A perfect winter’s day for skating on the lake in Branch Brook Park’s Southern Division. Photo taken Feb. 12, 1935 by Herman G. Cuthbert.
A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Friend,

The winter months are fast approaching, and the Essex County calendar is filled with family friendly activities for everyone to enjoy this holiday season. We invite you and your family to join us for the following activities:

**Holiday Lights Spectacular at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo**
5pm to 9pm
Nov. 22, 23, 24; Nov. 29, 30; Dec. 1; Dec. 6, 7, 8
Every night from December 9 to 31
Closed December 24 & 25
Free Admission

**Gingerbread Contest**
Registration Deadline: December 7
Project Drop Off: December 9
On Exhibit: December 11 to 21

**Sustainable Homes and Habitats Gingerbread Contest**

**House Tour**
Essex County Historic Holiday House Tour
11 AM to 3 PM
Saturday, December 7 & Sunday, December 8

**Essex County Historic Holiday Candlelight Tour at Essex County Kip’s Castle**
7pm
Available Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.
Dec. 10, 12, 13; Dec. 17, 19, 20
Admission is $10

**Essex County Historic Holiday Candlelight Tour at Rock Reservation**
7pm
Available Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.
Dec. 10, 12, 13; Dec. 17, 19, 20
Admission is $10

**Essex County Historic Holiday Candlelight Tour at Kip’s Castle**
7pm
Available Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.
Dec. 10, 12, 13; Dec. 17, 19, 20
Admission is $10

**Essex County Historic Holiday Candlelight Tour at North Newark Park**
7pm
Available Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.
Dec. 10, 12, 13; Dec. 17, 19, 20
Admission is $10

**Essex County Historic Holiday Candlelight Tour at Chequamegon Park**
7pm
Available Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.
Dec. 10, 12, 13; Dec. 17, 19, 20
Admission is $10

Winter is a perfect time to indulge in our vibrant arts culture. You can support the arts in Essex County by spending a day out visiting our many restaurants, museums, historic sites, art galleries and theaters. Most importantly, you can create memories that last a lifetime by participating in our various Essex County winter activities.

Together we will continue Putting Essex County First.

**Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.**
Essex County Executive
and the Board of Chosen Freeholders

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

**BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**
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**THE ESSEX COUNTY PARKS SYSTEM: Celebrating 125 Years of Green Spaces, Recreation and Preservation**

Part 1 in a 4 part series of articles on the Essex County Park System in celebration of 125 Years—The formation of the Essex County Park System

In the year 2020, the Essex County Park System is celebrating its 125th anniversary. Throughout the year, the Spirit of Essex will highlight this history and the events designed to allow the public to celebrate our county parks, reservations and other wonderful facilities.

We work to form the country’s first county park system began in 1894 with a preliminary board consisting of local businessmen. They were responsible for determining the framework for creating and maintaining a system of parks and connecting parkways for the county. They considered things such as how the system would be funded and solicited ideas for park locations from local organizations as well as landscape architects.

The Essex County Parks Commission, after being approved by referendum, met for the first time on April 20, 1895. From submitted proposals, they chose landscape architects John Bogart and Nathan Barrett to design the early parks. The first parkland to be acquired, 60 acres from the City of Newark, became much of the Southern Division of Branch Brook Park, which is a perfect example of a large city park. Independence Park, in Newark’s Ironbound, was the first park to be completed and opened to the public, thus underscoring the Commission’s pledge to build neighborhood parks in densely settled areas. The third type of park in the system was the reservation: land in less populated areas of the county held in reserve to ensure recreational use and prevent its industrial or residential development. In all, seven parks were acquired and built within the Essex County Park System’s first five years. Those parks were Branch Brook Park, South Mountain Reservation, Eagle Rock Reservation, West Side Park, Independence Park, Weequahic Park and Monte Irvin Orange Park.

The Essex County Park System was planned to be a system of parks that were connected by parkways. In the day of horse and buggy, the parkways would allow for leisurely carriage rides from one green recreation space to another. Early manifestations of this ideal were Park Avenue, from Branch Brook Park west toward Eagle Rock Reservation, and the East Orange Parkway, renamed Oraton Parkway as it was extended to Vailsburg Park and beyond.

