

# 2024 SPRING SCHEDULE

LECTURES

DISTINGUISHED VISITING  
SPEAKERS

DIGITAL & SATELLITE  
PROGRAMMING

JEFFERSON  
EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

3207 STATE STREET  
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

814.459.8000

[JESerie.org](http://JESerie.org)

# 2024 Spring Schedule

All programs are held at times scheduled at the Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State Street, Erie, PA. For more information or to register, call 814.459.8000 or visit [www.JESErie.org](http://www.JESErie.org).  
SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

## Lectures, Panel Discussions, and Distinguished Visiting Speaker Events

When	What	Who	Program Type
Wednesday, April 10 Kick-Off Reception: 6 to 7 p.m. Event: 7 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>America's Most Contentious Presidential Election: 1876</b>	George Deutsch, B.A. <i>Executive Director, Emeritus, Hagen History Center</i>	Lecture (Free)
Friday, April 12 Noon to 1:30 p.m.	<b>Game Changers for Children in Erie: How a Court Case, Pennsylvania Budget Priorities, and Advocacy Move the Needle</b>	Donna Cooper, M.P.A., M.I.M.* <i>Executive Director, Children First,</i> and Kate Philips, B.S., <i>Chief Executive, Parker Phillips</i>	Community Conversation (Free)
Monday, April 15 7 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>A Kennedy Secret Service Agent Breaks His Silence After 60 Years</b>	Paul Landis* <i>Former Secret Service Agent, Author</i>	Hagen History Center Lecture Series Visiting Speaker Lecture (Free)
Tuesday, April 16 7 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>The Loss of Democracy Then and Now: Threats in Germany, 1932 and 2017</b>	Amy Carney, Ph.D. <i>Associate Professor of History at Penn State Behrend</i>	Brock Institute Lecture (Free)
Friday, April 19 Noon to 1:30 p.m.	<b>Raising the Next Generation: Examining the Findings of the 2023 JES's Civic Leadership Academy Cohort on Childcare</b>	Members of the 2023 JCLA Cohort	Community Conversation (Free)
Wednesday, April 24 7 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>The Persistent Allure of Gothic Church Architecture: Art, Science, and Popular Piety</b>	Michael E. DeSanctis, Ph.D. <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Lecture (Free)
Thursday, April 25 7 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>The Promise of America: An Immigrant Story</b>	Akbar Hossain, J.D.* <i>Secretary of Policy and Planning, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania</i>	Visiting Speaker Lecture in partnership with the Erie County Community College (Free)
Friday, April 26 Noon to 1:30 p.m.	<b>Addressing the Opioid Crisis in Erie and Pennsylvania: Examining Local- and State-Level Responses</b>	Rep. Jim Struzzi* (PA 62nd District), and Professional Public Library Staff Members	Visiting Speaker Community Conversation in partnership with the Erie County Public Library (Free)
Wednesday, May 1 7 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>Paddle Pilgrimage: Erie Canal and Hudson River to the Statue of Liberty</b>	Rev. Dave Ellingson, D.H.M. <i>Author, "The Paddle Pilgrim"</i>	Virtual Event (Free)
Thursday, May 2 7 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>Exploring 'The Divide': A Personal Story About Politics Today</b>	Jeffrey Bloodworth, Ph.D. <i>Professor of History, Gannon University</i>	Lecture
Friday, May 3 Noon to 1:30 p.m.	<b>Inspiring Horizon: Erie Arts &amp; Culture's Next Chapter Serving Northwestern Pennsylvania</b>	Anne O'Dell, M.M., M.A. <i>Executive Director, Erie Arts &amp; Culture</i>	Community Conversation (Free)
Tuesday, May 7 7 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>Humanities in Action: Celebrating the Stories that Shape Pennsylvania's Communities</b>	Dawn Frisby Beyer, B.A.* <i>Senior Director of Content and Engagement,</i> and Laurie Zierer, M.A. <i>Executive Director, PA Humanities;</i> with Rhonda Matthews, Ph.D. <i>Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Erie's Black Wall Street</i>	Visiting Speaker Presentation and Panel Discussion
Thursday, May 9 11 a.m.	<b>Annual Law Day Celebration: A Discussion with Presidential Historian and Pulitzer-Prize-Winning Author Doris Kearns Goodwin</b>	Moderated by Erie Native Steve Scully*	Law Day 2024 Special Event in partnership with the Erie County Bar Association
Friday, May 10 Noon to 1:30 p.m.	<b>Erie Water Works Historic Lead Line Removal Efforts (Event part of National Drinking Water Week programming)</b>	Craig Palmer, P.E., M.B.A. <i>Executive Director, Erie Water Works</i>	Community Conversation (Free)
Tuesday, May 14 7 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>Black Liberation Theology and Catholic Social Teaching: A Bridge to Racial Rapprochement or Means to Truth?</b>	Parris Baker, Ph.D. <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Lecture
Wednesday, May 15 11 a.m. to noon	<b>How Democracy Defenders Win Elections: A Transatlantic Discussion</b>	Representatives from the Transforming Industrial Heartlands Initiative	Virtual Event (Free)
Friday, May 17 Noon to 1:30 p.m.	<b>What's Really Happening at the Erie International Airport?</b>	Brian Slawin, B.S. <i>Vice President, Erie Regional Airport Authority Board</i>	Community Conversation (Free)
Monday, May 20 7 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>Navigating the Caregiving Role</b>	Belinda Stillman, D.O. <i>Board Certified Psychiatrist</i>	Lecture Series in Partnership with LECOM Health (Free)
Wednesday, May 22 7 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>Celebrating and Reflecting on a Life Well Served and How the Work Continues: The Rev. Charles Brock</b>	Andrew Roth, Ph.D. <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence, Interim Director, Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education</i>	Brock Institute Lecture (Free)
Friday, May 24 Noon to 1:30 p.m.	<b>The Revitalization of the Burton Elementary School Site</b>	Gary Horton, B.A. <i>Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Urban Erie Community Development Corporation (UECDC)</i>	Community Conversation (Free)

