

THE SPIRIT OF

Essex

Spring 2025

Essex County Environmental Center Celebrates 20 years!



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive
and the Board of
County Commissioners



Daniel K. Salvante
Director of Parks, Recreation
and Cultural Affairs

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Friends,

As we welcome the warmth and vibrancy of the spring, we look forward to the various outdoor activities that brighten our days. We invite you to enjoy the season exploring Essex County with your friends and family.

Visit Essex County Branch Brook Park in early spring to enjoy our collection of over 5,300 Japanese cherry blossom trees. Thousands of visitors from throughout the Tri-State area and beyond appreciate the natural beauty of cherry trees in bloom during our annual Essex County Cherry Blossom Festival. Celebrate the season by participating in festive activities including the Cherry Blossom Challenge Bike Race, the Cherry Blossom 10K Run, Essex County Family Day, the 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk, and Bloomfest!

Be sure to visit the Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens in late spring to see the stunning display of over 14,000 irises that bloom each year on the hillside, giving the gardens their well-earned nickname as the "Rainbow on the Hill." Don't miss the beautiful Rose Garden at Essex County Brookdale Park, where the landscape becomes a vibrant sea of red, pink, yellow, white, and orange. And be sure to celebrate Earth Day at our Environmental Center.

Spring is the perfect time of year to enjoy our Essex County Parks System comprised of over 6,000 acres of open space, providing beautiful parks and facilities for the community.

Together, let's continue *Putting Essex County First!*

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive
and the Board of County Commissioners



Daniel K. Salvante
Director of Parks, Recreation and
Cultural Affairs

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This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs received an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.



Indicates the facility is handicap accessible. Please contact the facility directly for specific accommodations.

Celebrating 20 Years of Environmental Stewardship at the Essex County Environmental Center



This year, the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland proudly celebrates its 20th Anniversary, marking two decades of promoting environmental awareness and education within the greater Essex County community.

Established in 2005, the Center has become a vital hub for residents of all ages, offering a variety of programs and activities that foster a deep appreciation for nature.

"The Essex County Environmental Center has been instrumental in connecting our community with nature and fostering a sense of responsibility toward our environment. As we celebrate this milestone, we reflect on the positive impact we have made over the past 20 years and look forward to future achievements," said Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., commending the Center's impactful contributions. His words resonate with the spirit of the Center, which serves as a testament to the importance of environmental education and community involvement.

Since its groundbreaking and subsequent ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Environmental Center has been at the forefront of environmental education and sustainability efforts in Essex County. With a commitment to enhancing local ecosystems, the Center has successfully implemented numerous initiatives,



ECEC Senior Naturalist David Alexander demonstrates the bow drill friction fire technique.

from habitat restoration to educational programs and contests that engage thousands of visitors each year. Its state-of-the-art facilities and beautiful surrounding landscapes are a living lab providing a perfect backdrop for learning and exploration.

From the day the doors opened until now, the Center continues to offer an array of programs that align with each season, sparking a sense of wonder and joy found simply by being in nature. Environmental education is a cornerstone of its operation, serving thousands of students a year from the greater Essex County area for field trips to the Center and for outreach in the communities. It has been recognized 9 times for their excellence in environmental education by the New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association. The Center is grateful for two instrumental partners, the Essex County Utilities Authority and the Landsberger Foundation; their generous funding has helped the Center spread its mission and message equally to all residents of the County.


With support from its partners – Rutgers Cooperative Extension Services of Essex County-Master Gardeners and the 4-H Youth Development program, the Essex County Beekeepers Society, NJ Woodturners Association, Great Swamp Bonsai Society, the Essex County Environmental Commission,

and NJ Audubon Society – the Center's rich public programs range from guided nature walks, birding hikes, paddling on the Passaic River, educational workshops in gardening, Native NJ Lenape people and heritage, beekeeping, natural personal care, to hosting community events that celebrate conservation, outdoor recreation and sustainability practices. These initiatives not only educate participants about the environment but also encourage stewardship of our natural resources. Through hands-on experiences, children and adults alike visit to learn about a variety of topics in areas of wildlife conservation, natural history, science, mathematics, literacy, the arts and the importance of biodiversity.

As we celebrate this significant anniversary year, we acknowledge the hard work of past and present staff, volunteers, funders, sponsors, partner organizations, and community members who have contributed to the Center's success. The Essex County Environmental Center stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration, reminding us of the importance of nurturing our environment for generations to come. Here's to another 20 years of growth, education, and unwavering commitment to preserving the green spaces, the beauty, of Essex County! ■

ESSEX COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Seasonal events sponsored by the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

ESSEX COUNTY CODEY ARENA
560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange
973.731.3828 - www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar 

March 5 and 6: NJSIAA State High School Hockey Semifinals

March 8 -10: NJ Devils Youth Shamrock Hockey Tournament

Spring Sessions

Learn to Skate Group Lessons

Fridays – starting March 21st – 8 weeks
Saturdays – starting March 22nd – 8 weeks
Sundays – starting March 23rd – 8 weeks

Ages: 3½ to adult

Classes are offered on Fridays at 4:15pm, Saturday or Sunday at 11:15am or 1:30pm

- Snow Plow (Ages 3½ to 6)
- Basic 1-6
- Freestyle
- Adult (15 & up)

Public Session Skating

Ages: 2½ to adult

Sessions –

- Friday afternoon – 4:45-6:15pm
- Saturday – 11:45am to 1:15pm & 2-3:30pm
- Sunday – 11:45am to 1:15pm & 2-3:30pm

Adults - \$10 / Children 16 & under - \$8 / Seniors - \$8 / Skate Rentals - \$5

Senior Skating Sessions (35 & up)

- Tuesday & Thursday mornings from 10:45am to 12:15pm

NJ Special Olympics Skating Festival

Sunday, March 30 – 8am to 2pm

Birthday Parties

Reserve a party room to celebrate your child's birthday on the ice

- \$125 – 3-hour party room
- Parties are held mainly during public


sessions skates or private ice sessions

- Group admission discount rates for 15+ skaters

Private Ice Rentals

- Call to inquire about private ice rentals for skating and parties; 973.731.3828 ext. 0

