

THE SPIRIT OF

Essex

Autumn 2024



Gardens Aglow
at Essex County
Presby Memorial
Iris Gardens



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,
The changing color of the leaves may signal the end of summer, but we are rewiring up for the autumn season and our schedule of fall events!

Our older adults look forward to our Annual Senior Wellness Day. We transform our ice arena into a unique one-stop center where seniors can connect with a myriad of programs and services aimed to helping them to maintain their independence and to promote wellness. We make the day fun by offering music, entertainment and nutritious food for all those who attend!

That same week, we welcome the official arrival of the fall season with the Fall Family Festival at the Environmental Center. People of all ages can get a taste of the outdoors walking on our hiking paths, canoeing on the Passaic River and interacting with a host of local organizations that are committed to protecting the environment and promoting stewardship. Of course, we make all this learning fun for all ages!

Halloween arrives soon after, and it's an event that we take very seriously! Display your creativity by dressing up your canine pets for one of our Strut Your Mutt Parades. See the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens in a different light – moonlight – and gaze at the uniquely carved jack-o-lantern masterpieces created by our local high school artists. Or go trick-or-treating in the friendly and festive atmosphere of Turtle Back Zoo!

Essex County is one of the most diverse areas and is well known for our thriving arts communities. There are many exciting happenings at the many museums, historic sites, art galleries, libraries and theaters. We also encourage you to walk the trails or visit one of the parks in our historic Parks System and witness the leaves change colors. Weekends are the perfect time to spend quality time with friends and family and you can do so right here in Essex County!

Together we will continue *Putting Essex County First*.

Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr.

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.



Gardens Aglow at Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens



While the Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens are best known for the colorful blooming of thousands of Irises every spring, creating a "rainbow on the hill" at its Upper Montclair location, it also has been the site for a glowing fall event each October for the last 15 years. Organized by the Essex County Department of Parks, Gardens Aglow features pumpkins that are carved, decorated and painted by students from local schools and then displayed around the garden beds during the festive fall evening event. This year, Gardens Aglow will take place on Friday, October 18 from 6-9pm.

In addition to the creative displays of hundreds of artfully carved pumpkins and gourds lit up for the evening, families and community members can participate in the many offerings of this free event. Partners from the Essex County Turtle Back Zoo and Essex County Environmental Center will be in attendance with crafts and activities. Family friendly entertainment will be available and food vendors will be on site.

Schools and students that wish to participate in the carving and decorating of pumpkins should contact Event Coordinator Jackie Matthews no later than Tuesday, October 1 via the Essex County Department of Parks at 973-268-3500.

The Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens are located at 474 Upper Mountain Avenue in Upper Montclair.

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 

- **Saturday, September 7:** RWJBarnabas Health Cardiac & Concussion Screening (Rear Lobby). Join RWJBarnabas Health and the Morahan Health Assessment Center for Athletes for free cardiac screenings ages 6 and up and free concussion screenings ages 5 and up.
- **Saturday, October 12 & Sunday October 13:** NJ Daredevils Frankenfest Hockey Tournament, 8am to 5pm
- **Saturday, November 16:** Synchronized Skating Championship Competition, 8am to 5pm
- **Friday November 22 to Sunday, November 24:** New Jersey Youth Hockey League, 16s & 18s Championships

Learn to Skate Group Lessons – 8 weeks
Ages: 3½ to adult. Fall Classes are from early September to the end of October. Classes offered on Friday, Saturday or Sunday

- Snow Plow (Ages 3½ to 6)
- Basic 1-6
- Freestyle
- Therapeutic Skating/Special Olympics

Public Session Skating
Ages 3½ to adult
Sessions start Friday, September 6 and are held Friday, Saturday & Sunday.
Adults \$10; children 16 & under \$8; seniors \$8; skate rentals \$5

Essex County Senior Wellness Day at Codey Arena

Tuesday, September 24, 2024
10am-2pm - FREE

Essex County senior citizens are invited to attend Essex County Senior Wellness Day. Health screenings, information about nutrition and exercise demonstrations will be available. Various Essex County agencies, including the Division of Senior Services, will have representatives on site to talk about available programs for which seniors are eligible. Also participating are area hospitals, senior day care facilities, local nursing homes and other social service providers.

For transportation, call 973.737.7200.

