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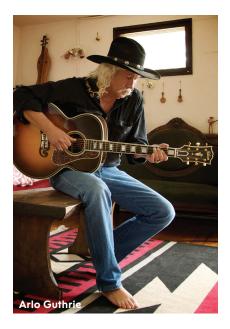
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Welcome to NJPAC's 2019-20 season

Entertainment from Arlo to Rachel Z



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Where else but NJPAC? Here are highlights of what promises to be a 2019-20 season to remember:

Summer is off to a rousing start with Horizon Foundation Sounds of the City, the outdoor eight-concert series that offers great music, food, drinks and dance under the stars on Thursday evenings in July and August—and admission is always free. Look for The Wailers' Julian Junior Marvin, Charlie Cruz, Lords of the Underground, Davell Crawford Movement, and a showcase where "Newark Salutes Its Own."

An eclectic selection of pop, rock, R&B, folk and world music appears starting August 9 with Anthony Hamilton and Jazmine Sullivan, followed the next night by regade king Beres Hammond and special quests Maxi Priest and Romain Virgo. Performing later in the season are such superstar vocalists as Gladys Knight and special quest Will Downing; The Temptations and The Four Tops; Arlo Guthrie in the Alice's Restaurant Back By Popular Demand Tour featuring Sarah Lee Guthrie; and Valerie Simpson, bringing saxophonist Dave Koz along as her quest for The Sugar Bar Comes to Newark. A strong showing in world music translates into appearances by The Chieftains in The Irish Goodbye; the Gipsy Kings; and the dynamic triple bill of Zakir Hussain (tabla), Jayanthi Kumaresh (veena) and Kala Ramnath (Carnatic violin).

Classical music, presented in the elegant setting of Prudential Hall, includes the return of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields with conductor and violinist Joshua Bell; Keith Lockhart and The Boston Pops on Tour with holiday cheer; the mighty Munich Philharmonic; and the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine with pianist Olga Kern as soloist. For a jazzy symphonic experience, Trilogy: An Opera Company stages Sassy, an original operatic work in tribute to Newark's own Sarah Vaughan.



Swinging into its eighth year, the TD James Moody Jazz Festival (November 9-24) is packed with A-listers, performing in concerts unique to NJPAC. The Roots are teamed with A Christian McBride Situation (the latter helmed by the multi-GRAMMY™ winning bassist, who is NJPAC's Jazz Advisor) for a program of cutting-edge jazz. Steps Ahead reunites with Mike Mainieri, Bill Evans, Rachel Z, Baron Browne and Steve Smith, joined by Michael Franks and Spyro Gyra. Guitarist Lee Ritenour is back together with pianist and composer Dave Grusin and friends.

Other notables on the Festival schedule? Chaka Khan, Buddy Guy, Houston Person and Christian Sands. The traditional closer is the annual Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, during which five finalists sing their hearts out for the chance to win a \$5,000 cash prize and prestige.

A pair of jazz-flavored dance events also falls into the *TD James Moody Jazz Festival* calendar: Broadway legend Maurice Hines goes *Tappin' Thru Life* with the Manzari Brothersaccompanied by the DIVA Jazz Orchestra—and Nimbus Dance premieres *Falling Sky*, a collaboration of NJPAC and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra set to the music of Nina Simone and Nancy Wilson.

Jazz's closest relative, the Great American Songbook, is celebrated this season by its finest interpreters. Michael Feinstein with Storm Large, Mandy Patinkin, Ann Hampton Callaway with Tierney Sutton (in a hooray for Hollywood program), and Will and Anthony Nunziata singing Disney favorites are all in the lineup, while Taylor Mac performs *Holiday Sauce*, his outrageous Yuletide spoof.

NJPAC's comedy shows continue to diversify, with stand-up artists reflecting different cultures, but all sharing a universal language of laughter. Jo Koy, Eli Castro, Nemr and Mike Marino with Jon Bramnick are just a few of the talents on tap this season, with more on the way.

Dance is an essential component of programming for families, so NJPAC's ever-popular *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* is back, as well as a classic Russian version of *The Nutcracker*, performed by



the National Ballet Theatre of Odessa. Tony Award®-winning tap genius Savion Glover—the Arts Center's Dance Advisor—directs talented students in *The Tap Dance Kid*, the Broadway musical that launched his career. Remarkable dance events in the coming months include Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ballet Hispánico, PHILADANCO!, Carolyn Dorfman Dance and the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company.

