

# 2025 WINTER SCHEDULE



**LECTURES**

**DISTINGUISHED  
VISITING SPEAKERS**

**SATELLITE  
PROGRAMMING**

**DIGITAL  
PROGRAMS**

**JEFFERSON**  
EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

3207 STATE STREET • ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA  
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# 2025 Winter 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.**

## Community Conversations, Lectures, Discussions, and Visiting Speaker Events

When	What	Who	Program Type
Wednesday, Feb. 5 Term kick-off reception: 6 to 7 p.m. Event: 7 p.m.	<b>How the Wine Industry Started in North America</b>	Rod Phillips, D.Phil.* <i>Professor, Carleton University; wine writer, historian, and judge</i>	Hagen History Center Doris Becker Lecture – Visiting Speaker presented in partnership with the HHC (Free)
Thursday, Feb. 6 6 p.m.	<b>'It's Broken, So Let's Fix it': Examining Access, Barriers to Youth Mental Health Services in Erie County, Pennsylvania</b>	Members of the JCLA 2024 Cohort	JES Civic Leadership Academy Graduation featuring cohort presentation (Free)
Friday, Feb. 7 Noon	<b>Having Culturally Conscious Conversations to Foster Professional and Personal Wellness</b>	Brandon Wiley, M.S., LPC, <i>CEO, Opened Eyes</i>	Community Conversation (Free)
Monday, Feb. 10 7 p.m.	<b>Guarding Your Heart: Good Heart Health and the Latest Advances in Cardiac Care</b>	Matthew C. Becker, M.D., <i>Interventional Cardiologist, LECOM Health</i>	Lecture Series in Partnership with LECOM Health (Free)
Tuesday, Feb. 11 7 p.m.	<b>They Not Like Us: Kendrick Lamar, Drake &amp; The Commodification of a Rap Beef</b>	Rhonda Matthews, Ph.D., <i>Co-Founder, Erie's Black Wall Street; Political Science and Women's Studies Professor, PennWest University</i>	Pop Culture Lecture Series in Partnership with Erie's Black Wall Street (Free)
Friday, Feb. 14 Noon	<b>Saints, Sex, Sentiment, and Chocolate: A Short History of Valentine's Day</b>	Andrew Roth, Ph.D., <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence, Interim Director of the Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education</i>	Special Holiday Lunch-and-Learn (Free)
Monday, Feb. 17 7 p.m.	<b>The Relationship of the US and Putin from 2000 to the Ukrainian War</b>	George Deutsch, B.S., <i>Executive Director, Emeritus, of the Erie County Historical Society/Hagen History Center</i>	Lecture
Wednesday, Feb. 19 7:30 p.m.	<b>Resistance through Music: Florence Price (1887-1953)</b>	Grammy Award Winner Michelle Cann* and Erie Philharmonic Orchestra Members	Concert in Partnership with Gannon University (Free)
Friday, Feb. 21 Noon	<b>Who is the Mental Health Association? 'The Best Kept Secret in Downtown Erie!'</b>	Patricia Stucke, MHA CEO; Colleen Hammon, MHA Vice President of the Board of Directors; and Betsy Wiest, MHA Board Member	Community Conversation (Free)
Monday, Feb. 24 7 p.m.	<b>Ukraine and Russia: Where Are We Now, Where Are We Headed?</b>	Lena Surzhko-Harned, Ph.D., <i>Political Science Professor, Penn State Behrend; JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Lecture
Thursday, Feb. 27 7 p.m.	<b>Common Vascular Problems and Treatments Available</b>	Carleen Cho, M.D., <i>Vascular Surgeon, LECOM Health</i>	Lecture Series in Partnership with LECOM Health (Free)
Friday, Feb. 28 Noon	<b>The Erie Community Foundation: Celebrating 90 Years of Investment and Impact</b>	Karen Bilowith, M.P.A., <i>President &amp; CEO, The Erie Community Foundation</i>	Community Conversation (Free)
Tuesday, March 4 7 p.m.	<b>Solving a 160-year-Old Mystery: The Origin of the Rebel Yell</b>	Diane Chido, M.S., M.A., <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence; Political Science Professor</i>	Lecture
Friday, March 7 Noon	<b>Empowering the Future: Shaping Leaders Through Destiny of Our Daughters Inc.</b>	Shateria Franklin, B.A., <i>Founder, Destiny of Our Daughters</i>	Community Conversation (Free)
Monday, March 10 7 p.m.	<b>The 21st Century: A Bad Time to be a Tyrant</b>	Ferki Ferati, Ed.D., <i>President, Jefferson Educational Society</i>	Brock Institute Lecture
Friday, March 14 Noon	<b>Grow Erie: Revitalizing and Reimagining Investment in Community</b>	Tina Mengine, B.S., <i>President and CEO, Erie County Redevelopment Authority</i>	Community Conversation (Free)
Monday, March 17 7 p.m.	<b>Lake Erie Fish Wars: 'Shots Fired at Local Fishermen'</b>	David Frew, Ph.D., <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Lecture
Wednesday, March 19 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	<b>Still We Rise: Overcoming the Barriers of Aspiring Female Leaders</b>	Alyson Eagle, Ph.D. <i>JES Raimy Fellow</i>	Day-long, workshop-styled conference
Thursday, March 20 7 p.m.	<b>Syria: The Downfall of Assad and the Changing Balance of Power in the Region</b>	Baher Ghosheh, Ph.D., <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence, Chairman, JES Board of Trustees</i>	Lecture
Friday, March 21 Noon	<b>Responding and Helping: The Erie Police Department's Crisis Intervention Unit – Exploring What It Is, and Why It Matters</b>	Lt. Jamie Russo, <i>Special Operations, Community Outreach Program, City of Erie Police Department</i>	Community Conversation (Free)
Thursday, March 27 7 p.m.	<b>Common Foot Problems and Prevention Methods</b>	Anthony Colonna, D.P.M., <i>Podiatrist/Podiatric Surgeon, LECOM Health</i>	Lecture Series in Partnership with LECOM Health (Free)