Prior to 1895, there were fewer than 25 acres of parkland in Essex County. Today, the Essex County Park System includes over 6,000 acres in 26 parks and 5 reservations with a wide variety of recreational opportunities. Come celebrate Essex Parks’ 125th!
ESSEX COUNTY CODE AREA
560 Northfield Avenue
West Orange - 973.731.3828
www.essexcountynj.org/codewayena

EVENTS

Wednesday, December 11th
Essex Club Holiday Skate Show, 6:30pm

Tuesday, December 17th
Synchronized Skate Holiday Skate Show
3:30pm

Saturday, December 21; Monday, December 23;
Thursday, December 26, and Thursday,
December 26. 9:30am to 3:30pm.
For children in kindergarten to
3rd grade. Campers enjoy stories,
crafts, campfires and forest adventures
exploring the wooded wetland forest in
winter. For more information, call
973.228.8776. Minimum number of
participants required. Fee: $10 per
child for all three days OR $7 per
time per day.

WINTER WONDERLAND CLUB
Saturday-December 28, January 25,
February 29. 11am to 12pm.
For children ages 5-12. Let your
child enjoy the winter landscape and
outdoor activities one week/month on
three Saturdays in December through February.
Drop off your grade school
child for a fun adventure. Attend an
exploratory club with open focused
exploration that highlights areas of
participating public parks and a
book reading after outdoor activities
may be occasionally held indoors. Dress
warmly and in layers. Good boots are a
must. If extreme weather prohibits our
activity, we will cancel for safety.
Limited space available. Advance
registration required. Fee: $30 per family,
$12 per child per day.

ESSEX COUNTY KIP’S CASTLE PARK
22 Crestmont Road, Verona
973.433.7669 – www.essexcountynj.org/kipscastle

Holidays at Essex County Kip’s Castle

Wednesdays to Sundays from December 5 to 29. Closed Mondays and
Tuesdays and Dec. 25, 12 noon
to 4pm. Visit Kip’s Castle during the
month of December for a self-guided
tour of the first floor and experience the
holidays circa 1928. Free.

BUILD A BIRD HOUSE
Saturday, February 15. 11am to
12:30pm. For families. Come
build a bird house that encourages
birds and other wildlife to take residence.
Put your bird house now creates a
good chance of having a nesting pair
of songbirds in your garden by spring.
For information, contact Chrystine
Gaffney at cg709@njaes.rutgers.edu.
Direct registration at tinyurl.
com/4chokweswanta. Fee: $12 per family.

14TH ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE HOMES & HABITATS GINGERBREAD CONTEST & EXHIBIT
All entries must be registered by
Saturday, December 7 and
submitted by Monday, December
9th. Create a unique gingerbread	house with natural accents and
green building design features. Sustainable
Gingerbread Homes will be on display
from Wednesday, December 11 through
Saturday, December 21. Prizes will be
awarded in various categories on a date
TBD. Call the Environmental Center at
973.228.8776 to register or for more
information.

THE ECO-FRIENDLY HOME
Saturday, December 11th to
12:30pm. For families. Make and
take a hand-made food storage wrap
with eco-friendly materials. Learn how
to customize your own stationary and
recycle paper at the same time. Let’s talk
about how to reduce waste at home, be
to the environment and make special
customized usable and fun crafts. Bring
your family, friends or come alone.
Fee: $30 per family (up to two adults and
two children) or $10 per child; $12 per
adult.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS Spectacular
AT ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO

5pm to 9pm
November 22, 23, 24
November 29, 30, December 1
Every Night December 6 through 31
Closed: December 24 & 25
Free admission

Take a winter stroll through Essex County Turtle Back Zoo this holiday season under the sparking lights and view over 50 winter and animal characters.

Holiday Candlelight Tours
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday,
December 10, 12 & 13; 17, 19 &
20. 7pm. Spend an evening taking
a guided tour of Essex County Kip’s Castle during the holiday season. The $10 per person entrance fee includes coffee, hot chocolate and cookies. Tours will
be held on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Advanced registration is
required. For more information and to
register visit www.essexcountynj.org.
Please note: Not all areas of the castle
are handicap accessible.

ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO
560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange
973-731-5800 ~ www.essexcountynj.org/turtlebackzoo

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

ESSEX COUNTY SPOTLIGHT
The Spirit of Essex

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

ESSEX COUNTY PREVAILING WAGE

For ages 2 ½ to adult. Tuesday &
Friday afternoons from 5pm
to 6:30pm.

