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Clockwise from above: Sycamore Mills Dam, ruins within the park, the trail along Ridley Creek and the Sycamore Mills historic building

Wikimedia

# *In Praise (and Repair) of Ridley Creek State Park*

JOSHUA NEEDELMAN | JE STAFF

**T**HUMBING THROUGH A local newspaper more than 20 years ago, Jack Miller stumbled across a small advertisement that caught his eye: The administration of Ridley Creek State Park, the 2,606-acre park in Delaware County, was looking for volunteers. Friends, more specifically.

The Friends of Ridley Creek State Park is a group comprised of volunteers dedicated to smoothing out the park's rough edges. State employees take care of things like building maintenance and plumbing. The Friends, though, focus on maintaining the paths. Clearing fallen trees. Removing invasive species. Even building bridges.

Miller, who has served as the group's president for about 10 years, is grateful he followed up on the newspaper ad and attended that first meeting. The Friends have provided him, and many others, a sense of purpose rooted in a love for nature.

"It's like taking care of your own house or your own apart-

ment. You just want to make it nicer," Miller said. "We go out in nature and make it nicer."

The Friends meet on the first Saturday of every month — rain, shine, sleet or snow. They venture into the wilderness, armed with hand saws, shovels and pickaxes — whatever is needed for the task at hand. They also raise funds for the park, holding fundraising events and an annual photo competition.

Their methods have gotten more sophisticated over time. At first, they scattered about the park with little direction, not knowing what needed to be fixed and which tools were necessary. Now, Miller and other members scout out the park a few days in advance and note the various problems. Also, park goes record things that need fixing in a notebook in the park office.

Then, on the first Saturday of the month, the Friends divide into two groups and conquer, maps in hand and itinerary planned.

"It's nice to know what the problem is before you go out," Miller said.



The problems range in degree of difficulty. Miller said the group has put together multiple bridges at the park, buying supplies from the local hardware store and building the structure together. Some members take the opportunity to release frustration by hacking at trees, all the while observing the nature around them.

Miller recalled once seeing a rabbit scurrying about on a snowy day, evading the footsteps of nearby humans. The rabbit's escape plan was doomed from the start. A hawk swooped in and gobbled it up.

"It's nature happening right in front of you. It happens all the time out there," Miller said. "It's like, 'Wow, this is really nature.'

"You can wander across the edge of the river creek, and it'll be a picture you won't see in any painting or any piece of artwork."

The Friends' work also includes clipping away invasive vegetation, such as multiflora rose and winged euonymus. Former Friends President Tim Higgins explained that some plants are accidentally introduced to the environment and are not recognized as food by animals in the park.

"These plants end up occupying space that is normally occupied by plants browsed and eaten by fauna," Higgins said.

More than 40 Friends chapters exist within the Pennsylvania Parks & Forest Foundation, a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 corporation founded to preserve, protect and enhance Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

PPFF is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, meaning area Friends groups are reflecting on the work they've done over the years.

Higgins is especially proud of the project he completed with fellow Friends group member Gary Sawyer. About four years ago, the duo worked with a vendor to organize a 12-mile-long trail-marking system. Sawyer and Higgins hiked around the park digging holes and filling them with posts, which are about 6 feet tall.

"It's been very helpful to users of the park," Higgins said.

For Higgins, though, perhaps the most rewarding aspect of being part of the group is the camaraderie.

"It's a common sense of trying to give something back to the community, and make a public facility better," Higgins said. "We all have a great love of the outdoors."

Miller said he's enthralled by the spontaneity of the park.

"You can be walking ahead quietly and a fox will come out and look at you. You can't see something like that in your backyard," Miller said. "You see all kinds of cool stuff. It's not on TV — it's right there in front of you. There are people that like that kind of stuff, and there are people who like to look at their phone and use their two thumbs all day long."

Even before Miller joined the Friends, he found himself wandering through the park several times a month. Before the land was sold to the state, much of it was owned by horse breeder Walter M. Jeffords and his wife, Sarah, the niece of Samuel D. Riddle, a prominent businessman who died in 1951.

Miller often found himself exploring the relic of history, discovering old equipment in barns and buggies without horses. Now, the park is a thriving beacon of nature, home to innumerable plants and animals.

Sometimes, people running the trails will come across a member of the Friends clearing a path or snipping away invasive vegetation.

"They'll stop and see us. They'll say, 'Oh, I wondered who cleaned that,'" Miller said. "Then people will join the group the next month because they want to help clean the trails they use." ●

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# JERSEY SHORE OFFERS ARRAY OF SUMMER ACTIVITIES

SELAH MAYA ZIGHELBOIM | JE STAFF



Ocean City boardwalk

Pixabay

**N**OTHING QUITE SAYS summer in Philadelphia like leaving the city limits and heading to New Jersey.

Up and down the Jersey coast, from Atlantic City to Cape May, Philadelphians flock to the shore to build sandcastles and nap on the beach, to stroll the boardwalks and to attend various concerts, festivals and other events taking place on the sands of the Atlantic Ocean all summer long.

So, to help you decide which Jersey shore town to plop down in for a day, check this guide for some of the countless activities that towns along the shore have to offer.

## Atlantic City

Sam Hunt, Demi Lovato and The Chainsmokers are just some of the people who chose to spend time this summer in Atlantic City. They will be there for the Atlantic City Beachfest Concert Series, on July 1, July 26 and July 29, respectively, at Atlantic City Beach.

Atlantic City is, of course, known for its casinos, but it is also host to other, more family-friendly activities for those so inclined. In addition to a lineup of star power in concerts throughout the summer, you can see a lineup of Broadway musicals (*Waitress*, *Wicked* and *Kinky Boots*, to name just a few) on July 9, 16 and 23 at Kennedy Plaza during Broadway on the Boardwalk.

Also at Kennedy Plaza is Mardi Gras AC, a series of classic rock, New Orleans rhythm and blues, reggae, funk, blues rock, roots rock, Americana and world music performances running from June 20 to Sept. 5.

For other activities in Atlantic City, check out [atlanticcitynj.com](http://atlanticcitynj.com).

## Ventnor

Head to Ventnor this summer for lots of outdoor fun. From the 31st Annual Beach Volleyball Tournament on June 30 and July 1 at Cambridge Avenue Beach to the 47th Annual Ventnor Mile and Independence Day Celebration on July 3 at Newport Avenue and the Boardwalk, Ventnor offers plenty of ways to burn calories from all that ice cream you'll need to cool down.

Every Friday at 9 a.m., there is a farmers market in the Holy Trinity Parish parking lot, while Saturdays at 7 p.m. will see either a concert or a movie on the Newport Avenue Beach.

And lastly, don't forget to check out the Good Eats Food Truck Festival, where you can enjoy world cuisine and music from DJ Slice at Ski Beach on June 16 and Sept. 8. At this festival, eight food trucks will go head-to-head to compete in the Battle of Good Eats, and four guests will have the opportunity to judge alongside local celebrity judges.

You can learn more about what's happening in Ventnor this summer at [ventnorcity.org](http://ventnorcity.org).

## Margate

On June 30, Beachstock returns to Margate, with 14 hours of nonstop performances by Matt Santry, DJ Jason E and The British Invasion Experience at the 100.7 WZXL main stage. There will also be opportunities to hula and limbo with professional dancers from South Pacific Island Dancers, take yoga classes at the Milton & Betty Katz JCC and much more.