**More than 80% of programs are FREE!**

\*Denotes Visiting Guest Presenter.

# Courses and Lecture Series at the Jefferson

When	What	Who	Program Type
Weekly – Tuesdays, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sessions begin: Jan. 7	<b>Great Conversations Continued</b>	Christine Riehl, M.P.P. <i>Former Foreign Service Officer</i>	Discussion Group Limited Advanced Registration
Monthly – Second Thursday: Section 1: Noon to 2 p.m. Section 2: 3 to 5 p.m. Both Sections begin: Feb. 13	<b>Great Decisions 2025</b>	Christine Riehl, M.P.P., <i>Former Foreign Service Officer</i> , & Diane Chido, M.S., M.A., <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence, Political Science Professor</i>	Discussion Group Limited Advanced Registration

## Jefferson Satellite Programming

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

When	What	Who	Program Type (All Free)
Thursday, Feb. 13 7 p.m.	<b>Cognitive Conception: When Men Become Fathers</b>	Parris Baker, Ph.D., <i>Social Work Program Professor, Gannon University; JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Lecture
Thursday, Feb. 20 7 p.m.	<b>Youth Homelessness: Examining a Critical Challenge Nationally and Locally</b>	Damali Donovan, B.S., <i>JES Raimy Fellow</i>	Lecture
Thursday, March 6 7 p.m.	<b>White Mothers of Black or Biracial Children: Parenting in the Shadow: Overlooked, Unheard, and Disregarded</b>	Parris Baker, Ph.D., <i>Social Work Program Professor, Gannon University; JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Lecture

### Fairview – Lincoln Community Library



When (Mondays)	What	Who	Program Type (All Free)
Monday, Feb. 3 6 p.m.	<b>The Proposed Lake Erie National Marine Sanctuary: What Is It, Why Is It Important, What's Next</b>	Honey Stempka, M.S. <i>Lake Erie Designation Manager, NOAA</i>	Lecture
Monday, March 3 6 p.m.	<b>Cognitive Conception: When Men Become Fathers</b>	Parris Baker, Ph.D., <i>Social Work Program Professor, Gannon University; JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Lecture
Monday, March 24 6 p.m.	<b>Gaza: Devastation, Despair and Destruction</b>	Baher Ghosheh, Ph.D., <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence, Chairman, JES Board of Trustees</i>	Lecture
Monday, March 31 6 p.m.	<b>Long Distance Dads: How to Be a Father When You Don't Live with Your Children</b>	Parris Baker, Ph.D., <i>Social Work Program Professor, Gannon University; JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Lecture