Adult / Senior Skate Sessions
Ages 35 and older
Sessions start Tuesday, September 3 and are held Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:45am to 12:15pm

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

- \$125 – 3-hour party room
- Parties held during public sessions skates or private ice session
- Group admission discount rates for 15+ skaters



ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
621-B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland
973-228-8776 -
www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar 

ORGANIZED GROUP BOOKINGS (Institutions, Scouts, Municipal Recreation Programs, Homeschoolers, etc.) All ages.
Maximum of 25 participants including group leaders/chaperones. Program length is 1.5 hours. Choose from a variety of topics offered by the Essex County Environmental Center. Inquire by calling the center. Minimum of 10-person booking requirement (if less booked, minimum booking fee applied). **Fee: \$12 per participant (including leaders/chaperones)**

SMALL GROUPS/PODS & FAMILIES
All ages. Autumn 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 child, \$15 adult or \$40 per family (2 adults, 2 children).** *Where noted, additional fees apply.

LITTLE EXPLORERS
Mondays, September 19, 23; October 7, 21; November 4, 18; December 9, 16
For ages 2 and 3; 10-11am
For ages 2 to 5; Join us for explorations of nature as we study plants and animals and observe the colors, shapes, textures,

FOREST FRIENDS CAMP

Thursday, November 7
9:30am to 3:30pm
For students in grades K through 3

Learn about New Jersey's forest friends by way of exploration, games and craft activities with a naturalist educator as your guide. Come dressed for the weather.
Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online.
Fee: \$85 per camper



"Our Strut Your Mutt Canine Halloween Costume Contests have become a popular event for dog owners to show off their creative talents, celebrate their pets and share a happy event with other dog owners. Whether or not you have a dog, come join us, or pick your favorites and enjoy the parade."

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.



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

Invite You to



STRUT YOUR MUTT
Pet Costume Parade

Free Entry!
Prizes will be awarded!

Saturday, October 19
Essex County Branch Brook Park
West Drive near Heller Parkway
Registration: 9:30am • Parade: 10am
Rain Date: Sunday, October 20

Saturday, October 26
Essex County Brookdale Dog Park
Grove Street Entrance
Registration: 9am • Parade: 9:30am
Rain Date: Sunday, October 27

Saturday, October 26
Essex County Grover Cleveland Park
Near Pond House
Registration: 1pm • Parade: 1:30pm
Rain Date: Sunday, October 27



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

PUTTING ESSEX COUNTY FIRST

and sounds in the Environmental Center's forest habitat. Please come dressed for the weather and be prepared for all weather conditions; all classes include an outdoor adventure. All children must be walking and accompanied by an adult. Paths cannot accommodate strollers. 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**

GARDEN DISCOVERY CLUB

Tuesday, September 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**

FROG POND CLUB

Wednesdays, September 18, October 16, November 6; 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**

FOREST FRIENDS CLUB

Thursdays, September 19, October 17, November 14, December 19; 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**



ESSEX REMEMBERS

Join us for a
**Solemn Ceremony
Commemorating the
23rd Anniversary of
the 9/11 Tragedy**

**Wednesday,
September 11, 2024
8am**

Essex County
Eagle Rock Reservation
Essex County Eagle Rock
9/11 Memorial
Eagle Rock Avenue
West Orange
973.621.4400

FISHING 101

Saturday, September 7; 10-11:30am 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 their own "Altoids Tin Fishing Tackle Kit" to take home. Basic equipment is 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: \$40 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

ESSEX COUNTY PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

All ages. Submissions are due by Wednesday, September 11th. 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 Essex County Parks System. For rules and regulations, please contact the Essex County Environmental Center.

EVENING CANOE PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Friday, September 13; 5:30-7:30pm 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**

SMORES n' MORE NIGHT HIKE

Wednesday, September 18; 6-7:30pm
Friday, October 25; 6-7:30pm
Thursday, November 14; 6-7:30pm
For families. Build a campfire and practice fundamental fire skills in a safe and controlled environment. Once we get our fire burning, we'll roast marshmallows and make S'mores. Advance registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **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**

COMMUNITY COMPOST BIN AND RAIN BARREL SALE

Pick-up on Saturday, September 21; 9-11am. Backyard composting is an excellent way to reduce trash going to landfills and allows you to make your own compost! Rain barrels reduce water costs, keep our water clean and provide a natural source of water for plants and gardens all while reducing the number of pollutants that enter our storm drains. Orders must be placed by September 19th. Pick-up at Essex County Environmental Center, Garibaldi Hall. **For more information and for purchasing options, please visit <https://essex.compostersale.com>.**

Native Plant Society Fall Event: Shrub Sale, Pruning Workshop, Nature Walks Saturday, September 21; 10am to 1pm For families.

