



A special e-publication for the personal use of NJAGC members

**A MEMBERS-ONLY BENEFIT!
February 2017**

Dear NJAGC Members,

Welcome to the 83rd edition of NewsNet, the electronic newsletter provided for our valued NJAGC members! We've come upon so many interesting events that we're sending out another NewsNet so you won't miss out on these outstanding opportunities!

Be a part of NewsNet. Send happenings of interest throughout NJ for families of gifted students as well as educators, to Lenore Argen at argenhouse@msn.com. Your input will be appreciated by all who enjoy this publication!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

**NJAGC 26th Annual Conference
Friday, March 17, 2017
The Conference Center at Mercer**

This is a unique opportunity of networking and professional development with the gifted community statewide and beyond.

Our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Del Siegle, serves as director of the National Center for Research on Gifted Education. He is a professor in gifted and talented education and Head of the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Connecticut.

Visit www.njagc.org often for new and updated information, applications for contests, award nomination forms, scholarship opportunities, presentation proposals and exhibitor registration.

Visit www.visitgreatcourses.com to view a catalog of unique audio and video courses on almost any hobby, interest or subject you can imagine in both your personal and professional life! Some sample titles: *Understanding the Universe; An Introduction to Astronomy, The Everyday Guide to Wine, The Mathematics of Games and Puzzles, An Introduction to Meditation, Optimizing Brain Fitness, How to Grow Anything, Daily Life in the Ancient World...*and the list goes on....

Rutgers University's annual Writing Conference will be held this year on June 2 - 3, 2017. For a complete lineup of presenters, the full program schedule, and concert and conference registration information, visit www.ruwriterscon.rutgers.edu.

The **New Jersey Educational Computing Cooperative (NJECC)** is a not-for-profit organization. They hold monthly meetings for members at Montclair University. They will be running a Maker Space event on March 24, 2017 at MakerDepot in Fairfield, NJ. Click [here](#) to register. The cost is \$115.00. They will be running a Blended Learning event in June and members get a discount! They negotiate with many vendors for substantial discounts for members. They are making a special offer to non-members districts for an introductory price of \$250 to become members for the rest of this year. They can be contacted at info@njecc.org or by phone at [973-728-9022](tel:973-728-9022).

An **Educational Forum for Families with Intellectually Curious Students** will be held on Saturday, March 4th at Far Hills Country Day School.

The Forum is free of charge and open to the public

<https://www.scholarsearchassoc.com/>

Attached flyer for reference:

<https://www.scholarsearchassoc.com/index.php/north-nj-2016>

CONTESTS/COMPETITIONS

Do You Have a Big Idea to Make a Difference? Are You Doing an Awesome Service Project? **LEAD360** is the platform that powers **youth service ideas**: To realize your vision, act as the megaphone for your voice, empower you & the country to act with maximum impact. Idea submissions are open to ages 5 - 25. Start on your idea now in order to be ready for the 2017 competition. www.Lead360.jeffersonawards.org

The **Grammy Awards** will once again include **educators** being recognized for their inspirational and contributions to the world of music.

Go to [Grammy Awards in the Schools](#) for information on how to nominate a deserving teacher! This year's **deadline is March 15, 2017**.

Educators are invited to have their students participate in the 17th biannual [Noetic Learning Math Contest](#), a national problem-solving contest for students from grades 2 to 8. The goal of the competition is to encourage young students' interest in math, to develop their problem solving skills, and **to inspire them to excel in math!**

TEACHER'S CORNER

[Design Squad Global](#) launches clubs enabling after-school programs around the world to collaborate on engineering projects. If you are an educator or community group leader who might be interested in starting a DSG club, enrollment is [open](#) for spring 2017 sessions.

Rider University new online course – spring 2017

Innovative Instructional Strategies for Gifted Education

Contact gradadmin@rider.edu or call 609-896-5036 to register

For more information link to: [20161208143943134.pdf](#)

Duke Farms in Hillsborough, NJ serves as a leader in environmental stewardship and sustainability while inspiring visitors to become informed stewards of the land. It is a place of education, enjoyment and research that enhances the environmental health of the region with programs for children and educators. **A few programs are listed below:**

Climate Science & Sustainable Actions Academy

Registration Deadline: 3/1/2017

Sustainable Landscapes

Weather, climate, and sustainable actions are prominent in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and the NJ Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) for Science. Let the 2,700 acre Duke Farms property serve as your living laboratory and source of inspiration for exciting new lessons on these topics. Participating K-12 educators, administrators and non-formal educators will conduct hands-on outdoor fieldwork, hear lectures from NJ's top experts, and develop NGSS/NJSLS-aligned lesson plans.

