

THE SPIRIT OF

Essex

Spring 2024



**Essex County
Cherry Blossom
Welcome
Center**



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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COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE

PUTTING **ESSEX COUNTY** FIRST



A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Friend:

We hope that this spring you get an opportunity to see the spectacular display of pink and white petals of our blooming Cherry Blossom trees in Essex County Branch Brook Park. Our collection has grown to over 5,300 trees and has become the largest and most diverse display in the country – even larger than the national groves in Washington, D.C.

This year, our new state-of-the-art Cherry Blossom Welcome Center will serve as the headquarters of our Festival. The 12,000-square-foot building provides us with a year-round opportunity to raise awareness about the history of our Parks System and our renown Cherry Blossoms as well as an attractive space for the public to host meetings, events and activities. And when you enter this building, the artificial Cherry Blossom in the lobby will always be in bloom!

We will have all our springtime traditions, including the bike races, 10K run, Fun Run and Family Day and, of course, Bloomfest. Mark your calendars for April 6 to 14. We look forward to you joining us.

Looking for more? Springtime in Essex County is more than just Cherry Blossoms. Our blooming season continues with the heirloom irises flowering in late May/early June at the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens and the roses in June at the Brookdale Park Rose Garden.

I hope you can make time to experience these beautiful nature wonders of our parks system. Together we will continue *Putting Essex County First*.

Sincerely,

Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive



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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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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.



Modern Cherry Blossom Welcome Center Opens in Essex County Branch Brook Park

Visitors to Essex County Branch Brook Park to witness the beauty of the flowering Cherry Blossom Trees this spring will have the added opportunity to see the brand-new Cherry Blossom Welcome Center. The modern, 12,000-square-foot building features high ceilings, natural light and updated amenities for guests and replaces the old cinder block building.

“Every spring, Branch Brook Park bursts to life with the blossoming of our 5,300 cherry blossom trees. Even though we host a variety of events to celebrate this natural wonder, the small size of the old Cherry Blossom Centers limited what we were able to do indoors and year-round to maintain interest in the park and trees,” DiVincenzo said. “This new state-of-the-art building will help us expand our year-round programming in the park and will provide the public with an up-to-date facility to gather and hold events. It is another way residents will be able to enjoy the blossoming trees and our historic parks system,” he added.



The centerpiece of the building is a large community room with a capacity to seat about 250 people. There also are a kitchen, restrooms that are accessible from inside and outside of the building, coat rooms, and storage rooms. The lobby area is equipped with gallery and display cases, and a mural occupying one wall provides a history of the Cherry Blossoms in Essex County Branch Brook Park. There also is an imitation cherry blossom tree that will enable visitors to experience a cherry blossom in bloom with pink petals throughout the year. The one-floor building is handicap accessible.

The front of the building has a covered entry way and driveway that will make accessing the building easy. A large patio on the rear of the building overlooks

the three baseball/softball fields in the meadow behind the building. The two bocce courts have been repositioned on the right side of the building; one of the courts is located under a pavilion to enable play during inclement weather. A variety of site improvements also have been made, including enhanced landscaping, planting new trees, installation of benches and trash receptacles, and water fountains.

The new Cherry Blossom Welcome Center was designed similarly to recent community center projects completed in Essex County Cedar Grove Park, Essex County Watsessing Park in Bloomfield, Essex County Weequahic Park and Essex County West Side Park in Newark, and Essex County Glenfield Park in Montclair. Other community centers currently under construction are the D. Bilal Beasley Community Center in Essex County Irvington Park and the Sheriff Armando and Mary Fontoura Community Center in Essex County Independence Park in Newark. ■

ESSEX COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

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

BRANCH BROOK PARK ALLIANCE
973.969.1189
www.branchbrookpark.org/calendar
Please call for ADA accessibility details

**The Branch Brook Park Alliance
has scheduled several events
throughout the months of March,
April and May to celebrate the
Cherry Blossom Season.**

**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. In-person event. Flexible dates and times. **Fee \$15 per person** (Discounted rate for groups, please inquire). Advanced registration is required.

March 30 to April 28: Cherry Blossom Tree Ambassador (Volunteer) Volunteer and join the 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 Park, Prudential Concert Grove. In-person event. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during the month. Times vary. **Free.** Advanced registration is required.

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



Cherry Blossom Tree Ambassador with the Branch Brook Park Alliance

Branch Brook Park, Prudential Concert Grove. In-person event. 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 the Branch Brook Park Alliance for a series of free weekly wellness events including yoga, zumba,

2024 ESSEX COUNTY

Cherry Blossom Festival

IN BRANCH BROOK PARK



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. 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





Festival Events

<p>Saturday, April 6 ~ 7am-1pm Cherry Blossom Challenge Bike Race Oval, Northern Division</p> <p>Saturday, April 13 ~ 10am 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk Prudential Concert Grove, Southern Division</p> <p>Saturday, April 13 ~ 11am-3pm Essex County Family Day Prudential Concert Grove, Southern Division</p>	<p>Sunday, April 7 ~ 10am Cherry Blossom 10k Run Cherry Blossom Welcome Center Fields</p> <p>Sunday, April 14 ~ 11am-5pm Bloomfest! Oval, Northern Division</p>
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soul line dancing, and meditation. Essex County Branch Brook Park, Prudential Concert Grove. In-person event. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. 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 at the Cherry Blossom Welcome Center. In-person event. Times and days vary. **Free.**

