



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

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

Dear NJAGC Members,

Welcome to the 85th 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

The Warren County Consortium for Student Enrichment
and
The Centenary University Teachers' Academy
"Engaging the Continuum of Challenge"
A Regional Conference for Educators of New Jersey Northwest

Join them for STEM and Enrichment Workshops, 9a.m. – 3p.m. on May 24th at Centenary University.

Registration information can be found when you link to: [STEM Conference Registration](#).
Directions, workshop locations, and times will be sent to you upon receipt of your registration.
Lunch will be provided.

UnConference, EdCamp, Convocation...whatever you call them, these grass roots SwapMeets are springing up all over the state! Whether you are new to these opportunities, or a veteran participant, check out the **Literacy Instruction** event coming up in Chatham on May 20th, 8a.m. – 2p.m. Go to [Nerd Camp NJ](#) for this unique sharing opportunity.

MUSEUMS

National Museum of African American History and Culture

15th St. and Constitution Ave., NW Washington, DC

The newest Smithsonian museum opened September 24, 2016, near the Washington Monument, and has welcomed more than 1 million visitors to date. It is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, art, history, and culture.

Collection highlights include Nat Turner's bible; an extensive repository of photos and film documenting everyday Black life; a segregation-era Southern Railway car; African-American ephemera examining the Double Victory Military Experience; Michael Jackson's fedora; and works by prolific artists, such as Charles Alston, Elizabeth Catlett, Romare Bearden, and Henry O. Tanner.

For more information visit: [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#)

The NJ Museum of Boating (Johnson Brothers Boat Works 1800 Bay Ave, Point Pleasant, NJ 08742) has two new exhibits: **Life-Saving and Coast Guard Stations and Shipwrecks of the Jersey Shore**. The museum also offers an online tour. Visit [NJ Museum of Boating](#)

Welcome to the Firehouse Museum of Somerville NJ

This historical Firehouse built in 1888 has been restored and converted into a Museum and is now open to the public.

This Firehouse Museum is full of historical content ranging from photographs to uniforms to functioning apparatus. There is even a functioning alarm system that is demonstrated during planned tours and events.

The first floor features an 1850 hand pumper and a horse drawn steam fire truck. The second floor has a number of custom built display cases and a modular wall display system that allows for changes to exhibits and a large screen projection system with a vast inventory of historic photos and documents. **Hours of operation: Every Saturday 10 -1 2pm**

Email directly for tours: Somervillefiremuseum@gmail.com

The Franklin Institute *SCIENCE WITH A TWIST!* An evening event series exclusively for **adults 21+** featuring experiments, demonstrations, games, and innovative and engaging science curated by Philadelphia's premier science museum in collaboration with organizations across the city. Each evening showcases a different topic...

For more information visit: [FI Special Events](#)

Aviation Hall of Fame – (Voted one of the 10 Best Museums in NJ)

400 Fred Wehran Drive

Teterboro, NJ

The museum contains a number of unique exhibits and is having **“Open Cockpit Weekend!”** May 20–21, June 17-18, August 19-20, October 7-8, and November 11-12. The museum also offers a **FREE** Electronic Walking Tour.

In addition, visitors will see aircraft, helicopters, many airplane models, and other displays.

Call: 201-288-6344 or Link to: [Aviation Hall of Fame](#)

Hoboken Historical Museum and Cultural Center is located down the block from a scenic waterfront promenade, which affords beautiful views of the NYC skyline.

Visit [Hoboken Museum](#) for updates

Visit the **Museum of Mathematics** in NYC for hands-on, interactive exhibits, a museum devoted to the wonders of mathematics and its many connections, from art to science to finance. They have even developed a summer camp program! Check out [Museum of Mathematics](#) for more information.

THE ARTS

June 21th – August 12th are family friendly evenings at **Plays in the Park**. Their first show of the season is *Legally Blonde*. Go to www.playsinthepark.com for all of their summer offerings. This outdoor theatre, located in Roosevelt Park behind the Menlo Park Mall, produces professional level performances.

ENTERTAINMENT

Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey Circus performances may be coming to an end, but smaller circuses still travel the country with unique acts. **UniverSoul Circus** is setting up tent right on Broad Street in Newark, NJ from **May 9th - May 14th**. Go as a family, or plan a group trip. They have lunch specials for morning show groups which includes a souvenir bag with an all-beef hot dog, chips or popcorn, a cookie and a juice all for \$8. This is an extra offer that should be requested at the time of your order. Go to [Universoul Circus](#) for more information.

