

AMES

neighbors north

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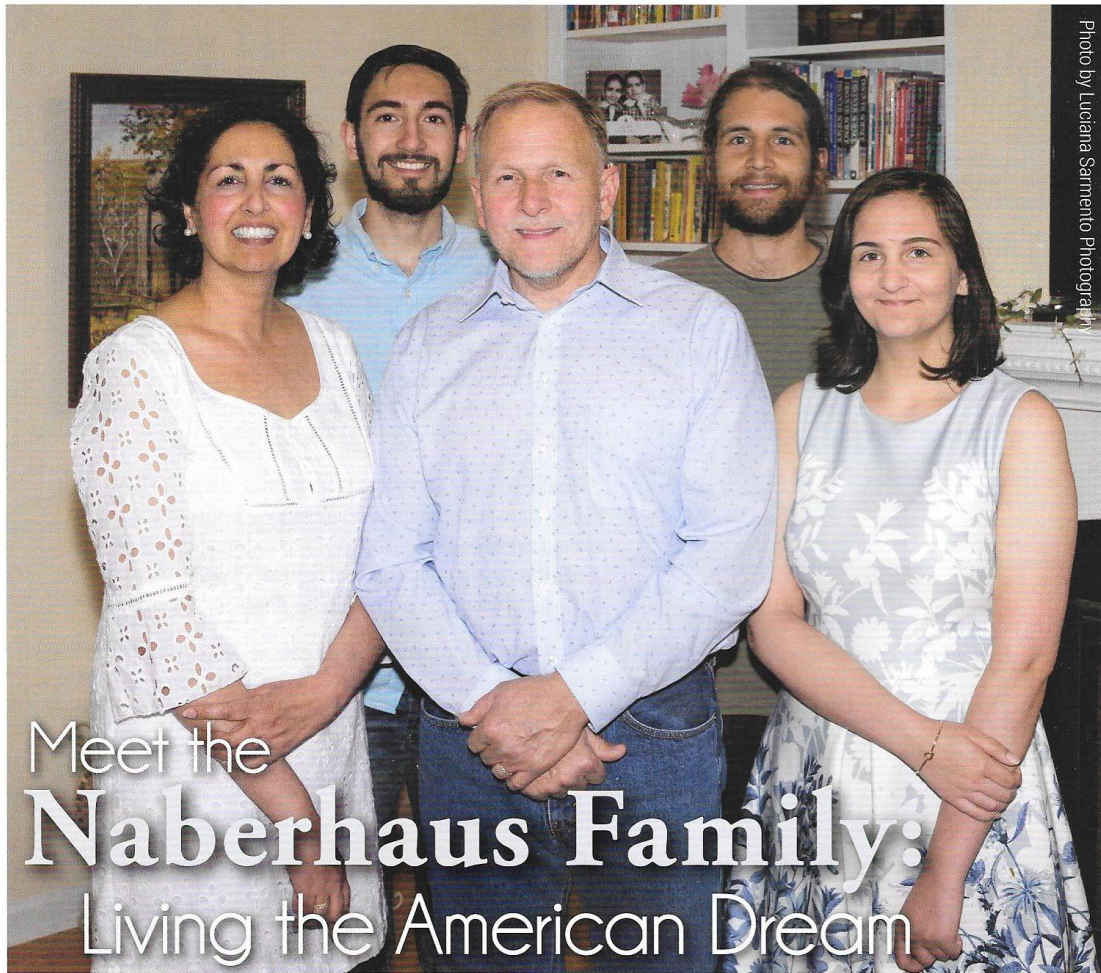


Meet the
Naberhaus Family:
Living the American Dream



Best Version Media

Cover Photo by
Luciana Sarmiento Photography



Meet the Naberhaus Family: Living the American Dream

By Thomas L. Conn

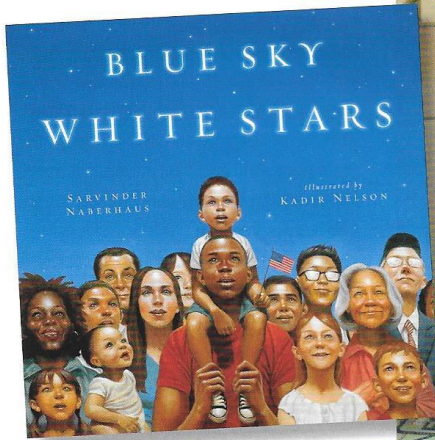
Photos by Luciana Sarmiento Photography
and Sarvinder Naberhaus