Academy Topics:

- The processes that lead to climate change
- How human activity contributes to climate change
- Local and global impacts of climate change
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Sustainable actions within educational institutions

Academy Schedule:

- Registration Deadline March 1, 2017
- In-Person Orientation Dinner (Wednesday, March 15, 2017)
- Pre-Academy Distance Learning (March-June; roughly 12 hours of independent work)
- In-Person Summer Academy Sessions (June 26 - June 29, 2017 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.)
- FINAL NGSS-Aligned Teaching Plan (Due: September 30, 2017)

Cost: \$150 includes all course materials, orientation dinner and on-site housing (June 26-29) for the first eight registered participants.

Lead Faculty: Ms. Laura Gallagher and Dr. Missy Holzer. View their bios [HERE](#)

Participants can also earn points for *Sustainable Jersey for Schools* certification.

For more information, link to: <http://www.dukefarms.org/en/Programs/Professional/>

Voices from the Land: Integrating Language and Landscape, Art and Culture

6/9/2017 - 6/10/2017

The ***Voices from the Land*** project and this workshop (for educators of pre-k to 12, naturalists, artists and other adults) is a celebration of oral and written language... of natural science, art, performance and technology. Taught by veteran teachers, participants experience all aspects of a *Voices* project, learning strategies for connecting children to natural landscapes... fostering a love for the natural world.

Through this workshop, participants learn how to help children work in small groups as they explore and discover a natural site, using art concepts and skills to create art from natural materials. Communication skills (oral and written) are used to create, edit and publish poetry. Digital technologies are used to document and share the art then students help layout, design and publish a full-color book of their art and poetry... or full-color posters that showcase their work.

Finally, students develop performance strategies to share their work.

Cost: \$50 per educator.

For more information, link to: <http://www.dukefarms.org/en/Programs/Professional/>

[Grosvenor Teacher Fellowships from National Geographic](#): Each year, National Geographic and Lindblad Expeditions take K-12 geography teachers on expeditions around the world. Usually, 25 educators are selected for fellowship trips each year, and participants travel to exotic locations and participate in professional development and curriculum-building activities. Applications for 2017 expeditions opened in December.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

The **YLI National E-Congress** has begun! The Youth Leadership Initiative invites you and your students to participate in the **2017 National E-Congress!** This exciting hands-on online legislative simulation connects your students with the legislative process and with students from across the nation.

Teachers who have participated in previous sessions know that having students research, draft, debate, and vote on original legislation creates lifelong learning in their students.

What: 2017 National E-Congress

Who: E-Congress is most appropriate for middle and high school students.

How: Log in at www.youthleadership.net, click on the *E-Congress* link, the *National E Congresses* tab, and then *Join*. Check out the [2017 E-Congress Calendar](#) and the [Teacher Instructions](#).

When: January 4th - April 6th 2017

Where: www.youthleadership.net

E-Congress Demo: Check out our online [E-Congress Demo](#) to see how the program works. Participation is completely **FREE**. Call toll-free at 1.866.514.8389 if you have any questions. We look forward to getting your students engaged in the legislative process!

HEROES Academy in New Brunswick offers weekend enrichment classes for students who demonstrate that they are academically accelerated based on NWEA MAP test scores. HEROES Academy offers programs in Engineering, Computer Science, Laboratory Science, Language Arts and Math and conferences. Go to www.njgifted.org for more information on all programs.

The Davidson Institute is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting profoundly gifted students 18 and under. Click on <http://www.davidsongifted.org/> to discover their diverse offerings.