For information, contact
Chryistine Gaffney at cg709@njaes.
rutgers.edu. Direct registration at tinyurl.
com/4chokweswanta. Fee: $12 per
family.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING WORKSHOP
Saturday, December 7, 11am to
1pm. On site registration and
creation of your own gingerbread
home. Stop by the Essex County
Environmental Center and
our resourceful staff will get you
started on your own unique creation.
All gingerbread projects must be completed
by 1pm to be considered for the contest.
Some materials will be provided,
however, you are encouraged to
bring your own items. This is the
last day to register for the contest.
Advance registration is required;
call 973.228.8776. Fee: Free if entering
the home in the Sustainable Homes &
Habitats Gingerbread Contest or
$30 per family (up to two adults and
two children) or $10 per child; $12 per
adult.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING WORKSHOP
Saturday, December 7, 11am to
1pm. On site registration and
creation of your own gingerbread
home. Stop by the Essex County
Environmental Center and
our resourceful staff will get you
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All gingerbread projects must be completed
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Advance registration is required;
call 973.228.8776. Fee: Free if entering
the home in the Sustainable Homes &
Habitats Gingerbread Contest or
$30 per family (up to two adults and
two children) or $10 per child; $12 per
adult.
Age restrictions apply; pre-registration required. Zoo admission is not included with all registrations. For ages 6 months to 5 years of age. For winter dates and registration, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/early-childhood-programs/

Behind the Scenes at the Giraffes
Join us on Saturdays and Sundays from December through February for Behind the Scenes Tours at the Giraffes! Your ticket includes a 30-45 minute tour of the Giraffe Barn, a meet and greet with the keepers and animals, and admission to the zoo for the day (for non-zoological society members only). Registration is limited by age and group size. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/behind-scenes-tours/

Holiday Lights Spectacular
Friday, Saturday & Sunday, November 22-24 and November 29-30 & December 1. Every night from December 6-31; 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 over 50 winter and animal characters. Celebrate the season of giving by bringing donations of non-perishable food items, new toys and gently used coats. Free admission.

Turtle Back Zoo Afterschool Club
Turtle Back Zoo is an amazing classroom! Our “Out of School at the Zoo: Zoo Club” offers students an opportunity to participate in animal- and conservation-themed programs and projects that facilitate scientific literacy and life-long environmental stewardship. Available to students in grades 1 through 5. The program includes a visit into the Zoo or South Mountain Reservation, education as weather permits and an up-close animal presentation. For more information, dates and to register, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/after-school-at-the-zoo/tbz-zoo-club/.

Gingerbread and Winter Workshop
Saturday, December 7 - 3pm to 5pm
Visit us at the Berson Education Center at TBZ to create your own gingerbread house or habitat and enter your creation into the Sustainable Homes and Habitats Gingerbread House Contest (free if you intend to enter the contest) or take your creation home (fess for registration). Gingerbread houses that are entered into the contest will be moved to the Essex County Environmental Center for display. If you don’t want to make a gingerbread house, you can create a holiday themed decoration to be placed in one of our animal exhibits to celebrate the season (no fee to make a decoration). https://turtlebackzoo.com/events-calendar/

Storytime with Mrs. Claus
December 13 - 22
Join us for a holiday story read by Mrs. Claus and meet one of her animal friends. Enjoy light refreshments and a holiday cookie. Recommended for children ages 12 and younger. Admission is $10/person; children under 2 are free. Does not include zoo admission. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. All attendees must have a ticket. Event lasts approximately 45 minutes. Space is limited; tickets can be purchased in advance. https://turtlebackzoo.com/events-calendar/

Winter Mini-Camps
Monday, Dec. 23, Thursday, Dec. 26, Friday, Dec. 27; Mondays, Jan. 20 & Feb. 17, 2020. To further our mission of education and stewardship, campers are introduced to the extraordinary world of animals, nature and science. Children enjoy age-appropriate camp activities that include games, teacher-led lessons, behind-the-scenes visits, up-close animal encounters, hands-on science projects and fun crafts. Single day camps are available this winter to coincide with major school holidays. For information and to register, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/zoo-camps/