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

**ESSEX COUNTY CODEY ARENA -
EVENTS: Spring 2024**

NJ Devils Youth Shamrock Hockey tournament
March 8th & 9th – all day

PROGRAMS: Spring Sessions

Learn to Skate Group Lessons
Fridays – starting March 22nd
– 8 weeks
Saturdays – starting March 23rd
– 8 weeks
Sundays – starting March 24th
– 8 weeks.
Ages: 3½ to Adult
Classes offered on Friday – 4:15pm, Saturday or Sunday – 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-1:15pm & 2pm-3:30pm
- Sunday – 11:45am-1:15pm & 2pm-3:30pm

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

Senior Skating Sessions (35 & up)
Sessions –
• Tuesday & Thursday mornings – 10:45am-12:15pm

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

- \$125 - 3 hour party room
- Parties held mainly during Public sessions skates or Private ice session
- Group Admission discount rates for 15+ skaters

Private Ice Rentals
• Call to inquire about private ice rentals for skating and parties.

Essex County Department of Parks and Recreation
& Rose Squared Art Shows Present




Rose Squared Art Shows

37th Annual at Essex County Verona Park

Bloomfield Ave & Lakeside Ave, Verona | **Saturday, May 18 & Sunday, May 19**






35th Annual at Essex County Brookdale Park

473 Watchung Ave, Bloomfield/Montclair | **Saturday, June 15 & Sunday, June 16**

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



SPRING FOREST EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 23; 9:30-10:30am or 11am to 12noon

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. The Rutgers 4-H Small Animals Club visit with a live rabbit. Children 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. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$15 per child**

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

621-B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland
973-228-8776 ~ www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar

SMALL GROUPS/PODS AND FAMILIES. Available for 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 at 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult.** *Where noted, additional fees apply.

LITTLE EXPLORERS

Mondays—March 11, March 25, April 8, April 22, May 6, May 20, June 3, June 17

For Ages 2 and 3; 10am to 11am
For Ages 2 to 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. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$15 per child per session**

FOREST FRIENDS CLUB

Thursdays—March 14, April 11, May 9, June 6; 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. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$12 per child per session**

FROG POND CLUB

Wednesdays—March 20, April 17, May 15, June 12; 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. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$12 per child per session**

GARDEN DISCOVERY CLUB

Tuesdays, April 23; May 7, 21; June 4, 18; July 9, 23; August 6, 20; Sept. 10; 4-5pm. 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). Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$15 per child per session**

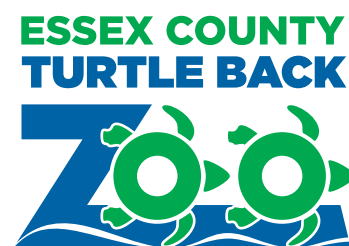
MARCH MAPLE SYRUP: HOW

SWEET IT IS! Tuesday, March 19;

5:15-7:15pm. 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! Pre-registration and payment required

WHAT’S NEW AT THE ZOO

Visit the new and updated exhibits and rides at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo!



either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

FAMILY DINOSAUR DISCOVERY FIELD TRIP
Saturday, March 23; 1:30-3:30pm
Tuesday, April 16; 5:15pm to 7:15pm.
For families with young children ages 4 and older. 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. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

SPRING CAMP
Tuesday, April 2; Wednesday, April 3; Thursday, April 4; 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. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fees: \$210 per child for all 3 days OR \$85 per child/per day**

G'ART'bage ART CONTEST
Register by Wednesday, April 10; Project Drop-Off, Saturday, April 13; 11am-2pm. 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 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 973.228.8776 or email jberly@parks.essexcountynj.org.

G'ART'bage Art Workshop
Thursday, April 11; 4-6pm
For families. Join the Center staff to create an entry for our contest! Some materials will be provided; however, it is encouraged to bring personal items to add a unique artistic flair. The g'ART'bage Art Contest takes a creative approach to protecting our planet from plastic pollution by pulling nonrecyclable 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 (nonrecyclable plastics). Team and individual projects are welcome. Projects must be made to withstand the elements, as they will be showcased in an outdoor setting on the grounds of the Essex County Environmental Center. All workshop participants will have their projects entered into our gARTbage Art Contest. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

FAMILY DAFFODIL DISSECTION
Monday, April 22; 6-7:30pm
For families. We'll pick and dissect a daffodil to better understand flower anatomy and pollination, play a game of pollinator family feud and take a walk on the Environmental Center trails. There we will discover spring wildflowers like Trout Lily, Violet, Spring Beauty, and Solomon Seal. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

FISHING 101
Thursday, April 25; 6-7:30pm
For families. We'll begin with an introduction to freshwater fishing and learn to target specific fish species, fishing equipment, knots, bait selection, and technique. Participants will make



Earth Day

Saturday, April 20 11am to 3pm

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. FREE EVENT (items may be for sale).