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

621-B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland
973-228-8776 - www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. Pre-registration and payment for all programs are required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar 

Small Groups/Pods and Families

All ages. Spring topic selections include: Seasonal Nature Adventure, Lenape Village Tours, Backyard Birding, Wild Edibles, Frog Pond Science, Swamp Tromp/Wetland Biodiversity, *Fire Making and Hot Chocolate, *Camping 101. One group at a time with a limit of 10 people. Schedule your 45-minute time slot by calling the center. **Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult. *Where noted, additional fees apply.**

LITTLE EXPLORERS

Mondays— March 3, 17; April 7, 21; May 5, 19; June 9, 16

For ages 2 and 3; 10-11am

For ages 4 and 5; 3-4pm

Join us for explorations of nature as we study plants and animals and observe the colors, shapes, textures, and sounds in the Environmental Center's forest habitat. Please come dressed for the weather; all classes include an outdoor adventure. All children must be walking and accompanied by an adult. Paths cannot accommodate strollers. Please be prepared for all weather conditions. Maximum of two children per adult. All sessions are limited to 10 children. **Fee: \$15 per child per session**

FOREST FRIENDS CLUB

Thursdays—March 20, April 10, May 8, June 12; 4-5pm

For children ages 5 through 10.

We'll explore the forest using nets, binoculars, magnifiers, and microscopes to investigate nature in our wooded wetland habitat. Together we hope to foster an ethic of stewardship and offer an opportunity to take part in hands-on conservation projects. **Fee: \$15 per child per session**

FROG POND CLUB

Wednesdays—March 19, April 9, May 7, June 11; 4-5pm

For children ages 5 through 9.

Uncover and discover ecosystem interactions at the frog pond. Explore with nets, magnifiers and microscopes to investigate what lives at the pond and learn from a naturalist what can be done to protect and conserve the pond inhabitants. **Fee: \$15 per child per session**

GARDEN DISCOVERY CLUB

Tuesdays –April 22; May 6, 20; June 10, 24; July 8, 22; August 5, 19; September 9; 4-5pm

Tuesdays – April 22; May 6, 20; June 10, 24; July 8, 22; August 5, 19; September 9; 4pm to 5pm.

For ages 5 and up. Together we'll grow food in our garden plot and learn about everything from soil to seeds along the way. Participants will get hands-on experience with planting, harvesting and

cooking. Session themes include soil and composting, seed planting and labeling, thinning, weeding and watering, selective harvest, garden pests, healthy eating and more! This is a drop-off and pick-up class (children only). **Fee: \$15 per child per session.**

MARCH MAPLE SYRUP: HOW SWEET IT IS!

Saturday, March 22; 3-4:30pm

For families. Maple syrup is a sweet treat that has been harvested ever since the Lenape Native Americans lived here on the landscape. Let's celebrate the spring equinox together and hear the story of how maple syrup was discovered, learn to identify our maple trees, tap tree stumps with hand augers and taste the real thing drizzled over mini pancakes that we make together and cook on a campfire! **Fee: \$15 per participant.**

FAMILY DINOSAUR DISCOVERY FIELD TRIP

Saturday, March 29; 2:30-4:30pm

For families with children ages 4 and up.

Meet at the end of Locust Avenue in Roseland and hike 1 mile total to explore this National Historic Landmark that is home to three-toed Grallator dinosaur tracks from the late Triassic age. Using clay, we'll make and take an impression of an existing track and leave the site undisturbed for future paleontological study. **Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

gARTbage ART CONTEST.

Register by Wednesday, April 9

Project Drop-Off, Saturday, April 12; 10:30am to 1:30pm

For children in PreK through 12th grades.

The Environmental Center's g'ART'bage contest takes a creative approach to protecting our planet from plastic pollution by pulling plastics out of the waste stream and transforming them into works of public art. Contest participants are challenged to be thoughtful and creative in crafting art made from single-use plastic garbage (non-recyclable plastics). Team and individual projects are welcome. Projects must be crafted to withstand the elements, as they will be showcased in an



Earth Day

Sunday, April 27

11am to 3pm

Rain Date: Saturday, May 3

For all ages.

Essex County Environmental Center

Yay, it's EARTH DAY!

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to our annual outdoor festival honoring beautiful planet EARTH, the sustainer of all life! On this special day, the Essex County Environmental Center will make extra efforts to share its wonder and appreciation of the natural world with patrons, partners, and friends. Enjoy a day filled with crafts, games, and recreational opportunities, such as canoeing and hiking. Enjoy demonstrations, information, a local eco-vendors' sale. Environmental Center staff and partner groups will be on hand to guide you throughout this exciting Earth-centric day! Seeking eco-vendors with a sustainable mission. For more information, call the center. **FREE EVENT** (items may be for sale)

Essex County Department of Parks and Recreation

& Rose Squared Art Shows Present



Rose Squared Art Shows

38th Annual at Essex County Verona Park

Bloomfield Ave & Lakeside Ave, Verona | Saturday, May 17 & Sunday, May 18



36th Annual at Essex County Brookdale Park

473 Watchung Ave, Bloomfield/Montclair | Saturday, June 21 & Sunday, June 22

For info, directions, a gallery of participating artists and unique artisanal food, visit

rosesquared.com



You're Invited to...