The Naberhaus family's story is deeply rooted in Ames, IA where Sarvinder and Tom live in Bloomington Heights. In fact, they were one of the first families to move to that neighborhood. They met at church and were married in 1989. They have three children, Daniel, Joel, and Niki, and their house is slowly becoming an empty nest as their children have grown up and started moving out. Tom and Sarvinder love living in the area

and love their neighbors! There's a local park, and it has a few local churches. It's convenient because they're near a mall, grocery and other stores, and it's close to the university, and Cy-ride is close by.

But let's take a step back and start with a little bit of history. Sarvinder emigrated to the United States back in 1965 from Punjab, India when her father attended Iowa State University to study Veterinary Medicine. In fact, Sarvinder's great-grandfather was originally going to come to the United States in the 1920s—he even boarded the ship and was all set to make the long journey—but he decided

to not come at the last minute. But years later, Sarvinder and her family would find themselves finally in the United States. Once here, Sarvinder, like many other children in Ames, would attend Meeker Elementary School, Central Junior High School, and Ames High School. And then, like her father before her, Sarvinder went on to attend Iowa State University—both for her undergraduate and her graduate degrees. She received her Bachelor of Science in Fashion Merchandising and her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. But she wasn't done! She then received her Master of Education degree,

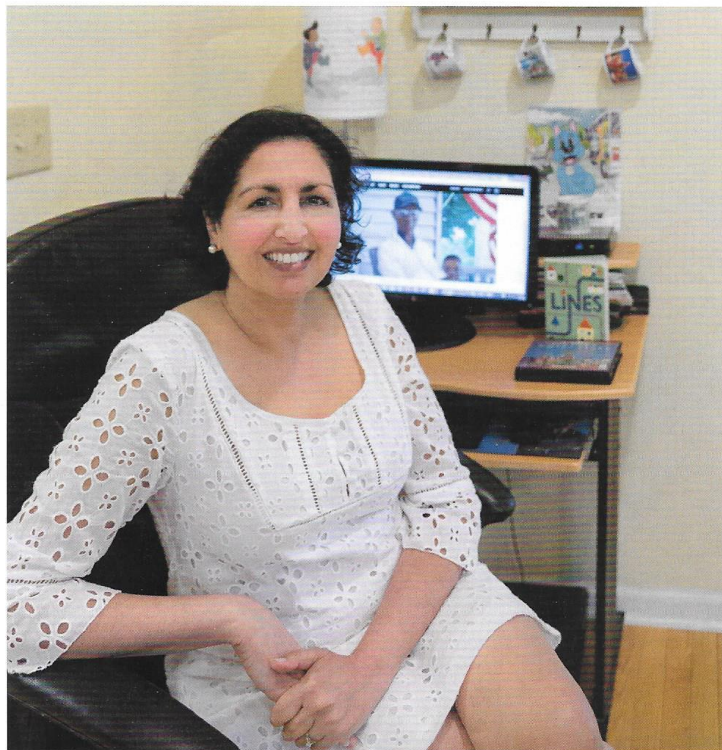


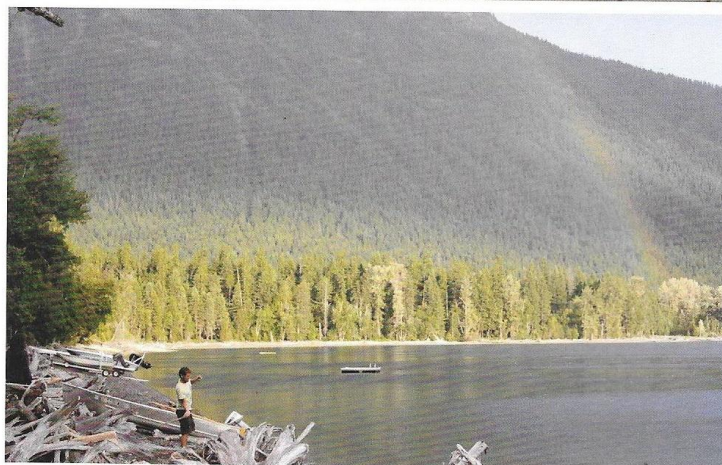
too, which would go on to influence the rest of her professional career.