LECTURES

FOR THEM IT ISN'T OVER: OUR VIETNAM ALLIES POST WAR AND IN AMERICA AN INTERDISCIPLINARY FORUM ON THE VIETNAM ERA

Saturday, March 25, 2017, 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Hosted by the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation at the Vietnam Era Museum and Educational Center in Holmdel, NJ For more information: [Download the registration form. >](#)

THE ARTS

Open Access: The **Metropolitan Museum of Art** creates, organizes, and disseminates a broad range of digital images and data that document the rich history of the Museum, its collection, exhibitions, events, people, and activities.

Images of artworks in the Museum's collection fall into two categories:

- images of works the Museum believes to be in the **public domain**, or those to which the Museum waives any copyright it might have
- images of works the Museum knows to be **under copyright or other restrictions**

On February 7, 2017, The Metropolitan Museum of Art implemented a new policy known as Open Access, which makes 375 images of artworks it believes to be in the public domain widely and freely available for unrestricted use, and at no cost, in accordance with the [Creative Commons Zero \(CC0\)](#) designation and the [Terms and Conditions](#) of this website.

It also makes available data from the entire online collection—both works it believes to be in the public domain and those under copyright or other restrictions—including basic information such as title, artist, date, medium, and dimensions. This data is available to all in accordance with the [Creative Commons Zero \(CC0\)](#) designation.

For more information on the process of accessing link to: [Metropolitan Museum of Art - Open Access](#)

Princeton Art Museum:

[The Berlin Painter and His World: Athenian Vase-Painting in the Early Fifth Century BC](#)

March 4, 2017 – June 11, 2017

The Berlin Painter was the name given by Sir John Davidson Beazley (1885–1970) to an otherwise anonymous Athenian vase-painter, active in the first quarter of the fifth century B.C., whose hand he recognized in nearly 300 complete and fragmentary vases in public and private collections around the world. Since Beazley's first published identification of the Berlin Painter in 1911, the oeuvre of this still-anonymous Athenian draughtsman has grown to some 330 works, and esteem for his elegant, approachable style has never lessened.

For more information: <http://artmuseum.princeton.edu/art/exhibitions/1967>

The schedule is out for unique art and craft classes being sponsored by the famous **Luna Parc** at several venues throughout the state. Classes include weaving, tile making, edible pizza art, large sculptures, woodworking, cement, brush and ink, rocket stove use and construction. Participants must be at least 16 years of age unless noted otherwise.

Participants under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult who is also attending the course. *Do you have a special interest group?* They can also create a workshop for you on a specific day. Minimum class is made up of 8 people. Materials range from clay, tile and cement, and group Art Therapy. For more information and to register for a class, please email ricky@lunaparc or call 973-948-2160.

Please visit <http://www.lunaparc.com> or <http://www.lunaparcfoundation.org> for more information.

NJ State Theatre Family Day

Monday, February 20, 10am-3pm

The State Theatre's popular Family Day festival returns. The annual event is a great place for kids and their families to spend the Presidents Day holiday, with performances, games, hands-on workshops, exhibits, and more, stretching across four venues in and around the State Theatre. It's a jam-packed day of fun for the entire family!

Link to: [State Theatre Family Day](#)

TEACHER/FAMILY OUTINGS

Liberty Science Center: Illusion: Nothing Is As It Seems

February 4 – August 27, 2017

Get ready for an exhibition that will blow your mind! *Illusion: Nothing Is As It Seems* is designed to make you question your perception of the world around you, and perhaps reality itself. The exhibition's dozens of thought-provoking exhibits explore principles rooted in magic, art, neuroscience, physics, biology, psychology, and technology.

Gaze into a mirror and watch yourself morph into your inner animal. See how theater, haunted houses, dark amusement park rides, and magic tricks use a special effects technique called Pepper's Ghost to deceive you. The exhibit includes optical, perceptual, and audio illusions. Science and art intersect in this mind-boggling, mesmerizing exhibition. <http://lsc.org/>

Liberty Science Center Presents [Young Learner Day | Wednesday, April 26, 2017](#)

On this day, our youngest guests will participate in special activities and explore Liberty Science Center exclusively with other students their own age. (No advance reservations will be taken on this day for students in grades higher than grade 2.) Click [here](#) for more information.

The Franklin Institute: Camp-In Overnight!

