal Cell Carcinoma This is the most common type of skin cancer that may present as a pearly pink nodule which can ulcerate. People with the following characteristics may be more susceptible to this type of skin cancer: a history of frequent sunburning, hair color that is light, blonde, or red, or eyes that are blue or green. There also may be a genetic component or a history of radiation exposure.

Squamous Cell Carcinoma Representing about 20% of all skin cancers, it arises from a mutation in the squamous cell layer of the skin. Actinic keratosis, a rough, scaly patch on the skin that develops from years of exposure to the sun, is very likely to develop into squamous cell carcinoma. Risk factors for this type of cancer are frequent exposure to tanning salons, fair skin, and light hair or eye color. The appearance can present as a red ulcerating nodule.
 Melanoma This is the most dangerous cancer, and it

begins in the pigmented layer of the epidermis. It looks like

a black or multicolored skin lesion with irregular borders. It can appear on sun exposed or non-exposed areas on the body and can grow horizontally or vertically. Nodule melanoma spreads downwards into the circulatory system spreading to the internal organs and other parts of the skin, resulting in death in three to six months. Early detection of melanoma can result in a complete cure with a wide excision. Risk factors of melanoma include excessive sun burning, a family history, dysplastic or atypical nevus, tanning beds, fair complexion, light colored eyes, and living close to the Equator. ■





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Tiny Hands with Terrific **Talents**

By Michelle Palmer

ur children have the sweetest, most creative ways to brighten the day. They truly show us every day that playing is the best way to learn. Through their eyes, we enjoy nature, animals, holidays, art, and so

> much more.

> > knowl-



Joyful moments with Jenny

edge of colors and shapes to construct a super fun project. His decoration even included pasta, which really adds purpose to the definition of playing with food.

We aren't making a mess. We are making memories! Jenny just turned two and loves making painted handprints. She explored the colorful paints to make a very special card for her dad. These are hands-down the cutest art projects!

The Dunbar sisters, Madelyn and Grace, show off their library crafts.



Sisters, Madelyn and Grace, and their library llamas

Decorating the dining room is a wonderful way to make a home feel special. Threeyear-old Matthew created this hanging decor. His work of art brings a smile to his whole family as they admire it during dinner time. He learned how

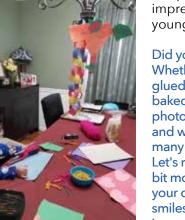
Dining room décor by Matthew

The sister squad created happy matching llamas. Their craft shows how sweet their love is for animals and brings them closer as a family. Their lovely llamas remind us of many great stories and the importance of the library in our community.

the roses. There

is nothing sweeter than this pretty spring painting created by four-year-old Kenzie. She has perfectly put together a masterpiece that her family enjoys with all their heart.

The journey in creating is just as fun as the destination. Four-year-old Daria molded



Stop and smell

Spring roses and smiles from Kenzie

this pretty piece of art. What is even more impressive than the project itself is that this

younger sculptor exclaimed, "It's a mosaic!"

Did you just create an amazing piece of art?

Whether you colored it, alued 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



Daria's mosaic!





Kids Corner







2021 Essex County Free Summer Music Concert Series @Essex County Parks

A diverse lineup of performers who will take center stage throughout the historic parks system. Pack a blanket, enjoy the cool evening breeze, and dance to the sounds of summer.

For more information about the events, places, and times, visit www. essexcountyparks.org/

July I, Thurs.

Pregnancy Support Group @virtual event

Being pregnant is amazing – and at times, amazingly stressful. Pregnancy can leave you with a lot of questions. This is especially true with the unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Led by maternal health experts, this online community is a supportive and inclusive space to meet other pregnant women, ask questions, and form meaningful connections. Time: 12-1 pm

For more information visit the Clara Maass Medical Center calendar at

www.rwjbh.org/events/

July 1-31, Thurs.-Sat. Teen Sewing Workshop – Pizza Pillow

@virtual event from Nutley Public Library

For teens entering grades 6-12 in Fall 2021. Pick up a sewing project kit each month and learn how to sew from the comfort of your own home. Perfect for all skill levels.Video link will be shared via email each month.