\*Denotes Visiting Lecturer from outside the Erie community.

More than 80% of programs are FREE!

ECGRA GRANT MONEY WORKS HERE!  
ecgra.org 814-897-2690



# Courses at the Jefferson

When	What	Who	Program Type
Weekly – Tuesdays, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sessions continuing from March 19 through May 7	<b>Great Conversations Continued</b>	Christine Riehl, M.P.P. <i>Former Foreign Service Officer</i>	Limited Advanced Registration, Call for more information.
Monthly – Third Thursday: Section 1, from noon to 1:30 p.m.; Section 2, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.	<b>Great Decisions 2024</b>	Christine Riehl, M.P.P. <i>Former Foreign Service Officer, &amp; Diane Chido, M.S., M.A., Political Science Professor</i>	Discussion Group Limited Advanced Registration, Call for more information.

## Jefferson Satellite Programming

SPONSORED BY  Erie Insurance®

### East Erie - Erie Center for Arts & Technology (ECAT)



When	What	Who	Program Type (All free)
March 28 At 6:00 p.m.	<b>“Whose Vote Counts”: A Discussion on Addressing Claims of Voter Disenfranchisement &amp; Fraud in the 2020 Presidential Election</b>	Zakaria Sharif, B.S. <i>Community Leader, Erie School Board Director</i> Gary Horton, B.A. <i>Community Leader, President - NAACP of Erie</i>	Documentary Screening & Discussion
April 11 At 7:00 p.m.	<b>Tackling Erie’s Childcare Crisis - Early Childcare Investment Policy Initiative</b>	Elana Como, Court Gould, Michelle Harkins, Rina Irwin, Tiffany Lavette <i>ECIPI Policy Experts</i>	Community Conversation
May 16 At 7:00 p.m.	<b>Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration</b>	Erie Asian Pacific American Association	Cultural Fair
May 23 At 7:00 p.m.	<b>Cultural Crossroads: Navigating Child Refugee Mental Health</b>	David Figueroa, D.O. <i>Child/Adolescent Psychiatrist, LECOM</i>	Lecture Series in Partnership with LECOM Health

### Fairview – Lincoln Community Library



When (Mondays)	What	Who	Program Type (All free)
April 1 At 6:00 p.m.	<b>Life Without Voice: The Role of Voting in America’s Democracy</b>	Parris Baker, Ph.D. <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Lecture
April 29 At 6:00 p.m.	<b>Our Native North American Neighbors: Echoes of the Eriez</b>	David Frew, Ph.D. <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Lecture
May 6 At 6:00 p.m.	<b>Autism 101: What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?</b>	Tish Bartlett <i>Executive Director, Autism Society of NWPA</i>	Community Conversation
May 13 At 6:00 p.m.	<b>American Holidays Series: Anna Jarvis, Mother’s Day, &amp; Flowers, Flowers, Flowers</b>	Andrew Roth, Ph.D. <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Lecture