FAMILY AND SCHOOL OUTINGS

Liberty Science Center: MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition
February 18 – September 4, 2017

MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition includes live demonstrations, visitor participation, and spectacular sets and experiences from the TV show. On display in their largest gallery, the exhibit overflows with hands-on props and gadgets from the show. Just in time for the reboot of *MythBusters* on TV, LSC invites your family to jump in and put some long-standing myths to the test. This show is so big; you can see exhibits all over the building. Don't miss the backwards-driving Porsche in the lobby or the duct-tape airplane hanging in the atrium.

***MythBusters* is a premium exhibition, available with a Premium Pass or Combination Pass.** For more information: [LSC MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition](#)

Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange offers special programs for children of varying ages during the spring and summer. Check out their webpage: <http://turtlebackzoo.com>

National Zoo

3001 Connecticut Ave., NW Washington, DC

Always **free of charge** and open 364 days a year, the **Smithsonian's National Zoo** sits on 163 acres in the heart of Washington, D.C.'s Rock Creek Park. Founded in 1889, the Zoo is currently home to more than 1,500 animals across 300 different species.

Highlights include: Giant pandas, including cub Bei Bei; Asian elephants; Sumatran tigers; Aldabra tortoises; Panamanian golden frogs; North Island brown kiwi; kori bustards; sea lions; orangutans; meet-a-small-mammal demonstrations and sloth bear feedings daily; Asian elephant training. Link to [National Zoo](#) for more information

The Somerville Elks Lodge #1068 are proud to announce that the **4th Annual Flag Day Festival** will be held on **Saturday, June 10, 2017**, with a rain date on June 11, **from 11:30 am to 4 pm on the grounds of the Somerset County Courthouse.**

There will be live music with exciting musical performances from young singer/songwriters.

11:30 a.m. - Live music and activities begin

12 -1 p.m. - Flag Ceremonies, Flag Art Contest & American Patriot Award Winners

Announced, Tribute to Veterans and Iwo Jima Reenactment

1 - 4 p.m. Live music and storytelling

Check out [Flag Day Festival](#) for more information.

Bluebird Farm Alpacas - Peapack, New Jersey

As owners and breeders, their foundation herd was selected from farms offering quality breeding stock, consistent conformation, recognized champion blood lines and undeniably soft fleece. These characteristics are the foundation for their breeding program and the selection of their alpaca related products.

You are invited in small groups to come and visit Bluebird Farm Alpacas to meet, interact with, photograph, or even adopt one of the cuddly creatures.

Call the farm house at 908-234-9772 or text Nick at 908-625-4110 to make a reservation in advance and check out the link: [Bluebird Farm Alpacas](#). Click the Farm Events tab to learn more about their ongoing and upcoming farm happenings!

Spirit of the Jersey State History Fair

Families and teachers who love history can check out the Spirit of the Jersey's State History Fair on Saturday, May 13th from 11a.m. to 5p.m. rain or shine at Monmouth Battlefield State Park in Manalapan. The program, co-sponsored by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the Office of Historic Sites, and the Division of Parks and Forestry has **free admission**, although there is a suggested parking donation of \$10/vehicle. For more information, check out the website at [NJ History Fair](#)

The Great Swamp in Morris and Somerset Counties - ranges from one hour to weekly summer camp programs in the natural sciences - programs are all hands on, including hikes. Check out their website: [Great Swamp](#)

The Raptor Trust is one of the premier wild bird rehabilitation centers in the United States. Located in central New Jersey, the Trust includes a hospital with state-of-the-art medical facilities, quality exterior housing for several hundred birds, and an education building. **The Raptor Trust is open to the public seven days a week.** Visitors are afforded a unique opportunity to view at close range the many hawks, eagles, falcons and owls that are permanent residents at the facility. There is no charge to visit, but a modest donation of \$2.00 per person is encouraged. Go to [Raptor Trust](#) for more information.

The **Garden State Community Kitchen** is a NJ non-profit organization offering farm-to-table educational programming for children and families in The Garden State. Visit: [Community Kitchen](#)

Pets truly become part of the family, and now there is a free app to help people find their lost dogs. www.furalert.us. "Like amber alert for the family pet."

Dust off that telescope that is hidden in the back of a closet and plan a family stargazing night out! To learn more about viewing events seek out local nature centers, museum and university programs, and observatories. The editor's personal favorite is **Union County College's William Miller Sperry Observatory in Cranford, NJ**.

Visit [Observatory in Cranford](#) to learn more about Amateur Astronomers, Inc., the group which sponsors events at the facility.