Kids and their favorite grown-ups can see beloved TV characters come to life in new musical productions like Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood LIVE! Neighbor Day; PAW Patrol Live! The Great Pirate Adventure: and Sesame Street Live! Make Your Magic. Likewise, adults can share the thrill of hearing a symphonic orchestra with youngsters who are fans of films shown on NJPAC's wide screen. Put together, this magical combo resulted in an orchestra+film concert series that continues in 2019-20 with Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince[™] in Concert and Harrv Potter and the Deathlv Hallows™ Part 1 in Concert, both accompanied

note-for-note by musicians of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. A related attraction, Danny Elfman's Music from the Films of Tim Burton, features an appearance by the composer himself, along with scenes from charmingly creepy movies like Edward Scissorhands and Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas.

Jo Koy

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Busting rhymes trippingly on the tongue

A new *Magic Tree House* musical adventure doth cross Shakespeare with hip hop







From top, Becca Shulbank-Smith and Lawrence Dandridge; Luis Herrera and Katie Lugo; and Aaron Bowes in the title role of *Showtime with Shakespeare*

The Magic Tree House: Showtime with Shakespeare, which made its New Jersey debut at NJPAC on May 31, is out to convince young audiences that the Bard of Avon is mad fly for a 455-year-old guy.

"(Shakespeare) was probably our first hip hop artist because he wrote such beautiful poetry and had such a knack for language that lends itself quite well to hip hop," says the musical's director, NJPAC teaching artist Janeece Freeman Clark. "We just added the beat!"

The show's arrival reunited the Arts Center for the second time with *New* York *Times* best-selling author Mary Pope Osborne, whose *Magic Tree House* adventure series for young readers has sold millions of copies globally and is published in 33 languages. Eight volumes have been re-envisioned as live theater, inviting families to journey from the land of the dinosaurs to Camelot.

A Good Night for Ghosts (No. 42) was the inspiration for the jazz-flavored A Night in New Orleans, whose world premiere was staged at NJPAC in 2012 under Clark's direction and featured book and lyrics by Murray Horwitz and original songs by lyricist-musician Will Osborne (husband and longtime collaborator of the author) and the great composer Allen Toussaint.

Stage Fright on a Summer Night (No. 25) was a natural for adapting into a second theatrical work, this time in collaboration with George Street Playhouse, toured the country culminating at NJPAC. The creatives responsible for translating iambic pentameter into urban wordplay include composer Randy Courts and the team of Will Osborne and Jenny Laird on book and lyrics.

"We're honored to partner with Mary and Will, as well as George Street Playhouse, on this important tour. Through *Showtime with Shakespeare*, the Arts Center is expanding not just its programming, but its programming for young people on a national scale, beyond the four walls of the theater," says David Rodriguez, NJPAC's Executive Vice President and Executive Producer.

The many tour stops before Newark were far-ranging: Albuquerque to Abilene and Buffalo to New Bedford. Rodriguez adds that plans are well under way for a larger circuit during the 2019-20 season.

In the Magic Tree House series, sibling heroes Jack and Annie are whisked away through time via their backyard hideaway, guided by books, curiosity and spunkiness. In the musical A Night in New Orleans, they help young Louis Armstrong discover his trumpet-playing talents. In Showtime with Shakespeare, the duo has an important role in supporting Shakespeare's unveiling of A Midsummer Night's Dream at London's Globe Theatre. It's in merrie olde England that they also encounter the cruelty of bear baiting and the uncertain fate of their friend. Dan the Dancing Bear.

An admitted newbie to hip hop, Will Osborne says that as a musician he's come away with a new-found appreciation for the art form. "I've always been fascinated by language



and how words can come together to create rhythm, paint pictures and stir imagination.

"It was the idea of our longtime composer and collaborator, Randy Courts, to do the show in a hip hop style," he continues. "There's actually a lot of crossover between Shakespeare and hip hop: unconventional rhyme schemes, lines spoken in verse ... Randy is a great musical stylist and we worked together to marry Elizabethan England with contemporary hip hop and rap."