### Corry - Corry Higher Education Council



When (Tuesdays)	What	Who	Program Type (All free)
April 2 At 6:00 p.m.	<b>Political Participation in Corry: Why You Should Get Involved and How to Start</b>	Doris Gernovich, Ph.D. <i>Community Leader Corry Area School Board Director</i>	Community Conversation
April 9 At 6:00 p.m.	<b>Uncovering Rural Poverty: Data, Statistics, and Analysis</b>	Ken Louie, Ph.D. <i>Director, Economic Research Institute of Erie</i>	Lecture
May 21 At 6:00 p.m.	<b>Addressing Mental Healthcare in Rural Communities</b>	Brenton J. Song, D.O. <i>General &amp; Child/Adolescent Psychiatrist, LECOM</i>	Lecture Series in Partnership with LECOM Health

### Harborcreek – Harborcreek Township Building



When (Wednesdays)	What	Who	Program Type (All free)
March 27 At 6:00 p.m.	<b>Gerrymandering: How It’s Done, Why It’s Done, Where It’s Done</b>	Robert Speel, Ph.D. <i>Professor of Political Science, Penn State Behrend</i>	Lecture
May 8 At 6:00 p.m.	<b>What is Self-Harm? – How to Recognize It, and How and When to Get Help</b>	Mark Strazisar, D.O. <i>Instructor of Psychiatry, LECOM Psychiatrist, Millcreek Community Hospital</i>	Lecture Series in Partnership with LECOM Health

### Edinboro – PennWest University (Edinboro)



When (Wednesdays)	Topic	Speaker	Program type (all free)
April 3 At 6:00 p.m.	<b>Women’s Reproductive Rights at the Ballot Box</b>	James Fisher, Ph.D. <i>Professor of Political Science, PennWest Edinboro</i>	Lecture
April 17 At 6:00 p.m.	<b>There’s a Co-op for That! - Exploring the Cooperative Business Model and Its Applications in NWPA</b>	Autumn Vogel, B.A. <i>Cooperative Developer, KDC Meadville City Council Member</i>	Community Conversation

# Special Event: Register Now!



## Annual Law Day Celebration

A Discussion with Presidential Historian Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author **Doris Kearns Goodwin**, moderated by Erie Native **Steve Scully**, senior vice president of communications at the Bipartisan Policy Center, host of "The Briefing" on SiriusXM, and Chairman of the JES's Global Summit.

**Thursday, May 9  
11 a.m. Warner Theatre**

*Law Day 2024 is presented in partnership with the Erie County Bar Association. Details at JESerie.org.*

# SPRING TERM LECTURES, SATELLITE PROGRAMMING, DIGITAL PROGRAMS, AND VISITING SPEAKER EVENTS

## 03.27 // Harborcreek

### Gerrymandering: How it's Done, Why it's Done, Where it's Done

Dr. Robert Speel, Associate Professor of Political Science, will discuss the origins of gerrymandering in the United States, why it's become more common, and the impact of the practice on U.S. politics. His presentation will include a discussion of important court cases on the topic, examples of gerrymandered districts, and potential solutions to prevent gerrymandering.

## 03.28 // ECAT

### "Whose Vote Counts": A Discussion on Addressing Claims of Voter Disenfranchisement & Fraud in the 2020 Presidential Election

"Whose Vote Counts" is a PBS FRONTLINE documentary that focuses on the claims of voter suppression and voter fraud that came about during the 2020 presidential election. This program will include a screening of this documentary followed by discussion about voter disenfranchisement, especially in communities of color.

## 04.01 // Fairview

### Life Without Voice: The Role of Voting in America's Democracy

Imagine your life without your voice. What would be different if you couldn't speak to issues share emotions through spoken words, or vocalize preferences? Voting is to democracy as voice is to life... essential! This interactive workshop will address the history of voting as a citizenship right, the practice of restricting voting rights, and the contemporary conflicts surrounding voting that are salient to a democratic society. Audience participation will be encouraged throughout the workshop.