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. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

WILDLIFE TRACKING & PLASTER CASTING
Tuesday, April 30; 6-7:30pm. For families with young children ages 5 and up. Predict what tracks you might find in our wooded wetland habitat and go search the forest and river edge. We'll discover hooved, clawed and webbed animal feet and see how wildlife is especially adapted to the terrain. We'll make our own plaster animal tracks from the tracks that we find. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

FROG POND ADVENTURE OUTDOOR CLASS
Monday, May 6; 6-7:30pm. For

Family Garden Party

At the Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens

Saturday, May 18 • 11am to 3pm
Rain Date Sunday, May 19

Walk through a garden blooming with more than 100,000 iris flowers. The Essex County Family Garden Party is a free community event! There will be entertainment, crafts, face painting, Master Gardeners' information, booths from the Essex County Environmental Center, Turtle Back Zoo and various food trucks. A local student art exhibit will also be featured.

474 Upper Mountain Avenue, Montclair
www.presbyirisgardens.org

families. This rrrribbettting 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. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

SPRING WILD EDIBLE WALK
Friday, May 10; 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. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE
Saturday, May 11; 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 will also be hosted at the Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, 474 Upper Mountain Avenue, Upper Montclair, on Friday, May 3 from 10am to 4pm and Saturday, May 4 from 9am to 3pm. **Admission is FREE but plants will be for sale.**


PROJECT WET TEACHER WORKSHOP
Monday, May 13; 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. Project WET is aligned with Common Core and NGSS standards. Bring a lunch and dress

for the weather. Certificates are given for the workshop hours completed. Led by Senior Naturalist David Alexander. **Fee: \$35** (includes curriculum activity guide) (scholarships available for Essex County urban aid district teachers; call the Center for details)

UPPER PASSAIC RIVER CANOE TRIP

Wednesday, May 29; 6pm to 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 10 and up accompanied by a parent or guardian. Meet in the Garibaldi Hall parking lot. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$20 per person**

2024 ESSEX COUNTY PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
Submissions are due by Wednesday, September 11, 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, please contact the Essex County Environmental Center.

ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO
560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange
973.731-.5800 ~ www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar. 

Berson Family Center at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo
973.731.5800 x236
<https://turtlebackzoo.com/education/>

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS
Hatchlings: March 3, April 21, May 12 at 10am
Tots: March 3, April 21, May 12 at 11:30am
Explorers: March 17, April 28, May 19 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



Open to children 15 years of age and younger

Tuesday, May 21
Irvington Park

Wednesday, May 22
Monte Irvin Orange Park

Thursday, May 23
Grover Cleveland Park

Tuesday, May 28
Weequahic Park

Wednesday, May 29
Verona Park

Thursday, May 30
South Mountain Reservation

Saturday, June 1
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.

required; zoo admission not included.
Hatchlings (12-24 months), Tots (ages 2&3) and Explorers (ages 4&5) are \$25-\$30 per participant. <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/early-childhood-programs/>

WONDERS OF THE WILD
Saturdays, March 2, April 6, May 4; 1-3pm. Unique themes for each class. 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 South Mountain Reservation, Reservoir, or Zoo as weather permits; does not include zoo admission for after the program. **\$30/participant.** <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/wonders-of-the-wild/>

SOPHISTICATED SCIENCE SEMINARS
Wild Careers: Sunday, March 17 from 1-3pm
Forest Forensics: Sunday, April 28 from 1-3pm
Zoo Conservation and Stewardship: Sunday, May 26 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.** <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/sophisticated-science-seminars/>

HOMESCHOOL DAYS
Wednesdays, March 13, April 17, May 15 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.** <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/homeschool/>

FAMILY NATURE CLUB: NATURE GUARDIANS
Searching for Salamanders: Sundays, March 17, April 21, May 26 from 9-11am
Birding 101 on World Migratory Bird Day: Sunday, May 12 from 9-11am
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.** <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/family-nature-club/>

UPCOMING MINI-CAMPS
Spring Break 1: Tuesday to Thursday, March 26-28 from 9am to 4pm
Spring Break 2: Tuesday to Thursday, April 2-4 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-behind-the-scenes tours, up-close animal encounters, hands-on science demos, and fun crafts. **\$90/participant.** <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/zoo-camps/>

SPRING STORYTIME
Saturday, March 30; sessions at 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm. 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. <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/storytime-programs-at-turtle-back-zoo/>

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS & ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS
Behind the Scenes at Island Giants: Sundays at 2pm in March
Behind the Scenes at Amazing Asia: Sundays at 2pm in April
Behind the Scenes at Hospital: Saturdays at 2pm in May
Sloth Socials: Saturday, March 2, April 6, May 25 at 10am

Join us for a deeper exploration into the care and conservation of our animals! For ages 6 years and older, 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.** <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.** <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/education-center-programs/> ■