Essex County Branch Brook Park to enjoy the most diverse collection of Cherry Blossom trees, even larger than the national display in Washington,

DC. The blossoming trees create a picturesque setting that transforms the park into a stunning spring fantasyland. We invite you and your family to come out and experience this natural wonder.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive
and the Board of
County Commissioners

2025 ESSEX COUNTY • BRANCH BROOK PARK

Cherry Blossom Festival

Festival Events

Saturday, April 5 ~ 7am-1pm
Cherry Blossom Bike Race
Oval, Northern Division

Sunday, April 6 ~ 10am
Cherry Blossom 10k Run
Cherry Blossom Welcome
Center Fields

Saturday, April 12
1-Mile Fun Run/Walk ~ 9am
Essex County Family Day ~ 11am-3pm
Prudential Concert Grove,
Southern Division

Sunday, April 13 ~ 11am-5pm
Bloomfest!
Oval, Northern Division



BRANCH
BROOK
PARK
ALLIANCE

**RWJ Barnabas
HEALTH**

Cherry Blossom Talks

April 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30

Join us every Wednesday and Saturday in April at 11 am for Cherry Blossom Talks! These 30 minute talks will discuss the history of cherry blossom trees in the United States, how cherry blossom trees grow, and the history of Branch Brook Park. Talks will be held at the Essex County Branch Brook Park Cherry Blossom Welcome Center. Enjoy the fresh air, beautiful scenery, and interesting topics.

outdoor setting on the grounds of the Essex County Environmental Center. Winning entrees will be displayed during the week of Earth Day! Grand prizes are awarded to entries that place 1st in all categories; 2nd and 3rd place entries will be recognized with a plaque, certificate, and a small gift from the

Environmental Center. **Pre-registration required.** Contact Teri <https://forms.gle/viPCADgfbGyidvXt8>

SPRING CAMP

Tuesday, April 15; Wednesday, April 16; Thursday, April 17; 9:30am to 3:30pm

For children ages 6-10. Restore the bond between children and nature. Children will have the opportunity to explore nature right here at the Essex County Environmental Center's varied habitats-forest, wetland, pond, and river. For details, call the Center. **\$300 per child for all 3 days OR \$110 per child/ per day**

SPRING WILD EDIBLE WALK

Tuesday, April 22; 6-7:30pm

For families. Take a walk along our trails to identify and discuss the variety of forest groceries available for harvest around our local landscape. You'll meet Spice Bush, Ostrich Fern, Mountain Mint, Stinging Nettle, Wild Leek, Trout Lily and others. Learn some of the folklore behind the plants and, as we walk and talk, we'll discuss proper identification, ethical harvest, growing environment and

methods of preparation. On our return, we'll collect a few dandelions to fry up as bite size fritters and leave with a greater appreciation for the ephemeral beauty of our changing seasons. **Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

PROJECT WET & CLIMATE WATER AND RESILIENCE TEACHER WORKSHOP

Tuesday, May 6; 9am to 3pm
For educators of grades K-6.

The Project WET curriculum guide is a collection of science-based, interdisciplinary activities and lesson plans that are teacher-tested and classroom ready. They are sure to help educators feel confident addressing themes of water in the classroom and empower students to build a more resilient future. The Climate, Water and Resilience guide helps educators teach middle and high school students about climate and climate change using interactive, objective, science-based activities that students will enjoy. Understanding climate, and specifically the way that climate is changing, is crucial to making informed decisions and building community and environmental

resilience. Both guides are aligned with NGSS standards. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Certificates are given for the workshop hours completed. Led by Environmental Center Senior Naturalist David Alexander and NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Project Wet Coordinator Toni Heater.

Fee: \$40 (includes curriculum activity guides) (scholarships available for Essex County urban aid district teachers; call the Center for details)

MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 10; 9am to 3pm

For all ages. Stop by the Rutgers Master Gardener's annual plant sale for a wide variety of annuals, perennials, ornamentals, shrubs, small trees, tomatoes and herbs. For more details, call the Rutgers Master Gardeners' Helpline at 973.228.2210 from Monday to Thursday between 10am and 2pm. Master Gardeners' Annual Plant Sale also will be hosted at the Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens at 474 Upper Mountain Avenue, Montclair, on Friday, May 2 from 10am to 4pm and Saturday, May 3 from 9am to 3pm.

Admission is FREE but plants will be for sale.

FISHING 101

Saturday, May 10; 12:30-2pm

For families. We'll begin with an introduction to freshwater fishing and learn to target specific fish species, fishing equipment, knots, bait selection, and techniques. Participants will make their own "Altoids Tin Fishing Tackle Kit" to use on site and then take home. Basic equipment will be provided but you are welcome to bring your own. Meet at the waterfront area in the Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex, West Orange, near the Clipper Pavilion and boat rental. **Fee: \$15 per participant**

UPPER PASSAIC RIVER CANOE TRIP

Wednesday, May 14; 6-8pm

For adults and children ages 10 and older. Take a leisurely paddle on the Passaic River! Paddlers will enjoy scenery and peacefulness as they paddle up the river and float downstream. Geared for beginners and children ages

10 and up accompanied by a parent or guardian. Meet in the Garibaldi Hall parking lot. **Fee: \$30 per person**

FROG POND ADVENTURE OUTDOOR CLASS

Thursday, May 22; 6-7:30pm

For families. This rribbetting program will take an up-close look at our wetland and pond ecosystem. Search out and identify the life found in the pond through magnifying glasses, microscopes and field guides. **Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

2025 ESSEX COUNTY PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Submissions are due by Wednesday, September 10, so grab a camera and visit an Essex County Park! Anyone with a camera is invited and encouraged to submit photos that capture a part of your visit to the County Parks System. For rules and regulations, contact the Essex County Environmental Center at 973.228.8776.

ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO

560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange
973-731-5800

<https://turtlebackzoo.com>

Berson Family Center at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo

973-731-5800 x236

<https://turtlebackzoo.com/education/>

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Hatchlings: March 16, April 6,

May 11 at 10am

Tots: March 16, April 6,

May 11 at 11:30am

Explorers: March 30, April 13,

May 18 at 10am

TBZ's Early Childhood programs encourage family learning and foster early environmental awareness. We invite young children to discover the natural world through gently structured play, art, stories, animal visits and more.

Age restrictions apply;

pre-registration required; zoo

admission not included. Hatchlings

(12-24 months), Tots (ages 2&3) and

Explorers (ages 4&5) are \$25-\$30

per participant. For more information,

visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/early-childhood-programs/>.



Open to children 15 years of age and younger

Wednesday, May 28
Irvington Park

Thursday, May 29
Verona Park

Wednesday, June 4
Weequahic Park

Thursday, June 5
Grover Cleveland Park

Wednesday, June 11
Monte Irvin Orange Park

Thursday, June 12
South Mountain Reservation

Saturday, June 7
Branch Brook Park

Weekday Derbies
Registration: 5-6pm
Derby: 6-7pm
Awards: 7:15pm-7:30pm

Saturday Derby
Registration: 8-9am
Derby: 9-10am
Awards: 10-10:30am

See www.essexcountynj.org
for any cancellations
due to weather.