## 04.02 // Corry

### Political Participation in Corry: Why You Should Get Involved and How to Start

Political participation is an important component of civic life. In this program, Corry Area School Board Director Dr. Doris Gernovich will explain why political participation is necessary, especially in small towns, and how one can get more involved in civic life in Corry.

## 04.03 // Edinboro

### Women's Reproductive Rights at the Ballot Box

With the Dobbs decision, the United States Supreme Court returned to legislatures – and by extension, returned to the ballot box – the power to address fundamental questions about the regulation of reproductive behavior, like abortion and the use of assisted reproductive technologies. This lecture will discuss how Americans have voted in different and perhaps unexpected ways as a result.

## 04.09 // Corry

### Uncovering Rural Poverty: Data, Statistics, and Analysis

Rural poverty is a topic that doesn't seem to get as much attention as it should. In this lecture, Dr. Ken Louie, Director of the Economic Research Institute of Erie (ERIE) and professor of economics, will highlight the data and statistics of poverty in rural Erie County to further contextualize this issue.

## 04.10 // JES

### America's Most Contentious Presidential Election: 1876

During United States' history, other elections have had allegations of election fraud and corrupt deals, but none more so than the Election of 1876, argues historian George Deutsch. The deal that settled that election ultimately ended Reconstruction and ushered in the era of disenfranchisement for African Americans in the South. The outcome set the course for the country's domestic narrative for the next 100 years.

## 04.11 // ECAT

### Tackling Erie's Childcare Crisis - Early Childcare Investment Policy Initiative

For too long childcare's profound contributions, particularly to the economy, have been underappreciated. And now, the provision of childcare services in Erie, like the nation over, is in crisis. Low, uncompetitive pay for care workers and thus staffing shortages; rising costs of running childcare centers themselves; working families that cannot afford childcare and thus must remain home rather than report to a job; and more are pushing access to childcare to a breaking point. The public is invited to hear from the team of experts JES has deployed to lead the Early Childcare Investment Policy Initiative. Come explore the high stakes for Erie, the challenges, and contribute your ideas to lasting solutions.

## 04.12 // JES

### Game Changers for Children in Erie: How a Court Case, Pennsylvania Budget Priorities, and Advocacy Move the Needle

Leading experts will explore the intersection between state politics, public policy, and what kids need – and examine the state of play for kids in Harrisburg. Why are they perennially

## Visiting Speaker Presentations and Panel Discussions



### Donna Cooper, M.P.A., M.I.M.

*Executive Director, Children First*  
**Friday, April 12  
Noon to 1:30 p.m.**



### Rep. Jim Struzzi

*PA 62nd District*  
**Friday, April 26  
Noon to 1:30 p.m.**



### Paul Landis

*Former Secret Service Agent, Author*  
**Monday, April 15  
7 to 8:30 p.m.**



### Dawn Frisby Beyer, B.A.

*Senior Director of Content and Engagement, PA Humanities*



### Akbar Hossain, J.D.

*Secretary of Policy and Pennsylvania, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*  
**Thursday, April 25  
7 to 8:30 p.m.**



### Laurie Zierer, M.A.

*Executive Director, PA Humanities*  
**Tuesday, May 7  
7 to 8:30 p.m.**

## Virtual Events



### "Paddle Pilgrimage: Erie Canal and Hudson River to the Statue of Liberty"

**Rev. Dave Ellingson, D.H.M.**  
*Author, "The Paddle Pilgrim"*  
**Wednesday, May 1  
7 to 8:30 p.m.**

### How Democracy Defenders Win Elections: A Transatlantic Discussion

*Representatives from the Transforming Industrial Heartlands Initiative*  
**Wednesday, May 15  
11 a.m. to noon**

## 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 (lunch reservation must be made 48 hours in advance of event)

Great Conversations Course: \$50/person; \$75 with a guest

Great Discussions 2024 Course: \$100 (includes materials)

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

A \$1 service charge will be applied to each transaction. 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, Harbor Creek, and Wattsburg teachers apply to ALL programs at no additional cost.

## Location addresses:

**JES:** JES Campus – 3207 State St., Erie, PA 16508. **ECAT:** Erie Center for Arts and Technology – 650 East Ave., Ada Lawrence Community Room, Erie, PA 16503.