### Corry - Corry Higher Education Council



When (Tuesdays)	What	Who	Program Type (All Free)
Tuesday, Feb. 4 6 p.m.	<b>Child Care: The Key to Unlocking Workforce Potential and Economic Growth</b>	Elana Como, <i>Early Learning Resource Center Region 1 Director and CEO, Northwest Institute of Research, Inc.</i>	Lecture
Tuesday, Feb. 25 6 p.m.	<b>Does the Church Have a Place in Today's Politics?</b>	Parris Baker, Ph.D., <i>Social Work Program Professor, Gannon University; JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Lecture
Tuesday, March 11 6 p.m.	<b>The Emerging Corry Fund of the Corry Community Foundation: What It Is, Why It Matters, How You Can Support</b>	Kimberly Hawkes, M.B.A., <i>Board Member, Corry Community Foundation</i> ; and, Shelby Scouten, <i>Executive Assistant, Corry Community Foundation</i>	Lecture
Tuesday, March 18 6 p.m.	<b>Realizing the Need for an Autism Support School and Hub in Rural Pennsylvania</b>	Kathryn DiVittorio, B.S., <i>JES Raimy Fellow</i>	Lecture
Tuesday, March 25 6 p.m.	<b>Fiber Optic Broadband: How This Infrastructure Shapes the Future of Rural Spaces</b>	Matthew Platz, Ph.D., <i>Executive Director, Corry Higher Education Council</i> ; and, Charles "Chuck" Gray, B.A., <i>Executive Director, Impact Corry</i>	Lecture

### East County/Harborcreek – Harborcreek Township Building



When (Wednesdays)	Topic	Speaker	Program Type (All Free)
Wednesday, Feb. 12 6 p.m.	<b>The Proposed Lake Erie National Marine Sanctuary: What Is It, Why Is It Important, What's Next</b>	Honey Stempka, M.S. <i>Lake Erie Designation Manager, NOAA</i>	Lecture
Monday, Feb. 17 7 p.m.	<b>The Relationship of the US and Putin from 2000 to the Ukrainian War</b>	George Deutsch, B.S., <i>Executive Director, Emeritus, of the Erie County Historical Society/Hagen History Center</i>	Lecture
Wednesday, March 26 6 p.m.	<b>Lake Erie Fish Wars: 'Shots Fired at Local Fishermen'</b>	David Frew, Ph.D., <i>JES Scholar-in-Residence</i>	Lecture

## VISITING SPEAKER EVENTS



### How the Wine Industry Started in North America

Rod Phillips, D.Phil.\*

*wine writer, historian, and judge*

Hagen History Center Doris Becker Lecture

**Wednesday, Feb. 5**

at the Jefferson Educational Society

Reception: 6 to 7 p.m., Event: 7 p.m.



### Resistance through Music: Florence Price (1887-1953)

Grammy Award Winner Michelle Cann\* and  
Erie Philharmonic Orchestra Members

**Wednesday, Feb 19, 7:30 p.m.**

at First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



Did you know that in addition to in-person, virtual, and hybrid events the JES offers courses? Returning in 2025 are both the weekly course, **Great Conversations**, in which participants read a range of materials – from the classics to notable contemporary works – and **Great Decisions**, a monthly course in partnership with the Foreign Policy Association, in which participants dive into critical, global issues with national- and local-level implications. Political science professor and national security expert Diane Chido and former Foreign Service Officer Christine Riehl will guide Great Decisions, of which two sections are being offered, and Riehl also facilitates Great Discussions, of which one section is being offered.

Capacity for course and each section is limited, and registration is processed on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about the courses, visit [JESerie.org](http://JESerie.org).

#### Breakdown of Program Costs (unless otherwise noted):

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

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

**Women in Leadership Conference:** \$15 (includes the cost of coffee, snacks, and lunch)

**Community Conversations:** Free, Lunch optional \$5/person

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

**Great Decisions 2025 Course:** \$100 (includes materials)

*All 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.. Payments must be made at registration. Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, and Discover accepted. Cash payments are not 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.

