



# Out & About

New Jersey Hills Media Group

GUIDE TO THE ARTS AND LEISURE





Photos by Jennifer Fischer

Above left: Here’s the entrance to Zion National Park, Utah’s first national park. Above right: The formations in Red Canyon, Utah, are similar to those in Bryce Canyon.

## Zion National Park and Red Canyon, Utah

Last time I wrote about our visit to Bryce Canyon National Park. You might be wondering how the canyon got its name. In the 1870s Ebenezer Bryce and his wife, Mary Ann Parks, two pioneering Mormons, settled near the canyon and stayed there until about 1889. He built a logging road to the canyon, to make timber more accessible for settlers to build substantial homes. People began referring to the road’s terminus as Bryce’s Canyon, and the name stuck. After a very enjoyable two-night stay at Bryce Canyon National Park we drove the 70 miles to Zion National Park. The scenic overlooks we stopped at as we left the park were spectacular — more hoodoos, arches, different colored formations from new angles. It was like a fairyland — lots of oranges, golds, creams and beiges. The colors change with the light. Iron and manganese oxides give colors



**Jennifer Fischer**  
**ROAD TRIP OF DISCOVERY**

The writer is the author of “Adventures Across America, On and Off the Trail of Lewis and Clark,” available at [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com). Formerly a resident of Chatham, she and her husband Richard now live in Basking Ridge. She may be reached at: [jwfischer.nj@gmail.com](mailto:jwfischer.nj@gmail.com). Her website is: [www.jenniferwhitefisher.com](http://www.jenniferwhitefisher.com).

to the limestone. The drive took us through Red Canyon, named for its vermilion-hued limestone formations. As we drove through the canyon on Highway 12, hoodoos rose up beside the road. There were many pull-outs along the way where we could stop and admire the scenery. My husband Dick even spotted a mountain goat on a cliff near the road. We showed our Golden Eagle Pass to the park ranger at the entrance to Zion and drove through a mile-long dark tunnel.

### >> MORE PHOTOS

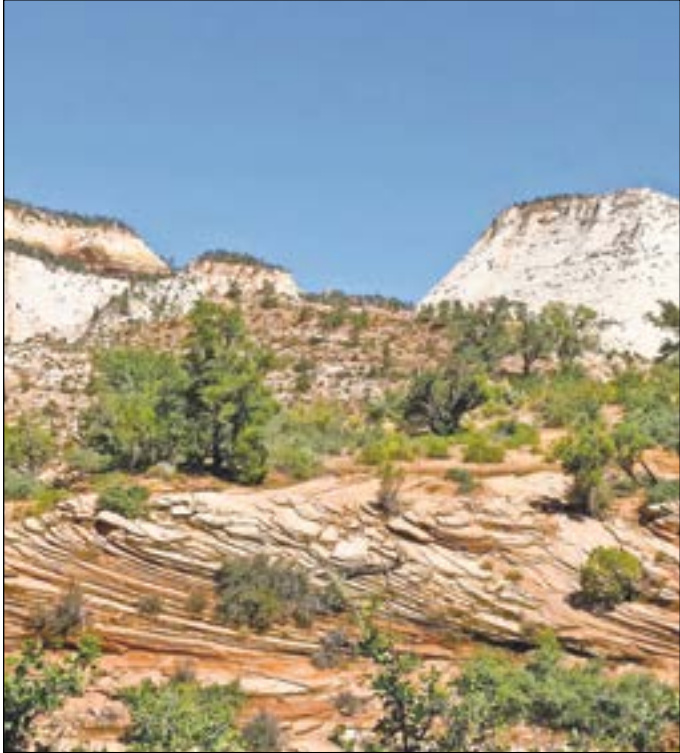
For more photos, please visit [NewJerseyHills.com](http://NewJerseyHills.com).

No lights, just reflectors at various intervals and a few cutouts in the sides of the tunnel which let in a minimum of light. When we emerged, we were blinded by the sunlight, which nearly triggered a migraine. But what an amazing view! At Bryce, we were on the rim of the canyon. At Zion, the road winds along the floor of the canyon. Awesome vertical jagged peaks and domes rose above us. There were thin layers of creams and pinks, both vertical and horizontal and bold walls of rusts, streaked with black, and pines growing out of the rocks. In 1979 I visited Zion with our two daughters, ages 9 and 12, and we could drive to all the special viewpoints and trails. Not so anymore.