Valentine’s Day Date Night
Saturday, February 8 - 6pm to 10pm
Tired of the same old dinner and a movie night out? Learn about the dating habits of some of the wilder residents of Turtle Back Zoo? Join our staff for a fun and frank discussion of the “birds and the bees” at our 4th annual Valentine’s Day Date Night. Includes an education program, dinner and drinks, behind the scenes tours, and dessert. To register, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/events-calendar/

Summer Camp Open House
Saturday, February 29 - 11am to 2pm
Join us for Essex County Turtle Back Zoo’s Annual Summer Camp Open House to check out what’s new and fun for Summer 2020. Meet some of our camp counselors, learn about our science-based curriculum, try a camp-styled activity, and say hello to a few of our Animal Ambassadors. This is a free event and we ask that you register in advance, but day-of walk-ups will be welcome. Reduced zoo admission is offered if attending the Summer Camp Open House. For information and to register, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/zoo-camps/.

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

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

Gaelen Juried Show winners Susan Holford and Lori Abrams
January 5 to February 23, 2020
Exhibit by Susan Holford, a mixed media artist who won Best in Show, and Lori Abrams, a photographer who won Best in Photography, in the 2019 Annual Gaelen Juried Show. Reception is Sunday, January 5, 2020, from 11am to 1pm.

Felix Aarts Exhibits in the Arts/Theater Lobby
January 9 through February 23, 2020
Abstract painter Felix Aarts exhibits in the Arts/Theater Lobby. Reception is Sunday, January 5, 2020, from 11am to 1pm.

MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM
3 South Mountain Avenue, Montclair
732.746.5555
www.montclairartmuseum.org

Constructing Identity in America
(1766–2017)
Through January 5, 2020
This permanent collection show features more than 80 paintings, sculptures and works on paper that address a variety of characters that contribute to one’s sense of self.

Impossible Shadows: The Art of Larry Kagan
Through January 5, 2020
Larry Kagan creates provocative sculptures made of steel with seemingly impossible shadows, inviting the viewer to question the very nature of reality and the process of seeing. The MAM exhibition is Kagan’s first solo exhibition in New Jersey and one of his few museum shows in the tri-state region.

Virgil Ortiz: Odyssey of the Venetian Soldiers
Through June 21, 2020
Virgil Ortiz has moved Native art into a new contemporary era with his internationally-recognized innovative artwork. The exhibition at MAM showcases a light-infused mural portraying a parade of Venetian Soldiers, sci-fi superheroes possessing magical powers, and a number of Ortiz’s exquisite vessels and figurines with painted comic-book and sci-fi imagery.

NEWARK MUSEUM
49 Washington Street, Newark
973.596.6550 / www.newarkmuseum.org

Birding in Asian Art
Currently on View
Learning to look closely is essential in the appreciation of art and the sport and science of birding – sighting live birds in the wild. This exhibition features more than 100 works of art that showcase various fowl – actual and mythical – in paintings and sculptures from China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Tibet.

Beyond Zen: Japanese Buddhism Revealed
Through January 5, 2020
Featuring more than 50 pieces, many never on view before, Beyond Zen showcases opulent (baroque) works of later Japanese Buddhist art (1615 to 1868)
December 1: Lucia And The Secret Of The Shooting Stars. This planetarium show features Vladimir the polar bear and a penguin named James who travel into space aboard the spaceship Polaris to study the Northern Lights. Their mission is cut short when their ship is hit by a meteorite. They crash land and meet Lucia, a hummingbird. Newark Museum, 49 Washington Street, Newark. 1 and 3pm. Planetarium tickets are not included with Newark Museum admission and must be purchased separately. Adults (non-member) $6; children under 12, seniors, college student with valid ID & veterans (non-member) $4; Members: Adults $4; children under 12 $3 (Price is per ticket per show; additional shows require additional ticket purchase.) 973.596.6550. newarkmuseum.org

December 4: Festival Of Lights. Celebrate the Festival of Lights at the Newark Museum! Explore the American Galleries and discover how holidays are celebrated around the world. Grab some friends and skate on the iceless rink or take a photo inside a human snow globe. Enjoy music, food, crafts and planetarium screenings of “Season of Light!” Newark Museum, 49 Washington Street, Newark. 4-9pm. Free to $15. 973.596.6550. newarkmuseum.org