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

**Jefferson Satellite Programming** during the Winter Term 2025 will be held at the Erie Center for Arts and Culture (ECAT, 650 East Ave, Ada Lawrence Community Room, Erie, PA 16503), Corry Higher Education Council (221 N Center St, Corry, PA 16407), the Lincoln Community Center Library (1255 Manchester Road, Erie, PA 16505), and Harborcreek Township Building (5601 Buffalo Rd, 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) 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.*



## WINTER 2025 TERM LECTURES, DIGITAL PROGRAMS, AND VISITING SPEAKER EVENTS

### 02.03 // Lincoln Community Center

#### 02.12 // Harborcreek Township Municipal Building

### The Proposed Lake Erie National Marine Sanctuary: What Is It, Why Is It Important, What's Next

Over the last nine years you have likely heard whisperings about an effort to protect and preserve shipwrecks on the bottom of Lake Erie through the establishment of a national marine sanctuary. If you have ever wondered what exactly this effort is about, join Honey Stempka as she provides an overview of the National Marine Sanctuary System and associated community benefits, a brief summary of the Lake Erie nomination, where the proposed Lake Erie National Marine Sanctuary currently is in the process, and what is to come.

### 02.04 // Corry Hi-Ed Council

#### Child Care: The Key to Unlocking Workforce Potential and Economic Growth

For too long, child care's profound contributions, particularly to the economy, have been underappreciated. In 2024, the JES deployed a team of experts to address the child-care crisis in Erie, Pennsylvania. Over six months, the experts provided key insights at both the local and national levels, culminating in the August report: "Positioning Erie to Prosper and Compete: Child Care School for Infants and Toddlers is Key to Future of Workforce and Economy." Elana Como, who leads the Early Learning Resource Center in Region 1 and 2, will discuss the report's findings and explore why they are vital for residents of Corry, Pennsylvania, and the future of their workforce and economy.

### 02.05 // JES

#### How the Wine Industry Started in North America

Rod Phillips, a wine writer, historian, and judge, and Carleton University college professor based in Ottawa, Canada, will discuss "How the Wine Industry Started in North America." This event will include highlights of Erie, Pennsylvania's local wine region, and members from Mazza Winery will be on hand to offer wine sampling from 6 to 7 p.m. before the lecture. The Hagen History Center Doris Becker Lecture is a free event thanks to Mark Becker, who underwrites the series in honor of his late mother, Doris Becker.

### 02.06 // JES

#### 'It's Broken, So Let's Fix it': Examining Access, Barriers to Youth Mental Health Services in Erie County, Pennsylvania

The 2024 cohort of Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy assessed the challenges of mental health and equitable access to care and resources throughout Erie County. During their graduation ceremony, representatives will offer an overview, presenting their findings and key recommendations – after having spent seven months visiting, learning about, and researching various municipalities across Erie County, which ties directly to this project.

### 02.07 // JES

#### Having Culturally Conscious Conversations to Foster Professional and Personal Wellness

Why is it important to have culturally conscious conversations, and how does doing so help us personally, and professionally? Brandon Wiley, the CEO of Opened Eyes, an Erie-based nonprofit with a mission to create cultural unity and awareness, and develop positive self-identification, will review the organization's founding, history, and impact by promoting cross-cultural understanding and acceptance. He will also share evidence-based approaches, real-world examples, and actionable techniques to empower attendees to integrate cultural awareness into their daily lives and professional practices.

### 02.10 // JES

#### Guarding Your Heart: Good Heart Health and the Latest Advances in Cardiac Care

Matthew C. Becker, M.D., Interventional Cardiologist and Chairman of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine for LECOM Health, explores practical strategies for maintaining optimal heart health through lifestyle choices, early detection, and prevention. He also highlights cutting-edge medical advancements in diagnosing and treating common heart conditions, including minimally invasive procedures and breakthrough therapies transforming cardiac care.

### 02.11 // JES

#### They Not Like Us: Kendrick Lamar, Drake & The Commodification of a Rap Beef

In this discussion, Dr. Rhonda Matthews delves into the intersection of music, identity, and culture through the lens of one of the most compelling rivalries in contemporary hip-hop. This lecture unpacks the dynamics of rap beefs as more than lyrical sparring—they are reflections of societal stratification, identity politics, and capitalism's influence on artistic expression. Exploring Kendrick Lamar and Drake as cultural icons, this talk reveals how their rivalry encapsulates broader conversations about race, authenticity, and the commodification of Black creativity in a hyper-commercialized music industry. Engaging and thought-provoking, this event is a must for anyone interested in music, culture, and the power dynamics shaping our world or anyone who wants to understand it.