Sponsored by the Native Plant Society and the Essex County Environmental Commission. A wide variety of native shrubs will be on sale to attract birds and butterflies to your yard. Free pruning workshop at 10:30-11:30. Thirty-minute guided nature walks at 11 and noon. Walk-ins welcome. Free Event; plants will be for sale.

FROG POND ADVENTURE OUTDOOR CLASS

Monday, September 23; 5:30-7pm. For families. This rribbetting program will take an up-close look at our 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**

DINOSAUR DISCOVERY FAMILY FIELD TRIP

Thursday, September 26; 4:45-6:45pm. 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. **Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult**

19TH ANNUAL FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 29; RAIN DATE Saturday, October 5; 11am to 3pm For all ages. Come celebrate the Autumnal Equinox at the Environmental Center! There will be fun-filled activities for the entire family to enjoy—hands-on nature games and crafts, naturalist-led walks, live butterflies, canoeing, Native American life, a pumpkin patch, petting zoo, food, and more. **FREE EVENT; some items may be for sale**

BATS OF NEW JERSEY

Thursday, October 17; 5:30-7pm For children in grades 1 through 5. Ever wonder what kind of local bats are catching bugs in your backyard?

Or where they sleep? Learn from a bat enthusiast about our upside-down friends, play the role of a bat biologist in a simulated study and take-home plans to build a bat house! **Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. Fee: \$12 per child**

TODDLER SENSORY HIKE

Saturday, October 26; 9-10am For children ages 1-5 with caregiver supervision. Bring your toddlers for a sensory exploration outside with a naturalist. Visit the forest trails, frog pond, Passaic River and more. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required; call 973.228.8776. **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**

HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING

Saturday, November 9; 11am to 12:30pm. For adults. Welcome your friends and family for the holidays with a beautiful holiday wreath! Together we'll use evergreen boughs and other materials to create a seasonal work of art! All materials and hot chocolate are included for this hands-on workshop.

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

Rose Squared Art Show at Essex County Anderson Park

288 Bellevue Ave, UpperMontclair | **Saturday, Sept. 21 & Sunday, Sept. 22**

Rose Squared Art Show at Essex County Brookdale Park

473 Watchung Ave, Bloomfield/Montclair | **Saturday, Oct. 19 & Sunday, Oct. 20**

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

Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. Fee: \$30 per person


LENAPE LIFE

Saturday, November 16; 10:30am to 12noon. For families. Visit our Lenape Learning Area to better understand how they hunted, fished, foraged, and farmed using sticks, stones and bones. Make a clay pot and explore topics such as fire-friction, plant identification, games, clothing, and more. **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**

OUTDOOR SKILLS FAMILY DAY

Saturday, November 23; 10am to 1pm. For families. Come together to practice camping skills! We'll go through a backpack, set up a tent, make a fire and enjoy our own campfire cooked treats! Be prepared to do some walking, smell like woodsmoke, make new friends, feel confident in your outdoor skills, and get back to nature. Please dress for the weather and pack a lunch. **Fee: \$25 per person**

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: September 1, October 6, November 10 at 10am
Tots: September 1, October 6, November 10 at 11:30am
Explorers: September 22, October 20, November 17 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. <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/early-childhood-programs/>

WONDERS OF THE WILD

Farm Animals: September 21 from 1-3pm. NJ Native Animals: October 12 from 1-3pm; Animal Communication: November 16 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 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

Forest Forensics: September 22 from 1-3pm. Learn to read the forested landscape for clues to the past (includes a hike in South Mountain Reservation). **Pesticides (The Good, the Bad, and the Bugly): October 27 from 1-3pm.** What are pesticides, how do they work, and why are they important? **Evolution and Adaptations: November 10 from 1-3pm.** An introductory survey of the role of adaptations in our understanding of evolution. 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 to the zoo, but not zoo admission for after the program.** <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/sophisticated-science-seminars/>

HOMESCHOOL DAYS

Wednesdays, September 18, October 16, November 20 from 11am

to 1pm. Unique themes for each class. Welcome to the wildest classroom in New Jersey! 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; be prepared to go outside. **\$30/participant per session; zoo admission not included.** Guardians will need a valid photo ID for pick-up. <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/homeschool/>

FAMILY NATURE CLUB:

NATURE GUARDIANS

Searching for Salamanders: September 8, October 6 from 9-11am. Birding for World Migratory Bird Day: October 13 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 building your birding skills and a salamander research project at Turtle Back Zoo. **\$5-\$15/participant.** <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/family-nature-club/>

FAMILY NATURE CLUB: NATURE ADVENTURERS' HIKES

Pollinator Parade: September 15 from 9-11am
Fall Foliage: October 20 from 9-11am
Artistic Adventures: November 3 from 9-11am
National Take a Hike Day: November 17 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; hikes are lightly themed. Zoo admission not included. **\$15/participant.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/family-nature-club-nature-adventurers/>



"I invite you to celebrate the arrival of autumn at the Essex County Environmental Center's Annual Fall Family Festival! Take a walk in our pumpkin patch, enjoy the sights and sounds of seasonal change in our forest, and paddle down the Passaic River at a leisurely pace."