Located on 2,740 acres in Hillsborough, the mission of **Duke Farms** is to be a model of environmental stewardship in the 21st century and to inspire visitors to become informed stewards of the land. Inside the orientation center, visitors may learn about programs, tour a gallery of educational and interactive exhibits, view a nine-minute film about the history and mission of Duke Farms or obtain a map. Go to [Duke Farms](#) for more information.

Governors Island is opening just in time for Memorial Day weekend. Ferries are back in service for NYC's most unique parkland. New this year - a giant playground, including slides that are steep enough and wide enough to accommodate the entire family at one time...including mom and dad! Check the website for special event dates, too! [Governors Island](#)

New Jersey Aquarium has a variety of exhibits:

Swim with the Sharks - So you think you've got guts? Well, come on down to test the waters in our Shark Realm exhibit. Our cast will brief you on what to expect, teach you about the animals you will encounter and give you a quick snorkeling lesson. Once you've gotten your nerves under control, you'll enter the Shark Realm where you'll come within inches of sandbar sharks, nurse sharks and more!

The Sea Turtles up Close encounter is an interactive tour giving Adventure Aquarium guests the opportunity to meet the Aquarium's family of sea turtles, including Loggerheads and Greens. Meet and learn more about these fascinating species, which range from rescued sea turtle hatchlings to massive Green and Loggerhead Sea turtles weighing in at hundreds of pounds each!

Positively Penguins Adventure offers an up-close encounter with our Black-footed African Penguins that is unlike anything you've ever experienced! Experience this totally unique animal Adventure, which includes exclusive access to Penguin Island, home to over 15 African Penguins. Guests also participate in a LIVE penguin painting session (and yes, you get to keep the painting)! You can even take photographs with your new penguin buddy.

Visit: [Adventure Aquarium](#) for information on times and prices.

Have a child or student who is an environmentalist in the making? The **Stony Brook Watershed Association** has a number of environmentally based programs sure to engage everyone from preschool to college and beyond.

Check out their upcoming programs and event on their Environmental Programs page at [Stony Brook Watershed](#).

SUMMER PROGRAMS

HEROES Academy for the Gifted

Located at 317 George St New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Registration for Summer Camp 2017 can be found by calling (732) 690-7991 or linking to: [Heroes Summer Camp](#)

Verona Summer Music Camp

Classes held from June 21 – July 21

Registration is for students going into grade 2 in September through grade 12.

Serving children from beginning to advanced instruments. Offering band instruments, piano, bass guitar, music theory or choir. Students going into grade 4 or above can be part of our production of *Peter Pan*. No auditions required. For information link to: [Verona Summer Music](#).

LeapAhead! Online Summer Math program offers students an opportunity to practice and solve math problems in the convenience of their home. The program offers 32 online assignments that meet NCTM standards and it offers specifically tailored versions for gifted students in grades 3 through 6. Visit: [LeapAhead Math](#)

iD Tech Camps and iD Programming Academy

These programs offer aspiring coders a chance to develop apps and program websites, as well as design video games and engineer robots. The iD Tech Camps, geared toward ages 7 to 17, are offered in week-long, day and overnight sessions. The academy, focused on ages 13 to 18, is a two-week (optional overnight) program.

Location: The camps are at Fairleigh Dickinson University – Madison, Montclair State, Monmouth University, Kean University, Princeton University, Ramapo College, Rider University and Seton Hall universities; the academy is at Princeton University.

When/for how long: Various sessions in June/July/August.

Contact: 1 (888) 709-8324 and check out: [iD Tech Camps](#)

Premiere Stages at Kean University Theatre in Union, NJ offers a **summer theatre camp**. For more information: [Kean University Premiere Stages](#)

Premiere Play Factory, the educational umbrella for Premiere Stages, has introduced theatre to thousands of children across New Jersey. Through our year-round **Play Factory Residencies** and **Camp Premiere** summer program, we introduce students to the craft of playwriting and acting with an eye towards increasing literacy, supporting English language learning, modeling the collaborative process, and encouraging self-expression. Our summer **Play Factory Performance Series** presents inspiring and engaging family-friendly plays on the campus of Kean University in the months of **July and August**.

Camp Premiere (Grades 5 -12) is our acclaimed summer theatre camp for middle and high school students.

The **Play Factory Performance Series** presents professional theatre productions specifically geared for young audiences, typically ages 12 and under.

Apple Camp happens at all Apple Store locations and each workshop is three hours. For more information: [Apple Camps](#)

Union County Dance Centre offers a Performing Arts Theater Workshop - enroll 1,2,3,4 or 5 weeks during the summer [Union County Dance](#)

Science Explorers: This after-school science program runs summer camps for children ages 4 to 11. These camps are formatted to help get kids over their fears of science. There's a space camp that allows children to launch rockets. ("It's a blast," offers Jennifer Moorehead, Science Explorers founder and CEO.)