Every Thursday, from July 5 to Aug. 30 in Margate, you can enjoy Thrilling Thursdays. Start your day at the farmers mar-



ket at the parking lot of Steve & Cookie's Restaurant & Oyster Bar, continue with sidewalk sales, enjoy free beach access and end the day by watching a movie under the stars at the Margate City Library.

See more Margate events at [margatehasmore.com](http://margatehasmore.com).

## Ocean City

As a "dry city," Ocean City is known for its family-friendly vibe. And every Thursday night is Family Night, where you can enjoy free concerts and entertainment from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on the boardwalk between Sixth and 14th streets.

Other events this summer at Ocean City include the Antique Auto Show, which showcases more than 300 vintage cars at Tabernacle Grounds on June 23; Wacky Wednesday, where you can compete in various competitions like saltwater taffy sculpting or pie-eating every Wednesday starting June 27; and Mummers Night, where you can catch people strutting on the boardwalk between Sixth and 14th streets from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesdays beginning July 3.

Keep up with all the fun in Ocean City at [oceancityvacation.com](http://oceancityvacation.com).

## Wildwoods

History buffs can combine their love of history with summer fun at the Doo Wop Back to the '50s Neon Night Tours, which take place from June 19 to Aug. 30. These tours leave in front of the Doo Wop Experience Museum and continue to landmarks throughout Wildwood that recount the area's history in the '50s and '60s.

But the Wildwoods offers plenty to do for those with other niche interests. This beach town is home to the National Marbles Tournament (now in its 94th year) from June 18 to 21 at Ringer Stadium, as well as the Sidewalk Chalk Competition at Bill Henfey Park on July 7.

Otherwise, you can try \$5 yoga classes on the beach every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the summer behind the Wildwoods Convention Center at Burk Avenue.

Find a more complete calendar of summer events at [wildwoodsnj.com](http://wildwoodsnj.com).

## Cape May

Listen to jazz, classical and chamber music at the Cape May Music Festival. In its 29th year, this series of performances runs until June 15 at the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities. On June 13, the festival holds Bach's Lunch at the Carriage House Café & Tearoom on the grounds of the Emlen Physick Estate, where you can enjoy a tea luncheon and a mini-concert by members of the Bay Atlantic Symphony.

The Cape May Music Festival is not the only summer festival in this beach town. On July 14 and 15, you can spend the weekend celebrating Irish and Scottish culture at the 14th Annual Celtic Weekend.

Hear live music throughout the grounds at Historic Cold Spring Village, with performances on the main stage by Nae Brecks Pipes & Drums.

Then, just as these few months of sun and freedom come to an end, you can head to the Annual Craft Beer & Crab Festival,

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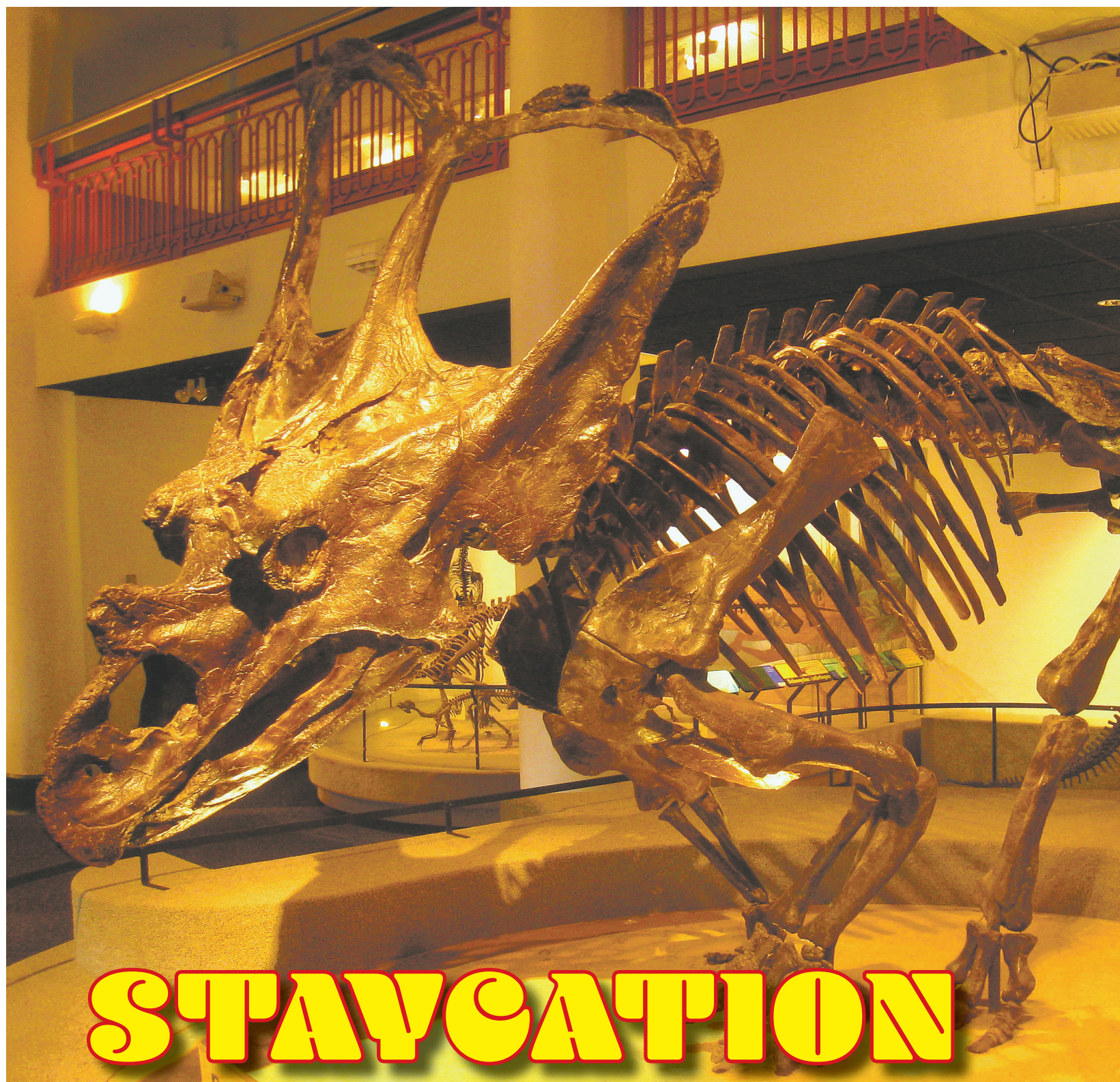
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also at Emlen Physick, on Aug. 4, to say goodbye to summer with a cold one in hand.

To see what else is happening in Cape May, check out [capemay.com](http://capemay.com).

[szighelboim@jewishexponent.com](mailto:szighelboim@jewishexponent.com); 215-832-0729





# STAYCATION

## *Destinations for You and Your Kids*

SELAH MAYA ZIGHELBOIM | JE STAFF

**F**OR KIDS, SUMMER means three months of freedom from school and homework, and three months of freedom to run around in the sun or probably just stare fixedly into the glare of their many screens.

For the parents or grandparents tasked with entertaining these kids, summer might look more like the freedom to Google how to keep children busy for days on end. But fear not. Check out the *Jewish Exponent's* list of just some of the staycation possibilities the Philadelphia area offers — all just a short drive away (and some of them are free).