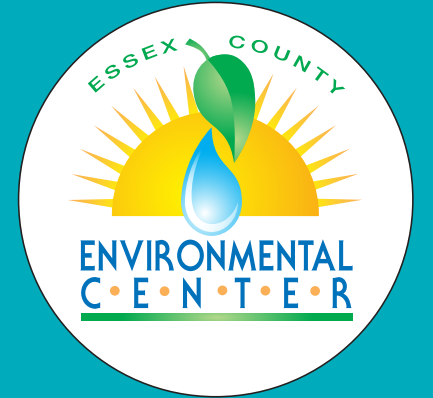


Themed hikes for the spring. Woodland Wanderers: Sunday, March 23 from 9-11am
Nature Play is playing WITH nature, not just IN nature and is a great way to interact with nature no matter your experience level or play style. Run, climb, build, dig, or even just sit and experience the sounds, smells, and sights of the outdoors. Nature Adventurers visits different locations near Essex County Turtle Back Zoo; zoo admission not included. **\$15/participant.** <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/family-nature-club-nature-adventurers/>



The Essex County Environmental Center staff would like to thank all those who entered our Forest Friends Feeder Contest. The distinctive, creative, and edible entries provided delicious and special treats for our outdoor wetland critters, who were most appreciative of all the creations! It was truly a delightful sight for all; our visiting families and Center staff witnessed countless winter birds landing from flight to enjoy a winter treat made specially for them.

2023 CONTEST RESULTS



Adult Category
First Place: Tamiyah Martinez
E.C. West Caldwell Tech - Teacher Daniel Delcher



Adult Category
Second Place: Miranda Courtright
E.C. West Caldwell Tech - Teacher Daniel Delcher



Adult Category
Third Place: Kylie Labbe
E.C. West Caldwell Tech - Teacher Daniel Delcher



Group/Family Category
First Place: Young Gardeners 4-H Club
Leader Sue Mazur



Group/Family Category
Second Place: The Yildirim Family



Group/Family Category
Third Place: The DeFrank Family



Youth Category
First Place: Michael Yildirim



Youth Category
Second Place: Ursa Brondo



Youth Category
Third Place: Sage Yildirim



Professional Category
**First Place: Karen Valasquez,
Rafael Valez & Imani Fraser**
E.C. West Caldwell Tech - Teacher Daniel Delcher




Professional Category
**Second Place: Kate Lazo,
Maribel Vizhnay & Shaylee Lemus**
E.C. West Caldwell Tech - Teacher Daniel Delcher



Professional Category
**Third Place: Antoinette Desir, Sadiya Murray
& Viyenah Boundurant**
E.C. West Caldwell Tech - Teacher Daniel Delcher

ESSEX COUNTY CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS

GAELAN GALLERY, JCC METROWEST

760 Northfield Avenue, West Orange
973.530.3413 / www.jccmetrowest.org. 

Women by Women March 3 to April 28

Artwork by 11 women artists who depict women in their work. In honor of Women's History Month.

STUDIO MONTCLAIR GALLERY

127 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair
862.500.1447 / www.studiomontclair.org/Exhibitions

Yvette Lucas Solo Exhibition April 18 to June 21

Enjoy the nature-inspired photography and print-making creations of Yvette Lucas. Academy Square, 33 Plymouth Street, Montclair. Monday to Friday. 7am to 7pm. Admission free.

ViewPoints 2024 Exhibition April 26 to June 7

ViewPoints, now in its 27th year, is an exciting survey of contemporary art that expands the reach of Studio Montclair to introduce artists not only from New Jersey, but from across the nation and the world, to our regional community. This year's juror is Sally Morgan Lehman. Studio Montclair's Leach Gallery, 641 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair. Admission free. For hours, visit the website or call.

Graduating Art & Design Students of Montclair State University Exhibition

April 29 to May 10
View a selection of these talented

**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.



Women by Women at Gaelen Gallery, JCC Metrowest

graduating art students – fine arts, product design, and more. Studio Montclair Gallery, 127 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair. Admission is free. For hours, visit the website or call.

WALSH GALLERY

Seton Hall University
400 South Orange, Avenue,
South Orange
973.275.2033 / shu.edu/walshgallery

Contemporary African Spirituality in Art March 1 through May 20:

Contemporary African Spirituality in Art is a group exhibition that speaks to what cultural practices have been mixed, juxtaposed and collided with ideas, themes, materiality and techniques that are both African and contemporary by African and African diaspora artists. Curated by Atim Annette Oton. 9am to 5pm. Free. ■



The Blissful Pursuit

Global online art and literary magazine

Spring 2024: Volume 6 Issue 13

Students ages 8-22 are invited to contribute literary (or artistic) work for publication in sixth volume of The Blissful Pursuit magazine, an online literary publication with a mission to give voice to today's youth.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Submit any form of writing or visual art reflecting your voice and thoughts. Topics can range broadly including political/social/cultural/technological events from any part of the world. Papers related to schoolwork & current events are welcome.