In February, the seven cast members who juggle dozens of roles—gathered in NJPAC's Horizon Black Box Theater to rehearse, prior to departing for a March 11 performance in Las Vegas. They listened and recorded on cell phones as musical director Christopher Littlefield offered instruction on how their vocal nimbleness could best keep pace with the show's pre-recorded track.

As rehearsals progressed, other elements came into play: the creation of a giant tree house, the centerpiece of the set, which can be converted into the Globe; props and signage for the tradesmen lining the streets of

(continued on next page)

busting rhymes...

(from previous page)



London Town; and costuming that fuses the early Renaissance with the Age of Aquarius.

Clark, who lives in South Orange and recently directed a revival of Galt MacDermot's *Two Gentlemen* of *Verona*—a musical treatment from the early Seventies—mentions that the groundbreaking diversity of its original Broadway cast is an artistic decision also embraced by Showtime with Shakespeare.

"I love the fact that (audiences) will see this diverse group of fabulous singers and actors onstage," she says. "The unique gifts that they each bring have a collective power. They're beautiful storytellers and beautiful people in all shapes, all sizes, all colors."

As Shakespeare wrote, "Time travels in diverse paces with diverse persons." Through Jack and Annie's chance encounters with famed figures of the past, young theater-goers watch their history lessons leap to life. "They're going to take away values like the importance of standing up for what you believe in and standing up for your friends," Clark notes of children who see the show. "They will hear about the importance of acknowledging your fears and facing them head-on."

"It's our job to bring the Magic Tree House worldview to the stage," concludes Will Osborne. "The books all celebrate curiosity, kindness and inclusion, and this show is no exception. It ends with a song, 'Thy Life Is a Miracle,' which may be something many kids who see the show have never heard about themselves. We want kids—and their parents—to leave the theater with a feeling of joy and infinite possibility."

Ultimately, children will be encouraged to pick up a book to take them to more adventures through the imagination. •

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calendar of events jul-dec 2019



July 2019

Thu	Jul 11	5PM	Horizon Foundation Sounds of the City:
			Felix Hernandez' Rhythm Revue Dance Party
Sat	Jul 13	8PM	Bring It Live! The Dance Battle Tour
Thu	Jul 18	5PM	Horizon Foundation Sounds of the City: Newark Salutes Its Own
Thu	Jul 25	5PM	Horizon Foundation Sounds of the City: The Wailers' Julian Junior Marvin

August 2019

Thu	Aug 1	5PM	Horizon Foundation Sounds of the City:
1110	Augi	51 141	,
			The New Power Generation featuring the Music of Prince
Thu	Aug 8	5PM	Horizon Foundation Sounds of the City: Charlie Cruz
Fri	Aug 9	8PM	Anthony Hamilton & Jasmine Sullivan
Thu	Aug 15	5PM	Horizon Foundation Sounds of the City:
			Night of Inspiration; The Walls Group; The String Queens
Sat	Aug 17	8PM	Wendy Williams & Friends: For the RecordUmm Hmm
Thu	Aug 22	5PM	Horizon Foundation Sounds of the City: The Davell Crawford Movement
Thu	Aug 29	12-4PM	FREE Family Hip Hop Festival
Thu	Aug 29	5PM	Horizon Foundation Sounds of the City: Lords of the Underground
Thu	Aug 29	8PM	Gladys Knight with special guest Will Downing

September 2019

Thu	Sep 12	7:30PM	Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me
Fri	Sep 13	7PM	The Tap Dance Kid directed & choreographed by Savion Glover
Sat	Sep 14	7PM	
Sun	Sep 15	2PM	
Sun	Sep 15	3PM	The Gipsy Kings (Produced in assoc. with John Scher/Metropolitan Entertainment)
Sun	Sep 29	3PM	Arlo Guthrie Alice's Restaurant
	•		Back By Popular Demand Tour featuring Sarah Lee Guthrie