### **Philadelphia Zoo**

Nothing quite says a classic summer day like a trip to the zoo. The zoo offers a large variety of programs and activities for kids of all ages, as they learn about the more than 1,300 animals that live there. During your visit, check out KidZooU, a new children's zoo and wildlife academy that offers chances to groom animals, learn about conservation and much more.

#### **IF YOU GO:**

3400 W. Girard Ave. | 215-243-1100 | [philadelphiazoo.org](http://philadelphiazoo.org)  
(Members and children under 2 are free. Children ages 2 to 11 are \$19.95. Adults and children ages 12 and up are \$24.95.)





## Blue Cross RiverRink Summerfest

Starting Memorial Day Weekend, the Blue Cross RiverRink Summerfest will be open seven days a week. There, you can go roller skating, try some mini-golf, go on rides and play fair games. Younger children will certainly enjoy Storytime in the Lodge, which is coming back after its successful winter run.

### IF YOU GO:

101 S. Christopher Columbus Blvd. | 215-925-RINK | [delaware-riverwaterfront.com/places/blue-cross-riverrink-summerfest](http://delaware-riverwaterfront.com/places/blue-cross-riverrink-summerfest) (Skating admission is \$3. Skating rental is \$10. Free skating admission for Blue Cross cardholders and employees and all first responders and military personnel.)

SEE STAYCATION | Page 12

# ALL YOUR FAVORITE SUMMER SANDALS

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## STAYCATION

Continued from Page 11

### The Franklin Institute

You know The Franklin Institute classics like the Giant Heart and the observatory. This summer, the museum will also feature a new, special exhibit, *Game Masters: The Exhibition*, where you and the little ones can take an interactive journey through the world of video games and 30 innovative game designers.

#### IF YOU GO:

222 N. 20th St. | 215-448-1200 | [fi.edu](http://fi.edu) (Adults and children ages 12 and up are \$23. Children ages 3 to 11 are \$19. Children under 3 are free.)

### Sister Cities Park

Sister Cities Park's picturesque patch of green in the heart of Center City is nice for everyone, but it's especially nice for kids. Children will love splashing in the park's fountains, with its 10 geyser-like spouts. Be sure to also check out the Children's Discovery Garden, which includes a boat pond, a book cart and an Imagination Playground.

#### IF YOU GO:

210 N. 18th St. | 215-440-5500 | [centercityphila.org/parks/sister-cities-park](http://centercityphila.org/parks/sister-cities-park) (Free.)

### Please Touch Museum

The Please Touch Museum offers endless opportunities for kids to learn, even during the summer months when school seems like a long-forgotten dream. Here, their imaginations can run wild as they direct a hospital, stroll through City Park or take a spin on a carousel. Until Sept. 3, the museum also has a special exhibit, *Hello From Japan*, where kids can create a Japanese streetscape, explore a Shinto shrine and play cashier at a bento restaurant.

#### IF YOU GO:

4231 Avenue of the Republic | 215-581-3181 | [pleasetouchmuseum.org](http://pleasetouchmuseum.org) (Adults and children 1 and older are \$19. Members and children under 1 are free.)

### Sesame Place

This one is sure to be a hit for the youngest of the young 'uns. Sesame Place, which features roller coasters, shows and parades, and opportunities to eat with *Sesame Street* characters, is essentially the *Sesame Street* Disney World. There are two special concerts this summer, from Choo Choo Soul and the Kidz Bop kids, and fireworks shows for the Fourth of July and Labor Day.

#### IF YOU GO:

100 Sesame Road, Langhorne | 215-702-3566 | [sesameplace.com](http://sesameplace.com) (One-day and two-day tickets and season passes range from \$45 to \$238.)



## Ringling Rocks Park

Bring a hammer and rock out at Ringling Rocks Park. For either the child who likes music or the child who likes rocks, Ringling Rocks Park offers plenty of fun. Striking these rocks with a hammer makes them ring like bells, and you and the kids can enjoy your very own family band. There's no point in pocketing one of these rocks as a souvenir from this day, though, as the rocks lose their musical capacity when away from the others.

### IF YOU GO:

Ringling Rocks Road, Upper Black Eddy | 215-757-0571 | [visitbuckscounty.com/listing/ringing-rocks-park/453](http://visitbuckscounty.com/listing/ringing-rocks-park/453) (Free.)

## The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University

You can see dinosaur skeletons, a butterfly garden or even scientists live at work at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. New to the academy is *Xtreme Bugs*, where 20 giant animatronic bugs, from a monarch butterfly to a Madagascar hissing cockroach, tell their stories.

### IF YOU GO:

1900 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy. | 215-299-1000 | [ansp.org](http://ansp.org) (Adults and children ages 13 and up are \$19.95 or \$17.95 online. Children ages 3 to 12 are \$15.95 or \$13.95 online. Seniors age 65 and up are \$16.95 or \$14.95 online. Military and students with ID are \$16.95 or \$14.95 online. Children under 3, members and Drexel Dragon-Card Holders are free.)

## Once Upon a Nation

Watch history come to life with Once Upon a Nation storytelling and reenactments. At 13 marked benches around Independence National Historical Park, the kids can hear short stories that will

Ringling Rocks Park offers plenty of fun. Striking these rocks with a hammer makes them ring like bells, and you and the kids can enjoy your very own family band.

transport them back in time. You can also check out Living History — at the Betsy Ross House, Free Quaker Meeting House, Independence Visitor Center and Carpenters' Hall — where you can experience first-hand accounts of what life was like in colonial times.

### IF YOU GO:

600 Chestnut St. | 877-462-1776 | [historicphiladelphia.org/once-upon-a-nation/what-to-see](http://historicphiladelphia.org/once-upon-a-nation/what-to-see) (Free.)

## Adventure Aquarium

Dazzle the kids with the diversity of life living in our seas. Adventure Aquarium offers opportunities for interactive learning, such as the touch pool with creatures from the Pacific Northwest, the Touch a Shark exhibit or a multi-sensory Amazon journey.

### IF YOU GO:

1 Riverside Drive, Camden, N.J. | 844-474-FISH | [adventureaquarium.com](http://adventureaquarium.com) (Children ages 2 to 12 are \$21.99. Adults and children ages 13 and up are \$29.99.) •

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# We Sure Have Lots of *Shore Memories*

ANDY GOTLIEB | JE MANAGING EDITOR

**S**ummer at the Jersey Shore is as much a part of Philadelphia's fabric as colonial history, the Eagles and hoagies.

Almost everyone has memories of time spent in Atlantic City, Margate, Ocean City, Cape May, Wildwood and the other shore towns, so we asked staffers to provide some of their more memorable moments. Here's what we got. (Staffers who didn't grow up in the area provided their own summer beach memories.)

## Early Beach Days Marred by Misfortune

*Andy Gotlieb, managing editor*

**THE YEAR WAS** 1970; the place was Atlantic City.

A year earlier, man walked on the moon, Charles Manson's crew committed horrific murders. Sen. Ted Kennedy was involved in Chappaquiddick and Woodstock happened. Atlantic City was rocking, too, with the Atlantic City Pop Festival, which featured a who's who of musical acts.

By comparison, the summer of 1970 was a bit calmer, and my soon-to-be-4-year-old-self was blissfully unaware — and blissfully unaware that he was believed lost on the beach.