**Corry:** Corry Higher Education Council – 221 N Center St., Corry, PA 16407.

**Fairview:** Lincoln Community Center Library – 1255 Manchester Road, Erie, PA 16505.

**Edinboro:** PennWest University Edinboro, William P. Alexander Music Center – 110 Kiltie Rd., Edinboro, PA 16444.

**Harborcreek:** Township Building – 5601 Buffalo Road, Harborcreek, PA

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

For presenter bios, fuller program descriptions, and details on how to register for events, please visit [www.JESerie.org](http://www.JESerie.org), call 814.459.8000, or visit 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.



underrepresented in the budget process? Donna Cooper, Secretary for Policy & Planning for Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, and current Executive Director of Pennsylvania's leading child advocacy organization, Children First, will be joined by Kate Philips, Rendell's Press Secretary, and chief executive officer of Parker Philips, one of Pennsylvania's leading strategic marketing and public affairs firms for a behind-the-curtain community conversation. Cooper and Philips have worked together on some of the state's most recognizable public affairs campaigns, including Pre-K for PA, PA Schools Work, Lead Free Promise Project, and Level Up, and serve on the Board of the Children First Action Fund – a 501 C4 organization created to amplify the voice of children in Pennsylvania politics.

#### 04.15 // JES

##### **A Kennedy Secret Service Agent Breaks His Silence After 60 Years**

On November 22, 1963, Paul Landis was in Dallas, Texas. Today, he is one of only two surviving Secret Service agents who witnessed the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. As a special agent from 1959 to 1964, his assignments included guarding former President Dwight Eisenhower's grandchildren in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; the Caroline and John Kennedy, Jr., "Kiddie Detail," and eventually guarding First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy. In his new book, "The Final Witness," Landis breaks his 60 years of silence and relative obscurity and shares some pleasant memories, plus what he saw and what he did on that fateful day in history.

#### 04.16 // JES

##### **The Loss of Democracy Then and Now: Threats in Germany, 1932 and 2017**

On September 24, 2017, a political shockwave reverberated across Germany as election results came in. For the first time since 1945, a far-right party – the Alternative for Germany (AfD) – had gained enough votes to enter parliament. While the recent success of the AfD does not completely mirror the trajectory of the Nazi Party, Dr. Amy Carney, a history professor at Penn State Behrend, will explain the similarities and differences between the two parties, which shows how both of them used Germany's democratic systems in the 1930s and the 2010s to erode democracy.

#### 04.17 // Edinboro

##### **There's a Co-op for That!: Exploring the Cooperative Business Model and its Applications in NWPA**

Cooperatives are businesses that are owned and controlled by those who benefit from them. Cooperative organizations have been organized throughout history to meet many different needs, often in response to economic and social stress. Around the world, communities are turning to cooperative solutions to meet the social, economic, and environmental crises of our time. Autumn Vogel is a Cooperative Business Developer with Keystone Development Center (KDC), a nonprofit with a mission to sustain local economies through cooperative business development across the Mid-Atlantic by providing technical and research assistance to emerging and existing cooperatives. In this public talk, Vogel will share about the cooperative business model and the ways in which people in our region are cooperating to solve shared problems and build community wealth.

#### 04.19 // JES

##### **Raising the Next Generation: Examining the Findings of the 2023 JES's Civic Leadership Academy Cohort on Childcare**

Following their graduation, members of the 2023 Jefferson Educational Society Civic Leadership Academy will present a deeper dive into their research on the child-care crisis. They will discuss the findings of their published research – including key takeaways and recommendations stemming from their seven-month-long experiencing touring and learning about Erie County and how the crisis is widespread and differs across municipalities.

#### 04.24 // JES

##### **The Persistent Allure of Gothic Church Architecture: Art, Science, and Popular Piety**

This lavishly illustrated presentation will examine the hold that Christian places of worship in the Gothic style continue to maintain on the imaginations of religious and non-religious people alike. Dr. Michael DeSanctis, a JES scholar-in-residence, will describe the synthesis of artistry, science and theology that animated the construction of Gothic churches throughout Europe during the 12th-16th centuries, and will offer some explanation of the sometimes surprising ways in which the style makes its presence felt in the architectural landscapes of modern, American cities, including Erie, Pennsylvania.

#### 04.25 // JES

##### **The Promise of America: An Immigrant Story**

Akbar Hossain, the Secretary of Policy and Planning for Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, holds an influential political position in the Commonwealth. He is one of the youngest members to serve on the Governor's cabinet and the highest-ranking Muslim official in the history of Pennsylvania. He will share his family's immigration story, shedding light on the policies that helped them realize their American dream, and outline his vision for a more inclusive and responsive Pennsylvania.