October 2019

Oct 4	6PM	Sesame Street Live: Make Your Magic!
Oct 5	10:30AM;	Sesame Street Live: Make Your Magic!
	2 & 5PM	
Oct 6	10:30AM;	Sesame Street Live: Make Your Magic!
	2PM	
Oct 10	8PM	New Jersey Speakers Series: John Kerry
Oct 12	8PM	The Temptations & The Four Tops
Oct 12	8PM	Mike Marino with special guest Jon Bramnick
Oct 18	8PM	Michael Ian Black
Oct 19	6 & 8:30PM	Disney and the Boys:
		Will and Anthony Nunziata Sing the Sherman Brothers
Oct 19	8PM	Soulshine: The Allman Brothers Experience
Oct 19	8PM	Jo Koy: Just Kidding Tour
Oct 20	7:30PM	
Oct 24	8PM	New Jersey Speakers Series: Zanny Minton Beddoes
Oct 26	11AM	The Little Mermaid – Theater Terra
Oct 26	2 & 7:30PM	Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince [™] In Concert with the NJSO
Oct 26	8PM	Tusk: The Ultimate Tribute to Fleetwood Mac (Produced in assoc. with John Scher/Metropolitan Entertainment)
Oct 27	3PM	Munich Philharmonic with Valery Gergiev, conductor
	Oct 5 Oct 6 Oct 10 Oct 12 Oct 12 Oct 12 Oct 12 Oct 13 Oct 19 Oct 19 Oct 19 Oct 20 Oct 20 Oct 24 Oct 26 Oct 26	Oct 5 10:30AM; 2 & 5PM Oct 6 10:30AM; 2 PM Oct 10 8PM Oct 12 8PM Oct 12 8PM Oct 13 8PM Oct 19 8PM Oct 19 8PM Oct 19 8PM Oct 19 8PM Oct 20 7:30PM Oct 24 8PM Oct 26 11AM Oct 26 8PM

Artists, dates, times, locations and programs subject to change at any time.





November 2019

 Sat
 Nov 2
 8PM
 Franco Escamilla

 Fri
 Nov 8
 8PM
 Mandy Patinkin In Concert: Diaries with Adam Ben-David on piano

TD James Moody Jazz Festival

dec 20

Sat	Nov 9	6PM	Bethany Vespers: Bobby Sanabria (Bethany Baptist Church)
Sun	Nov 10	7PM	Buddy Guy with special guest Mavis Staples
Thu	Nov 14	7PM	Nimbus Dance with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra
Thu Fri Fri	Nov 14 Nov 15 Nov 15	8PM 8PM 7PM	set to the music of Nina Simone and Nancy Wilson Chaka Khan and special guest Steps Ahead, Michael Franks & Spyro Gyra NJMEA All State Jazz and special auest Steve Turre
Fri	Nov 15	7:30PM	After Mignight: The Music of the King Cole Trio
Sat	Nov 16	8PM	The Roots with A Christian McBride Situation
Thu	Nov 21	5:30PM	Jazz Jams at Clement's Place, Rutgers University-Newark
Thu	Nov 21	7:30PM	Lee Ritenour with Dave Grusin & Friends
Fri	Nov 22	7:30PM	Christian Sands presents The Erroll Garner 3 Piano Summit
Sat	Nov 23	3 & 7PM	Maurice Hines Tappin' Thru Life featuring The DIVA Jazz Orchestra and co-starring The Manzari Brothers
Sun	Nov 24	11AM & 1PM	Dorthaan's Place Jazz Brunch: Houston Person
Sun	Nov 24	3PM	Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition
Thu	Nov 21	8PM	New Jersey Speakers Series: Bob Woodward
Sun	Nov 24	3PM	National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine with Olga Kern, <i>piano</i>
Fri	Nov 29	8PM	"Thanksgiving" Comedy Show

December 2019

Wed	Dec 4	8PM	Taylor Mac's Holiday Sauce
Sun	Dec 8	7PM	Trilogy – An Opera Company: Sassy
Sat	Dec 14	2 & 7PM	The Nutcracker – National Ballet Theatre of Odessa
Sun	Dec 15	4PM	The Boston Pops On Tour! with Keith Lockhart, conductor
Fri	Dec 20	8PM	The Hip Hop Nutcracker with special guest MC Kurtis Blow
Sat	Dec 21	2PM	
Sat	Dec 28	2 & 7:30PM	Holiday Dreams-A spectacular holiday cirque event!