MAX PIZEL

I was collecting shells and building sand castles with my friend Sheryl Haber when I apparently wandered off to find more shells or fill a bucket with water.

"Mrs. Gotlieb, Andy went to get more shells and has been gone for a long time," Sheryl informed my mother.

That set off the Aquarius Age version of an Amber Alert, as everyone on the beach began searching for me. Things were compounded by the police chasing someone down the boardwalk (it had nothing to do with me, but set off fears that perhaps I was abducted).

Thing is, I wasn't lost and wandered back to our spot on the beach on my own.



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A year later, this time in Wildwood, I was encouraged to go down the slide at our motel's pool. I did so and, even though I could swim, I immediately began to flail when I hit the water. That prompted my pregnant mother to dive in and save me.

My seaside woes continued in following years.

Once after a long day on the beach, we had dinner at Abe's Oyster House. My parents said they never saw me eat so much "little pirate's fish fry."

But as we got up to leave, the little pirate decided to walk the plank. Right when I got to the front of the restaurant (where a long line of people waited for seating) I threw up.

A year later, we returned to Abe's and I had some more little pirate's fish fry. This time, I managed to make it to the Steel Pier before vomiting.

Looking back, maybe this is why I'm not much of a shore person these days.

## Family Togetherness Down the Shore

Marissa Stern, staff writer

**MY THOUGHTS OF** summers down the shore are less of embarrassing stories and more of family memories.

When I think of the beach, I think of my grandparents' Ventnor shore house the whole family used to go to during the summers. I think of my uncle's particular affinity for White House sandwiches and I think of the bowls of juicy watermelon awaiting me and my cousins upon our sweaty returns from afternoons on the beach.

It was a time for togetherness and bonding — normally.

If you consider being chased around with buckets of — thankfully — dead jellyfish (though my cousin was less fortunate once



WIKIMEDIA

and found one quite alive in the ocean) by your younger sister, then yeah, I had a whole lot of bonding. Sometimes she skipped the bucket and had them in her bare hands like a monster.

"Hahahaha yes, I did that a lot. That was fun," my sister confirmed in a rude text message. Shouldn't the older sister be the one doing the tormenting?

Anyway. We also used to sit where the sand met the waves and pick up the wet sand and drizzle it into some kind of castle, adding layers and seeing how high up we could make it before the waves came and washed it away. Or we would turn handfuls of wet sand into "meatballs." Maybe we were just getting hungry?

SEE MEMORIES | Page 16



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## MEMORIES

Continued from Page 15



### A First-Time Trip to the Jersey Shore Selah Maya Zighelboim, staff writer

**GROWING UP IN** Louisiana and Texas does not lend itself to summers spent at the Jersey Shore.

And growing up in Central Texas, specifically Austin, where I lived until six months ago, does not really lend itself to summers spent at any shore. Though Central Texas certainly has its fair share of natural springs and a river we like to call a lake, the closest actual beach is too far away for a day trip.

But this recent Memorial Day weekend, I spent a day and two nights in Wildwood.

Growing up in Central Texas, specifically Austin, where I lived until six months ago, does not really lend itself to summers spent at any shore.

**SELAH MAYA ZIGHELBOIM**

The evening of May 26, I arrived to the beach house in Wildwood, where a group of about 10 were staying. After a slow morning of drinking coffee, I headed to the beach, where I did yoga and meditation. I also walked along the boardwalk and got pizza and ice cream.

Late that afternoon, we returned to the beach house, where we showered and noshed on chips and salsa and lots of different fruit. We also had a barbecue that night and, as a significant contingent of the crew appeared to be made up of vegetarians and vegans, we ate grilled veggie burgers, eggplant, Brussels sprouts, sweet potatoes and corn and drank margaritas.

That night and the next morning, it started to rain, so we headed back to Philadelphia, concluding my first trip to the shore, a quintessential experience crossed off the bucket list.

Now, I just need to recover from my sunburn — that's not me pictured above— which I can only assume makes my shore experience all the more authentic.



## Repurposed T-shirt Allows for Free Beach Time

Joshua Needelman, staff writer

THOSE SILLY GREEN T-shirts were our tickets in.

When I finally quit my job as a ticket taker on the boardwalk in Long Beach, N.Y., to, you know, start 11th grade, I thought I'd never touch my green employee T-shirt again.

And why would I?

It elicited nothing more than memories of long, plodding days spent clipping tickets and scrolling mindlessly through Facebook. If I had cared to listen to my parents' persistent pleas to clean my room, I would've perhaps used the shirt as a rag.

Alas, as the next year of high school came and went, giving way to soaring temperatures once more, I stumbled upon a realization:

Those silly green T-shirts were our tickets to the beach.

Two of my friends worked that summer job with me, so we had three shirts to pass around among our group of six or seven friends. And they always worked. The employee shirts, you see, got us past the strict ticket takers guarding the gate to the sand.

"We work here," we'd say, strolling ahead with cocksure confidence.

Sure, it might not have been the most honest approach, but heck, when you're 16, and it costs \$12 to go to the beach, and you have days and days of summer to kill, what other option do you have?



WIKIMEDIA

## Lucy Saves the Day

Marni Folkman, summer intern

WHEN I WAS 6, I got lost on the Ventnor beach. My parents and I went to the shore every summer; staying in the pink and white house my grandparents bought years before my birth was an adventure I looked forward to all year long.

After carefully selecting the most germane spot on the beach and securing it with our towels, chairs and umbrella, my parents granted me the one thing I wanted most: the freedom to run to the ocean.

Feeling the glacial waves of the sea wash over my feet was euphoric and, like many jovial children, I began to spin. I spun and swam for what felt like days, and when I had exhausted myself looked up only to realize that my parents' familiar faces were nowhere in sight.

I started walking, panicked, in the hopes that I would stumble upon my parents' location. As I stared at the environment around me, I noticed a large effigy of an elephant in the distance and it became clear that I was not, à la Dorothy, in Ventnor anymore.

Prepared by my parents for situations such as this, I made my way to Lucy the Elephant and asked an adult to use a phone. Within 15 minutes, I was reunited with my parents and all was well.

Though scary and disorienting as a young child, my experience that day serves as a pleasant reminder of how easy it is to lose oneself at the beach. •



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# Best Beachy Books for This Summer

MARISSA STERN | JE STAFF

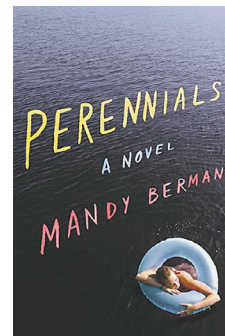
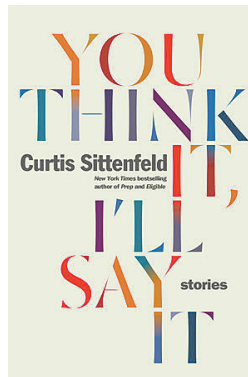
**FOR BOOK LOVERS**, the beach is the perfect place to sit back and relax — after applying sunscreen, of course — and read beneath the summer sun.

Here are some suggestions to pack in your beach bags this summer by Jewish authors or featuring Jewish characters, with lightly condensed descriptions pulled from Amazon because they can probably describe them better than I can.

## 1. *You Think It, I'll Say It: Stories* by Curtis Sittenfeld

The author of *Eligible* (a modern retelling of *Pride and Prejudice* that would also do well on the beach) returns with this story that has already been chosen for Reese Witherspoon's book club and been confirmed for a 10-episode Apple TV series starring Kristen Wiig. So, this one probably rocks.