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.,
Essex County Executive

and the Board of County Commissioners

Invite You to

Fall Family Festival

At the Essex County Environmental Center

Sunday, September 29, 2024 • 11am to 3pm

Rain Date: Saturday, October 5, 2024



Essex County 4-H Fair—Crafts, Displays & Seasonal Refreshments • Canoeing* • Hiking** • Pumpkin Patch • Music
Live Butterflies • Live Beehive Display • Petting Zoo • Rizzo's Reptiles Live Animal Show • Woodturning
Essex County Turtle Back Zoo • What's Out There Traveling Planetarium • Face Painting
Autumn Photo Opportunity • Take-away Nature Arts & Crafts Bags & More!

Join a naturalist for a free Seasonal Discovery Nature Walk at 12, 1, and 2pm. Each 30-minute tour begins at the Frog Pond and loops around our wooded wetland forest to explore nature with our five senses! All are welcome.

Must call to pre-register for this offering, 973-228-8776.

*Weather and river level dependent**Pre-registration required for timed seasonal discovery hikes.

FREE EVENT • ITEMS WILL BE FOR SALE!

For more information, contact:
621 Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068
Phone: 973.228.8776 Fax: 973-228-3793
www.essexcountyparks.org
Putting Essex County First



COMING SOON TO THE ZOO: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS FOR EDUCATORS
Genetics and Zoo Conservation (for grades 6-12): Thursday, December 5 from 9am to 3pm
Heredity, Variation and the Environment (for grades K-8): Thursday, December 12 from 9am to 3pm

Join experienced TBZ educators for NGS aligned professional development programs leveraging the resources of Turtle Back Zoo. Each session will cover the relevant scientific background, provide advice and materials for classroom implementation, and include a special animal encounter and time in the zoo. **\$100/participant.** For more information, email mhunt@parks.essexcountynj.org.

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS & ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

Behind the Scenes Tours:

Reptiles: September 1, 8, 15, 22 at 2:30pm

Australia: October 6, 13, 20, 27 at 2:30pm

Giraffes: November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 2pm

Animal Encounters:

Sloth Socials: September 21, October 19, November 9 at 10am

Join us for a deeper exploration into the care and conservation of our animals! For 6 years old and over only; 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/>

UPCOMING MINI-CAMPS

Thursday, October 3 & Friday, October 4 from 9am to 4pm

Tuesday, November 5 from 9am to 4pm

Thursday, November 7 and Friday, November 8 from 9am to 4pm

Monday, December 23; Thursday,



HOLIDAY LIGHTS
Spectacular
AT ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO
Friday to Sunday, November 22-24
Friday, November 29-Wednesday, December 4
Friday, December 6-Tuesday, December 31
Closed December 24 & 25
5pm to 9pm
 Take a winter stroll through Essex County Turtle Back Zoo this holiday season under the sparkling lights of holiday-themed and animal characters. Celebrate the season of giving by bringing donations of non-perishable food items, new toys, and gently used coats.
 For more information, visit turtlebackzoo.com/attractions
 Sponsored by
 
Essex County Parks Foundation

December 26 & Friday, December 27 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. **\$100/participant.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/zoo-camps/>

WINTER WORKSHOP


Sunday, December 1 from 11am to 2pm

Wear your favorite winter-inspired outfit and join us to make holiday-themed enrichment items for all our animals! This

is a family-friendly event recommended for all ages. **Free with zoo admission.** Stop by the Mount Building Classroom to participate. <https://turtlebackzoo.com>

OTHER PROGRAMS AT THE ZOO OR CLOSER TO YOU: In-person and Virtual Programs, Outreaches, and more Dates and Times Scheduled as Needed

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 by location.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/education-center-programs/>




 "The County of Essex is proud to showcase the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens during the autumn season. Come out and see the beds of fall-blooming irises surrounded by artistically decorated jack-o-lanterns."
 Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.,
Essex County Executive
and the Board of County Commissioners
 Invite You to
GARDENS AGLOW

Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens
474 Upper Mountain Ave., Montclair
Friday, October 18, 2024
6pm to 9pm
Rain Date: Saturday, October 19
 The free event includes a display of carved botanic, floral, and Halloween-themed pumpkins created by high school students. The jack-o'-lanterns will be lit with candles and displayed near the flower beds. Seasonal refreshments, entertainment and activities will be available.