#### 04.26 // JES

##### **Addressing the Opioid Crisis in Erie and Pennsylvania: Examining Local- and State-Level Responses**

Over 130 people die every day in the United States from some type of opioid overdose. The opioid crisis in the United States is real and is affecting all areas of the country. Join Pennsylvania Representative Jim Struzzi, who has sponsored legislation to address the crisis, along with professional public library staff members, as they discuss clean needle exchanges and the opioid crisis in Erie County, Pennsylvania, and how it has affected public libraries.

#### 04.29 // Fairview

##### **Our Native North American Neighbors: Echoes of the Eriez**

Modern scholarship provides clues to the tribes that are most associated with the northwest Pennsylvania region: the mysterious Eriez, the Seneca, and their parent nation, the Iroquois. JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. David Frew will present a detailed timeline, outlining the social and spiritual history of the people who lived here before us, and presents some surprising conclusions drawn from both modern historical research and written records of the Jesuits. The discussion will continue into modern times with the formation of the Iroquois Five Nations, the Great Peacemaker, the departure of Chief Joseph Brant to Canada, the establishment of Brantford, Ontario, a discussion of some of that city's most celebrated native citizens, including Tonto, Graham Green, and Robbie Robertson, and the recent takeover of the former Ontario Hydro property just across Lake Erie by the Six Nations of the Grand Reserve.

#### 05.01 // Virtual

##### **Paddle Pilgrimage: Erie Canal and Hudson River to the Statue of Liberty**

Join Rev. Dave Ellingson, the Paddle Pilgrim, as he kayaks through history on the Erie Canal and Hudson River to the Statue of Liberty. In this virtual program, attendees will see and experience, from a waters-eye-view, sites from the Second Great Awakening, Women's Suffrage, Underground Railroad, and the legends of Johnny Appleseed and the Headless Horseman. "Clinton Ditch" became an engineering marvel providing a waterway for millions of immigrants opening the West and shaping a great nation.

#### 05.02 // JES

##### **Exploring 'The Divide': A Personal Story About Politics Today**

Red vs. Blue. Rural vs. Urban. Trump vs. Biden. Blue-Collar vs. the Bourgeoisie. How did our politics become so divided? Weaving the personal and the political, Dr. Jeffrey Bloodworth, a history professor at Gannon University and author, will trace the roots of our "divide." He will unearth Trumpism's origins to a class war in the 1970s Democratic Party. But our political divide is merely a symptom of a greater social chasm separating the educated upper-middle-class from the American mainstream, he argues. Using real stories from real people, Bloodworth will depict our divide in stark human terms and offer a path out of this dysfunction.

#### 05.03 // JES

##### **Inspiring Horizon: Erie Arts & Culture's Next Chapter Serving Northwestern Pennsylvania**

Erie Arts & Culture has had many roles in the arts and culture community since its founding in the 1960s. Today, the organization is about to embark on its next chapter, serving as a leader, convener, and advocate for arts and culture as an essential component of community development in Northwestern Pennsylvania. In this program, Erie Arts & Culture Executive Director Anne O'Dell will explain how it is opening doors to the possibilities of what that means for Erie and the greater Northwestern Pennsylvania region.

#### 05.6 // Fairview

##### **Autism 101: What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?**

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex, lifelong developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication, self-regulation, and behavioral challenges. Autism is referred to as a spectrum disorder – meaning the symptoms can occur in any combination and with varying degrees of severity. The Autism experience is different for everyone. In this lecture, Autism Society of NWPA Executive Director Tish Bartlett will discuss the ins and outs of Autism. This program is perfect for individuals, local businesses, and organizations to increase understanding and acceptance to best support individuals with Autism and their families in our community.

#### 05.07 // JES

##### **Humanities in Action: Celebrating the Stories that Shape Pennsylvania's Communities**

Explore how the humanities are bringing to light the often-unseen stories that shape our communities with an engaging discussion including PA Humanities Executive Director Laurie Zierer and Dawn Frisby Byers, the senior director of content and engagement at PA Humanities, along with Dr. Rhonda Matthews, co-founder and chief operating officer of Erie's Black Wall Street. They will illuminate the ways community-driven storytelling initiatives, like PA Heart & Soul and Voices of History, are uncovering, preserving, and celebrating Pennsylvania's rich history. Learn about the transformative power of the humanities in uplifting diverse narratives that deepen our connection to community and foster equity, growth, and lasting change.