Currently, Sarvinder is working at ISU while also writing children's books. She has written four books so far: *Blue Sky White Stars* (her most recent one), *Lines*, *Boom Boom*, and *Dog Tales Too: Old and New*. Sarvinder co-wrote *Dog Tales Too: Old and New*, a sequel to *Dog Tales: The Adventures of Smyles* by Kay Marner, with her friend, Roger Kluesner, and they donated the book to the Ames Public Library through the Library's Smyles program, which gives out the books to preschoolers to encourage literacy. For Sarvinder, writing children's books was a natural fit because she "started writing songs at eight-years-old. Songs and poetry have few words that portray emotion, which is similar to writing children's literature because it's like writing poetry." Additionally, her recent book, *Blue Sky White Stars* has received many national accolades from *Time Magazine* and *World Magazine*, and it received an ALA Notable Award, SCIBA Award, and was a Notable Poetry Book for National Council of English Teachers and was on other notable lists such as the Georgia State Book Awards. It's an Amazon best-seller, with a bi-lingual version being distributed by Dolly Parton's



Sarvinder with a few of her children's books





Imagination Library in June 2018 and listed as NPR's Great Reads of 2017. It has been made into an audio book and has been nominated for Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators' (SCBWI) Crystal Kite award and won the CA Award for Book Illustration. For more information visit www.Sarvinder.com and www.scbwi.org.

Sarvinder and Tom also have a variety of hobbies. Tom currently works in Research and Development at Burke Corporation, but when he's not working, he enjoys hobby farming. Up until recently, Tom and Sarvinder had chickens in their backyard for eight years, and their border collie, Judah, loved to herd the chickens back into the pen. Along with Judah, Tom and Sarvinder have two cats, which they adopted. Sarvinder's hobbies, on top of writing children's books, include getting together with her local writing group of friends, her book club, and walking Judah. She is great friends with all her neighbors—they raised all their children together. She also volunteers for Gospel for Asia and for SCBWI. Sarvinder is also the Ames Area Network Chair for those interested in writing children's books, and if you're interested, you can contact her through her website, www.sarvinder.com.

Sarvinder and Tom's children have all taken different paths as well. Their eldest, Daniel, is a local musician in Ames. In 2013, he won Cyclone Idol in the last year of *VEISHA*. Sarvinder and her father also won singing contests, so you could say that singing and music do run in the family. He also plays in a few local bands. On top of being a great singer, he plays guitar, saxophone, and he taught himself how to play the drums. Back on May 27th, he played a Led Zeppelin cover set at Dino's, and, for those interested, he'll be playing at Shagstock in Boone, IA on June 23rd, which is hosted by Obsidian's Dream, his uncle's band.

RESIDENT FEATURE

Their other son, Joel, just got married last year to his wife, Taylor. They will be moving soon to Phoenix, AZ where Joel will be attending optometry school. Taylor is finishing up school at Drake University where she'll graduate with a degree in Pharmacy. Tom and Sarvinder's youngest, Niki, just finished her freshman year at ISU.

Family vacations have always been a staple for the Naberhaus family. Sarvinder said, "Growing up, and coming from India, my dad took advantage of living in the U.S. and all the national parks. So, as a family, we followed the same tradition. We have been to Glacier National Park, where a park ranger told me a member of my party had been reported missing." In her words, that was "an interesting story." The Naberhaus family has also been to the Hoh rainforest, Yellowstone, Galveston, TX, New York City, Los Angeles, the Hoover Dam, Washington D.C and the state of Washington, Philadelphia, Niagara Falls, Devil's Tower, the Grand Canyon, Vancouver Island, Hawaii, and, of course, India.

The Naberhaus family would like to say that they love reading the stories in *Ames Neighbors North* about all the local people in the community who contribute to the neighborhood because they are introduced to all the surprising talents of the people in the community.

And finally, the motto that the Naberhaus family continues to live by comes from the Bible: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15)." 🇮🇳

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Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at mbushman@bestversionmedia.com.



Glacier National Park in 2013



The Naberhaus family at the Taj Mahal in 2014