"A suburban mother of two fantasizes about the downfall of an old friend whose wholesome lifestyle empire may or may not be built on a lie. A high-powered lawyer honeymooning with her husband is caught off guard by the appearance of the girl who tormented her in high school. A shy Ivy League student learns the truth about a classmate's seemingly enviable life."



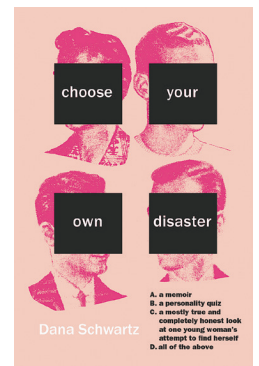
## 2. *Perennials* by Mandy Berman

Aching to go back to summer camp? This novel may bring you back to those days.

"Rachel Rivkin and Fiona Larkin used to treasure their summers together as campers at Camp Marigold. Now, reunited as counselors after their first year of college, their relationship is more complicated. Rebellious Rachel, a street-smart city kid raised by a single mother, has been losing patience with her best friend's insecurities; Fiona, the middle child of a not-so-perfect suburban family, envies Rachel's popularity with their campers and fellow counselors. For the first time, the two friends start keeping secrets from each other. Through them, as well as from the perspectives of their fellow counselors, their campers, and their mothers, we witness the tensions of the turbulent summer build to a tragic event, which forces Rachel and Fiona to confront their pasts — and the adults they're becoming."

## 3. *Choose Your Own Disaster* by Dana Schwartz

Following her debut YA novel, Schwartz is back with a memoir revisiting her ear-



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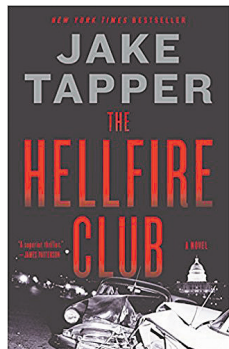
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ly 20s and the terrible decisions that came with it. Who else can already relate?

“Part-memoir, part-VERY long personality test, *Choose Your Own Disaster* is a manifesto about the millennial experience and modern feminism and how the easy advice of ‘you can be anything you want!’ is actually pretty f---ing difficult when there are so many possible versions of yourself it seems like you could be. Dana has no idea who she is, but at least she knows she’s a Carrie, a Ravenclaw, a Raphael, a Belle, a former emo kid, a Twitter addict, and a millennial just trying her best.”

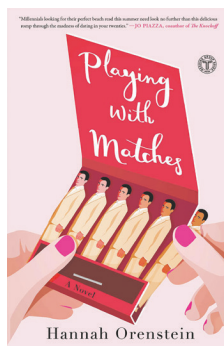


#### 4. *The Hellfire Club* by Jake Tapper

Hometown hero and CNN host Jake Tapper made his novel debut with this political thriller.

“Charlie Marder is an unlikely Congressman. Thrust into office by his family ties after his predecessor died mysteriously, Charlie is struggling to navigate the dangerous waters of 1950s Washington, D.C., alongside his young wife Margaret, a zoologist with ambitions of her own. Amid the swirl of glamorous and

powerful political leaders and dealmakers, a mysterious fatal car accident thrusts Charlie and Margaret into an underworld of backroom deals, secret societies, and a plot that could change the course of history. When Charlie discovers a conspiracy that reaches the highest levels of governance, he has to fight not only for his principles and his newfound political career...but for his life.”



#### 5. *Playing with Matches* by Hannah Orenstein

This breezy and entertaining book is basically begging to be read on the beach.

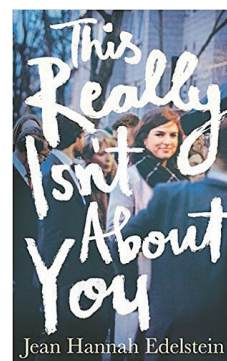
“Sasha Goldberg has a lot going for her: a recent journalism degree from NYU, an apartment with her best friend Caroline, and a relationship that would be amazing if her finance-bro boyfriend Jonathan would ever look up from his BlackBerry. But when her dream career falls through, she uses her family’s darkest secret to land

a job as a matchmaker for New York City’s elite at the dating service Bliss. ... Sasha hopes to find her clients The One, like she did. But when Jonathan betrays her, she spirals out of control — and right into the arms of a writer ... she had previously set up with one of her clients.”

#### 6. *This Really Isn’t About You* by Jean Hannah Edelstein

For those who prefer memoirs, this one — due out in August — is sure to fit the bill. Edelstein moved back to the U.S. after living abroad for 14 years. Six weeks later, her father died from cancer. Six months after, she found out she inherited the gene that would cause her cancer, too.

“When Jean Hannah Edelstein’s world overturned she was forced to confront



SEE BOOKS | Page 20

## Summer Comes to Northwest Cape May County Too!!!

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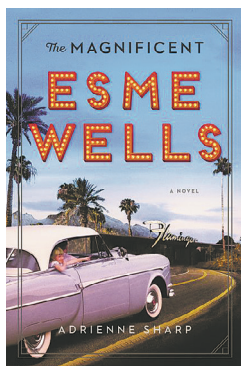




## BOOKS

Continued from Page 19

some of the big questions in life: how do we cope with grief? How does living change when we realize we're not invincible? Does knowing our likely fate make it harder or easier to face the future? How do you motivate yourself to go on your OkCupid date when you're struggling with your own mortality? Written in her inimitable, wry and insightful voice, Edelstein's memoir is by turns heartbreaking, hopeful and yet also disarmingly funny. *This Really Isn't About You* is a book about finding your way in life. Which is to say, it's a book about discovering you are not really in control of that at all."



### 7. *The Magnificent Esme Wells* by Adrienne Sharp

Want to go to Las Vegas this summer but maybe it's not in the cards? (Get it? Because gambling? Sorry.) Read this coming-of-age story instead, narrated by the 20-year-old Esme that moves between pre-WWII Hollywood and post-war Vegas.

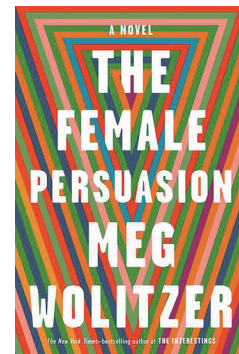
"Esme Silver has always taken care of her charming ne'er-do-well father, Ike Silver, a small-time crook with dreams of making it big with Bugsy Siegel. Devoted to her daddy, Esme is often his 'date' at the racetrack, where she amiably fetches the hot dogs while keeping an eye to the ground for any cast-off tickets that may be winners. In awe of her moth-

er, Dina Wells, Esme is more than happy to be the foil who gets the beautiful Dina into meetings and screen tests with some of Hollywood's greats. When Ike gets an opportunity to move to Vegas — and, in what could at last be his big break, to help the man she knows as 'Benny' open the Flamingo Hotel — life takes an unexpected turn for Esme. A stunner like her mother, the young girl catches the attention of Nate Stein, one of the Strip's most powerful men."

### 8. *The Female Persuasion* by Meg Wolitzer

This one has been on my list since it came out in April. *The Interestings* author takes a look at love, desire, womanhood and ambition in this story *People* called "Equal parts cotton candy and red meat, in the best way."