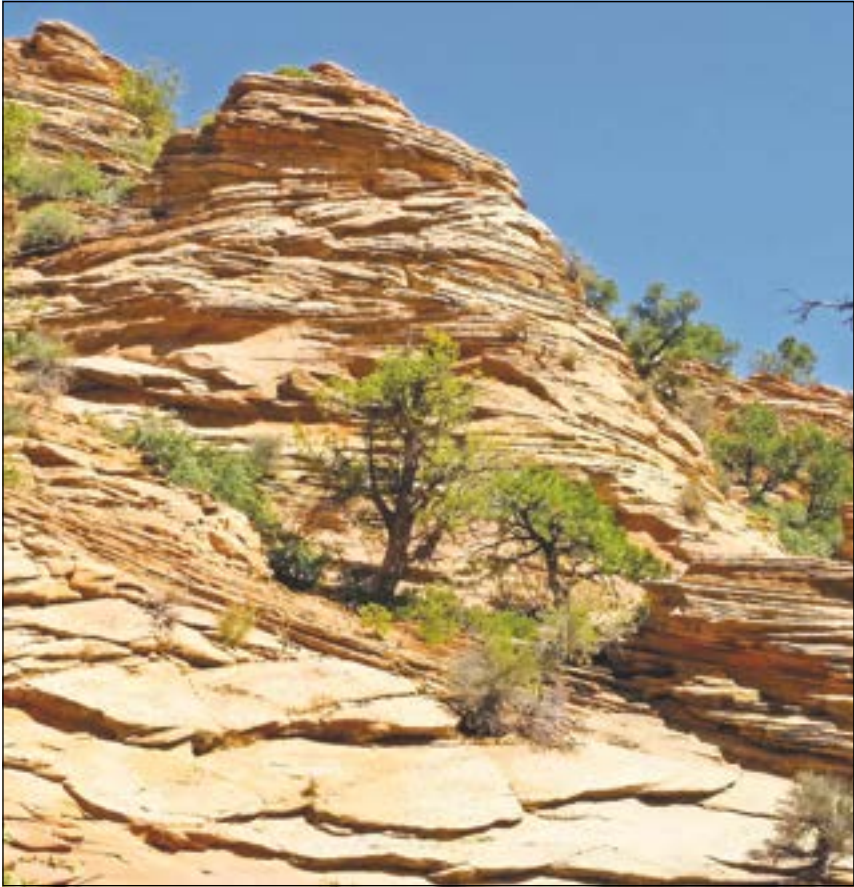
There is now a shuttle system to take people from the visitors’ center parking lot to overlooks and trailheads. Big problem. The lot was full. We slowly stalked a couple who were looking for their car and finally secured a place. I commented to a ranger that I was surprised we couldn’t drive through-out the park, and he said, “In the 1970s, park attendance was about 200,000 people annually. Now it’s nearly four million yearly.” The shuttle was quite efficient, and we were able to board one right away. Our first stop was at Emerald Pool. The gentle trail went over a bridge above the Virgin River and up to the first of three pools. To get to the higher pools requires a bit more energy up steeper trails. Now and then a waterfall splashed down over the path from the upper pools. Because of all the moisture, we were sur-

rounded by lush greenery. Next, we stopped at Weeping Rock, which is an area where the water flows through soft rock, but when it gets to impervious rock, it seeps out, seeming to weep. There is a large, curved overhang where we could walk under the drip-pings. Hanging gardens were growing above us out of the rocks. Very different from Bryce. We are so fortunate to have so many national and state parks in our country, and they are open to everyone. Mormon pioneers named the canyon Zion which is Hebrew for sanctuary or refuge. Unfortunately, there was to be no sanctuary for us in Zion, as no accommodations were available. We drove on to Springdale, Utah, about three miles south of the park. It seemed to be a town created for visitors to Zion with many restaurants, hotels and motels and a

shuttle to the park. The next morning, we took a beautiful drive to Las Vegas. The road wound back and forth over the Virgin River and through the Virgin River Gorge, another spectacular piece of America. Soon, however, the scenery changed to low barren hills with cacti growing randomly. In the distance the high casino buildings of Las Vegas rose from the desert. We chose Las Vegas as a destination because there are non-stop flights from Newark. The cast of characters was about to change. Dick would fly back to New Jersey, and my good friend Marilyn, who also loves to travel, would fly in to continue the trip with me to California and back across America through the southwest and wherever the road would take us on our meanderings back to New Jersey. Many more adventures were in store for us.



Above left: In Zion National Park the road winds along the floor of the canyon, giving the visitor awesome views of the formations. Above right: There are stunning views everywhere you look in Zion National Park. Below left: The rock formations in Zion National Park are impressive. Below right: Visitors to the Weeping Rock formation in Zion National Park can walk under the misty waterfall.