Friday, February 24, 2017 - 6:15am to Saturday, February 25, 2017 - 9:30pm

Do you like visiting The Franklin Institute during the day? Then you'll LOVE spending a whole night with us! Give your group or family an unforgettable overnight adventure — a sleepover camp at the Franklin Institute science museum! Pack your sleeping bags and prepare for an evening jam-packed with live science shows, hands-on workshops, stargazing in our rooftop observatory, and time to explore all eleven permanent exhibits. Where else can you sleep next to a Giant Heart or a 350-ton locomotive? Link to: <https://www.fi.edu/event/2017-02-24/camp>

Franklin Institute: *Jurassic World: The Exhibition!* Now through April 23, 2017

Get closer to dinosaurs than ever before. Based on one of the biggest blockbusters in cinema history, the Exhibition immerses audiences of all ages in scenes inspired by the beloved film. Now, the park that was only a promise comes to life...right before your eyes.

Travel to Isla Nublar and explore Jurassic World. Stare in wonder at a towering *Brachiosaurus*; come face-to-face with a *Velociraptor*; and get a rare up-close look at the most vicious dinosaur of them all, *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

Created in close collaboration with renowned paleontologist Jack Horner, the Exhibition is infused with interactive educational elements—drawn from the real-world science of dinosaur DNA that allowed Jurassic World to come to life. Visitors of all ages can now learn all about these incredible prehistoric creatures.

For more information: <https://www.fi.edu/exhibit/jurassic-world-exhibition>

The **Newark Museum** is now running Saturday afternoon **Family Gallery Programs** free of charge. Weekly themes highlight different areas of the art and science collections. Visit www.newarkmuseum.org for more information.

You may have gone swimming with dolphins on your last vacation, but have you ever been given a chance to **Swim with the Sharks**? Visit www.adventureaquarium.com to make plans for an up close and personal visit around the shark pool and a dip into the Stingray Lagoon at the **Adventure Aquarium in Camden**.

www.wildmanstevebrill.com features information and schedules tours on foraging. Arrange a private tour or presentation for a [school](#), [birthday party](#), [camp](#), [scout troop](#), [garden club](#), or [library](#); or to discover edible plants growing on your property.

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is located only 26 miles west of New York City's Times Square in Basking Ridge, NJ. It is a 12-square-mile natural oasis in an area that is mostly suburban, making the refuge an outstanding area for migrating waterfowl to rest and feed on their migration.

The Wildlife Refuge serves many purposes, and one of their most important roles is as an outdoor classroom to teach about wildlife and natural resources. Many refuges offer environmental education programs for a variety of audiences. Refuges provide unique and exciting outdoor environments – excellent locations for hands-on learning activities. Thousands of youth and adult groups visit every year to learn about a specific topic on wildlife, habitat, or ecological processes.

Is your school, youth, environmental or other group interested in learning more about the wildlife, plants, habitats and ecology of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge? Contact the refuge's Visitor Services 973-425-1222, Ext. 115 to check on program availability and reservation policies. Refuges are wild places, and we want to teach you more about them!

Link to: [Great Swamp](#)

Discover a world of wonder and excitement when you journey into the planetarium at RVCC!

THINGS TO DO AT THE RVCC PLANETARIUM

[Public Shows](#)

[Sensory-Friendly Shows](#)

[Observatory](#)

[Plan a Field Trip](#)

[Starlab Portable Planetarium](#)

[Special Events](#)

Address: 118 Lamington Road, Branchburg, NJ 08876

Phone: 908-231-8805

Woodcock Talk & Walk 2017

6:00 - 8:15pm

March 14th: at Maskers Barn in Deserted Village, 13 Cataract Hollow Road, Berkeley Heights

March 21st: at the old Trapp & Skeet field house, Lenape Park's main entrance off Kenilworth Boulevard in Cranford

Got cabin fever? Join us for this fun program in your **Union County Park!**

Woodcocks or timber doodles are short, stocky shorebirds in the sandpiper family with long bills that spend most of their time in shrubby forests. After a brief illustrated talk indoors participants will head to nearby fields. **Dress warm and bring a flashlight.**

Free & open to adults and children ages 10yrs & up with an adult.