"Greer Kadetsky is a shy college freshman when she meets the woman she hopes will change her life. Faith Frank, dazzlingly persuasive and elegant at 63, has been a central pillar of the women's movement for decades, a figure who inspires others to influence the world. Upon hearing Faith speak for the first time, Greer — madly in love with her boyfriend, Cory, but still full of longing for an ambition that she can't quite place — feels her inner world light up. And then, astonishingly, Faith invites Greer to make something out of that sense of purpose, leading Greer down the most exciting path of her life as it winds toward and away from her meant-to-be love story with Cory and the future she'd always imagined." •



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# YOUR ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE FOR SUMMER 2018

MARISSA STERN | JE STAFF

Theater, art exhibitions, concerts, author discussions ... there are endless ways to satisfy your artistic cravings in Philadelphia and beyond. Here are just a few hot picks for the summer.

## COMMUNITY PICKS

### National Museum of American Jewish History

101 S. Independence  
Mall E., Philadelphia  
215-923-3811 • [nmajh.org](http://nmajh.org)

### Independence Day at NMAJH | July 4

Visitors can explore the museum and see an original letter written by George Washington to the Jewish Community of Newport, R.I., and enjoy interactive tours, storytime, and Independence Day arts and crafts projects.

### Curator's Tour | July 10

If you're a NMAJH member and haven't

gotten a chance to see its Leonard Bernstein exhibit yet, you're in luck. Curator Ivy Weingram will host a members-only tour of the exhibit.

### KATZ JCC

1301 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, N.J.  
856-424-4444 • [katzjcc.org](http://katzjcc.org)

Cherry Hill Volvo Cars Jewish Film Festival | June 27

Celebrate the best in Jewish film from around the world with national and international film festival favorites. The week will also include discussions with directors, actors, producers and rabbis.

### Evening with Daniel Silva | July 18

The JCC's Bank of America Festival of Arts, Books and Culture presents an evening with author Daniel Silva, who will discuss his latest novel featuring Gabriel Allon, *The Other Woman*.

This event will be moderated by Jamie Gangel, award-winning CNN

correspondent and Silva's wife. Tickets, which include a copy of the book, are available online.

### Milton and Betty Katz JCC

501 N. Jerome Ave., Margate, N.J.  
609-822-1167 • [jccatlantic.org](http://jccatlantic.org)

Among other events this summer, the JCC hosts its 2018 Summer Entertainment Series with a plethora of performers. Tickets available online or by calling 609-822-1167, ext. 0.

### Blue Jupiter | July 12

A cappella performance of pop, jazz, standards and Broadway tunes.

### "Rock Baby Rock" featuring Lance Lipinsky | July 19

The singer and star of Chicago's Tony Award-winning *Million Dollar Quartet*, Lipinsky will present a show with the sounds of big band, rhythm and blues, Western swing, rockabilly, doo wop,

soul, and more that influenced rock 'n' roll.

### Bobcat Goldthwait | July 26

Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait (*Police Academy*) has amazed legions of fans with his brutally honest, outrageous and offbeat comedy that has made him one of the most recognizable comedians in show business today.

### Melissa Manchester | Aug. 2

The Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter known for "You Should Hear How She Talks About You" will perform as part of the series.

## ARTS

### Philadelphia Museum of Art

2600 Benjamin Franklin  
Parkway, Philadelphia  
215-763-8100 • [philamuseum.org](http://philamuseum.org)

SEE GUIDE | Page 22

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# GUIDE

Continued from Page 21

The museum has several great exhibitions on display now as well as a few upcoming ones that will surely pique your interest.

## **Modern Times: American Art 1910–1950** | Through Sept. 3

See how Georgia O'Keeffe, Marsden Hartley, Jacob Lawrence and others challenged convention and forged bold new styles to fit the times.

## **Design in Revolution:**

### **A 1960s Odyssey** | Through Sept. 9

Check out some vintage rock concert posters and a series of powerful images of Martin Luther King Jr. in this exhibition that travels back to the 1960s in all its psychedelic glory.

**The Rosenbach Museum and Library**  
2008–2010 Delancey Place, Philadelphia  
215-732-1600 • [rosenbach.org](http://rosenbach.org)

### **Bloomsday 2018** | June 16

Fans of James Joyce should mark the date for the annual fete that celebrates Leopold Bloom's fictional journey through the streets of Dublin, as imagined in Joyce's epic *Ulysses*. Enjoy a free day with readings, music performances and a beer garden.

### **Biblicocktails series** | July 13

The Biblicocktails series celebrates great literature and great libations. Shakespeare enthusiasts will enjoy this session, which is themed after *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

## BOOKS

### **FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA**

1901 Vine St., Philadelphia

215-686-522 • [freelibrary.org](http://freelibrary.org)

There will be dozens of author events at the library's main branch.

Here are a few authors participating in the free speakers series.

### **Jamie Bernstein** | June 20

Leonard Bernstein's daughter, a celebrated concert narrator, broadcaster, journalist, poet and radio producer/host in her own right, will discuss her memoir, *Famous Father Girl: A Memoir of Growing Up Bernstein*.

### **Beck Dorey-Stein** | July 10

In *From the Corner of the Oval*, Dorey-Stein recounts tales from her time as a White House stenographer from

2012–2017, which came about after she answered an unlikely Craigslist post.

### **Richard Schwartz** | Aug. 8

Schwartz will discuss his book, *The Man Who Lit Lady Liberty, The Extraordinary Rise and Fall of Actor M. B. Curtis*.

Curtis, an immigrant, became the only citizen to personally pay to light the Statue of Liberty.

## CASINOS

There's always plenty to do beside relaxing on the beach. Casinos — including a few local ones — are offering top notch entertainment opportunities this summer.

Music:

June 16: Boz Scaggs at

the Tropicana Showroom

June 29: Carrie Underwood at

Hard Rock Atlantic City

July 2: Sarah McLachlan at

Parx Casino Xcite Center

July 6 and 7: Barry Manilow

at the Borgata Event Center

July 19, 20 and 21: Britney Spears

at the Borgata Event Center

Aug. 5: Kings of Leon

at the Borgata Event Center

Aug. 11: KC & The Sunshine Band

at SugarHouse Casino

Aug. 17 and 18: Cher

at the Borgata Event Center

Aug. 25 and 26: Stevie Wonder  
at the Borgata Event Center

## COMEDY:

June 29: Michael Che

(*Saturday Night Live*) at the Music Box

July 27 and 28: Jerry Seinfeld

at the Borgata Event Center

July 5: Jon Lovitz at

the Hard Rock Atlantic City

July 6: Ron White at

Parx Casino Xcite Center

Aug. 4: Trevor Noah at

Parx Casino Xcite Center

## CONCERTS

### **THE KESWICK THEATRE**

291 North Keswick Ave., Glenside

215-5752-7650 • [keswicktheatre.com](http://keswicktheatre.com)

### **Hippiefest 2018** | July 28

Put up your peace signs with Vanilla

Fudge, Rick Derringer, Mitch Ryder &

The Detroit Wheels, Badfinger feat.

Joey Molland.

### **The Bacon Brothers** | Aug. 11

Join the Philly-born Bacon Brothers

(yes, as in Kevin Bacon)

for a performance.

### **The Kimmel Center**

260 S. Broad St., Philadelphia

215-893-1999 • [kimmelcenter.org](http://kimmelcenter.org)

Here are a few highlights from summer programming at the Kimmel.