Location: New Hope, Doylestown, PA, Center Valley, PA and Ambler, PA

When/for how long: Camps vary in length -- either half-day or a day; Jr.

Discoverers are half-day camps.

Contact: 1 (877) 870-9517 and check out this link: [Science Explorers](#)

Westfield Summer Workshop: students get to create schedules of classes in performing, fine arts, and crafts. There is an extended day program available with the Westfield YMCA for sports/childcare, etc. [Westfield Summer Workshop](#)

BOLD Arts offers week long, high energy, immersive workshops at Reeves-Reed in Summit during the week of June 27-July 1. Children dive into a thought-provoking theme and explore it through dance, music, and art. Visit [Bold Arts](#) for more information about this dynamic visual and performing arts program.

Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland, New Jersey

Children in Pre-Kindergarten to 4th Grade are invited to Participate in NATURE EXPLORERS SUMMER CAMP 2017. Link to: [Essex County Summer Camp Programs](#)

Science Camp at LSC

LSC is gearing up for another exciting summer of **Science Camp**. In 2017, the courses offered are for all kids entering grades 1 through 8 in September. There is a discounted tuition to those who complete registration by April 30th.

Prices go up on May 1! Pick your favorite courses and get ready for summer science fun.

AGE LEVELS

Explorers will enter grades 1 & 2.

Scientists will enter grades 3 & 4.

Innovators will enter grades 5 & 6.

Visionaries will enter grades 7 & 8.

Registration is now open. Sign up and join us for the fun!

Returning campers, [sign in here](#).

New campers, [sign up here](#).

For more information and course listings by week, link to: [LSC Summer Camp](#)

This year will see a number of summer programs offered at **The Cooper Union**, a NYC icon and world renowned college focused on Engineering, Art and Architecture. These include one brand new program, [NYC-Summer@Cooper](#), developed through the equally new Institute for Design and Computation, as well as a significantly re-imagined program, the [Summer Art Intensive](#), adapted from the long-standing Outreach effort through the School of Art. Other established programs like the [Introduction to Architecture](#) at The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture, the [Summer STEM Program](#) at the Albert Nerken School of Engineering and the [Summer Writing Program](#) taught through the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences continue to grow. The newest offering, [NYC-Summer@Cooper](#), targeted at undergraduates from outside the New York area, offers the opportunity to interact with Watson, IBM's "cognitive system" popularly known for winning "Jeopardy!" against two human champions of the game in 2011. The participants will work together in teams, simulating a start-up environment to develop a business idea that leverages Watson's artificial intelligence and natural language capabilities.

Gifted Child Society 190 Rock Rd., Glen Rock, [201-444-6530](tel:201-444-6530)

Non-profit organization offers Sat. morning workshops, summer programs, parent seminars and educator training.

NJ Audubon conducts summer camps and programs throughout the state at the following site. See the [map](#) for sanctuary locations.

-[Lorrimer Sanctuary](#) (Franklin Lakes, Bergen County) 201-891-2185

-[Scherman/Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuaries](#) (Bernardsville, Somerset County) 908-766-5787

-[Plainsboro Preserve](#) (Plainsboro, Middlesex County) 609-897-9400

-[Nature Center of Cape May](#) (Cape May, Cape May County) 609-898-8848

Get in on the action yourself at **Circus Place**, New Jersey's premiere **Circus Arts Training Facility**. Located in Hillsborough, NJ, Circus Place offers a full array of circus classes for all ages, abilities and fitness levels. They specialize in core disciplines of circus including; Aerials, Balance, Manipulations (juggling, hooping, Chinese yoyo), and Acrobatics. Circus Place welcomes the complete beginner through advanced students, with many classes catering to all ages. Different than traditional competitive sports, there are one and two week camps available! For more information, please click [Camp Registration for Circus Place](#).

HEROES Academy 317 George St., New Brunswick, [732-690-7991](tel:732-690-7991)

The Academy offers accelerated academic enrichment in science, engineering, computer science, language arts and math. Class placement based on demonstrated academic achievement which allows students to study advanced topics with mental peers, providing them with a unique opportunity to develop lifelong friendships with other children close to their age who share similar interests.

***Make sure to also check out the summer programs offered for Elementary and High School students by our Newsnet sponsors, CTY and SIG

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY)
Summer Institute for the Gifted

www.cty.jhu.edu

www.giftedstudy.org

85TH edition of *NewsNet* formatted by Sharon Handley

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