- Children are encouraged to bring their own fishing poles.
- There are no rain dates in case Fishing Derbies are canceled due to weather.
- Prizes will be awarded in various age categories.

SPRING FOREST EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 19 • 9:30-10:30am or 11am-12pm

Essex County Environmental Center

For families with children ages 1 to 6. Celebrate the beginning of spring with a reading of the “Little White Rabbit” and an egg hunt within the forest grounds of the Environmental Center. Kids can bring their favorite basket to collect eggs and earn surprises! In the spirit of being “green,” participants will exchange eggs for small prizes. The eggs are sanitized and reused for future events and programs. Refreshments and a spring craft giveaway per child included. Limited space available. **Fee: \$15 per child**

WONDERS OF THE WILD

Radical Reptiles: Saturday, March 15 from 1-3pm

Extreme Adaptations: Saturday, April 19 from 1-3pm

Animal Colors: Saturday, May 10 from 1-3pm

Turtle Back Zoo is an amazing classroom! Our Wonders of the Wild program is an opportunity to participate in supplementary science and nature-themed programs and projects that facilitate scientific literacy and life-long environmental stewardship. Available to students ages 6-12. The programs include a visit to the South Mountain Reservation, Reservoir, or Zoo as weather permits; does not include zoo admission for after the program. **\$30/participant.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/wonders-of-the-wild/>.

SOPHISTICATED SCIENCE SEMINARS

Tipping the Scales on Scales (Snakes): Saturdays, March 29 & June 28 from 1-3pm

Wild Careers: Sunday, March 2 from 1-3pm

Forest Forensics: Sunday, April 6 from 1-3pm

Zoo Conservation and Stewardship: Sunday, May 4 from 1-3pm

Sophisticated Science Seminars are conservation programs for audiences ages 13 to 103. Seminars run throughout

the year and span topics such as animal anatomy, habitats and conservation, animal careers, and more. The programs are perfect for those interested in animals, science, conservation, and nature who want to learn something new in a relaxed atmosphere. **\$30/participant; includes a visit into the zoo, but not zoo admission for after the program.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/sophisticated-science-seminars/>.

HOMESCHOOL DAYS

March 19: Animal Communication from 11am to 1pm

April 23: Animal Anatomy from 11am to 1pm

May 14: Creatures Great and Small from 11am to 1pm

Welcome to the wildest classroom in NJ! Our homeschool classes offer students an opportunity to boost scientific literacy and knowledge of the natural world while learning the importance of life-long environmental stewardship. Available to students ages 6-12, this drop-off program includes a visit to South Mountain Reservation, reservoir, or zoo as weather permits. **\$30/participant per session; zoo admission not included.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/homeschool/>.

FAMILY NATURE CLUB: NATURE GUARDIANS Searching for Salamanders:

Sundays, March 16, April 6, May 18 from 9-11am

Prepping for Pollinators: Sunday, March 16 from 9-11am

Topic TBA: April 6 from 9-11am

World Migratory Bird Day: April 6 from 9-11am and May 11 from 1-3pm

Nature Guardians is an FNC program focused on community engagement that connects families with local conservation actions and citizen science research, shaping our understanding of the natural world. This season's programs will focus on birds. Programs are rain or shine except during severe weather. **\$5-\$15/participant.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/family-nature-club/>.

FAMILY NATURE CLUB: NATURE ADVENTURERS – themed hikes for the spring

World Wildlife Day: Sunday, March 2 from 9-11am

Woodland Wanderers: Sunday, March 30 from 9-11am

Party for the Planet: Sunday, April 27 from 9-11am

Talking About Turtles: Sunday, May 4 from 9-11am

Nature Play is playing WITH nature, not just IN nature and is a great way to interact with nature no matter your experience level or play style. Run, climb, build, dig, or even just sit and experience the sounds, smells, and sights of the

outdoors. Nature Adventurers visits different locations near Essex County Turtle Back Zoo; zoo admission not included. **\$15/participant.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/family-nature-club-nature-adventurers/>.

UPCOMING MINI-CAMPS

Spring Break: Monday through Friday, April 14-18 from 9am to 4pm

Join us at Turtle Back Zoo for some wild fun! To further our mission of conservation, education, and stewardship, campers will be introduced to the extraordinary world of animals, nature, and science. Children will enjoy age-appropriate camp activities that include games, teacher-led lessons, behind-the-scenes tours, up-close animal encounters, hands-on science demos, and fun crafts. **\$90/participant.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/zoo-camps/>.

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS & ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

Behind the Scenes at Bison: Saturdays at 2pm in March

Behind the Scenes at Island Giants: Sundays at 2pm in April

Behind the Scenes at Animal Wellness Center (hospital): Sundays at 2pm in May

Sloth Socials: Saturdays,

March 29 & May 31 at 10am

Join us for a deeper exploration into the care and conservation of our animals! For 6 year olds and over; under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. All members of the party must have a ticket. Group sizes are strictly limited. No photographs are permitted behind the scenes; all attendees will sign a photo waiver prior to the tour. Attendees may be asked to wear face coverings at some locations. Tour and program guests do not enter exhibits or touch animals. Animal Encounters include bagels and coffee and an educational presentation. **\$50/participant.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/behind-the-scenes-tours/>.

OTHER PROGRAMS AT THE ZOO OR CLOSER TO YOU

In-person and Virtual Programs, Outreaches, and more

Dates and times scheduled at need

Join us for a dynamic and fun educational program that is focused on animals, conservation, and stewardship. We offer a variety of programs that satisfy many scientific benchmarks while also being engaging and informative. Programs can be adapted to age and ability; many can be adapted for outreaches to your school, senior center, etc. **Fees and restrictions vary per location.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/education-center-programs/>. ■



ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Springtime Trail Walk and Terrarium Creation

Tuesday, May 6; 6-7:30pm

For families. We'll explore our wetlands for signs of spring focusing on frogs and flowers. Along the way, we'll carefully gather a few ingredients from nature and build our own living terrarium and learn to provide low maintenance nurturing care for it.