For more information and to register visit www.teenservices. nutleypubliclibrary.org/programs/

July 3, Sat. All Recovery Meeting

@virtual event 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, Zoom meeting link, and other dates and times, visit the Clara Maass Medical Center calendar at www.rwjbh.org/ events/

July 4, 11, 18, 25, Sun. Nutley Farmers Market

@Municipal Parking Lot 9, 537 Franklin Ave. Now entering its 12th season, the outdoor Nutley Farmers Market features delicious local foods and goods, live music, special events, and a weekly walking group. Time: 9am-2pm For more information visit www. nutleynj.org/farmersmarket

July 6, 20, Tue.

Board of Commissioners Meeting @virtual event 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.

The regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Commissioners will take place via Zoom webinar for 2021. Time: 7pm For more information visit www. nutleynj.org/board-of-commissioners

July 7, Wed. Wild about Wildlife Workshop with Essex County Environmental Center

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr.

For ages 6-9. Enjoy Tails and Tales with Essex County Environmental Center! Test your wildlife wisdom in a hands-on exploration as you play games of inquiry to examine a variety of skulls, tracks, furs, feathers, and scat! Make your own animal track at the end! This is an in-person program that will be held outside. Please dress accordingly, wear a mask, and maintain social distancing. One workshop per patron. Registration is required. Time: 10:30-11:30am For more information and to register visit www.youthservices. nutleypubliclibrary.org/

July 9, Fri.

Hero Pups Story Time and Craft @Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr.

For all ages. Listen to stories about amazing dogs and learn all about The Seeing Eye from a trainer and her pup in this outdoor story time! Then, finish up with a special doggie craft. This is an in-person program held on library grounds. Please wear a mask (for children over 3), maintain social distancing, and bring a blanket, mat, or cushion to sit on. Registration is required. Time: 10:30-11:30am For more information and to register visit www.youthservices. nutleypubliclibrary.org or call 973-667-0405 ext. 2623

July 14, Wed.

Local Author Story Time with llene Dudek

@virtual event from Nutley Public Library

For all ages. Local author llene Dudek visits in this virtual story time! Hear some of her Little Ant stories, play games, and follow along to make a craft. Each registration includes the Zoom program link and password, as well as a kit of supplies to pick up beforehand. Time: 10:30-1 I am For more information and to register visit www.youthservices. nutleypubliclibrary.org or call 973-667-0405 ext. 2623

July 21, Wed.

Predators and Prey Workshop with Essex County Environmental Center

@Nutley Public Library, 93 Booth Dr.

For ages 6-9. Enjoy Tails and Tales with Essex County Environmental Center! Investigate the food web and how energy flows through the trophic levels of producers, consumers, and decomposers. Play games that demonstrate an individual species' relationship with their environment. Dissect owl pellets to determine the predator and prey food chain. This is an inperson program that will be held outside. Please dress accordingly, wear a mask, and maintain social distancing. One workshop per patron. Registration is required. Time: 10:30-11:30am For more information and to register visit www.youthservices. nutleypubliclibrary.org/

Ribbon Cutting

Sugar Tree Cafe



Sugartreecafe.com, www.sugartreecafe.com, as a member. We are reinventing the cafe and coffee experience.

In May of 2021, Jack, his wife Sophia, and their dedicated team opened Sugar Tree Cafe. After a challenging year that has kept us all further apart, it put it into perspective just how



important creating experiences that bring us together really are.

If there's something Jack knows best, that is creating an unforgettable experience. With years of experience in entertainment as a DJ in nightlife and wedding spaces, entertaining in a thoughtful, unique, and

over the top way is in Jack's blood.

Sugar Tree Cafe is here to reinvent the cafe and coffee experience, from a unique whimsical atmosphere that will transport you out of your daily routine, to a carefully crafted menu. We offer gourmet coffee and a city brunch menu!

I-r: attorney Andy Garruto, Linda Buset of Virtual Assist/Nutley Rotary, Lori Monaco of Monaco Realty, Mary Cousins-Spinelli of Hyssop Beauty Apothecary, Chamber President James McGuire of Coldwell Banker Franklin Realty, Angie, Owner Jack Bermeo, Ace Bermeo, Sophia Bermeo, Zackary Bermeo, Jack Bermeo, Dorothy Huey of Nutley Women's Networking Group/Nutley Rotary, Mya, Neil Henning of Fortress Financial, Belinda, Nancy Shaulis of Valley National Bank, Pasquale Pisani, Financial Advisor of Kingsview Asset Management, Luther Engler of Engler Financial **Photo courtesy of the Nutley Chamber of Commerce*

<text>

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