Submissions will be accepted until March 15, 2024

**Visit www.theblissfulpursuit.org/how-to-submit
for entry guidelines**



www.theblissfulpursuit.org



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[@theblissfulpursuit](https://www.instagram.com/theblissfulpursuit)

Please contact editor@BlissfulUs.org with any questions
visit theblissfulpursuit.org



ESSEX COUNTY SPRING EVENTS

March: Youth Public Safety

Explorers. Youth Public Safety Explorer Post 619 teaches kids firefighting using a real fire truck and equipment designed for children. Classes are held in Essex County Weequahic Park, Elizabeth and Meeker avenues, Newark. March clinic dates vary. Registration fees apply. 973.877.9772. Weequahicpark.org

March: Youth Tennis. Youth tennis classes are available in Essex County Weequahic Park, Newark. Registration fees apply. Essex County Weequahic Park, Elizabeth and Meeker avenues, Newark. 973.877.9772. Weequahicpark.org

March to May: Beginners Conditioning Clinics. Flag Football Conditioning Clinics for kids and teens aged 6 to 18. These clinics prioritize fitness and flag football techniques for beginners. Dates for the spring clinics vary. Register online. Fees will apply. Essex County Weequahic Park, Elizabeth and Meeker avenues, Newark. 973.877.9772. Weequahicpark.org

March to May: Youth Baseball Conditioning Clinics. For kids and teens aged 5 to 13. These clinics prioritize fitness and baseball techniques for beginners. Dates for the spring clinics vary. Register online. Fees will apply. Essex County Weequahic Park, Elizabeth and Meeker avenues, Newark. 973.877.9772. Weequahicpark.org

March to May: Weequahic Park NFL Flag intermediate and advanced flag football. Weequahic Park NFL Flag football league is for youth ages 7 to 18. There are opportunities to join the in-school, park, and travel teams. Registration fees apply. Essex County Weequahic Park, Elizabeth and Meeker avenues, Newark. 973.877.9772. Weequahicpark.org



Kids learn firefighting in Essex County Weequahic Park

March 1 and 3: Xian Conducts Carmina Burana. Orff's Carmina Burana pulses with springtime life, the text of this cantata taken from the bawdy writings of medieval monks who had more on their minds than scripture. Meanwhile, Kodály's Dances of Galánta overflows with Hungarian flavor and memorable tunes, inspired by the folk music of the composer's childhood. Between these, a work of exquisite musical reflection by Bach, his concerto for oboe d'amore, the duskier cousin of the modern oboe. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. March 1 from 8-10pm; March 3 from 3-5pm. Tickets start at \$25. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

March 2: Batman in Concert. We're sending out a Bat Signal ... you're invited to Batman in Concert. Watch Tim Burton's 1989 film (PG-13) on the big screen as the New Jersey Symphony performs Danny Elfman's score, live. Dress up in your favorite Batman or DC cosplay for this event—but no swooping through the air, please. Batman and all related characters and elements © & ™ DC and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. WB SHIELD: © & ™ WBEI. TM & © DC Comics. Presented in collaboration with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 8-10pm. Tickets start at \$39. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>



Batman in concert at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.



The New Jersey Symphony presents a full season of concerts this spring

March 3: Mila Jasey, Retired State Assemblymember. Meet retired New Jersey Assemblymember Mila Jasey. Durand-Hedden House & Garden, The Woodland Parlor, 60 Woodland Road, Maplewood. Free. Advanced registration appreciated at www.DurandHedden.org.

March 14: Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony. Twenty-three years have flown since the New Jersey Symphony premiered David Ludwig's amazing NightVision. The symphony caught him on the cusp of a remarkable career that now finds him Dean of Juilliard. Young pianist Tom Borrow has been named "the very definition of 'one to watch'" (International Piano) and he brings his astonishing technique and spirit to Mozart's most dramatic concerto. Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, with its riveting brass choruses, will fill the hall with electricity and hope. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 1:30-3:30pm. Tickets start at \$25. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

March 14: Remembering the Ladies - From Patriots in Petticoats to Presidential Candidates. Carol Simon Levin portrays Abigail Adams as she looks forward in time to tell the stories of courageous and tenacious women of all colors and creeds who fought to enhance women's political participation and the pioneering female activists and politicians who've worked

to extend women's economic, social and political rights into the 21st century. South Orange-Maplewood Adult School, 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood. 6:30-8pm. \$25. 973.378.7620. somadulthoodschool.org

March 17: "Symphonic Superheroes." An afternoon of family-friendly music and fun with songs from "Lord of Rings" and more. Bring your cape or dress as your favorite character! Livingston Symphony Orchestra, Livingston High School, 30 Robert Harp Terrace, Livingston.