December 4, 11, 15: Weekday Tours of the Crane House & Historic YWCA. The Crane House and Historic YWCA are windows to the history of the nation from its early years as an independent country to a country embroiled in the civil rights struggle. 110 Orange Road, Montclair. Self-guided tours, Wednesdays 1-3pm. Admission is a suggested donation. www.montclairhistory.org

December 5, 6 and 8: Rachmaninoff’s Third Piano Concerto. Three works of deeply felt emotion, and the NSO return of astonishing young American pianist George Li, who performs the Everest of all piano concertos. Written for strings alone, Anna Clyne’s tender Within Her Arms is the song of loss and memory for her mother. This program has it all: melodies that linger in the heart, rich harmonies and dance-like rhythms. NJPAC, 1 Center Street, Newark. 7-8:30pm. $20, $15 for members. Register online at www.montclairhistory.org

December 7: Practice ACT Test. Administered by C2 Education. Bring a calculator and arrive 30 minutes early. Test will be three hours long, results will be available. The Roseland Free Public Library, 20 Roseland Avenue, 4pm. Free. RSVP 973.226.8636. www.roselandpubliclibrary.org

December 5 and 17. Candlelight Tour. A fun evening that begins with period lobbies in the historic hearth kitchen and continues with a tour of the Crane House and Historic YWCA. See the period holiday decorations artfully designed by the Garden Club of Montclair as Executive Director Jane Eliason leads a special candlelight tour that tells the history of holidays past from the 1700s to the 20th century. Spoiler Alert: This may not be appropriate for young children. Montclair History Center, 110 Orange Road, Montclair. 7-8:30pm. $20, $15 for members. Register online at www.montclairhistory.org

December 7: Practice ACT Test. Administered by C2 Education. Bring a calculator and arrive 30 minutes early. Test will be three hours long, results will be available. The Roseland Free Public Library, 20 Roseland Avenue, 4pm. Free. RSVP 973.226.8636. www.roselandpubliclibrary.org

Feasting with Family and Friends: Christmas in the Ballantine House November 20 to January 5, 2020 Each year, the museum’s National Historic Landmark, the 1885 Ballantine House, offers visitors a taste of how Christmas was celebrated in late Victorian Newark, as English, German and Dutch holiday traditions merged into something not so very different from the way the holiday is celebrated in America today.

What Exit? The New Jersey Spirit: Photographs by Timothy White Through February 23, 2020 Portraits of homegrown artists ranging from Bruce Springsteen to John Travolta to Kean will be featured in the museum’s latest photography exhibition. One of the most sought-after celebrity photographers, White is the photographer of choice.

Unexpected Color - A Journey Through Glass Currently on view The exhibition offers a window into the science, craft and art of this lesser-known, colorful glass that was made and used by two visionaries, Frederick Carder, co-founder and designer of Steuben Glass Works, and Thomas N. Armstrong III, prominent museum director, loved color, organic forms, and art.

THE WALSH GALLERY AT SETON HALL UNIVERSITY 400 South Orange Avenue South Orange. 973.275.2033 www.shu.edu/walshgallery

Gregory Coates: Sheer Audacity January 13 to March 6, 2020 Artist Gregory Coates creates sculptures that employ the use of unorthodox materials and processes to make art that is socially engaged, provoking viewers by using materials as a catalyst for critical dialogues on a variety of subjects.

EASTERN COUNTIES WINTER EVENTS

Lucia And The Secret Of The Shooting Stars at the Newark Museum

Felix Aarts at The JCC of Greater Metrowest

Lori Abrams at The JCC of Greater Metrowest
Boutique. The Holiday Boutique at the West Orange Arts Center offers items handmade by local artists and includes an eclectic selection of original art, jewelry, cards, fixer art, clothing, candles, honey, skin products and items for the home. The West Orange Arts Council Small Works Members Show takes place concurrently. West Orange Arts Center, 551 Valley Road, West Orange. Saturdays, 12-7pm; Sundays, 1-5pm. Free. 973.325.0151. www.woarts.org

December 7: Dianne Reeves – Christmas Time is Here with Peter Martin, Peter Sprague, Reginaid Veal & Terrence Goul. Five-time Grammy Award winner Dianne Reeves is a pre-eminent Jazz vocalist in the world. Her breathtaking virtuosity, improvisational prowess and unique Jazz and R&B stylings earned her the Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Performance for three consecutive recordings – a first in any vocal category. South Orange Performing Arts Center, 1 SOPAC Way, South Orange. 8pm. $58-$78. 973.313.2787. www.SOPACnow.org/dianne-reeves