# College art exhibition highlights motherhood, caring from Aug. 28

The Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) Arts & Design department will present “nurture/nature,” an exhibition showcasing the work of eight women artists addressing motherhood, eco materialism, and the culture of caring, from Wednesday, Aug. 28, through, Friday, Sept. 27, in the Art Gallery at the college’s campus at 118 Lamington Road in Branchburg.

The show is being curated by Lambertville-based eco-artist Lauren Rosenthal McManus. The opening reception and artists’ talk will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 6. The event is free of charge and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Each of the artists in this exhibition centers her practice in an ethic of interdependence with both biological and ecological families. The show will feature a variety of work-

ing materials and methods, from upcycled plastic grocery bags and botanically derived inks, to documentary film and fiber art. While some of the included works expose the tedious and often undervalued aspects of domestic labor, others illuminate the awe and wonder that coexist within the seemingly mundane aspects of daily life. Together, these works reveal the complex dynamics present in relationships based on caring.

Exhibiting artists include Adina Andrus of Larchmont, N.Y.; Jenni-da Chase, Greensboro, N.C.; Jill Christian, Albuquerque, N.M.; Alison Judd, Boston; Danila Rumold, Albuquerque, N.M.; Rebecca Schultz, Elkins Park, Pa.; Cindy Stockton Moore, Philadelphia; and Stefanie Zito, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Gallery hours are from 3 to 8 p.m. Mondays; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays;



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3 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays; and 1 to 4 p.m. Fridays.

For information, visit [www.raritanval.edu/arts](http://www.raritanval.edu/arts) or contact Arts & Design at (908) 218-8876.

# Sieminski Theater in Basking Ridge launches summer cabaret series from Friday, Aug. 23, in Basking Ridge

The Sieminski Theater at Fellowship Village, 8000 Fellowship Road, Basking Ridge, will host several cabaret shows this month.

The theater will be transformed during the performances into a genuine cosmopolitan cabaret setting with table seating, light bites and a cash bar. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the shows, which start 8 p.m.

On Friday, Aug. 23, the theater will present Broadway’s Liz McCartney with Jimmy Horan on piano. McCarney’s Broadway credits include “Annie,” “The Phantom of the Opera,” “South Pacific,” “Mamma Mia!,” “Thoroughly Modern Millie” and Boy George’s “Taboo.”

A master of Broadway-style belting, she is, at the same time, among the most subtly poignant artists on the Great White Way. Her wise song choices vary from hits of the 1940s and 1950s to modern day Broadway standards, and her passion for her audience is evident in her warm command of any stage.

McCartney has toured the country as Madame Morrible in “Wicked,” Marie/Fairy Godmother in “Cinderella” and Ursula in “The Little Mermaid.” Her performance as Mrs. Lovett in Drury Lane Theatre of Chicago’s production of “Sweeney Todd” brought her a nomination for the coveted Joseph Jefferson Award, and she was recently a part of New York City Center’s production of “Sunday in the Park with George,” opposite Jake Gyllenhaal.

Horan is a musical director/pianist/arranger/composer who has worked at all the major cabaret venues in New York City, such as Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Center, Birdland, The Duplex, Don’t Tell Mama and The Metropolitan Room. Most recently, Horan worked at 54 Below/Feinstein’s as musical director/co-producer of the successful Second Act Series, working with composers like Charles Strouse, John Kander, Nancy Ford, Keith Herrmann, and Michael Valenti; and artists like Jill Eikenberry, Jon Cryer, Loni Acker-

man, P.J. Benjamin and The Skivvies. He has served as New York City Gay Men’s Chorus’ cabaret/special events musical director and arranger, with performances at Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden and The Barclays Center.

Theatre Rock Live! will be presented on Friday, Aug. 30. A soaring tribute to, and celebration of, rock musicals that have moved audiences for decades. Theatre Rock brings the greatest hits of this genre to life. The performance is part show and part concert.

Theatre Rock lights up the current music scene with the perfect blend of a skilled and dynamic rock band, thrilling vocal agility and a rock musical revue. Songs will be performed from such hit musicals as “Hair,” “Pippin,” “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Hamilton,” “Dear Evan Hansen,” “Tommy” and “Godspell.”

The group features the rock tenor of international recording artist Eric Scott Klein (“Days Before Tomorrow”),

the dynamic Olivia Renteria (“Mean Girls”) and the magical voice of Lawrence Street (“Carmen Jones,” “Urbentown” and “Mean Girls”), fused with the energy a skilled rock/pop band anchored by veteran musical director Joe Andolino, whose music director and composing credits are vast and diverse.