### 02.13 // ECAT

### 03.03 // Lincoln Community Center

#### Cognitive Conception: When Men Become Fathers

Conception occurs when a sperm fertilizes an egg, and in traditional pregnancies, a gestation period begins in the mother that transforms her body and mind in recognizable, physiological ways, which, of course, is well-documented and studied. But it's less known what happens to men during the gestation period. For men, who do not become physically pregnant, the announcement of pregnancy is initially

contingent upon the man's acceptance or rejection of his new role identity as a father – otherwise referred to as “cognitive conception.” What is cognitive cognition, “when” do men become fathers, and why should we discuss it? Join JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Parris Baker as he explores this topic, unpacking why it matters and what it means to the relationship between a father, a mother, their baby, and society.

## 02.14 // JES

### Saints, Sex, Sentiment, and Chocolate: A Short History of Valentine's Day

Although Valentine's Day is not an official holiday anywhere, it is celebrated in more countries around the world than any other holiday. Where did this rose-hued holiday custom of gift-giving, card sharing, chocolate consuming courtship, and romance originate? Did you know that every February over 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are sold, that the average person spends over \$160 for the day, that approximately one billion cards are exchanged around the world, and that \$2 billion-plus will be spent on flowers – including those we send to ourselves?

## 02.17 // JES

### 03.12 // Harborcreek Township Municipal Building The Relationship of the US and Putin From 2000 to the Ukrainian War

When Vladimir Putin assumed the Presidency of the Russian Federation after a chaotic post-Soviet decade, there was hope in Washington and the West that the rapprochement begun under Yeltsin would continue to grow. However, over the next several years, as the countries of Eastern Europe rushed to embrace the EU and NATO, Putin began to assert more authoritarian control over Russia and pushed against what he perceived as encroachment on the area of traditional Russian influence and control. The West and U.S. were slow to recognize and respond. Join historian George Deutsch, as he examines the deterioration of this relationship and its consequences, leading up to the Ukrainian War.

## 02.19 // First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant Resistance through Music: Florence Price (1887-1953)

In celebration of Black History Month, Gannon University, in partnership with the JES and other community organizations, will host Grammy-winning, internationally-touring concert pianist Michelle Cann, foremost interpreter of the music of Florence Price (1887-1953). Price was the first African-American woman to have her work performed by a major symphony orchestra. Gannon students will narrate this concert, helping audiences understand Price's life amidst the broad arc of African American history. The concert will present Price's Piano Concerto in D Minor and her Sonata in E Minor, featuring musicians from the Erie Philharmonic Orchestra.

## 02.20 // ECAT

### Youth Homelessness: Examining a Critical Challenge Nationally and Locally

One definition of homelessness is not having a safe, permanent place to live, such as living on the streets or in shelters. In Erie County, Pennsylvania, more than 1,100 people use emergency shelters each year, and the number of homeless people has increased nearly 15% in the past five years. Young people are especially at risk, often facing challenges, like leaving unstable homes and having no support system after leaving foster care. JES Raimy Fellow Damali Donovan will focus on defining homelessness according to federal statutes, the current state of homelessness, the issue of youth homelessness and its connection to Erie County.

## 02.21 // JES

### Who is the Mental Health Association? 'The Best Kept Secret in Downtown Erie!'

The Mental Health Association (MHA) just celebrated its 30-year anniversary! The MHA provides support and advocacy to those in recovery-to be themselves, and to feel accepted and connected with others with shared experiences. MHA values community education and empowering people with mental health needs to lead meaningful and satisfying lives. Patricia Stucke, MHA CEO; Colleen Hammon, MHA Vice President of the Board of Directors; and Betsy Wiest, MHA Board Member will share the concepts of peer support and how this is embraced in all the programs including the Board of Directors at MHA.