Fee: \$12 per child and \$15 per adult. Pre-registration and payment for required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

SPRING STORYTIME

Saturday, April 19; sessions at 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

Essex County Turtle Back Zoo

Wear your favorite spring-inspired attire, enjoy an animal-themed story, and meet a favorite animal friend.

This is a family-friendly event recommended for families with children ages 8 and younger.

\$10/participant; zoo admission not included.

For more information,

visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/storytime-programs-at-turtle-back-zoo/>.



Essex County Riker Hill Art Park OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, June 7
& Sunday, June 8
11am to 5pm

Essex County Riker Hill Art Park is a former United States Army Nike Missile Base in Livingston, NJ that was transformed into an art park in 1974. Over thirty artists work in the park, their studios perched high atop the mountain, with breathtaking scenic views. Artists-in-residence work in various disciplines such as painting, fine metal jewelry, ceramics, pottery, glass-blowing, printmaking, photography, weaving, fiber arts, mixed media, and sculpture.

**Riker Hill Art Park, 284 Beaufort Avenue,
Livingston, New Jersey 07039**



*Come see the artists in action and
their work on display. Admission is free.*



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive
and the Board of
County Commissioners



**COUNTY OF ESSEX DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS**
155 Prospect Ave, Suite 100
West Orange NJ 07052
973.268.3500 / www.essexcountynj.org
PUTTING **ESSEX COUNTY** FIRST

ESSEX COUNTY CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS

**The following events are offered for the public's enjoyment
by Essex County-based arts and history organizations.**

The Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs takes no responsibility for the content, accuracy, dates or times and whether or not non-County sponsored events listed in this magazine are held as scheduled.

HEIDI GALLERY at JSDD

310 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston
973.272.7148 / HeidiGallery@JSDD.org
Call for ADA accommodations, etc.

Contextual

March 6 through May 4

Heidi Gallery at JSDD is excited to announce "Contextual," a juried exhibition that features works of art that contain both text and texture. Heidi Gallery seeks artists working in a wide variety of mediums, creating work that is dynamic, thought-provoking and well executed. Jurors are Barbara M. Bickart and Adam Swart. Opening reception is Thursday, March 6 from 6-8pm. A workshop taking place in conjunction with this exhibit will take place Sunday, April 6th from 2-4pm. This is made possible with funds from the Essex County Department of Cultural Affairs, a partner of the NJ State Council on the Arts.

Pride-Full

May 29 to June 29

This is the first Heidi Gallery exhibition to be held during the month of June and helps fulfill the gallery's mission of full community inclusion. Heidi Gallery is seeking works of art which celebrate identity, inclusivity and love in all their guises. There will be no admission fees for this call for artwork.

Opening reception is Thursday, May 29 from 6-8pm. Performance of Synesthesia & Sound (RSVP required) is Sunday, June 6 from 2-4pm. Closing reception and Artist Walk & Talk is Sunday, June 29 from 2-4pm.

JCC OF GREATER METROWEST

Cooperman JCC
760 Northfield Avenue, West Orange
973.530.3412 / www.jccmetrowest.org



Workshop Images at Heidi Gallery at JSDD

Environment Show

March 2 to April 27

Ten artists comment on the dire environmental predicament the earth faces. Reception is Sunday, March 2 from 11am to 1pm. Free.

STUDIO MONTCLAIR'S LEACH GALLERY

641 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair
862.500.1447 / Studiomontclair.org
 – portable ramp at front door; restroom.

Good Works

March 14 to April 14

"Good Works" is a very special exhibition honoring Studio Montclair's active volunteers. April 11, 2025, at the Leach Gallery.

Viewpoints 2025

April 26 to June 6

Latest contemporary artwork from both members and non-members of SMI

STUDIO MONTCLAIR, INC.

Academy Square
33 Plymouth Street, Montclair
 – ground level entry; elevator; restroom.

Works by Denis Orloff

April 17 to June 20

Solo exhibition of paintings by Denis Orloff. ■



Pride-Full at Heidi Gallery at JSDD



The Essex County Environmental Center staff would like to thank all those who entered our Forest Friends Feeder Contest.

We received 40 distinctive, creative, and edible entries that were a delicious special treat for our outdoor critters, who were most appreciative!

It was truly a delightful sight for all to witness our winter wildlife enjoy a seasonal treat made specially for them.

2024 CONTEST RESULTS



PreK to 2nd Grade
First Place: Maya Suraci, Michael Suraci



PreK to 2nd Grade
Second Place: Iris Brondo



PreK to 2nd Grade
Third Place: Michael, Sage, and Cameron Yildirim



Grade 6th to 8th and People's Choice Award
First Place: 4H Young Gardeners Club:
Michael Berger, Maggie Berger,
Leonardo McCormick



Grade 9th to 12th
First Place: Essex County West Caldwell Tech:
Nathalie Flores, Jayla Young,
Johangeline Romero, Amy Carchipulla



Grade 9th to 12th
Second Place: Essex County
West Caldwell Tech:
Mahki Moultrie, Damian Valentin



Grade 3rd to 5th
First Place: Ursa Brondo



Grade 3rd to 5th
Second Place: Penelope Piccoli and
Zoe Panagiotakis



Grade 3rd to 5th
Third Place: Essex Junior Dragons:
Elyas Anziani, Dylan Diaz, Kaiden Brooks



Grade 9th to 12th
Third Place: Essex County West Caldwell Tech:
Emilia Anderson, Gisabel Hodge,
Rafael Velez, Imani Fraser, Karen Velasquez



ESSEX COUNTY SPRING EVENTS

March: Annual Herb & Heirloom Tomato Pre-orders and Sale.

The Montclair History Center's Annual Herb and Heirloom Tomato Sale is back! Visit the Orange Road site and pick up unique, organic herbs for your garden. A selection of heirloom tomatoes in addition to herbs will be available. Montclair History Center, 108 Orange Avenue, Montclair. Pre-orders will be available online in March. Sale hours are Thursday, May 1 from 9am to 8pm, Friday, May 2 from 9am to 5pm and Saturday May 3 from 9am to 1pm or until everything sells out. www.montclairhistory.org/all-events

March 2: Botanical Light Bowl Workshop.