2pm. Free admission with donations appreciated. Children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult. 973.980.1809. www.lsonj.org

March 20: The Gap Year Advantage. Learn the many benefits of taking a gap year before or during college as well as some of the potential challenges involved. This workshop covers the variety of program experiences available. South Orange-Maplewood Adult School, 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood. 7-8:30pm. \$42. somadulthoodschool.org



Deconstructing Racism with South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race



Learn about Maplewood in the Ice Age at the Durand-Hedden House & Garden

March 24: Weequahic Park 5K Challenge. Join the 5K challenge to support youth programs in Essex County. Corporate teams can register with unlimited entrants and compete for the lowest combined time of their top 5 finishers. Adults and kids are welcome. Register online. Fee applies. Essex County Weequahic Park, Elizabeth and Meeker avenues, Newark. Weequahicpark.org

March 29 and 30: Freespace Dance Company. The New York Times has accurately stated that “human relationships are the focus of Donna Scro and her Freespace Dance Company.” Consistent with this intention, the company will premiere a full evening work exploring the ways in which we interact and connect with one another in various human relationships. Vanguard Theater Company, 180 Bloomfield Avenue. Montclair. 7:30pm. Friday, \$25; Saturday, \$25 standard and \$40 for the benefit reception following the performance. www.freespacedance.com

April 6 to 27: Weequahic Park Sports Authority Conservancy Beautification Club. The club meets every Saturday from April 6 to 27, 10 am to 12pm in Essex County Weequahic Park, 92 Thomas Carmichael Drive, Newark. Weequahicpark.org

April 7: Star Wars: Return of the Jedi in Concert. Coming to New Jersey from

a galaxy far, far away—experience Star Wars: Return of the Jedi like never before as your New Jersey Symphony performs John Williams' Oscar-nominated score live to the entire film. “You must feel the Force around you...” In the spectacular climactic sixth episode of the Star Wars saga, Darth Vader readies the second Death Star to unleash the final blow to the Rebel Alliance. Luke Skywalker joins R2-D2, C-3PO and Princess Leia to free Han Solo from Jabba the Hutt and launch a desperate attack upon the entire Imperial Fleet. Watch the complete film unfold as the New Jersey Symphony performs John Williams' legendary score live. Presentation licensed by



Star Wars: Return of the Jedi in Concert at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Disney Concerts in association with 20th Century Fox, Lucasfilm Ltd. and Warner/Chappell Music. © 1983 & TM LUCASFILM LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED © DISNEY. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 3-5pm. Tickets start at \$35. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

April 11: Deconstructing Racism. An overview of structural and systemic racism and its impact on the wellbeing of all Americans, this class will reimagine systems that benefit and value all people. We will explore the culture of white supremacy, how white supremacy is maintained, the impact of white supremacy on people of color and the nation and, finally, ways to disrupt white supremacy. In partnership with the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race. South Orange-Maplewood Adult School, 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood. 7-8:30pm. Free. somadulthoodschool.org

April 14: Maplewood in the Ice Age. Learn about the natural history of Maplewood. The Durand-Hedden House & Garden, 523 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood. 1-4pm. Free. Advanced registration appreciated at www.DurandHedden.org.

April 17: “Atmospheres”. Each piece on this live concert program, which includes works by Debussy, Mahler,

Turina, and an up-and-coming young NJ composer, is a delight for the senses. All are sonic amazements! Livingston Symphony Orchestra, Livingston High School, 30 Robert Harp Terrace, Livingston. 7:30pm. \$25 adults; \$15 seniors, students under 12 Free

April 24: Wine & Cheese: A Classic Combination. In this guided tasting, you'll explore a curated selection of fine wines from local importer Bonhomie Wine Imports, paired with a scrumptious array of fine cheese and charcuterie from Maplewood Wheelhouse. South Orange-Maplewood Adult School, 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood. 7-9pm. \$60. somadulthoodschool.org

April 24: Käthe Kollwitz: The Art of Social Purpose. Käthe Kollwitz was one of the most notable German artists of the 20th Century and a master of graphic technique. Her powerfully poignant images won Kollwitz a position of international honor and respect, but Hitler and the Nazis labeled her art “degenerate” and prevented her from exhibiting. This talk will enhance your experience of the Museum of Modern Art's retrospective Kollwitz exhibition opening on March 31 and running through July 20. South Orange-Maplewood Adult School, 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood. 7-8:30pm. \$25. somadulthoodschool.org

May 6: Stephen Whitty Presents - Hometown Movie Stars: The Celebrated Actors Of CHS. For a high school in suburban New Jersey, Columbia High School has been a surprisingly steady source of celebrated cinema performers. We look at some of Hollywood's favorites, from Golden Age thespians like Teresa Wright, to blockbuster stars like Roy Scheider, to current actor/auteurs like Zach Braff – with a few extra surprises along the way. South Orange-Maplewood Adult School, 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood. 7-8:30pm. \$25. somadulthoodschool.org

May 18: Discover Beethoven's Eroica. Discover what makes a live orchestra concert so special. We'll take a deep dive into Beethoven's “Eroica,” his breakout Third Symphony that broke all the rules and forged a new future for the symphonic form. 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. Tickets start at \$10. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

May 18 and 19: Jeremy Denk, Anna Clyne, Beethoven's “Eroica:” The sound of revolution. France's Berlioz crafted a whole new world for the orchestra in his Roman Carnival Overture. Closer to home, The New York Times selected Anna Clyne for their feature “Five Minutes that Will Make You Love Classical Music,” and her new piano concerto ATLAS in the hands of Jeremy Denk shows you why. And Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 bursts with an energy that shocked his contemporaries 200 years ago and still sounds new. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. May 18 from 8-10pm; May 19 from 3-5pm. Tickets start at \$25. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

May 19: The History of Tea. Learn about the history of a favorite drink and pastime. The Durand-Hedden House

& Garden, 523 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood. 1-4pm. Free. Advanced registration appreciated at www.DurandHedden.org.