## 02.24 // JES

### Ukraine and Russia: Where Are We Now, Where Are We Headed?

February 24 marks the third anniversary of Russia's war on Ukraine. Prior to February 2022, some observers predicted that Ukraine did not stand a chance if Russia invaded, and Kyiv was expected to fall in three days. Yet they did; and it didn't. What has happened, and how has the war changed over the years? And what will be the impact as Donald Trump returns to the White House as the 47th President of the United States in 2025? Join Penn State Behrend Political Science Professor and JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Lena Surzhko-Harned for a discussion of these questions and many more.

## 02.25 // Corry Hi-Ed Council

### Does the Church Have a Place in Today's Politics?

The Founders of the United States of America explicitly argued for a separation of church and state, codifying it in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Yet, a great deal of attention has been directed toward a group of Americans, referred to as White Christian Nationalists, who argue faith should be included, not excluded, as a guiding north star of the country. What has led to the rise of this faction of citizens? What is its impact on U.S. politics? Dr. Parris Baker, JES Scholar-in-Residence, will answer those questions and more as he examines the fundamental agendas of White Christian Nationalists, their philosophies, their aims, and their goals.

## 02.27 // JES

### Common Vascular Problems and Treatments Available

Carleen Cho, M.D., Vascular Surgeon and Director of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery for the LECOM Institute for Successful Living, explores common vascular issues, such as arterial blockages, aneurysms, and varicose veins. Highlights include understanding common vascular conditions and their impact on daily life; gaining insight into the diagnostic process – how to detect vascular issues early and accurately; and understanding advanced treatment options, from traditional surgeries to innovative, minimally invasive techniques.

## 02.28 // JES

### The Erie Community Foundation: Celebrating 90 Years of Investment and Impact

The Erie Community Foundation traces its history back to 1935 when Elisha H. Mack, co-founder of the Boston Store, created a charitable endowment fund that fueled regional philanthropic efforts over the next three decades. In 1971, the fund was transformed into a public charity, officially becoming The Erie Community Foundation, which, today, has expanded its collection of 900-plus different locally-created endowment funds. Celebrating 90 years of investment and impact,

ECF President and CEO Karen Bilowith will discuss the foundation's mission to inspire, engage, and empower donors and communities across the region who are making an impact in the place that we all call "home."

### 03.04 // JES

#### **Solving a 160-year-Old Mystery: The Origin of the Rebel Yell**

What is the origin of the 'Rebel Yell', the one often suggested to be a homage to Native war whoops or animal sounds? Using 19th century agricultural maps and cultural analysis, JES Scholar-in-Residence and Political Science Professor Diane Chido tracks the roots of the famed confederate battle cry, which leads back to Scots-Irish hog farmers along the piney woods of Appalachia. She'll discuss the findings of her research, and their importance.

### 03.06 // ECAT

#### **White Mothers of Black or Biracial Children: Parenting in the Shadow: Overlooked, Unheard, and Disregarded**

In the wake of numerous deaths to young Black males, beginning with Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and Eric Gardner, three Black women created #BlackLivesMatter. Black Lives Matter seeks to offer support and love to one another and to share their grief experiences of losing children, primarily Black sons, to violence, many times through acts of police brutality. In 2023, the Pew Research Center reported that 51% of the adults in America supported the Black Lives Matter movement. However, lost in the discussion centered within the Black Lives Matter movement were a group of white mothers of biracial children who feared for the welfare of their children, confronted with the reality that their children were perceived as Black. Dr. Parris Baker, JES Scholar-in-Residence, will address the dilemmas, fears, and struggles of raising biracial, multiracial, and racial children in a polarized America and hear the strategies used by several white mothers to overcome their challenges.

### 03.07 // JES

#### **Empowering the Future: Shaping Leaders Through Destiny of Our Daughters Inc.**

Destiny of Our Daughters Inc. is committed to empowering young women of color by fostering leadership, education, and more. Through mentorship, advocacy, and community engagement, the organization aims to build a network of future leaders who are equipped to break barriers and reach their full potential. Join Destiny of Our Daughters Founder Shateria Franklin as she explores the organization's mission and impact stories, and tells how she and her team are shaping the future one daughter at a time.