The band is filled out with Broadway veteran Tony Ventura on bass, virtuoso guitarist Chris Amelar and the fluid drumming of Matt Maldonado.

General seating tickets are \$85 per person. Tables accommodate up to 10 people, although private tables for two are available.

Attendees can enjoy a pre-show dining experience at Wilson’s Tapas Bar Lounge restaurant before the evening performance. To book a 5:30 p.m. seating on performance day, call (908) 580-3818.

For more information about the theater or upcoming schedule, call (908) 580-3892 or visit [sieminskitheater.org](http://sieminskitheater.org).

## • ENTERTAINMENT •

**Lasers For Littles** will be presented at The Raritan Valley Community College Planetarium for kids at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, Aug. 14 and Aug. 21, at 118 Lamington Road in Branchburg. Planetarium tickets cost \$10 for one show, \$18 for two shows back-to-back on the same day. Reservations are recommended, but all ticket sales are done at the door on the day of the show. Late admission is not permitted. For reservations and information, call (908) 231-8805 or email [planet@raritanval.edu](mailto:planet@raritanval.edu). For a complete list of all Planetarium shows open to the public, visit <https://www.raritanval.edu/planetarium/public-shows>.

**RVCC Holocaust Book Series** of The Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) Institute of Holocaust and Genocide Studies will feature a virtual discussion of “The House of Eve” by Sad-eqa Johnson from 10 to 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 16. The online series, free of charge and open to the public, will be held via Zoom webinars, and registration is required. To register, email [michele.edgar@raritanval.edu](mailto:michele.edgar@raritanval.edu). For more information, visit [www.raritanval.edu](http://www.raritanval.edu).

**Taylor Swift Laser Concert** will be presented by The Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) Planetarium at 9 p.m. on Fridays, Aug. 16 and 23, at 118 Lamington Road in Branchburg. Planetarium tickets cost \$10 for one show, \$18 for two shows back-to-back on the same day. Reservations are recommended, but all ticket sales are done at the door on the day of the show. Late admission is not permitted. For reservations and information, call (908) 231-8805 or email [planet@raritanval.edu](mailto:planet@raritanval.edu). For a complete list of all Planetarium shows open to

the public, visit <https://www.raritanval.edu/planetarium/public-shows>.

**Clinton Sidewalk Sale** sponsored by Historic Clinton and the Guild of Clinton merchants will take place from Friday, Aug. 16 through Sunday, Aug. 18, in the Main Street shopping district, rain or shine. Many of the local merchants will have plenty of special deals for shoppers during this weekend event. For information, visit [www.visitclintonnj.com](http://www.visitclintonnj.com).

**Young Professionals Networking** with Chef Thonton “Thor” Geise takes place from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 19 at Whittemore Community Culture Conservation at 7 Rockaway Road in the Oldwick section of Tewksbury Township. The event will be an evening of networking, food by Chef Thor, and getting engaged with the Hunterdon County Young Professional Community. For required registration, visit <https://bit.ly/youngprofessionalswhittemore2024>.

**The Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair** will run from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 21, through Saturday, Aug. 22, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 25, at the Roger K. Everitt Fairgrounds at South County Park, 1207 Route 179, in Ringoes, Hunterdon County. Fair highlights will feature horse and riding demonstrations, 4-H and open dairy cattle shows, all kinds of food, big vegetable contest, fruit, flower and vegetable shows, antique tractors, rabbit and poultry shows, sheep and goat shows, pedal tractor pull for kids, live music performances, local talent on stage, amusement rides and the ever popular tractor pulls. Friday will feature a fireworks show after dark. Fair admission is free, with

a \$15 per car parking donation. For information, call (908) 782-6809 or visit <http://www.hunterdoncountyfair.com>.

**Joe Grillo** bring his New Orleans sound to Whittemore Gardens at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 22, at Whittemore Community Culture Conservation, at 7 Rockaway Road in the Oldwick section of Tewksbury Township. Lead singer, saxophonist, and front man for the New Orleans inspired recording artists, The Gumbo Gumbas, Joe Grillo. Everyone is welcome to bring a chair. New Orleans Food Makes Friends chefs will be flying up some delicious Cajun delights. Guests can place an order when purchasing their ticket. Plates will range from \$15-\$20, including a beverage. Guests can place their order and pick it up at the concert. Last call to order is noon on Friday, Aug. 16. To see available dinner options, visit <https://www.whittemoreecc.org/dinner-optionsmetroseafood>. Tickets are \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members, and \$5 for Chubb guests. For more tickets and more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/bddnx8dr>.

