

SPRING SCHEDULE



JEFFERSON
EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

Celebrating
- 250 YEARS -
OF AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE



3207 STATE STREET, ERIE, PA
814.459.8000 | JESERIE.ORG

2026 JES Spring Schedule

Study the past. Examine the present. Explore the future.

For more information to register, visit JESerie.org, call 814.459.8000,
or stop by 3207 State St., Erie, PA.

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Community Conversations, Lectures, Discussions, and Visiting Speaker Events

When	What	Who	Program Type	Location
Tuesday, April 7 6 p.m.: Term kick-off reception 7 p.m. Event	'How to Be a Highly Effective Leader: A Primer'	Andrew Roth, Ph.D., <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Book discussion followed by book sale and signing (Free)	JES
Thursday, April 9 7 p.m.	The First Hundred Days: The State of the County	Christina Vogel, M.B.A., <i>Erie County Executive</i>	Presentation (Free)	JES
Friday, April 10 12 p.m.	'Addressing Population Decline in Erie County, Pennsylvania, Using Unified Messaging'	Members of the JES's Civic Leadership Academy cohort	Community Conversation (Free)	JES
Monday, April 13 6 p.m.	Leading Organizations: How Boomers, Millennials, and Gen Z Coexist in the Workplace	Bradley Thompson, B.S., <i>JES Raimy Fellow</i>	Lecture (Free)	Lincoln Community Center Library
Tuesday, April 14 7 p.m.	The First Hundred Days: The State of the City	Daria Devlin, M.Ed., <i>Mayor, City of Erie</i>	Presentation (Free)	JES
Wednesday, April 15 7 p.m.	Seeing Signs of Love and Opportunity in Times of Challenge: The Story of Hope and 'The Bright Little Red Cardinal'	Nicholas Sorensen, B.A., <i>Author</i>	Book discussion followed by book sale and signing (Free)	JES
Thursday, April 16 6 p.m.	Strategic Convergence in a Changing World: India–US Relations under Trump–Modi 2.0	Anjali Sahay, Ph.D., <i>Political Science Professor, Director of the School of Public Service and Global Affairs, Gannon University</i>	USA 250 Lecture (Free)	ECAT
Friday, April 17 12 p.m.	Collaboration and Physical Location of Human Services: Why It Works and Why It Is Necessary	Paul A. Lukach, DSW LSW, <i>Executive Director, Crime Victim Center</i>	Community Conversation (Free)	JES
Monday, April 20 7 p.m.	Out There: A National Parks Story' – Film Screening and Filmmaker Q&A	Brendan Hall*, <i>Director, Cinematographer, and Editor</i>	USA 250 Event in Partnership with the TREC Foundation (Free)	TREC
Tuesday, April 21 7 p.m.	Lincoln and Davis: Triumphs and Tragedies	Rick Tome, B.S., <i>Moderator, Coordinator, Erie County Civil War Roundtable</i>	USA 250 Lecture in Partnership with the Erie County Civil War Roundtable (Free)	JES
Wednesday, April 22 7 p.m.	'Rope: How a Bundle of Twisted Fibers Became the Backbone of Civilization'	Tim Queeny*, B.A., <i>Author</i>	USA 250 Hagen History Center Doris Becker Lecture and book signing Visiting Speaker presented in Partnership with the HHC (Free)	JES
Thursday, April 23 7 p.m.	Addressing What Matters: Restoring Hope and Healing through Hospice	LECOM Health Experts: Seth H. Carter, D.O.; Gertrude G. McShane, RN; and Richard A. Knepper, MSW	Living Successfully Series Panel Presentation in Partnership with LECOM Health (Free)	JES
Friday, April 24 12 p.m.	Myths vs Facts: Cyber Charter Schools	Erin Sekerak, M.P.A., M.Ed., <i>Regional Vice President of Community & Alumni Relations, Commonwealth Charter Academy</i>	Community Conversation (Free)	JES
Monday, April 27 7 p.m.	Abraham Lincoln and Harriet Beecher Stowe: 'So You are the Little Woman that Wrote the Book that Started This Great War...'	Abraham Lincoln (portrayed by Bob Gleason*, B.A.) and Harriet Beecher Stowe (portrayed by Kim Hanley*, B.F.A.)	USA 250 Visiting Speaker Presentation	JES

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Programs at the JES will take place at 3207 State Street, Erie, PA 16508.

JES SATELLITE PROGRAMMING SPONSORED BY



All JES Satellite Programs are free and open to the public.