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



Essex County Riker Hill Art Park OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, November 2
& Sunday, November 3
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**



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RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
155 Prospect Avenue, Suite 100
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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.

The WAE Open – 2024

The WAE Open is an annual exhibit featuring the highest quality of visual art being made by established, emerging

and underrepresented artists.
Opening Reception, October 10, 7-9pm

The
WAE
Open

2024
JURIED EXHIBITION
OCT 10 – DEC 8, 2024



**KIDS
FEST
11-12PM**

THE NEWARK PORCH FEST

IN FOREST HILL

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 11-6
RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, SEPT. 29

**A FREE NEIGHBORHOOD
FAIR FOR ALL FEATURING
LIVE MUSIC
ARTS & CRAFTS
FOOD TRUCKS**

A FOREST HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION EVENT

WWW.NEWARKPORCHFEST.COM NEWARKPORCHFEST@GMAIL.COM

@NEWARKPORCHFEST @NEWARKPORCHFEST



MADE POSSIBLE BY FUNDS FROM
THE ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
A PARTNER OF
THE NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS



MADE POSSIBLE BY
DONATIONS FROM
MONTCLAIR HISTORY CENTER



WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE JOSEPH R. DIVONAL, JR.
THE ESSEX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

ESSEX COUNTY AUTUMN EVENTS

**September 14 to December 22:
Fall + Holiday Glassmaking Classes.**
Leave the screens and the stress behind! Bring a friend or the family and join us for a creative, hands-on experience like no other. Play with fire and make something original too! Design your own charcuterie board, sculpt a holiday ornament or create your own jewelry. Beginners welcome and encouraged. GlassRoots, 10 Bleeker Street, Newark. Mornings and afternoons. \$50 to \$125. Advance registration required: GlassRoots.org

September 14, 28, 29: Impressions of The Alhambra. Mosaic Dance Theater Company presents Impressions of The Alhambra, an adaptation of Washington Irving's book, Tales of the Alhambra. Excerpts of his experiences during his travels in Spain in 1829 as well as legends from the Alhambra's lore come to life through dance and spoken word. Special preview on September 14 at 4pm at the Freeman Gardens, 644 Hawthorne Avenue, Glen Ridge. World premiere performances on September 28 at 5pm and September 29 at 3pm. The First Congregational Church, 40 South Fullerton Avenue, Montclair. Free to the public. Reservations recommended. ADA Accessible venues. www.MosaicDanceTheaterCo.org/events

September 15: Guided House Tour - Many Voices. This interactive tour is designed to share the many voices that are part of Montclair's rich history from 1796 to 1965, using the Crane House & Historic YWCA as a window onto different time periods and the people who are part of Montclair. Crane House & Historic YWCA, 110 Orange Road, Montclair. 12pm, 1pm, 2pm. \$12/adult, \$10/student/senior, and \$8/children under 18; free for children under 2 and MHC members. No pre-registration needed. All tours begin at the little red

Nathaniel Crane House & Visitor Center located at the back of the parking lot Accessible. 973.744.1796 / www.montclairhistory.org/all-events.

September 22: Block Printmaking Workshop. Art Facilitator Sumana Ghosh-Witherspoon is a surface print designer. She will be sharing her knowledge of printmaking and the bold patterns of her heritage while encouraging each participant to discover their own artistic voice. Heidi Gallery at JSDD, 310 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston. 2-4pm. Free. RSVP 973.272.7148 required, HeidiGallery@JSDD.org Limited spaces available. www.Jsdd.org.

September 28: Fall Fest at Montclair History Center & Montclair Community Farms. Enjoy a fun-filled day for all ages full of delicious food and fall activities all around our beautiful gardens and farm. Taste food and drinks from local vendors, shop naturally sourced products from local artisans and creators, see farm animals, and jam out with live music from Montclair's own School of Rock! Montclair History Center, 108 Orange Road, Montclair. 11am to 4pm. Early bird pricing \$12/person through September 15. \$15/person September 16 through September 28. \$15/person at the door. Admission includes one free beverage. Rain date Sunday, September 29 from 11am to 4pm. Street parking only. 973.744.1796 / www.montclairhistory.org/all-events.