Create a delicate light bowl crafted from humble toilet paper and dried flowers. Layer the paper and flower petals painted with clear glue over a balloon to create a spherical, semitransparent piece of art. The final addition of a battery powered tea light in the center delicately illuminates the space with your creation. Led by Arts Educator Faye Graye. Heidi Gallery at JSDD, 310 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston. 2-4pm. Free and open to the public. RSVP requested. Please contact Heidigallery@jsdd.org or 973.272.7148 to request specific accommodations and to RSVP.

March 7 & 9: The Firebird with Xian Zhang.

You may be lifted out of your seat as the final pages of Stravinsky's landmark ballet, The Firebird, light up the hall in phosphorescent musical color. The only way to top that is by adding the talents of our special guests, the award-winning Jersey City company, Nimbus Dance, who join us to premiere two newly choreographed works. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. March 7 from 8-10pm and March 9 from 3-5pm. Tickets start at \$20. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

March 8: Second Saturday Family



Family Fun in the Kitchen at The Greater Newark Conservancy

Adventures: Urban Gardening 101.

This family program will walk families through the basics of urban gardening through hands-on activities in our garden. Families will have the opportunity to start their own seedlings and bring plants home! Greater Newark Conservancy, 32 Prince Street, Newark. 10:30am to 12pm. Free. Registration required; opens mid-February. Citybloom.org/events/

March 9: Untold Power: First Lady Edith Wilson.

A talk with author Rebecca Boggs Roberts. Durand-Hedden House & Garden hosts at The Woodland, Durand Hedden House & Garden, 523 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood. 1pm. Free. www.DurandHedden.org

March 13: History at Home: Music and Musicians of Montclair.

In this third installment of the arts in Montclair, Collections Manager Erin Benz will focus on the music and musicians of Montclair! After delving into the history of the art colony and the many movies and shows that have used the town as a backdrop, it's now time to explore the rockers, composers, and bandleaders that called Montclair home. From the timeless music of Herman Hupfeld to the rockin' anthems of Joe Walsh, we guarantee to get some songs stuck in your head! 7-8pm. This program is free and held virtually on Zoom. Registration available at www.montclairhistory.org.

March 13 & 15: Rachmaninoff Symphony No. 2.

Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony, filled with dark-chocolate harmonies, has been seducing newcomers to classical music for a century. No wonder its melodies have cropped up in movies and pop songs. In Nico Muhly's new piano concerto, Sounding, melodies inspired by hymn tunes are abundant. Here is edge-of-your-seat beauty, topped off by the timelessness of Debussy's musical portrait of moonlight. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. March 13 from 1:30-3:30pm; March 15 from 8-10pm. Tickets start at \$25. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

March 15, April 19, May 17: Family Fun in the Kitchen.

Join Chef Afi to learn knife skills, cooking tips and tricks, and how to make recipes such as Orange Cranberry Muffins, Tofu Stir Fry, Sweet Potato Fritters, Hoppin' John, Jackfruit Empanadas, and more! Chef Afi will walk your family through every step and, at the end, you get to enjoy the dish you made! Greater Newark Conservancy, 32 Prince Street, Newark. 11am to 12:30pm. \$5 per person. Registration required; opens mid-February. Citybloom.org/events

March 16: Guided House Tour: Women of the House.

The Crane House & Historic YWCA is a window into the history of our nation from its

early years as an independent country to a country embroiled in the civil rights struggle. On this special tour, hear the stories of the women who lived, worked, and played in the house. From the Crane wives, to the enslaved and paid workers of the house, to the women and girls of the African American YWCA, the Crane House & Historic YWCA has seen how a woman's role in the house and in society has changed over 200 years. The Crane House & Historic YWCA, 108 Orange Avenue, Montclair. Tours begin at 12pm, 1pm, and 2pm at the little red Nathaniel Crane House & Visitor Center located at the back of the parking lot. No reservations required. Admission is \$12/adult; \$10/student/senior with ID; \$8/child; free for children under 2 and MHC members. www.montclairhistory.org/all-events.

March 23: Vadim Gluzman Plays Brahms.

When a dear friend brings you a present...that's the feeling of violinist Vadim Gluzman, who's given New Jersey Symphony audiences one memorable performance after another, returning to solo in Brahms' prized Violin Concerto. Here also is a new friend, the sensational Colombian-American conductor Lina Gonzalez-Granados, famous for her "ability to sculpt rich, heartfelt orchestral sound" (Chicago Sun-Times). The era-defining spirit of Romantic composer Robert Schumann weaves beautifully through this program. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 3-5pm. Tickets start at \$29. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

April 3, 4 & 5: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with Xian Zhang.

Beethoven's Ninth—with its cries for brotherhood and joy—came from a war-torn time 200 years ago, and this inspiring symphony has never been more relevant than today. This exciting program also introduces you to an astonishing new talent, saxophonist Steven Banks, as he lifts the Black experience from Africa to now in Billy Childs' saxophone concerto, Diaspora. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. April 3 from 1:30-3:30pm and April 4 and 5 from 8-10pm. Tickets start at \$20. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

April 5: Livingston Symphony Orchestra: "Symphonic Sounds."

Exactly what is a symphony? Enjoy listening to Haydn and Strauss, two very different composers, in a program that unravels the musical journey they share in their Symphonies No. 104 and 2 (f minor), respectively. Heritage Middle School, 20 Foxcroft Drive, Livingston. 7:30pm. \$25 adults; \$15 seniors and students; free for those under 12. 973.980.1809. www.lsonj.org

April 6: Workshop – OCTAHEDRONS: The Magic of the Spheres Soft Sculpture Paper Collages.

Octahedrons are eight-sided soft sculpture paper collages that are designed with colorful graphic arts paper and geometric shapes. Join Arts Educator and Artist Mansa Mussa for this fascinating experience. Heidi Gallery at JSDD, 310 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston. 2-4pm. Free. Space is limited.