May 25: 10th Annual Weequahic Park Kite Festival. The festival is open to everyone. Essex County Weequahic Park, Elizabeth and Meeker avenues, Newark. 2-5pm. Weequahicpark.com


May 30 and 31: Epic Scores of John Williams and More! Celebrate epic film scores with your New Jersey Symphony, from unforgettable themes composed by John Williams, to the golden age of cinema, to famous classical music moments in movies. Enjoy familiar favorites from Harry Potter and Star Wars alongside monumental musical moments from Apocalypse Now and Cast Away, and so much more. You won't want to miss this love letter to film music! NOTE: John Williams will not be in attendance for these performances. This concert features selections from John Williams' scores; no film projection. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. May 30 from 1:30-3:30pm; May 31 from 8-10pm. Tickets start at \$25. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/> ■



10th Annual Weequahic Park Kite Festival

ESSEX COUNTY ONGOING PROGRAMS

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 17: An organ recital with Dina Foster-Osbourne.

April 24: The Three Sopranos.

May 1: An organ recital with Melody Chen.

May 10: An organ recital with Hanna Kim.

Concert Series

March 10: Organ recital with Sándor Szabo. 3pm. Free-will offering.

March 29: Choral Meditations on the Stations of the Cross with the Cathedral Choir. This a cappella program will feature the works of Clausen, Lotti, Allegri, and Casals. 8pm. Free-will offering.

April 14: Organ recital with Aaron Tan. 3pm. Free-will offering.

May 3: The New Jersey Wind Symphony. Join us for this brass concert with conductor Christian Wilhjelm. 7:30pm. Free-will offering.

ESSEX PHOTO CLUB

In-person meetings are held at Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Street, Caldwell. All meetings are free and open to the public, but only members may submit images for competition. For virtual meeting access, call Catherine Kuzik-Fernandez at 862.485.7474.

Programs

Monday, March 25: (virtual): "Lightroom Workshop" presented by Joe Reardon

Thursday, May 2: (in-person): "Club Workshops" presented by club members

Thursday, June 6: (in-person): Annual Awards Dinner. Location TBD



Spring blooms at The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart


Competitions

Thursday, March 21: (virtual): Nature and pictorial projected images: Judged by Phil West

Thursday, April 18: (in-person): Nature and pictorial projected images: Judge TBD

Thursday, May 16: (in-person): Best Images of the Year: Judged by Susan Candelario and Nick Palmeri. For more information visit <http://www.essexphotoclub.com>, the Facebook page or call Catherine Kuzik-Fernandez at 862.485.7474.

MONTCLAIR HISTORY CENTER

108 Orange Road, Montclair
973.744.1796 / www.montclairhistory.org


Self-Guided House Tours of the Crane House & Historic YWCA.

Learn about the Crane House & Historic YWCA's 228-year-old history at your leisure! Be sure to visit the Hearth and the Nathaniel Crane House too. Tours available every Sunday during the spring. 12-3pm. \$12 adults; \$10 students and seniors with ID; \$8 child; free for children under 2 and MHC members.



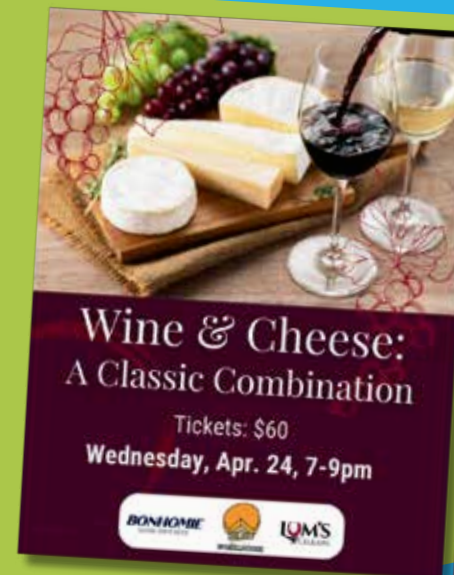
Build Montclair in LEGOS at the Montclair History Center

SPRING AT SOMAS!

NEW CLASSES, OLD FAVORITES
AND SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!



SPRING HIGHLIGHTS



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AND REGISTER TODAY!



CHILDREN'S Summer PROGRAM!



ARTS, CRAFTS,
GAMES, SPORTS,
STEM, MUSIC,
COOKING & MORE!



SESSION 1: JUNE 24 - JULY 5
SESSION 2: JULY 8 - 19

March 3: Build Montclair in LEGOS.