Email: bkelly@ucnj.org to register See link for map: <http://mapq.st/1M3VkhU>

Duke Farms in Hillsborough, NJ serves as a leader in environmental stewardship and sustainability while inspiring visitors to become informed stewards of the land. It is a place of education, enjoyment and research that enhances the environmental health of the region with *programs for children and educators.*

Link to <http://www.dukefarms.org/en/Programs/classesevents/> for information on more than 25 different offerings including: Junior Entomologists, Butterfly Gardening for Children, 2017 Junior Gardeners: The Spring & Summer Garden, A Tour of New Jersey's Physical and Human Geography, The Lorax Play Along and many more for schools and families.

The Gazillion Bubble Show mixes the science of bubbles with entertainment. Visit www.gazillionbubbleshow.com for more information.

Northlandz is a 16 acre attraction which includes a doll museum, the La Peep 94 room Doll House, a 2,000 pipe theater pipe organ (which the owner plays), and art galleries throughout. The main feature is the world's largest model railway, boasting over 100 trains, 8 miles of tracks, thousands of buildings, and 40 foot bridges spanning canyons. Lunch and snacks are available at the Club Car Café. Visit www.northlandz.com for details.

For a more "grass roots" experience, visit **The Model Railroad Club**, one of the oldest model railroad clubs in the USA, located on the Lenape Park grounds of the Union County Department of Parks. They are open to the public on Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm. Visit the [Directions Page](#) to view directions and a map to, or an aerial [picture](#) of, the Club.

Prefer **REAL trains**? Then make sure to go to www.Whippanyrailwaymuseum.net for information on this Morris County museum, which features both exhibits and RIDES on historic train cars.

RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT

Trying to keep warm while thinking summer? Moreys' Piers is already planning for spring and summer visitors! You can find more information and on-line fillable registration forms at their new school programs landing page at www.moreyspiers.com/schoolprograms. Teachers- keep an eye out for open registration for their free Teacher Appreciation Days coming on August 26th.

The New Jersey State Bar Foundation offers a publication titled *Turning 18 in NJ: Legal Rights and Responsibilities of New Adults*. Download this insightful book at www.jhsbf.org for information EVERYONE should know about being a good citizen, managing your money, your rights as a consumer, the NJ Court System and more!

The **Every Kid in a Park Pass** initiative provides an opportunity for each and every 4th grade student across the country to experience their public lands and waters in person throughout the school year. This pass grants free access to national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, and more!

Use this link to find out more: [National Parks Kids](#)

Learn about **Thomas Edison** by clicking on www.thomasedison.org. Read all about Thomas Edison and learn what the Edison Innovation Foundation is doing with his images, quotes, artifacts, trademarks and intellectual property. Follow their links for unique programs and competitions and information on visiting his labs virtually and in person!

New Jersey Student Education Association's (NJSEA) is a resource group for new and student teachers. Samantha Selloff is NJSEA relations chair and is reachable at selikos1@tcnj.edu.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE/CULTURE PROGRAMS

www.jumpimmersion.com offers Spanish and Mandarin Programs at several New Jersey locations.

www.letsplayinitalian.com offers Preschool, Kindergarten and Daycare in a full immersion Italian Program. They also run Mommy and Me classes, adult classes, private lessons and tutoring.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES / REGISTRATION INFORMATION

SIG's Summer Program:

Students, parents, and educators are invited to learn more about SIG's newest summer program in New Jersey.

Chatham Day School - Chatham, NJ

February 21, 2017 - 5:30 – 6:30PM

Registration starts at 5:15 pm

You can speak one-on-one with SIG Directors and learn why SIG programs are the choice for thousands of academically gifted and talented students each summer!

Email Kristin at kbernor@giftedstudy.org by **February 17, 2017 to RSVP**

SIG is a program of NSGT, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Grammy in the Schools offers opportunities for high school musicians that range from summer camps to professional mentors to funding for community and school programs. Visit the website for more information: [Grammy in the Schools](#).

Enamored with Pirates? Fantasize about sailing around the world? Then these programs may be for you. Click on [Meerwald Summer Camps – Registration Now Open](#) for a unique selection of maritime experiences offered around the state this summer. Scholarships are also available!

Please visit our sponsors below to view their weekend and summer class offerings for gifted children.

83rd edition of NewsNet formatted by Sharon Handley

"NJAGC Gold Sponsors"

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY)

www.cty.jhu.edu

Gold Sponsor



Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG)

www.giftedstudy.org

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