Please contact Heidigallery@jsdd.org or 973.272.7148 to request a specific accommodation.

April 6: Dendrochronology: Stories Inside the Wood.

Find out how dendrochronologists can date wood to learn about various periods in history. Durand-Hedden House & Garden, 523 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood. 1-4pm. Free. www.DurandHedden.org

April 10: Save the Date for a Live Storytelling Event.

Aging in Montclair and Montclair History Center are partnering for a live storytelling event with longtime Montclair residents. Programs will take place in person at the Montclair Film's Cinema, 505 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair. 7pm and virtually through zoom. Further details and registration online at www.montclairhistory.org/all-events.

April 12: Star Wars: The Force Awakens in Concert.

Thirty years after the defeat of the Empire, Luke Skywalker has vanished, and a new threat has risen: The First Order, led by the mysterious Supreme Leader Snoke and his enforcer, Kylo Ren. General Leia Organa's military force, the Resistance—and unlikely heroes brought together by fate—are the galaxy's only hope. Experience the complete film with the New Jersey Symphony performing John Williams' thrilling score live. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 8-10pm. Tickets start at \$35. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

April 12: Second Saturday Family Adventures: Fairy Houses.

Let your imagination run wild with your very own fairy house! We will be gathering together to design and craft fairy houses built from natural materials from our garden. Families are more than welcome to bring in items for their own fairy house additions! Greater Newark Conservancy, 32 Prince Street, Newark. 10:30am to 12pm. Free. Registration required; opens mid-March. Citybloom.org/events

April 27: Rutgers–Newark Chorus Spring Concert.

Director Dr. Brian Harlow leads the 50-voice Rutgers University–Newark Chorus in their annual Spring Concert. The performance will feature choral classics from the



Guided House Tour: Women of the House at the Crane House & Historic YMCA



Second Saturday Family Adventures: Fairy Houses at Greater Newark Conservancy

Renaissance to the present day, as well as folk songs from several cultures. St. Mary's Church, 520 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard., Newark. 3pm. Free admission, donations accepted at the door. 973.353.5194.

April 27: Guided House Tour: Many Voices. This interactive tour is designed to share the many voices that are part of Montclair's rich history, using the Crane House & Historic YWCA as a window onto different time periods and the people who are part of Montclair. Sharing the many voices within this historic house will shape a tour that connects visitors to part of the past and make it come to life. The house spans a history from 1796 to 1965, introducing a number of different voices and perspectives that shape an evolution of Montclair history for the visitor. Nathaniel Crane House, 108 Orange Avenue, Montclair. Tours begin at 12pm, 1pm, and 2pm. All tours begin at the little red & Visitor Center located at the back of the parking lot. Admission is \$12/adult, \$10/student/senior, and \$8/children under 18; children under 2 are free. MHC members are free! No pre-registration needed. www.montclairhistory.org/all-events

May 9 to 11: Mother's Day glassblowing classes. GlassRoots, Newark's Glass Art Center, is thrilled to bring back our popular Mother's Day glassblowing classes this spring! Learn how to blow glass with one of our experienced teaching artists and celebrate the mother in your life in a truly unique way. Surprise mom by making an original glass gift by hand or share a class and brunch with the beloved mother figure in your life! Escape the hustle and bustle of the everyday and learn how to shape molten glass into one-of-a-kind hearts, flowers and more. Book now while space is still available and make this Mother's Day extra special. GlassRoots, 10 Bleeker Street, Newark. 973.353.9555. info@glassroots.org

May 4: Rutgers–Newark Chorus Spring Concert. Director Dr. Brian Harlow leads the 50-voice Rutgers University–Newark Chorus in their annual Spring Concert. The performance will feature choral classics from the Renaissance to the present day, as well as folk songs from several cultures.

Prospect Presbyterian Church, 646 Prospect Street, Maplewood. 5pm. Free admission, donations accepted at the door. 973.353.5194.

May 10: Second Saturday Family Adventures: Nocturnal Nightlife. Come explore the world of nocturnal ecology in this multi-sensory program. This program will familiarize families with nocturnal animal identification, and will engage participants in hands-on activities such as dissecting an owl pellet! Greater Newark Conservancy, 32 Prince Street, Newark. 11am to 12:30pm. Free. Registration required; opens mid-April. Citybloom.org/events

May 17: Discover Mozart & Bach (New Jersey Symphony Family Concert). Discover what makes a live orchestra concert so special. We'll take a deep dive into works by Mozart, as well as J.S. Bach's incredibly famous Double Concerto for Two Violins. Also featured on the program is 2024 Henry Lewis Concerto Competition winner cellist Annamaria Witek. Inspired by Leonard Bernstein's masterful way of putting young

audiences at the center of music-making, this interactive concert will feature inside tips, listening cues and fun facts that make for the perfect Saturday afternoon family outing! New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 2-3pm. Children \$10; adults \$20. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

May 17 & 18: Visions of the Near East. Celebrate the rich traditions of dance and folklore from North Africa and the Middle East as Mosaic Dance Theater Company dazzles you with Visions of the Near East. Lavish costuming, dynamic choreography, sparkling storytelling, and unforgettable performances await you. May 17 at 5pm, May 18 at 3pm. First Congregational Church, 40 South Fullerton Avenue, Montclair. Free. Reservations recommended. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/visions-of-the-near-east-tickets-1141611373349?aff=oddtcreator>

May 17 & 18: Xian Conducts Mozart. Music of joy echoes our New Jersey springtime. Two buoyant Mozart masterworks surround hold-your-breath splendor by Bach, with Michael Abels providing a bluesy twist. At center stage,

we're proud to illuminate the artistry of two New Jersey Symphony principals, Eric Wyrick and Francine Storck. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. May 17 from 8-10pm, May 18 from 3-5pm. Tickets start at \$25. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

May 17 & 18: Nubian Heritage Quilters: 30 Years of Quilting Our Legacy. The Nubian Heritage Quilters Guild (NHQG) celebrates their 30th anniversary with the quilt exhibit "30 Years of Quilting Our Legacy." Montclair History Center's Crane House & Historic YWCA Museum, 108 Orange Avenue, Montclair. Exhibit open every Sunday thereafter from 12-3pm through June 29. Details online at www.montclairhistory.org.