**Hunterdon Art Museum Art Bar** brings a blend of culture, cocktails and community with Art Bar to the Toshiko Takaezu Terrace at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 23 at 7 Lower Center Street in Clinton. Guess can elevate Friday evenings and quench that adult thirst with an array of crafted cocktails, wine, refreshing beers, and spiked seltzers. Situated on the Toshiko Takaezu Terrace, Art Bar also offers the best seats in the house for Clinton’s Come Together Friday Night Music. Art Bar is now open to the public, welcoming everyone to enjoy the atmosphere and views. Previously exclusive

to museum members, the museum invites all to experience it.

**Early Modern Witchcraft** is the topic when Readington Museums’ popular lecture series continues from 7 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 25, inside the historic Wade-Wyckoff Barn at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead, at 114 Dreahook Road, in the Stanton section of Readington Township. Janine Quimby, English Language Arts teacher at Ridge High School in Basking Ridge, will speak about early modern witchcraft. There is a \$5. suggested donation, and reservations are highly recommended. Advance registration is requested, online at [www.readington-museums.org](http://www.readington-museums.org), via email at [readingtonmuseums@gmail.com](mailto:readingtonmuseums@gmail.com), or call (908) 236-2327.

**The Swingtown big band** will appear for the first time at the Gardens of Whittemore at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 5 at Whittemore Community Culture Conservation at 7 Rockaway Road in the Oldwick section of Tewksbury Township. Swing Town is a traditional 20-piece big band with a big sound. Guests are encouraged to bring their chair, their dancing shows, and a picnic. Tickets are free for members, \$10 for non-members, and \$5 for Chubb guests. Tickets are available online at <https://tinyurl.com/m2cst796> at the door for all concerts. In the event of a weather-related rescheduling, visit [whittemoreecc.org](http://whittemoreecc.org) or check @WhittemoreCCC on social media for updates.

**Free Fly Tying Workshop** will be offered by the Mendham Township Library with South Branch Outfitters of Califon at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 15, in the Brookside Community Church’s Scialla Hall at 8 East Main St. in Brookside, Mendham Township. Partic-

ipants will learn about the tools an materials needed in tying, along with the basic techniques. This workshop is geared towards those without tying experience. All tools and materials will be provided. South Branch Outfitters welcomes all anglers young and old, novice and seasoned, with services that includes guided fly fishing and instruction, expert tackle and fly selection advice, and special educational events. To register visit [www.mendhamtwplib.org](http://www.mendhamtwplib.org).

**Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Friday Walks** will take place from 9 to 11 a.m. on Friday mornings. Walkers can join Friends volunteers for a walk down Pleasant Plains Road. In the spring months while guests get exercise and fresh air and enjoy good company they can watch for migrating birds as well as the usual inhabitants of Great Swamp NWR, listen for the spring calls of frogs, observe the greening of the views from the road, walk their dog on the road. Dogs should be accompanied by a leash and a doggie bag. The planned walk is two and a half to three miles. It is suggested to bring binoculars and friends. The group will meet at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center, 32 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township. More information about the Friends of Great Swamp NWR can be found at [www.friendsofgreatswamp.org](http://www.friendsofgreatswamp.org)

**The Jester Jim Summer Reading 2024 Closing Event** will take place from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 15, at the Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge. Join in to celebrate the end of Summer Reading. With a trunk full of props and energy, juggler, beatboxer, and comedian Jester Jim will perform a

family variety show. Thanks to The Friends of the Bernards Township Library for sponsoring this event. No registration required. For more information, visit [BernardsLibrary.org](http://BernardsLibrary.org) or call (908) 204-3031 ext. 6.

**Family Fun Bubble Beats with Miss Jolie** will take place from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 19 at Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge. Miss Jolie shares her passion for music and dancing while incorporating bubble fun showcasing various bubbles in all shapes and sizes “popping” songs and games and putting kids inside a bubble. This event is sponsored by The Friends of BTL. No registration required. For more information, visit [BernardsLibrary.org](http://BernardsLibrary.org) or call (908) 204-3031 ext. 6.

**The History of Beer and Newark Breweries** will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 20 at Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge. Guests will enjoy a presentation covering the history of New Jersey Beer including a focus on the breweries of neighboring Newark’s past. Beer played a role in the rise of civilizations, the settlement of America, the Revolutionary War and the industrialization of Newark. In fact, in the early 1900’s, Newark was the brewing capital of the United States. Learn about the rise and fall of several major Newark beer brands, hear about the families that ran the breweries and take a look at some of their impressive Victorian homes. Presenter is NJ historian (and home brewer) James “Mac” McPharland. Registration requested. For information, or to register, visit [BernardsLibrary.org](http://BernardsLibrary.org) or call (908) 204-3031 ext. 6.