### **Cary Elwes** | June 15

The star of *The Princess Bride* will provide behind-the-scenes secrets and stories from the classic film, which will also be screened. As you wish.

### **Aladdin** | June 13 to July 3

Does this need an explanation?

### **Ophira Eisenberg** | July 18

The host of NPR's and WNYC's weekly trivia, puzzle, and game show *Ask Me Another* will present an evening at the Perelman Theater.

### **Mann Center for the Performing Arts**

5201 Parkside Ave., Philadelphia.

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

### **Roger Daltrey** | June 18

Daltrey will perform The Who's *TOMMY* with members of The Who Band and The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia.

### **Bernstein: Broadway**

**and Beyond** | July 18

Join The Philadelphia Orchestra to celebrate the 100th birthday of Leonard Bernstein in this signature festival concert featuring his most treasured works.

### **Smokey Robinson** | Aug. 25

Get ready for a night featuring some of his classic hits.

### **Steve Martin and Martin Short** |

Aug. 30

The dynamic duo bring their comedy tour to the Mann.

### **BB&T Pavilion**

1 Harbour Blvd., Camden, N.J.

### **Jimmy Buffett** | July 5

Waste away again in Margaritaville — er, Camden — as Buffett returns on tour.

### **Steely Dan with**

**The Doobie Brothers** | July 11

What a pairing!

### **Weezer and The Pixies** | July 21

Here comes your man, his name is Jonas. Sorry, I tried.

### **Wells Fargo Center**

3601 S. Broad St., Philadelphia

[wellsfargocenterphilly.com](http://wellsfargocenterphilly.com)

### **Paul Simon** | June 16

The legendary singer brings his farewell tour to South Philly.



Barry Manilow at the Borgata Event Center  
July 6 and 7

INSTAGRAM.COM/BARRYMANILOWOFFICIAL/



**Shania Twain** | July 12  
Let's go, girls!

**Radiohead** | July 31, Aug. 1  
Don't be a creep,  
go to this concert instead.

### THEATER

**Walnut Street Theatre**  
825 Walnut St., Philadelphia.  
215-574-3550

**walnutstreettheatre.org**  
**Mamma Mia!** | Now through July 15  
Calling all dancing queens.

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# FOOD EVENTS AROUND ALL SUMMER LONG

KERI WHITE | JE FOOD COLUMNIST

**SUMMER IN THE** Philly area means a lot of things from a food perspective: barbecues, time “down the shore,” backyard parties, baseball and picnics. It also means a slew of food-related events to tempt our palates with a diverse array of offerings and festivals.

As the local food scene has exploded over the past decade, we have become a culinary destination year-round. But summer offers a special menu of events with the weather providing a sultry outdoor backdrop for Philly phoodies.

In chronological order, here is a taste of some of what the region has to offer for a delicious summer:

**Veg Fest: June 9 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
[facebook.com/PhiladelphiaVegFest/](https://facebook.com/PhiladelphiaVegFest/)

Philadelphia’s celebration of vegan and whole-food plant-based lifestyles will be hosted by the South Street Headhouse District at Bainbridge Green, which spans the 300 and 400 blocks of Bainbridge Street. This free event, which welcomes vegans and non-vegans alike, will showcase food, art, culture, music and cooking demonstrations throughout the day.

**Night Market in the Gayborhood: June 21, 7-11 p.m., 13th and Locust streets**  
[thefoodtrust.org/night-market](http://thefoodtrust.org/night-market)

In 2010, The Food Trust created Night Market Philadelphia to bring communities together and celebrate the joy of food. Modeled after similar markets in Asia, it was planned as a lively gathering with delicious food, local craft beverages, outdoor seating and live music.

The program has grown from a busy night for food truck vendors to a regular opportunity for local entrepreneurs to grow their businesses and cultivate lasting customer bases.



Night Market Roxborough

DAVE TAVANI FOR THE FOOD TRUST

In keeping with the Food Trust’s overarching mission to create a local healthy food economy in the region, the Night Market program also attracts visitors from throughout the area, provides residents with a unique venue and experience to enjoy fresh food, supports local food entrepreneurs, and showcases the quality and diversity of food in Philadelphia.

“The Food Trust is beyond excited to bring Night Market Philadelphia to the very heart of Center City. Featuring over 70 street food vendors, live music, and other local arts and culture, this event will proudly highlight one of the city’s most vibrant communities, which also happens to be home to many of Philadelphia’s top restaurants,” Night Market Coordinator Ian Moran said. “In addition to the usual festivities, Night Market Gayborhood will also work to support local residents and LGBT families by pro-

viding a venue for the neighborhood’s many service providers to engage with attendees about the programs they offer.”

**Old City Eats: Thursdays from 5-8 p.m. through Aug. 31**  
[oldcitydistrict.org/special-events/old-city-eats](http://oldcitydistrict.org/special-events/old-city-eats)

Now in its third summer, Old City Eats is Old City District’s season-long celebration of its thriving dining scene. Every Thursday, participating restaurants and bars will offer drink specials and at least one half-price small plate. The selections are designed to appeal to neighborhood locals, business people looking to relax with colleagues after work and visiting tourists.

**Passeggiata on East Passyunk Ave.: Wednesdays from 3-7 p.m. through November**  
[visiteastpassyunk.com/events/passeggiata-on-east-passyunk-ave.php](http://visiteastpassyunk.com/events/passeggiata-on-east-passyunk-ave.php)

Passeggiata is South Philly’s homage to the tradition in Italy of the same name. Throughout the warm months in Italia, residents of small towns enjoy after-work strolls during the evening hours, visiting friends and neighbors, stopping by favorite restaurants and cafes, and patronizing local shops. East Passyunk has recreated this practice in conjunction with the Fountain Farmers Market; participating restaurants offer happy hour promotions, off-menu specials, al fresco dining, live music, extended boutique hours and other festive amenities.

**Center City Sips: Wednesdays from 5-7 p.m. through Aug. 29**  
[centercityphila.org/explore-center-city/ccdsips](http://centercityphila.org/explore-center-city/ccdsips)

All summer long, participating restaurants will offer special prices on cocktails, wine and beer, and half-price appetizers.

**Caribbean Day at Reading Terminal Market: June 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

This event will celebrate the diverse cultures and cuisines of the Caribbean with chef demonstrations, specialty food tastings and traditional music and entertainment.

“Every day, Reading Terminal Market’s diverse merchant mix and cuisines set the table for customers from varied backgrounds to come together around a shared experience and the common denominator of food,” Director of Marketing Sarah Levitsky said. “With that in mind, throughout the year, we partner with cultural organizations from across the city to host events that act as cultural exchanges to bridge understanding through art, food, music and more.”

**The Philly Ice Cream Scoop: June 30 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Reading Terminal Market**

The largest ice cream festival in the country, this event features 14 of the city’s top ice cream producers and dozens of ice cream specialties from the Reading Terminal Market’s own merchants.

Merchants will showcase their signature items integrated with ice cream.

In the past, offerings have included Iovine Produce shaved ice with fresh-pressed juices; Pennsylvania General Store’s locally made root beer floats and shrubs; Hershel’s East Side Deli’s homemade Jewish apple cake topped with ice cream, candied caramel popcorn, caramel sauce and whipped cream. Treats like these and many other ice cream-centric specialties will be available.