JES Satellite Programming, sponsored by Erie Insurance, will be held at:



Erie Center for Arts & Technology
(ECAT, 650 East Ave, Ada Lawrence
Community Room, Erie, PA 16503)



Corry Higher Education Council
(221 N Center St, Corry, PA 16407)



Lincoln Community Center Library
(1255 Manchester Road, Erie, PA 16505)



Harborcreek Township Building
(5601 Buffalo Rd, Harborcreek, PA)

2026 JES Spring Schedule

Community Conversations, Lectures, Discussions, and Visiting Speaker Events

When	What	Who	Program Type	Location
Tuesday, April 28 6 p.m.	Lincoln on the 'Lincoln-Douglas Debates'	Abraham Lincoln (portrayed by Bob Gleason*, B.A.)	USA 250 Visiting Speaker Presentation (Free)	Corry Higher Ed
Wednesdays at 3 p.m. beginning April 29 and continuing through May 27	Geopolitics of the Middle East	Baher Ghosheh, Ph.D., <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence, Chair, JES Board of Trustees</i>	Five-part course	JES
Wednesday, April 29 6 p.m.	Harriet Beecher Stowe: 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' and the Dominion of Conscience	Harriet Beecher Stowe (portrayed by Kim Hanley*, B.F.A.)	USA 250 Visiting Speaker Presentation (Free)	Harborcreek Municipal Building
Thursday, April 30 7 p.m.	Pennsylvania Provincial Conference: Erie Town Hall	Moderated by JES Scholar-in-Residence Andrew Roth, Ph.D.	USA 250 Panel Discussion (Free)	JES
Friday, May 1 12 p.m.	Erie 300: A Strategy for Erie's Next Chapter	Brandon Mendoza, M.P.A., <i>President and CEO, Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership</i>	Community Conversation (Free)	JES
Monday, May 4 7 p.m.	'Ain't I a Woman?' The Times, Tales, and Impact of Sojourner Truth	Sojourner Truth (portrayed by Daisy Century*, Ph.D.)	USA 250 Visiting Speaker Event	JES
Tuesday, May 5 7 p.m.	Harriet Tubman and The Underground Railroad	Harriet Tubman (portrayed by Daisy Century*, Ph.D.)	USA 250 Visiting Speaker Event	JES
Wednesday, May 6 7 p.m.	Live, Work, and Play: Designing the City of the Future – The Woodlands, Texas	Robert Heineman*, FAIA	USA 250 Hagen History Center Doris Becker Lecture Visiting Speaker presented in partnership with the HHC (Free)	JES
Friday, May 8 12 p.m.	The Film Industry: An Economic Opportunity for Northwest Pennsylvania	Patrick Miller, B.A., Jason B. McCann, and Jessica Taylor, B.A., <i>Members of Film Erie Board of Directors</i> ; and Amy Murdock, M.B.A., <i>Managing Member, r.plan.</i>	Community Conversation (Free)	JES
Monday, May 11 6 p.m.	Ukraine and Russia: Where Are We Now, Where Are We Headed?	Lena Surzhko-Harned, Ph.D., <i>Political Science Professor, Penn State Behrend, JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Brock Institute Lecture (Free)	Lincoln Community Center Library
Tuesday, May 12 6 p.m.	The French Expeditions to Lake Erie: An American Legacy	David Frew, Ph.D., <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	USA 250 Lecture (Free)	Corry Higher Ed
Wednesday, May 13 6 p.m.	The French Expeditions to Lake Erie: An American Legacy	David Frew, Ph.D., <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	USA 250 Lecture (Free)	Harborcreek Municipal Building
Thursday, May 14 6 p.m.	From Regrets to Recovery: The Life-Changing Story 'Breaking the Chains of Poverty'	Scott Hollyfield <i>President, Local 443</i>	Lecture (Free)	ECAT
Friday, May 15 12 p.m.	The Penn State Extension Master Gardener Program in Erie County: Building Community Through Horticulture, Food Security, and Environmental Education	Lisa Rand, MBA, M.S., <i>Extension Educator and Master Gardener Coordinator, Penn State University</i> and Michael Bailey, B.S., <i>Master Gardener Member, Penn State University</i>	Community Conversation (Free)	JES
Monday, May 18 7 p.m.	Finding Calm in a Turbulent World: Practical Strategies to Stay Grounded and Resilient When Life Feels Unpredictable	Belinda Stillman, D.O., <i>Psychiatrist, LECOM Health</i>	Living Successfully Series Panel Presentation in Partnership with LECOM Health (Free)	JES
Wednesday, May 20; Thursday, May 21; Tuesday, May 26; Wednesday, May 27 7 p.m.	The USA 250 Great America Trivia Challenge	Facilitated by Group of Local Enthusiasts and Historians in Partnership with JES Team	USA 250 Trivia Game Series (Free)	JES
Thursday, May 28 6 p.m.	Second Chances for Juvenile Lifers in the Prison Population	Theodore W. Johnson, M.S., <i>Pennsylvania Parole Board Member</i>	Lecture (Free)	ECAT

More than 75% of programs are FREE!