May 18: Frederick Law Olmsted and the Hudson River School. Learn about landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and his association with the Hudson River School of painting. Durand-Hedden House & Garden, 523 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood. 1-4pm. Free. www.DurandHedden.org

MOSAIC DANCE THEATER COMPANY
VISIONS OF THE NEAR EAST
 Choreography by Samara Adell
 May 17, 2025 at 5:00 PM
 May 18, 2025 at 3:00 PM
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 40 S. Fullerton Ave., Montclair, NJ 07042
 ADA Accessible Venue
FREE TO THE PUBLIC
 Reservations Recommended
www.EventBrite.com

Made possible by funds from the Essex County Division of Cultural Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Photo by Gary Heller.

ESSEX COUNTY ONGOING PROGRAMS

BRANCH BROOK PARK ALLIANCE

973.969.1189

www.branchbrookpark.org/calendar

Please call for ADA accessibility details

March 1 to May 31: Historic & Horticulture Tours

Join the Branch Brook Park Alliance team for a 45-minute walking tour and learn more about the historical significance of Essex County Branch Brook Park and the formal gardens. Essex County Branch Brook Park, Prudential Concert Grove. Flexible dates and times. Fee \$15 per person. Discounted rate for groups, please inquire. Advanced registration is required.



Discovering Wellness in Essex County Branch Brook Park

March 1 to May 31: Volunteer Stewardship in Essex County Branch Brook Park

Join the Branch Brook Park Alliance team in ongoing stewardship efforts. Essex County Branch Brook Park, Prudential Concert Grove. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. 9am to 1pm. Free. Advanced registration is required

March 1 to May 31: Discovering Wellness in Essex County Branch Brook Park

Join Branch Brook Park Alliance for a series of free weekly wellness events including Yoga, Zumba, Soul Line Dancing, and Meditation. Essex County Branch Brook Park, Prudential Concert Grove. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday. Times vary. Free. Advanced registration is required at www.branchbrookpark.org/calendar.

March 30 to April 28: Cherry Blossom Tree Ambassador (Volunteer)

Volunteer and join Branch Brook Park Alliance during the Cherry Blossom Season in the protection and preservation of the world-renowned collection. Together, we will meet guests from all over the world. Essex County Branch Brook



Historic & Horticulture Tours with the Branch Brook Park Alliance team

Park, Prudential Concert Grove. In-person event. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Times Vary. Free. Advanced registration is required.

April 1 to May 31: Children's Story Time with the Branch Brook Park Alliance

Gather 'round in the enchanting embrace of the Children's Garden with the Branch Brook Park Alliance for a story hour that sparks imagination and cultivates a love for nature. Essex County Branch Brook Park, Children's Garden and Playground. Times and days vary. Free. Advanced registration is required at www.branchbrookpark.org/calendar.

THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART

89 Ridge Street, Newark
973.484.2400 / www.cathedralbasilica.org

Wednesdays at Noon

A 30-minute recital. A brief tour of the cathedral will immediately follow the recital. Free will offering.

April 23: Music for flute and harp with Merynda Adams and John A. Romeri, II.

April 30: An organ recital with Hanna Kim.



Volunteer Stewardship in Essex County Branch Brook Park

May 7: A mother and son voice recital with Jeanné Brown and Samuel McDonald.

May 21: An organ recital with Trent Johnson.

Concert Series

Free-will offering

March 2: An organ recital with Olivier Latry. 3pm.

April 18: Choral meditations on the Stations of the Cross with the Cathedral Choir. The Cathedral's tradition continues presenting meditations within the Stations of the Cross. This a cappella program will feature works of Clausen, Lotti, Allegri, and Casals. 8pm.

May 2: Archdiocesan Choral Festival – The Creation by Franz Josef Haydn. A combined event with the Newark Chapter of the National Association of

Pastoral Musicians featuring a massed choir of singers from parishes of the Archdiocese, Cathedral Choir and soloists accompanied by the New Jersey Symphony. 8pm. Doors open at 7pm. No admission charge.

ESSEX PHOTO CLUB

www.essexphotoclub.org

In-person (IP) meetings begin at 7:30pm and are held at the Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell. Zoom access is through the club president Catherine Kuzik-Fernandez at 862.485.7474.

Educational Programs:

April 3: Pinhole Analogue Photography (ZOOM)

May 1: Educational Program (ZOOM)

Competitions:

April 10: NJFCC Spring Nature Contest sponsored by EPC

April 24: Nature and Pictorial Images judged by Nancy Ori

May 15: Best Images of the Year judged by Susan Candelario, Nick Palmieri & Steve Morton.

Competitions are in-person at Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, NJ. ■



Children's storytime with the Branch Brook Park Alliance



**Department of Parks,
Recreation & Cultural Affairs**
155 Prospect Avenue, Suite 100
West Orange, NJ 07052
www.essexcountynj.org

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THE SPIRIT OF ESSEX

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NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

XIAN ZHANG
MUSIC DIRECTOR



2024 | **25** SEASON

TAKE A **MUSICAL**
JOURNEY
WITH US!

UPCOMING CONCERTS IN NEWARK

The Firebird with Xian Zhang

Mar 7 & 9 | NJPAC at 8 pm & 3 pm

Rachmaninoff Symphony No. 2

Mar 13 & 15 | NJPAC at 1:30 pm & 8 pm

Vadim Gluzman Plays Brahms

Mar 23 | NJPAC at 3 pm

Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with Xian Zhang

Apr 3-5 | NJPAC at 1:30 pm & 8 pm

Beethoven's Ninth concerts will be dedicated to the life and legacy of Dr. Victor Parsonnet.

Star Wars: The Force Awakens in Concert

Apr 12 | NJPAC at 8 pm

Haydn's Creation

May 2 | Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 8 pm

Xian Conducts Mozart

May 17 & 18 | NJPAC at 8 pm & 3 pm

Rachmaninoff and Shostakovich

June 8 | NJPAC at 3 pm

GET TICKETS!

1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) | njsymphony.org



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