### 03.10 // JES

#### **The 21st Century: A Bad Time to be a Tyrant**

Today's headlines are giving cause for concern over the purported rise of authoritarian leaders, wannabe dictators, and tyrants globally. But since 2000, numerous authoritarian leaders have been deposed through various means – including coups, popular uprisings, and foreign interventions. From Milosevic in Yugoslavia, to Hussein in Iraq, Gaddafi in Libya, and more, there is a notable list of significant instances when authoritarian leaders have been removed from power in the 21st century. The circumstances surrounding each ousting vary, of course, as reflected by the complex political landscapes – and times – in which these events occurred. But a review of fallen authoritarian leaders – offered by JES President Dr. Ferki Ferati – suggests that since the turn of the millennia, it has been a bad time to be a tyrant.

### 03.11 // Corry Hi-Ed Council

#### **The Emerging Corry Fund of the Corry Community Foundation: What It Is, Why It Matters, How You Can Support**

The Corry Community Foundation is evaluating interest in starting an Emerging Corry Fund modeled after the Emerging Erie Fund of the Erie Community Foundation. As part of our mission to create enduring charitable endowments that enhance our local region and support the next generation of philanthropic and community leaders, CCF aims to build on the insights gained from the Emerging Erie Fund. The envisioned group will consist of young individuals committed to creating lasting change and empowering emerging leaders to drive the transformation they want to see. Are you a young leader with a passion for change? Come learn more!

### 03.14 // JES

#### **Grow Erie: Revitalizing and Reimagining Investment in Community**

In January 2025, in partnership with the Erie County Redevelopment Authority (ECRDA) and Integrated Agriculture Systems (INTAG) the Minority Community Investment Coalition's (MCIC) Grow Erie project took flight and began operations of its commercial facility. This advanced technology agriculture program is revitalizing a distressed neighborhood and serving as a catalyst for investment in Erie's eastside. Join Erie County Redevelopment Authority President and CEO Tina Mengine and guests for insight into the project and impact on the community.

### 03.17 // JES

#### **03.26 // Harborcreek Municipal Building**

#### **Lake Erie Fish Wars: 'Shots Fired at Local Fishermen'**

Did you know that there was once a 10-year stretch when armed Canadian revenue ships declared war on the fishermen of Erie, Pennsylvania? Gillnetting on the 'wrong side' of the international line separating Erie (USA) and Long Point (Canada), Erie fishers were hauling in thousands of tons of "Canadian" fish. How were Erie's "fish pirates," as the Canadians called them, able to outsmart, and outrun, federal officers? How did 'the war' escalate from bow-mounted gatling guns to movable machine guns? What led to "peace", and what did that look like? Join JES Scholar-in-Residence and author of the weekly series "On the Waterfront," Dr. David Frew to an exciting look into this decade-long war.

### 03.18 // Corry Hi-Ed Council

#### **Realizing the Need for an Autism Support School and Hub in Rural Pennsylvania**

Navigating the world as a parent with a child with autism can be challenging – perhaps even more so in rural communities where access to resources is more limited and a strong support network may be lacking. But imagine if there was a 'one-stop-shop' to gain access to a network of education, early interventive services, and additional support. Join JES Raimy Fellow Kathryn DiVittorio, a mother of children on the autism spectrum who has spent the past six-plus months researching this topic to propose recommendations and action.

### 03.19 // JES

#### **Still We Rise: Overcoming the Barriers of Aspiring Female Leaders**

What barriers do women face specifically along the pathway to leadership? How have successful leaders navigated these obstacles? How can women leaders help build a 'pipeline to leadership' for emerging and future women leaders? Join JES Raimy Fellow Dr. Alyson Eagle for a day-long workshop and conference designed

for current and aspiring women leaders to learn from and share with each. For a list of presenters and the day's itinerary, which includes a networking lunch, visit [JESerie.org](http://JESerie.org).

### 03.20 // JES

#### **Syria: The Downfall of Assad and the Changing Balance of Power in the Region**

The sudden and dramatic collapse of the Assad regime ushered in major changes in Syria and the Middle East. JES Scholar-in-Residence and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Dr. Baher Ghosheh will explore what the new Syria looks like, and address questions like: Why did the Assad regime collapse so quickly? How does the new Syria impact the balance of power in the region? Who wins from the changes in Syria? What does the future hold for Syria's relations with Iran, Turkey, Russia, Israel, and other countries in the region?