December 10: Mary Lou Williams’ Mass in Conversation and Performance. The acclaimed 50-voice Rutgers-Newark Chorus will perform Mary Lou Williams’ Mass, accompanied by a Jazz Trio led by Deanna Witkowski, an award-winning jazz pianist and author of a forthcoming book on Williams. The performance will be followed by a panel discussion on Williams and her groundbreaking liturgical jazz as well as its significance to her career and jazz history. The Essex Room of the Paul Robeson Campus Center, Rutgers University-Newark, 350 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Newark.7pm. Free. 973.313.5194.


December 14: The Hot Sardines. These mischief-makers of hot Jazz have songs cover the American musical landscape distilling Soul, Gospel, R&B, punk, and R&B into a soundtrack for the contemporary American psyche. Their Barnum & Bailey sensibilities imbue the New York Times with “simply stunning”! The Hot Sardines at SOPAC. December 14: Martin Sexton. Robeson Campus Center, Rutgers University-Newark, 350 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Newark.7pm. Free. 973.313.5194.

December 15: Tours of the Crane House & Historic YWCA. Visit one or both houses concurrently. West Orange Arts Council, 544 1st Avenue, West Orange. Saturdays, 12-7pm; Sundays, 1-5pm. Peruse tables set up by the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of NJ, enjoy tastings of hot chocolate through the day, and at 2:30pm experience the Fanoko Singers Kwanzaa Performance. Don’t miss the Family Fun Tour at 2pm. Newark Museum, 49 Washington Street, Newark. 1-4pm. Free to $15. 973.596.6550. newarkmuseum.org

December 14: December 14 & 15: Holidays Around the World. Drop in for crafts, tours and delicious surprises. Learn how cultures around the world celebrate their holidays. Peruse tables set up by the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of NJ, enjoy tastings of hot chocolate through the day, and at 2:30pm experience the Fanoko Singers Kwanzaa Performance. Don’t miss the Family Fun Tour at 2pm. Newark Museum, 49 Washington Street, Newark. 1-4pm. Free to $15. 973.596.6550. newarkmuseum.org

December 15: Tours of the Crane House & Historic YWCA and The Shultz House. Visit one or both houses in one afternoon. See the period holiday decorations artfully designed by the Garden Club of Montclair at the Crane House and Historic YWCA. Historic
December 18: Wednesday Nite Bookworms. Library book club will meet to discuss My Brilliant Friend by Donna Leonardi. Tours of the Shultz House, 30 North Mountain Avenue, are on the half hour, last tour at 3:30pm. Tours of the Shultz House, 30 North Mountain Avenue, are on the half hour, last tour at 3:30pm. From 1-4 pm. Admission is suggested donation.

December 18: Winter Solstice! Participants can make delicious surprises and to celebrate the Solstice.

December 20: Martin Sexton at SOPAC

December 22: Cherish the Ladies – A Christmas Concert


January 22: Wednesday Nite Bookworms. Library book club will meet to discuss Love and Other Consolation Prizes by Jamie Ford. The Roseland Free Public Library, 20 Roseland Avenue, Roseland. 7 pm. Free. RSVP 973.226.8636. www.roselandpubliclibrary.org

January 26: Classical Mystery Tour: Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band. Beatlesmania is back! Celebrate one of the most iconic albums in rock history as Classical Mystery Tour performs Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band with the NJSO. Hear classic songs from “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds” to “When I’m Sixty-Four” to “A Day in the Life” – plus more of the greatest hits from The Beatles’ entire catalogue. NJPAC, 1 Center Street, Newark. 8pm. Tickets start at $20. 1.800.255.3476. njsymphony.org

January 26: Lunar New Year Celebration. Celebrate the Year of the Rat with us! Join Music Director Xian Zhang and the NJSO for a joyful Lunar New Year concert blending Eastern and Western musical traditions – an unmissable celebration of community and culture featuring arias and choruses by Verdi, Bizet and Puccini, along with traditional Chinese songs. The evening begins with a family-friendly pre-concert festival of entertainment and activities in the Prudential Hall lobby. NJPAC, 1 Center Street, Newark. 7:30pm. Tickets start at $20. 1.800.255.3476. njsymphony.org

January 26: Bachmusical program presented by Dan Lupo.