September 29: Stroll 'N Roll Fall Fest. A celebration of inclusion and diversity that brings together people with disabilities, their caregivers and our communities for a day of fun, food and friendship to champion rehabilitation research and employment for people with disabilities. Kessler Campus in West Orange, 1199 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange. 1-3pm. https://2024-stroll-n-roll-fest.justgiving-sites.com

October 6: Voice of Nature: The Anthropocene with Renée Fleming. A breathtaking start to the 2024-2025 season with international superstar Renée Fleming. As fall colors flare, America's most celebrated soprano adds the exquisite hues of her own voice to this concert, inspired by her



Glassmaking classes at GlassRoots, Newark

2023 Grammy Award-winning album, Voice of Nature: the Anthropocene. This special performance spans Classical, Romantic and contemporary music, exploring nature as both inspiration and victim of humanity. Come be immersed in the majesty of nature, as the music will be accompanied by a stunning film by the National Geographic Society. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 3-5pm. \$49-\$149. 800.255.3476. https://www.njsymphony.org/

October 12: Olmsted Historic Walking Tour of Essex County Anderson Park in Montclair. Before Anderson Park existed, three houses and a fire station sat on the park property. Find out where they went and other surprising stories about how this Olmsted-designed Essex County park came to be created over a century ago, how it shaped Upper Montclair, and how it led to the formation of other Montclair parks. Also hear about efforts to rejuvenate the landscape of this park, on the National Register of Historic Places. Essex County Anderson Park, 274 Bellevue Avenue, Upper Montclair. Meet at the boulder at the park's northeast entrance. 10-11:30am. Free. Call or check the Friends of Anderson Park Facebook page for weather updates. No rain date. Sponsored by Friends of Anderson Park. 973.477.7207. FriendsOfAndersonPark.com.



Annie Anderson Clark and children Betty and Guy Jr. Anderson Park, Montclair circa. 1914

October 13: Rosedale Cemetery Tour - Middle 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 middle section for the first time on 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. \$20/person. Pre-registration required. Tour begins outside the Rosedale Chapel for a brief introduction. Tour is about 2 miles of walking. 973.744.1796. www.montclairhistory.org/all-events. ♿

October 18: Spooky Stories by Candlelight! Spooky ghosts, unsolved murders, creepy cryptids, gruesome deaths – are you afraid of the dark? Guests will travel back in time using the Crane House & Historic YWCA as their guide as we explore ghastly tales from Montclair's history on this candlelight tour. Crane House & Historic YWCA, 110 Orange Road, Montclair. 6-7pm. \$20/person; \$15 for MHC members. Pre-registration required. Recommended for ages 15+. 973.744.1796. www.montclairhistory.org/all-events. ♿

October 19: Mt. Hebron Cemetery Walking Tour. Discover this picturesque resting place, which was developed right after the Civil War as part of the Rural Cemetery movement. The tour will discuss historical figures and interesting headstones in the cemetery. Mt. Hebron

Cemetery, 851 Valley Road, Montclair. 11am to 1pm. \$20/person. Pre-registration required. Please park on Valley Road near the cemetery entrance, at 851 Valley Road in Upper Montclair, because parking in the cemetery is limited. Meet near the cemetery office. There is no rain date. 973.744.1796. www.montclairhistory.org/all-events. ♿

October 20: Carolyn Dorfman Dance Performance. CDD brings its popular "Back Stage Pass" lecture/performance to Heidi Gallery. Drawing from Dorfman's acclaimed repertory, this up close and personal interactive performance will thrill audiences of all ages and abilities, that will move you to laugh, cry, feel and engage. Heidi Gallery at JSDD at 310 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston. 2-4pm. ADA Accessible. 973.272.7148. www.HeidiGalleryatJSDD.org

October 20: Guided House Tour - Women of the House. 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. Crane House & Historic YWCA, 110 Orange Road, Montclair. 12pm, 1pm, 2pm. \$12/adult, \$10/student/senior, \$8/children under 18, free for children under 2 and MHC members. No

pre-registration needed. All tours begin at the little red Nathaniel Crane House & Visitor Center located at the back of the parking lot. 973.744.1796. www.montclairhistory.org/all-events. ♿

October 27: Rosedale Cemetery Tour - Old Section. Founded over 183 years ago, Rosedale Cemetery marked the beginning of a new movement in how America took care of its deceased. We'll venture into the old 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. \$20/person. Pre-registration required. Tour begins outside the Rosedale Chapel for a brief introduction. Tour is about 2 miles of walking. 973.744.1796. www.montclairhistory.org/all-events. ♿