After 25 years, a new 'flowering'

Rutgers exec Marcia Wilson Brown uses her activist past to guide the Women's Association into the future



With her sedate dress and welcoming handshake, Marcia Wilson Brown, standing in her suite of wood-paneled offices in the Rutgers Center for Law and Justice, is the very picture of a big university administrator—professional, calm and competent. And she is all those things. After working at Rutgers University-Newark (RU-N) for 15 years in a variety of posts, Brown is now the Vice Chancellor for External and Governmental Relations for the school, which is renowned for its emphasis on outreach and community engagement.

But don't let Brown's sober exterior fool you. She's really a firebrand—an activist in executive clothing. "I came to Newark as a radical—Angela Davis hairstyle, out in the street, fist in the air, 'We must have democracy, we must end racism,' " she recalls.

"I just happened to end up—as I say to Nancy all the time—going undercover into the very institutions I railed against."

"Nancy," of course, is Nancy Cantor, the university's Chancellor, with whom Brown works closely, creating programs that help more Newark youngsters and more students from first-generation families attend and thrive in college, among other priorities.

Brown not only engineers ways to smooth the path to university

marcia wilson brown

coursework for the city's residents, she also serves as the university's liaison with community and civic groups. And for the past year and more, she's made that outreach extremely personal—by serving as the President of the Women's Association (WA) of NJPAC. She's guided the Arts Center's largest fundraising organization, and its 2,500 members, into the group's critical 25th anniversary season of 2019.

It's work that's a long way from the activist family legal practice Brown thought she'd have, when she first came to Newark from her native Detroit to attend Rutgers Law School—but she discovered that she likes doing work that leads to new possibilities. She credits RU-N's long time provost, Norman Samuels, for moving her from "the street of activism" to working in the university's administration, to make education— both graduate and undergraduate—accessible to more Newarkers.

"There's a pit that many activists get in — we become very good at grievances, but we're not very good at harnessing power. I wanted to be an opportunity-builder.

"Norman became my mentor, and he pulled me aside and said: 'Come back to the Law School and do the work that got *you* here," she recalls.

So she did, and she's been hunting out new ways to create opportunities for the city's young people ever since. Brown also briefly left RU-N to take up a post at the Lucent Foundation, directing the company's philanthropic funds toward organizations that provided educational opportunities for city children. And she co-founded (with Junius Williams and Richard Cammareri) the University Heights Neighborhood Development Corporation, which built some of the first affordable housing in Newark's Central Ward. But she kept returning to Rutgers-Newark, in one capacity after another.

(Somewhere in between all those jobs, she also found time to start an a cappella group, Return to the Source, again with Junius Williams—now the City of Newark's official historian and to establish the Newark Repertory Theater Company. Although she rarely performs in a formal setting these days, she's still known to break into song at meetings, letting loose a powerful, room-filling alto to underscore a point.)

Today the WA, which raised the first funds that allowed the Arts Center to be built in the 1990s, is in a period of transition, Brown says. While it will always fundraise for NJPAC's community programs, its mission can grow in size, she posits. Where the WA traditionally focused its efforts on mounting NJPAC's annual Spotlight Gala and Spring Luncheon and Auction, Brown sees further opportunities for her fellow current WA members.

"Look, NJPAC is pushing its way into a new future, and being very imaginative and very intentional about the breadth of its vision and connectivity—it's constantly trying to reach new audiences and create new partners," says Brown, who credits the Arts Center's CEO, John Schreiber, with expanding and strengthening NJPAC's mission.

(continued on next page)



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marcia wilson brown



"NJPAC is pushing its way into a new future, and being very imaginative and very intentional about the breadth of its vision and connectivity"

(from previous page)

"I think it forces the WA to have to rethink, then, our role in that mission, because we're walking side by side," says Brown. Under her leadership, the WA has held its first retreat, and during this anniversary year, plans are in place for both internal meetings and a day-long charrette to workshop the WA's next incarnation.

She notes that WA members in the organization's early years were often the wives of NJPAC's financial supporters and Board members—"and they were women who did remarkable work. They raised the money that put this institution on the map," she says, saluting the "spirit of adventure and commitment" of the group's founders. She adds that these earliest members also designed the WA's signature fundraising programs and founded NJPAC's volunteer corps, which has become a pathway for Newark residents to experience the Arts Center.