Check [JESerie.org](https://www.jeserie.org) for event updates, additions, and changes.

Visiting Speaker Events

History Brought to Life

– A Series of Events with Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman



Abraham Lincoln

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman

(Portrayed by Bob Gleason)

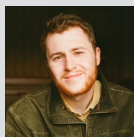
(Portrayed by Kim Hanley)

(Portrayed by Daisy Century)

April 27, 28, and 29; May 4 and 5

Join the world-class performers and educators from the American Historical Theatre, as they entertain, educate, and inspire by bringing to life Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman. Together, Lincoln and Stowe will discuss the author's 1862 trip to Washington, D.C., to "have a chat" with the President. In additional events, Lincoln will offer his insights in the famous "Lincoln-Douglas Debates"; Stowe will recount the emotionally charged stories of Uncle Tom, Eliza, and Little Eva from her famed novel, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which helped move the conscience of the country to the great and imperative cause of Abolitionism; Truth will explore her "Ain't I a Woman?" speech, delivered at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, and how she overcame incredible obstacles to take her rightful place among the leading figures of her day; Tubman will take attendees on a journey through the Underground Railroad.

Registrants are welcomed – and encouraged – but not required to attend the entire series to enjoy and learn from individual events.



'Out There: A National Parks Story'
– a Film Screening and Discussion with Director in Partnership with the TREC Foundation

Brendan Hall, Director
Monday, April 20 at 7 p.m.

'Rope: How a Bundle of Twisted Fibers Became the Backbone of Civilization' – presentation in partnership with the Hagen History Center

Tim Queeney, Author
Wednesday, April 22 at 7 p.m.



Live, Work, and Play: Designing the City of the Future – The Woodlands, Texas – presentation in partnership with the Hagen History Center

Robert Heineman, Architect
Wednesday, May 6 at 7 p.m.



Second Chances for Juvenile Lifers in the Prison Population
Theodore W. Johnson, Pennsylvania Parole Board Member
Thursday, May 28 at 6 p.m.



Geopolitics of the Middle East – A Five-Part Course

Did you know that in addition to in-person, virtual, and hybrid events the JES offers courses? During the JES's Spring Schedule, Dr. Baher Ghosheh, JES Scholar-in-Residence and Chair of the JES Board of Trustees, will present, "Geopolitics of the Middle East." A five-part, weekly course focused on the West Asia/North Africa region (commonly referred to as "the Middle East"), this series explores one of the most unstable regions in the world since the end of World War II and will focus on: **Iran, Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia**. While all four countries have some common root-causes of instability, each country has some additional unique circumstances that impact their national geopolitical environment.

Capacity for JES courses is limited, and registration is processed on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about the courses, visit JESerie.org.

The USA 250 Great America Trivia Challenge

Four Erie, Pennsylvania-based enthusiasts and historians – Mark Becker, George Deutsch, Randy Shapira, and Rick Tome – have come together again with the JES Team to build on the success of last year's Civil War trivia event to present a two-round, four-game trivia challenge befitting of the occasion!

Those interested in playing must register for and complete the qualifying test – details for which are on the JES's website. Those wishing to attend to be a part of the "live audience" can register to attend the "games" – rooting for their players and learning plenty of trivia along the way.

Round 1 matches will be played on Wednesday, May 20; Thursday, May 21; and Tuesday, May 26. The winners of each of those games will face off to determine the ultimate champion on Thursday, May 27. All four games are free and open to the public to attend with advanced registration.

Breakdown of Program Costs (unless otherwise noted):

Lectures: \$10/person; \$15 with a guest

Visiting Speaker Lectures: \$15/person; \$25 with a guest

Community Conversations: Free, lunch optional \$5/person

Great Conversations Course: \$50/person; \$75 with a guest (does not include cost of materials)

Great Decisions 2026 Course: \$100 (includes materials)

Geopolitics of the Middle East: \$50/person

II JES Programming is FREE to all Erie County students with advanced registration and proof of enrollment.

A processing fee will be applied to each transaction, along with a 3% City of Erie Amusement Tax. Payments must be made at registration. Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, and Discover accepted. Cash payments are no longer accepted by the JES.

Act 48 hours for the Erie Catholic Diocese, Erie Day School, Erie School District, Corry, Fort LeBoeuf, Girard, Harborcreek, and Wattsburg teachers apply to ALL programs at no additional cost.

For presenter bios, fuller program descriptions, and details on how to register for events, please visit www.JESerie.org. Registrations can also be made by calling 814.459.8000 or by visiting the JES at 3207 State St., Erie, PA 16508.



The views and opinions expressed in the program descriptions and during the events are those of the presenter(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jefferson Educational Society or its employees.

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Examine **THE PRESENT.**
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