November 3: Xian Conducts Scheherazade. Stories and music together – what could be better? Kauyumari tells the tale of a joyful search for the mystical "blue deer" of long-ago Mexico. In Scheherazade, you'll sail the seas with Arab pirates of the past. Between these glorious bookends, New Jersey Symphony favorite Inon Barnatan dazzles with Mozart's playful Piano Concerto No. 17. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 3-5pm. Tickets start at \$25. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

November 3: Writing Ekphrastic Poems: An Afternoon of Artistic Synergy. In this 2.5-hour workshop, participants will have the opportunity to write ekphrastic poems using art from the Heidi Gallery's WAE Open exhibit as inspiration. Instructor Marcia LeBeau is the founding director of The Write Space in the Valley Arts District of Orange. Heidi Gallery at JSDD, 310 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston. Please add RSVP 973.272.7148. 2-4pm. \$10. Payment deadline, November 1. RSVP required; limited spaces available. 973.272.7148. www.Jsdd.org. ♿

November 7 and 8: Paquito D'Rivera with New Jersey Symphony. Conductor Carlos Miguel Prieto and the New Jersey Symphony have gorgeous Latin American melodies and rhythms for you. Very special guest clarinetist and

co-curator Paquito D'Rivera lights up the dances of his native Cuba as well as Gershwin classics. This concert is part of the TD James Moody Jazz Festival. New Jersey Symphony, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. November 7 from 1:30-3:30pm; November 8 from 8-10pm. Tickets start at \$25. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

November 10: Family Architecture Walking Tour. On this Family Walking Tour, we'll look for architectural details in the beautiful homes located on the streets near the Crane House & Historic YWCA. All ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Crane House & Historic YWCA, 110 Orange Road, Montclair. 1-2pm. \$25/family (up to a group of 4). After the tour enjoy free admission into the Crane House & Historic YWCA Museum. 973.744.1796. www.montclairhistory.org/all-events. ♿

November 16: Walk. Talk. Taste Montclair History - Upper Bloomfield Avenue. Discover the food and stories that make Montclair unique on this 3-hour food tasting and historical walking tour of the section of Bloomfield Avenue

between Church Street and South Mountain Road in Montclair. Sample foods from 5-7 Montclair restaurants. 12-3pm. Meeting location TBA. \$65/person; \$55 for MHC members. Registration required in advance. Not recommended for kids under age 15. We leave it up to your discretion to imbibe any food or drinks that are being offered. 973.744.1796. www.montclairhistory.org/all-events. ♿

November 17: Guided House Tour - Eyewitness to Black History. Explore 200 years of Black history in Montclair and New Jersey through rare first-hand accounts, primary and secondary source documents at the Crane House & Historic YWCA. Artifacts discussed along the tour provide a springboard for discussion about race both in the past and in the present-day. Crane House & Historic YWCA, 110 Orange Road, Montclair. 12pm, 1pm, 2pm. \$12/adult, \$10/student/senior, \$8/children under 18; free for children under 2 and MHC members. No pre-registration needed. All tours begin at the little red Nathaniel Crane House & Visitor Center located at the back of the parking lot. 973.744.1796. www.montclairhistory.org/all-events. ♿

November 23 & 24: 24th Annual Holiday Open Studio. Award-winning American Impressionist Lisa Palombo opens her art studio once a year to the public to showcase new, original paintings and giftable art consisting of florals, waterscapes, and nautical paintings, which all highlight her signature palette and expressive brushstrokes. Children are welcome. Lisa Palombo Studios, 55 Mountain Avenue, Caldwell. 11am to 5pm. Free. 973.979.1060 www.lisapalombo.com

December 1: Ekphrastic Poetry Reading. Back by popular demand! Local poets read poems they have written based on the dynamic works of art they have chosen from The WAE Open, an Annual Juried Exhibit. This art form is exciting and unexpected. Hosted by Marcia LeBeau, founding director of The Write Space in Orange. Exhibition Dates: October 10 to December 8. 2-4. Heidi Gallery at JSDD 310 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston. RSVP: 973.272.7148 HeidiGallery@JSDD.org ■



MOSAIC DANCE THEATER COMPANY

IMPRESSIONS OF THE ALHAMBRA

Adapted from Tales of The Alhambra by Washington Irving

Adapted & Directed by Morgiana Celeste Varricchio

Choreography by Samara Adell * Carlos Fittante

September 28, 2024 at 5:00 PM
September 29, 2024 at 3:00 PM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
40 S. Fullerton Ave., Montclair, NJ 07042
ADA Accessible Venue

SPECIAL PREVIEW
September 14, 2024 at 4:00 PM
(no rain date)