These days, however, Brown points out that the WA's typical member is just as likely to be a high-powered executive like Aisha Glover, CEO of the Newark Alliance, or Dini Ajmani, Assistant Treasurer of the State of New Jersey.

And these new members, "They're saying 'I want to be engaged," Brown says. Brown explains the WA's new direction could involve new kinds of programming; already, a WA event on International Women's Day, called *A Gathering of Givers*, which paired a panel discussion on how women are changing philanthropy with an opportunity for Newark-area women to connect and network, was a sold-out success.

But those are changes she won't make alone; she says she's working her hardest to support the evolution of the WA's mission by channeling the energy of its members—what she calls a "'we-us' process" of collaborative progress.

That by itself, she says, is challenge and inspiration aplenty, as she often finds herself in "a room filled with women who are all so bright we could turn the lights right off. We don't need the lights! It can be high energy but I call it a *flowering* of the spirit."

Which is a good thing, Brown says. Giving everyone room to bloom means harnessing the energy of all the women who support the Arts Center.

"To me, I like that. The messiness of change, the messiness of innovation, the messiness of growth is a space that can be wonderful— and make people feel like they're *wanted* in this space." •

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As part of our **Enhanced Safety Program**, the following items are prohibited upon entry into Prudential Hall, the Victoria Theater, and all public spaces of NJPAC: backpacks, large pocketbooks, shopping bags, suitcases, briefcases, weapons, animals (except service animals).

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Smoking and/or vaping is prohibited throughout all indoor spaces of NJPAC.

Lost and Found: Any found items should be returned to NJPAC Security or Guest Services staff. If you believe you have lost an item, call (973) 297-5868. Found clothing items will be held for 30 days after which they will be donated to a local shelter.

Mobile Device Courtesy Reminder: Please respect performers and fellow audience members by ensuring that all cellular phones and mobile devices are turned off during performances. Newark Light Rail: NJTRANSIT's Newark Light Rail offers frequent service in Downtown Newark that includes a station stop at NJPAC, offering a convenient alternative to driving to a performance or event. This service is an extension of the Newark City Subway and connects all rail lines served by Newark Penn and Broad Street Stations. Other popular destinations served by the extension are the Newark Museum and Broad Street area businesses. For more information, visit njtransit.com/nlr.

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NJPAC welcomes children of all ages to its family events, but adult performances are not recommended for children 5 years old and younger.

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May 1-August 31, 2019 EXHIBIT | 50 YEARS OF ACTIVISM | THE JUNIUS WILLIAMS PAPERS

This exhibit plots the career of local lawyer, activist, and newly appointed "official historian of Newark," Junius Williams. | Second Floor Gallery, Main Library

June 17-August 3, 2019 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

A UNIVERSE OF STORIES | Our recreational literacy program for children and teens. | Check npl.org for times | Main Library and All Branches

Wednesday, July 10, 2019, 6:00–9:00 pm CONVERSATION WITH GARRARD

CONLEY | In celebration of Newark Pride Week, NPL is hosting an evening with Garrard Conley, author of *Boy Erased*. | James Brown African American Room

Fridays, July 12–August 30, 2019 6:00–11:00 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE PARTY | Weather permitting | Courtyard

Saturday, July 13, 2019, 11:00 am-12:00 pm DRAG OUEEN STORY HOUR

Bring your kids for an hour of fun with Harmonica Sunbeam. | LGBTO Resource Center

Saturday, July 13, 2019, 5:00pm-1:00 am

KIKI BALL | Join us for fashion, music and dancing as part of the Newark Gay Pride Celebration | Centennial Hall

Wednesday, July 24, 2019, 6:00-8:00 pm THIRD ANNUAL CUBAN NIGHT

in partnership with Jimenez Lounge | Courtyard

Wednesday, August 14, 2019, 6:00–8:00 pm N.K. JEMISIN | BOOKSIGNING AND CONVERSATION | Author of *The Stone Sky*, N.K. Jemisin is an American science fiction and fantasy writer. | James Brown African American Room



Check the Library's website for new events throughout the year. **npl.org**

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