### 03.21 // JES

#### **Responding and Helping: The Erie Police Department's Crisis Intervention Unit – Exploring What It Is, and Why It Matters**

In May 2023, the Erie Police Department relaunched its 24-hour Crisis Car Unit, and with it the department's Crisis Intervention Unit, after a nearly two-decades-long absence. Staffed by professionally trained police officers working along side crisis service workers and in partnership with UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, the unit's primary function is to work with the mental health community – from being first responders, to providing referrals. Lt. Jamie Russo, who directs the unit, will discuss its launch, its impact, and its future.

### 03.24 // Lincoln Community Center

#### **Gaza: Devastation, Despair and Destruction**

The devastating conflict in Gaza has resulted in mass destruction in this tiny strip of desert land. With the near total destruction of infrastructure, most homes, schools, hospitals, mosques and churches, and with over 45,000 dead and 108,000 injured and thousands missing in the rubble, Israel has bombed Gaza back into the stone age. What does the future hold for Gaza, for Hamas, for the Palestinians, and for the Israelis? Is there really any chance for reconstruction, recovery and peace? JES Scholar-in-Residence and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Dr. Baher Ghosheh will address these questions and more.

### 03.25 // Corry Hi-Ed Council

#### **Fiber Optic Broadband: How This Infrastructure Shapes the Future of Rural Spaces**

In the #PositivelyCorry strategic plan, Charles Buki, founder and president of the planning firm czb, LLC., wrote: "Before Corry can invest in attracting new neighbors, upgrading infrastructure, revitalizing housing and neighborhoods, improving public spaces, and supporting businesses in the city and surrounding area, Corry must first connect to the world through high-speed internet. Covid-19 has served to accentuate how far behind Corry has fallen in the race to keep and attract households and businesses. Without end-to-end high-speed internet access, Corry is not only not going to catch up, but it will also fall further behind." Join Charles "Chuck" Gray, Executive Director of Impact Corry, and Dr. Matthew Platz, Executive Director of the Corry Higher Education Council, as they discuss the importance of fiber optic broadband internet as necessary infrastructure.

### 03.27 // JES

#### **Common Foot Problems and Prevention Methods**

Anthony Colonna, D.P.M., Podiatric Surgeon at LECOM Health and Residency Program Director for LECOM College of Podiatric Medicine, will explore common foot and ankle conditions that may affect your daily life. He will touch on topics that may allow you to improve function as well as prevent common issues encountered in foot and ankle pathology. Additionally, he will speak on nonsurgical and surgical approaches to some of these conditions focusing on the newest options available to improve mobility. Dr. Colonna also sees patients at UPMC.

### 03.31 // Lincoln Community Center

#### **Long Distance Dads: How to Be a Father When You Don't Live with Your Children**

According to U.S. Census data, more than a quarter of the 121 million-plus men in the United States are biological fathers of at least one child under the age of 18. Less than 6% are "solo dads," meaning most children have the presence of a mother-figure in their lives. Yet over 20% of U.S. men are "absent dads," having little or no contact in the lives of their children. But does not being present routinely in a child's life mean a father can't be present at all? JES Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Parris Baker has studied fatherhood for decades, and, here, turns his attention to "long-distance dads," to explore ways men can be meaningfully present even when they do not live with their children.

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

## Great Decisions 2025

### Calling all foreign policy and national security enthusiasts!

The JES is partnering with the Foreign Policy Association to offer Great Decisions 2025 – a monthly, eight-session seminar-styled course beginning in February that dives into critical, global issues with national- and local-level implications. Political science professor and national security expert Diane Chido and former Foreign Service Officer Christine Riehl will guide the discussions.

Each participant will receive a briefing book on each of eight topics of exploration in 2025: American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads; U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy; U.S.-China Relations; India: Between China, the West, and the Global South; International Cooperation of Climate Change; The Future of NATO and European Security; AI and American National Security; American Foreign Policy in the Middle East: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead.

The groups will meet monthly on the second Thursday beginning in February (one section at noon; the second at 3 p.m.; each with a capacity of 15).

Upon the conclusion of the course, the group will draft foreign policy recommendations that will be sent to the U.S. State Department.

Registration is limited, and participants must register by Monday, Feb. 3 to receive the necessary materials to participate.

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