January 28: Classical Mystery Tour: Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band. Beatlesmania is back! Celebrate one of the most iconic albums in rock history as Classical Mystery Tour performs Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band with the NJSO. Hear classic songs from “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds” to “When I’m Sixty-Four” to “A Day in the Life” – plus more of the greatest hits from The Beatles’ entire catalogue. NJPAC, 1 Center Street, Newark. 8pm. Tickets start at $20. 1.800.255.3476. njsymphony.org

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January 26: Bachmusical program presented by Dan Lupo.
February 5: Newark Playwrights Festival. The Rutgers-NJIT Theatre Program presents short plays developed through presented workshops. They feature the talents of students from Rutgers University in Newark, NJIT and local high schools. Rutgers University-Newark Bradley Hall Theatre, 3rd floor, 110 Warren Street, Newark, 7pm. Free. 973.596.3457. theatre@njit.edu

February 6: Star Wars: Return of the Jedi in Concert. 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 NSO performs John Williams’ legendary score live. SOPAC, 1 Center Street, Newark, 2 and 7:30pm. Tickets start at $20. 1.800.255.3476. njsymphony.org


February 20 to 22: Newark Improv Festival. The Rutgers-NJIT Theatre Program presents the Newark Improv Festival with performances by local improv groups and professional groups that evening. Rutgers University-Newark & Express Newark, Bradley Hall Theatre, 3rd floor, 110 Warren Street, Newark. 7pm. Free. 973.596.3457. theatre@njit.edu

February 25: Price Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience. The Clement A. Price Institute, in partnership with NJPAC, presents Philadanco! PHILADANCO! kicks off its 50th-anniversary celebration with electrifying dance that explores powerful themes of contemporary social justice. Victoria Theater at NJPAC, 1 Center Street, Newark, 7pm. $25-$45. 1-888-go-njpac. https://www.njpac.org/event/philadanco/

February 27 and March 1: Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto. Audiences and NSO musicians agree that Christoph König is a favorite guest conductor. The concert includes the debut of Simone Porter, a young American violinist taking the world by storm, who will play the crown jewel of violin concertos. Bruckner’s Sixth Symphony begins with violins playing so softly you may miss them, then a mysterious horn call sounds, and suddenly the whole orchestra sweeps you away. NJPAC, 1 Center Street, Newark. 1:30 and 3pm. Tickets start at $20, students $10. 1.800.255.3476. njsymphony.org

February 8: Star Wars: Return of the Jedi in Concert. 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 NSO performs John Williams’ legendary score live. SOPAC, 1 Center Street, Newark, 2 and 7:30pm. Tickets start at $20. 1.800.255.3476. njsymphony.org


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THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART
89 Ridge Street, Newark
973.484.2400
www.cathedralbasilica.org

December 6: Navidad Latina. The Cathedral Spanish Choir, under the direction of Olfary Gutiérrez, joins forces with singers and instrumentalists from other Latin American communities of the Archdiocese of Newark. The program includes Ariel Ramirez’s “Navidad Nuestra” along with Villancicos Tradicionales of Latin America and Spain. 8pm. Doors open at 7pm. Free-will offering.

December 11 & 12: The 49th Annual Candlelight Carol Sing. A Christmas tradition for 47 consecutive years, the Carol Sing has become one of the most significant Christmas concerts in Northern New Jersey. The ambiance of candlelight and season décor, along with thousands of participants, featuring the Cathedral Choir, organ and Brass Ensemble, combine to create an event that must be experienced. 8pm. Doors open at 7pm. Free-will offering.

December 22: “Messiah” with the NJSO and Montclair State University Singers. 7pm. Doors open at 6pm. Free-will offering.

ESSEX PHOTO CLUB
Caldwell United Methodist Church
8 Academy Road, Caldwell
973.736.1861
www.essexphotoclub.org. 7:30pm

Competitions
December 19: Holiday Party with a Club Competition of the assigned subject of transportation
January 16: Club Competition of nature and pictorial projected images judged by Jordan Base

MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM
3 South Mountain Avenue, Montclair
973.746.5555
www.montclairartmuseum.org

Art in the Afternoon
December 11; January 8, 22; February 12, 26, 2pm. Older adults learn about art through tours, conversation and related art activities. Refreshments served. Free for MAM members, $10 for non-member seniors.