FREEMAN GARDENS
644 Hawthorne Ave, Glen Ridge, NJ 07028

September 28, 2024 at 5:00 PM
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644 Hawthorne Ave, Glen Ridge, NJ 07028




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

FREE TO THE PUBLIC
Reservations Recommended
www.TicketStripe.com

A Court in The Alhambra
In The Time Of The Moors
Painting by Edwin Lord Weeks



ESSEX COUNTY ONGOING PROGRAMS

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

September 1 to October 3:
Discovering Wellness in Essex County Branch Brook Park: Join Branch Brook Park Alliance for a series of free weekly wellness events including yoga and soul line dancing. Essex County Branch Brook Park, Prudential Concert Grove. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Times vary. Free. Advanced registration is required.

September 1 to December 15:
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.

September 1 to November 30:
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; inquire about discounted rates for groups. Advanced registration is required.

October 12: Branch Brook Park Fest: Join the Branch Brook Park Alliance for a day of free art projects, wellness resources and a series of free wellness events to include yoga, meditation, Zumba and Soul Line Dancing. Essex County Branch Brook Park, Prudential Concert Grove. 10am to 5pm. Free. Advanced registration is preferred.



Branch Brook Park Fest

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.

October 9: Organ Recital with Dr. Haeme Kang Kim
October 23: Instruments of the People with Francisco Roldán, classical guitar, and Danny Mallon, percussion.

Concert Series
September 15: Organ Recital with Chung A Hong. 3pm. \$20 suggested donation.

October 20: Organ Recital with Stephen Hamilton. 3pm. \$20 suggested donation.

November 5: Requiem by Michael John Trotta. The Cathedral Choir, soloists and orchestra will be conducted by John J. Miller. Anita Foley will offer a short pre-concert lecture to the bereaved at 2:20pm. 3pm. Free-will offering.

ESSEX PHOTO CLUB
In person (IP) meetings are held at Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell. The contact person for Zoom access is Club President Catherine Kuzik-Fernandez at 862.485.7474. www.essexphotoclub.org and on Facebook

September 5: Summer Recap Show and Tell by club members (IP)
September 19: Photo Competition judged by Jennifer Dooley (IP)
October 7: Color Infrared Photography presented by Rob Shea (Zoom)
October 17: Photo Competition judged by Richard Kent (IP)
November 7: Zoo Photography presented by John Scalara (Zoom)
November 21: Photo Competition judged by Nick Palmieri (IP)

Photo Competitions may be viewed by the public, but only club members may submit photos. Categories are pictorial, nature, and creative. Levels are beginners, intermediate and salon.



"Working with our partner agencies and the local community, we offer unique and exciting programs to teach children and adults about conservation and help them gain a better understanding of our environment. The Photo Contest is a fun way for you to display your talents and enhance your appreciation of nature."



~ Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive & The Essex County Board of County Commissioners
Invite You to Participate in the

ESSEX COUNTY PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Submissions Due Wednesday, September 11, 2024



Contest Categories

1. Professional
2. Adult (18 and up)
3. Youth (17 and under)

Photographs will be on Display At the Essex County Environmental Center Throughout the Month of October

For contest rules and regulations, please contact the Environmental Center at 973-228-8776.

***CONTEST SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**



COUNTY OF ESSEX
Department Of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs
ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
621-B EAGLE ROCK AVENUE, ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY 07068
Phone: 973.228.8776 Fax: 973.228.3793
www.essexcountynj.org



~PUTTING ESSEX COUNTY FIRST~



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

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Essex County Arts



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THE SPIRIT OF ESSEX

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to join our mailing list, or to submit events
for publication, please contact Terri P. Guess,
Marketing Coordinator, at 201.341.5786
or e-mail
essexarts@parks.essexcountynj.org

The Essex County Division of
Cultural and Historic Affairs

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NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY
XIAN ZHANG
MUSIC DIRECTOR

2024 | **25** SEASON
TAKE A **MUSICAL
JOURNEY**
WITH US!

UPCOMING CONCERTS IN NEWARK

Voice of Nature: the Anthropocene
with Renée Fleming

Oct 6 | NJPAC

Xian Conducts Scheherazade

Nov 3 | NJPAC

Paquito D'Rivera with
New Jersey Symphony

Nov 7 & 8 | NJPAC

The Muppet Christmas Carol in Concert

Dec 7 | NJPAC

A Gospel Holiday

Dec 14 | Science Park High School

Handel's Messiah

Dec 22 | Cathedral Basilica of
the Sacred Heart

GET TICKETS!

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.