**Food Truck Frenzy:** July 21, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Linvilla Orchards, 137 W. Knowlton Road, Media

Truckloads of food will be coming to Linvilla Orchards for a summer extravaganza. A variety of food trucks will be on hand to provide an array of tasty offerings, including: Dos Gringos; The Plum Pit; The Cow and the Curd; Gotta Lotta Gelata; Big Bad Wolf BBQ; Roasty Toasty; and Deerhead Hot Dogs. Harvest Ridge Winery will provide wine pairings, and there will be live music, pony rides, face painting, train rides, fishing, barnyard activities and pick-your-own in-season fruits and vegetables throughout the day.

**National Farmers Market Week, Aug. 5-11**  
[farmersmarketcoalition.org/national-farmers-market-week/](http://farmersmarketcoalition.org/national-farmers-market-week/)  
[thefoodtrust.org/farmers-markets](http://thefoodtrust.org/farmers-markets)

Farmers markets throughout the Philadelphia area will celebrate their special week with fun events, promotions, contests, entertainment and activities. Farmers Market Week is designed to boost market attendance and visibility, while providing festive and enjoyable amenities to shoppers.

In honor of the celebration, The Food Trust's 20-plus farmers markets across the city of Philadelphia will be abuzz with activity, including cooking demonstrations and taste tests at 11 markets, hosted by Food Trust nutrition educators, where shoppers can learn how to cook healthy on a budget. The following markets will offer special programming during the week-long celebration:

- 4th & Lehigh Farmers Market (Aug. 7, noon to 4 p.m.)
- 22nd & Tasker Farmers Market (Aug. 8, 2-6 p.m.)
- 26th & Allegheny Farmers Market (Aug. 8, noon to 4 p.m.)
- 52nd & Haverford Farmers Market (Aug. 8, noon to 4 p.m.)
- 58th & Chester Farmers Market (Aug. 8, 2-6 p.m.)
- Broad & Snyder Farmers Market (Aug. 7, 2-6 p.m.)
- Clark Park Farmers Market (Aug. 9, 3-7 p.m.)
- Frankford Transportation Center Farmers Market (Aug. 7, 2-6 p.m.)
- Germantown Farmers Market (Aug. 9, 3-7 p.m.)
- Hunting Park Farmers Market (Aug. 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
- Oxford Circle Farmers Market (Aug. 8, 2-6 p.m.)

"We're excited to be celebrating National Farmers Market Week at The Food Trust's markets," said Lisa Kelly, the farmers market program manager for The Food Trust. "Stop by your neighborhood market this week for the best in freshly picked local fruits and veggies, visit a farmers market cooking demo to learn a new recipe (and earn some Philly Food Bucks!), or sign up to volunteer at one of our markets."

**Night Market Kensington:** Aug. 9, 6-10 p.m., Frankford and York avenues  
[thefoodtrust.org/night-market](http://thefoodtrust.org/night-market)

**Hava NaGrilla Charity BBQ Festival:** Aug. 26 from noon to 5 p.m. at Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, 1001 Remington Road, Wynnewood  
[phillykosherbbq.com/](http://phillykosherbbq.com/)

Hava NaGrilla is billed as the largest kosher charity barbecue festival in the U.S. It is sanctioned by the Kansas City BBQ Society, and 2018 marks its second year. The festival features sumptuous barbecue, grilled meats, Israeli food and vegetarian dishes, as well as live music, entertainment for all ages, a pickle-eating contest, craft artisans, face painting, magicians, mechanical bull rides, a craft beer garden, and premium scotch and bourbon tastings.

Entrants can compete as individuals or teams, and must prepare brisket, short ribs, chicken thighs and a whole turkey. •

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# Knoebels a Throwback to

ANDY GOTLIEB | JE MANAGING EDITOR

**K**NOEBELS ISN'T THE biggest amusement park. It doesn't have the latest rides. It's not located in a tourist mecca. It isn't affiliated with a movie studio or business conglomerate. Most of the rides were brought in from other amusement parks.

And that's all part of the charm.

Furthermore, the price of admission is a whopping zero dollars, as patrons pay individually for each ride (unlimited ride passes are also available). Parking is free, too. You can even bring your (leashed) dog.

That's why Knoebels remains a must-visit for Philadelphia-area families. What follows is an appreciation of a place my family visited a decade ago.

The park is located in Elysburg, less than three hours from Center City. Depending upon the route you take, you might consider a detour to Centralia, where an underground coal mine fire burning since 1962 has turned the hamlet into a ghost town. It's an eerie sight to observe smoke filtering out of cracks in the ground — ground that might be rather warm to the touch.

Before we talk about Knoebels today, a little history.

Knoebels didn't become an amusement park until 1926, but the story dates to 1828, according to [knoebels.com](http://knoebels.com). That's when the Rev. Henry Hartman Knoebel bought land known as "Peggy's Farm." For years, the land was farmed and

also housed several sawmills. The Knoebel family actually moved to the property in 1880.

At some point, the idea developed for an amusement park, and Knoebels Amusement Resort debuted on the same day as the nation's sesquicentennial of July 4, 1926. Folks in Philly surely didn't notice, as the City of Brotherly Love was hosting the Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition.

Meantime, in Northumberland and Columbia counties (the park straddles both), all Knoebels had was a merry-go-round, the Crystal Pool and a handful of food stands.

Over the years, the park expanded, adding a grand carousel (1941), bandshell (1947), a petting zoo (1954), a campground (1963), a haunted house (1972) and assorted rides through the years.

Today, Knoebels is a full-fledged attraction with about 60 rides. Some prominent features include:

- Six rollercoasters, including two of the wooden variety in the Phoenix and the Twister. Wooden coasters have their own unique charms and thrills that make up for the lack of 360-degree loops and 90-degree drops found on modern rides.
- The Crystal Pool, a large concrete swimming pool on the site of a one-time swimming hole. The 900,000-gallon



Knoebels entrance

FLICKR



The Twister

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The Phoenix

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# Amusement Parks of Yesterday

pool uses filtered stream water and features diving boards, four water slides, a kiddie play area and a climbing net.

- Two carousels, including the Grand Carousel, which dates to 1913 and still has brass rings
- Two miniature railways
- Classic midway games, such as the Cat Rack (bet you didn't know this target game had a name) and the Electronic Shooting Gallery
- All sorts of rides you might remember from your childhood that are disappearing from other amusement parks
- A golf course
- A variety of accommodations, including campgrounds, cabins, cottages and a bed-and-breakfast

All these may sound like standard amusement park attractions — and they are — but there's a difference.

While there are plenty of opportunities to buy souvenirs and other things that can make an affordable vacation pricey, there's not the overwhelming marketing to deal with. Unlike Disney, each ride doesn't dump you afterward into a souvenir shop with branded merchandise tied to the ride.

And while the food certainly isn't gourmet, it's a cut above the usual amusement park fare. The prices are reasonable, too — a half-pound hamburger with potato chips and pickles is going to run you a lot more at Universal Studios or Busch Gardens than the \$8.50 it costs at Knoebels.

Sure, there are a couple unusual quirks.

For example, Central Pennsylvania apparently is Marlboro County and, a decade ago, smoking was common throughout the park, but today it's confined to nine designated smoking areas.

What makes Knoebels unique is the entire environment. It's hard to describe, but a quaint feeling pervades the air. Everyone seems a little less rushed and a bit more friendly. The value in that is priceless. ●

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Wurlitzer band organ

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