## 05.8 // Harborcreek

### What is Self-Harm? How to Recognize It, and How and When to Get Help

Non-Suicidal Self-Injury (NSSI), also known as self-harm, is the deliberate, self-inflicted destruction of body tissue resulting in immediate damage. Examples of NSSI include cutting of the skin, subdermal tissue scratching, banging or punching objects or oneself, and burning oneself. NSSI is very common, but also commonly misunderstood – it can be confusing and frightening, and Dr. Strazisar explores the topic and what to do when you or someone in your life is engaging in NSSI.

## 05.09 // Warner Theatre

### Annual Law Day Celebration: A Discussion with Presidential Historian and Pulitzer-Prize-Winning Author Doris Kearns Goodwin

Moderated by Erie native Steve Scully, the senior vice president of communications at the Bipartisan Policy Center, host of “The Briefing” on SiriusXM, and chairman of the JES’s Global Summit, Law Day 2024 is presented in partnership with the Erie County Bar Association. Visit the JES’s website, [JESerie.org](http://JESerie.org), for event details.

## 05.10 // JES

### Erie Water Works Historic Lead Line Removal Efforts

Erie Water Works (EWW) \$65 million capital budget includes historic investments to remove lead goosenecks on customer service lines within the City of Erie. Since 2022, EWW has applied for and received Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority funding – \$39.6M in grants and \$8.9M in low interest loans. This game-changing assistance enables EWW to “get the lead out” in some of the poorest ZIP codes in state and country – areas designated by the Department of Environmental Protection as Environmental Justice Areas. Erie Water Works Executive Director Craig Palmer will explore how providing high quality water is job number-one job at EWW, and public health concerns related to lead have sharpened our resolve to eliminate it as expeditiously as possible, and detail EWW’s plans to remove 7,500 lead goosenecks by 2027 and completely eradicate lead from the public water system. *This Community Conversation is one way EWW is celebrating Drinking Water Week, which occurs May 5-11. For more than 40 years the American Water Works Association and its 50,000-plus members have celebrated Drinking Water Week – a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives.*

## 05.13 // Fairview

### American Holidays Series: Anna Jarvis, Mother’s Day, & Flowers, Flowers, Flowers

What are “the common objects of our love” – those things St. Augustine said bind a people into a nation? One cluster of those objects are the things people celebrate. In the American Holidays series, Jefferson Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Andrew Roth, continues his exploration of those things Americans love in common. In this installment, Roth explores the origins of Mothers’ Day by asking what are its ancient roots, who first sponsored it in America, and convinced President Wilson to proclaim it a holiday? Lastly, how did it become so intimately associated with flowers, both red and white? Mothers’ Day – an American tradition – a common object of our love.

## 05.14 // JES

### Black Liberation Theology and Catholic Social Teaching: A Bridge to Racial Rapprochement or Means to Truth?

On the surface, one might believe that there are major differences between Black Liberation Theology and Catholic Social Teaching. A deeper dive into each ideology discovers that the philosophies are fundamentally more alike than different. Creating spaces for ongoing conversations, between courageous clerics and laity, have enormous potential for arriving at a shared truth and racial rapprochement. JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Parris Baker will provide information to assist attendees engage in transformative conversations – first, introspective appraisals; second, between and among intimate family and friends; and finally, with the larger religious communities.

## 05.15 // Virtual

### How Democracy Defenders Win Elections: A Transatlantic Discussion

What does the election of Donald Tusk in October 2023 as prime minister of Poland mean for the country? What lessons – and hope – does it provide for other democracies globally amid the rise of populism and the threat of authoritarian leaders? Representatives from the Transforming Industrial Heartlands Initiative, a transatlantic collaborative partnership dedicated towards closing geographic economic divides and reconnecting residents of rural and former industrial heartland communities to economic opportunity and working to return community pride and optimism about the future, and diminish the appeal of polarizing, resentment-driven, isolationist, and ethnonationalist political movements that threaten our democracies, will discuss the national and international implications.

## 05.16 // ECAT

### Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration

May is AAPI Heritage Month, and this year, we are celebrating with the Erie Asian Pacific American Association. Please join us for a night of cultural exploration featuring Asian cultural displays, cultural performances, and hands-on activities in celebration of East Asian and Pacific Islander heritage.