Work with architect Stephen W. Schwartz of Building Blocks Workshops to visualize Montclair as you’ve never seen it before. With over 60,000 LEGO™ building blocks at their disposal, families select a photograph of a Montclair building to turn into a LEGO™ model. These models are then placed on a 30 x 20 foot map of Montclair. For information on cost, time and registration, visit <https://www.montclairhistory.org/all-events>.

March 14: History at Home: An early 20th-Century Women-Owned Floral Business.

Will Williams will discuss the important anthropological subject of gender and equality for women in the early decades of the 20th century. This program was made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. 7-8pm. Free but registration is required. <https://events.humanitix.com/history-at-home-an-early-20th-century-women-owned-floral-business>

March 17: Guided House Tour: Women of the House Visit.

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. 12pm, 1pm and 2pm. \$12 adults; \$10 students and seniors with ID; \$8 child; free for children under 2 and MHC members.

March 21: Price of Liberty Film Series: The Sacrifice Zone.

The Sacrifice Zone explores the Chemical Corridor of Newark, located just down the road from schools and apartment buildings where Portuguese, Brazilian, Central American and African American residents live next to toxic substances. The film follows a group of environmental justice fighters determined to break the cycle of poor communities of color serving as dumping grounds for society. The Price of Liberty series is made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state



Rosedale Cemetery Tour

partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Montclair Film Cinema 505 (hybrid; in-person and virtual), 505 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair; 7-9:00pm. Free but registration is required. <https://events.humanitix.com/priceofliberty2>

April 14: Rosedale Cemetery Tour: New Section.

Founded over 181 years ago, Rosedale Cemetery marked the beginning of a new movement in how America took care of its deceased. We’ll venture into the new section for this

guided tour, discussing grave imagery as well as the people who are buried there. Rosedale Cemetery, 408 Orange Road, Montclair. 1:30-3:30pm. \$15/person. Registration required.

April 18: History at Home: Montclair Ambulance Unit: A History in Pictures.

Explore a history in pictures of the Montclair Ambulance Unit (MAU) as its 70 anniversary is celebrated. In partnership, the Montclair History Center and MAU digitized MAU’s archival and artifact collection, which is now available online. This program was made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. 7-8pm. This is a virtual event. Admission is free but registration is required. To register, visit <https://events.humanitix.com/history-at-home-montclair-ambulance-unit-a-history-in-pictures>

April 21: Guided House Tour: Many Voices.

Hear the many voices of the men and women who lived, worked, and played in the house throughout its 228-year history. While you’re here, see what’s cooking on the hearth and explore the herbs in the Landsberger Learning Garden. 12pm, 1pm and 2pm. \$12 adults; \$10 students and seniors with ID; \$8 child; free for children under 2 and MHC members.



Guided House Tour: Women of the House. The Crane House and Historic YWCA

May 2-4: Montclair History Center Annual Herb & Heirloom Tomato Sale.

Our Annual Herb Sale is back! Visit the Montclair History Center’s Orange Road site and pick up unique, organic herbs for your garden. We will continue to offer a selection of heirloom tomatoes in addition to our herbs. Thursday from 9am to 8pm (preorder pickups); Friday from 9am to 5pm; Saturday from 9am to 3pm. Prices vary; preorder is free. Pay at pickup.

May 16: History at Home: Carnegie’s Gift To Montclair – The History of the Bellevue Avenue Branch Library.

A violent labor strike, a private meeting in Andrew Carnegie’s home office, a petition by Upper Montclair residents, and the emergence of a new profession for women all played into the creation of the Bellevue Avenue Branch Library, a jewel-box of a building and community resource that will celebrate its 110th birthday this year. This program was made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. 7-8pm. Admission is free but registration is required. To register visit <https://events.humanitix.com/history-at-home-carnegie-s-gift-to-montclair-the-history-of-the-bellevue-avenue-branch-library>

May 19: Guided House Tour – The Roots of Historic Preservation.

In 1965, when the Crane House and Historic YWCA were saved from demolition, moved, and restored to tell the story of its earliest occupants, historic preservation was in its infancy and there were no standards to guide these preservationists. Through a short introduction and tour of the Crane House and Historic YWCA, discover the Roots of Historic Preservation, putting in context some of the decisions made by the early preservationists who restored the Crane House in the 1960s. 12pm, 1pm and 2pm. \$12 adults; \$10 students and seniors with ID; \$8 child; free for children under 2 and MHC members. ■

Visit the Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex for fun and adventure!

TREETOP ADVENTURE COURSE



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or e-mail

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Concerts at NJPAC in Newark

Xian Conducts *Carmina Burana*

Mar 1 & 3

***Batman* in Concert**

Mar 2

Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony

Mar 14

***Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* in Concert**

Apr 7

Jeremy Denk, Anna Clyne,

Beethoven's "Eroica"

May 18 & 19

Epic Scores of John Williams and More!

May 30 & 31

Daniil Trifonov Plays Gershwin

June 9

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1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) | njsymphony.org



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