A Closer Look Tour
December 6, January 3, February 7. Join an MAM docent for an informal 30-minute gallery talk where visitors can examine works on view. Free with museum admission.

ESSEX COUNTY ONGOING PROGRAMS

THE WORLD IN YOUR BACKYARD

Visit Essex County Turtle Back Zoo Today!
Home School Day
December 19, January 16, February 20, 12-2pm. Enjoy a fun and educational afternoon including a gallery tour and studio art project. Children will have opportunities to be creative and socialize with others in their age group. $6 per child of MAM family-level members, $12 per child of non-members. Advance registration appreciated.

Looking Together
December 4, February 5, 2-3pm. People living with dementia and their care partners are invited to explore art together through docent-facilitated gallery conversations. Advance online registration appreciated. Free. 973.259.5136.

NEWARK MUSEUM
49 Washington Street, Newark
973.596.6550
www.newarkmuseum.org

Creative Play
Saturdays, 10am. Three- to five-year-olds and their caregivers enjoy a special time before the museum opens to the public. Explore the museum’s art and science collections through storytelling, song, playful activities and an art-making project. Free.

Design Thinking Drop-In Saturdays, 1-4pm. Inspired by the museum’s collections and special events, monthly themes are designed for visitors of all ages to drop in and experiment with the tools and materials of artists. Stay as long as you’d like. Free with museum admission. Free for members and Newark residents.

Family Back Pack
Saturdays and Sundays, 12-4pm. A fun, self-guided tour for the entire family! Utilize a spy glass, a timer and more, as well as prompts as your family explores great works of art to explore community, animals and people and places. Free with museum admission. Free for members and Newark residents.

Public Tour: Gallery Conversation December 15, January 19, February 16, 2pm. Discover the museum’s collection and special exhibitions through a docent-led tour. Free with museum admission.

Family Drop-In and Imagination Station Saturdays and Sundays, 12-4pm. Join us for an engaging experience at the Imagination Station. Spark your creativity while thinking outside the box. Have fun while achieving the challenge. Free with museum admission. Free for members and Newark residents.

MakersPACE Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4pm. Inspired by the museum’s collections and special events, monthly themes are designed for visitors of all ages to drop in and experiment with the tools and materials of artists. Get messy with clay and paint and found materials. Get creative with blocks and digital and computer tools. Free with museum admission. Free for members and Newark residents.

Self-Guided Family Programs Saturdays & Sundays, 12-4pm. Red, Yellow & Blue Gallery Guides were developed to encourage 3-5 year olds and their families to discover together. Designed to encourage observation and conversation, they are available for free with museum admission at the front desk and in the Education Lobby. Free for members and Newark residents.

The Roseland Free Public Library
20 Roseland Avenue, Roseland
973.226.8636
www.roselandpubliclibrary.org

Adult Mat Yoga
December 4, 11am. Join certified yoga instructor Danielle Masa for a mid-week stretch. Free. RSVP.

Mindful Coloring
December 4; January 7, 14, 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18, 25, 1pm. Escape the stress of everyday life and color your troubles away. Join us for an afternoon of serenity, coloring, herbal tea, snacks and meditative music. Free. RSVP.

Monday Matinee
December 2; January 6, 13, 27; February 3, 10, 24, 1pm. Popcorn will be served. For movie schedule information, check the website. Free.

Walking for Fitness
December 2, 4; January 6, 8, 13, 15, 22, 27, 29; February 3, 5, 10, 12, 19, 24, 10am. Explore different types of exercise and healthy recipes in a relaxed setting. Includes 45 minutes of low-impact exercise streamed on video (emphasis on walking). Ideal for beginning fitness levels. Bring towel and water bottle. Free.
Family Skating at Essex County Codey Arena at South Mountain

Get moving and have fun at the same time. Codey Arena offers public sessions and group skating lessons. Skate rentals and lockers are available. Enjoy snacks from our food concession and have your next birthday party in one of our party rooms.

Call for public session times
973.731.3828
www.essexcountynj.org

Essex County Codey Arena
560 Northfield Ave.
West Orange, NJ 07052

South Mountain Recreation Complex....
New Jersey’s Recreation Destination