## 05.17 // JES

### What’s Really Happening at the Erie International Airport?

In 2020, everything about the airline business changed, and those changes impacted airports like ERI, the most. With increases in the cost of fuel, pilots, maintenance, mechanics, equipment, aircraft, and every other operational cost associated with running an airline (including the cost of a bag of peanuts), the main line and ultra-low-cost carriers left nearly 100 airports with less – and in many cases – no air service. During this Community Conversation, Erie Regional Airport Authority Board Vice President Brian Slawin will outline “What’s Happening at ERI” and what the ERAA, ERI, the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership, plus public and private business partners, are doing to secure More Planes to More Places. Slawin will also address the “5 Big Airport Questions” everyone wants the answers to and the role of the \$1.5 million Fly Erie Fund. As a critical lynchpin driving the economic future of Erie, an enhancement to air service will allow future passengers to “Look at Erie First” for the best and least expensive flights.

## 05.20 // JES

### Navigating the Caregiving Role

Being the caretaker of a loved one is an act of compassion and appreciation – but it can also be challenging for all parties involved. Belinda Stillman, D.O., a psychiatrist at LECOM Behavioral Health, explores how to navigate the caregiving role, including understanding the responsibilities and challenges of the role, its mental and physical toll on the caregiver, and how to prioritize self-care and establish a support network. Navigating the caregiving role requires not only care for the loved one, but also care for yourself.

## 05.21 // Corry

### Addressing Mental Healthcare in Rural Communities

Knowing where to start when addressing mental health can be daunting and a challenging task. Many who need help are unsure of what services are available or where to start. Brenton Song, D.O., a psychiatrist at LECOM Behavioral Health, highlights mental health issues and explores how to navigate treatment and care in rural communities to understand the importance of care in this setting.

## 05.22 // JES

### Celebrating and Reflecting on a Life Well Served and How the Work Continues:

#### The Rev. Charles Brock

The Rev. Charles Brock, one of the Jefferson Educational Society’s founders, left the JES, its supporters, and the Erie regional community with an inspirational thought when he died in November 2023: Work passionately for justice, education, and democracy. Rev. Brock carried these themes through his decades of work as a teacher, minister, lecturer, leader, and friend. Join JES team members as they reflect on Brock’s life and accomplishments, and discuss how this legacy will continue.

## 05.23 // ECAT

### Cultural Crossroads: Navigating Child Refugee Mental Health

Young refugees face the dual challenge of dealing with their past traumas and adjusting to new cultures, which can be tough on their mental health. David Figueroa, D.O., a psychiatrist at LECOM Behavioral Health, highlights the specific mental health issues that child refugees experience. Dr. Figueroa explores how the clash of cultures, and the refugee journey can cause stress, sharing insights into effective ways to cope and emphasizing the importance of care that understands their cultural background.

## 05.24 // JES

### The Revitalization of the Burton Elementary School Site

The Urban Erie Community Development Corporation has finalized the purchase of the historic Burton Elementary School site. The multi-phase project will expand UECD’s capacity to address the needs of underserved populations on Erie’s east side. Decades of disinvestment and violence in the community begs solutions. UECD practices inclusive, neighborhood based, culturally responsive community development. The project is a key component of the revitalization of the Buffalo Road Corridor. The revitalization of Burton – concurrent with city-funded improvements at Rodger Young Park and private development of aquaponic farming at Joyce A. Savocchio Opportunity Park – can help this stressed-out neighborhood once again become an attractive place for families to live, work and play. UECD’s President and CEO Gary Horton will describe the project history, current status, and how the completed facility will support wellness, education, and workforce development.

For full program descriptions, please visit [www.JESErie.org](http://www.JESErie.org)



# JEFFERSON

EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

3207 STATE STREET  
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16508-2821

Thomas Jefferson believed a citizenry that was educated on issues and shared its ideas through public discourse had the power to make a difference in the world.

The Jefferson Educational Society of Erie is a strong proponent of that belief, offering courses, seminars, and lectures that explain the ideas that formed the past, assist in exploring the present, and offer guidance in creating the future of the Erie region.

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ERIE, PA  
PERMIT # 255



**REGISTER NOW! 814.459.8000 OR [JESerie.org](http://JESerie.org)**