

Winter 2019

Jersey Shore Family



WINTER
EVENTS

64

Years of Family Fun

Storybook
Land

2019

Gift Guide



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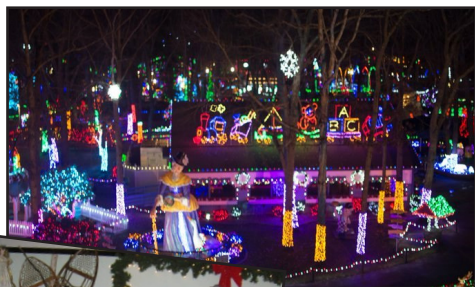


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Storybook Land: A Holiday Tradition

One of South Jersey's most popular holiday traditions began forty years ago with a vision by a local family-owned business that catered to kids of all ages.

Twenty four years prior, on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1955, Esther and John Fricano had launched a new roadside attraction for the traveling public. In its infancy, "Storybook Land", was known for its' inviting luncheonette & family friendly attractions. Their modest beginnings saw an expansion from a 5 acre highway stop, to a 25 acre, nursery rhyme themed amusement park. With the help of their children, John Jr and JoAnne and grandchildren John III and Jessica, John Sr and Esther Fricano were witness to their vision becoming a reality.



(Above)
Storybook Land
in all it's Christ-
mas glory.



(Left) Photo
submitted on
JSF Facebook by
Shannon Piedra



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ON THE COVER

Giovanni (left) JSF “Back to School” photo winner and his friend Maxwell (right) get a big surprise at Storybook Land!

PHOTO BY SAM BRENTARI
CRONICK



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• publisher's note

Every season has its rewards. After the holidays, we may need a reminder of what there is to LOVE about January and February...We say “BRING ON THE WARM Winter!”

WARM place by the fire,
WARM puppy (or kitty) napping beside you,

WARM flannel shirts,
WARM football desserts,

WARM hoodies for snuggling,
WARM sweatpants are calling,

WARM socks for your soles,
WARM Ugg boots to go,

WARM blankets for dosing,
WARM pajamas are cozying,

WARM festive old movies, binge-watching
missed stories,

WARM sleepy Sundays, Start over Mondays!

Wishing you and your
Family a WARM
Winter Season!

(reprint available with permission)



Mari Dattolo

Jersey Shore Family Editor and Publisher
Mari@JerseyShoreFamily.com

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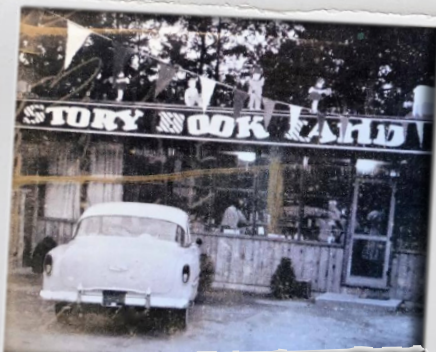
everychild.one voice.®

In November 1980, the Fricano's launched "Christmas Fantasy of Lights". Each Fall, a cast of storybook characters welcome Mr. & Mrs. Claus with a festive holiday parade, followed by the lighting of millions of lights throughout the property. Storybook Land also has a Santa Claus house where Mr. and Mrs. Claus pose for pictures and listen to the wishes of thousands of delighted children during the holiday season.

As is the nightly ritual, Santa waves a wand at dusk in the weeks leading up to his departure on Christmas Eve and magically the Winter Wonderland is on display. At press time, the Park was also a finalist with USA Today's Ten Best Theme Park Holiday Events in America!

In the warmer months, one of the most appealing aspects of the Park is the canopy of shaded trees and vibrant flower gardens. The meticulous landscaping and remarkably clean facilities makes even a stroll of the grounds an enticing reason to visit. At "The Seaport" water play area, hot summer days are met with cool water fun from late June to Labor Day. Annual special events dot the calendar during peak summer weekends, in addition to the Easter Bunny in the Spring and a cornucopia of activities in the Fall. Besides the Park's seasonal events, some of Storybook Land's most prominent attractions include: J&J Railroad Train; Out on a Limb; Tick Tock Clap Drop; Bubbles the Coaster and the TurtleTwirl.

Storybook Land is proud to have been consistently voted as one of the leading Atlantic City attractions in the annual Best of the Press awards. In 2018, they received the Gold Award for "Best Amusement Park", the Gold



Award for "Best Family Fun Place", and the Silver Award for "Best Landmark!" They have received the "Certificate in Excellence" Award from Trip Advisor and In 2005 they were also presented with the "Best Preserved Family-Owned Amusement Park" by the National Historic Amusement Park Association. Additionally, they have been recognized as the third most affordable family theme park in the U.S. by Top Villas 2019 Guide.

John Sr, and Esther certainly would be proud to see the traditions their family have carried on in their 64 year history!

For more info.: www.storybookland.com

Family Favorite



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DroneX Pro is the fastest drone of its size, flying at speed of up to 12 metres per second with a top transmission distance of 2km. — Starting at \$99



Teachers' Pick

Erector Engineering & Robotics Kit

by Meccano

Our STEM girl loved this gift. It only took her 30 minutes to put the windmill together (of which she was really proud). She liked all the miniature tools and loves the idea of building tons of new contraptions. She's trying to decide what to build next with the "cool" tools included in the kits. Ages 10 & up. — \$69.99



Parents' Pick

Lucky Fortune

Blind Collectible Bracelets - 4 Pack Take-Out Box - Series 1

by WowWee

Our girls LOVED these blind boxes. Some of the best quality we've ever seen in this type of gift. Great for stocking stuffer or will fit right at home under the tree. Your pre-teens will love these collectibles. Don't buy just one! —11.88



Big Kids' Pick

SCARY MOVIE NIGHT A NON-MURDER MYSTERY PARTY

A scary movie night theme, 6-12 players, non-murder for ages 9 to adult's wanting a lighthearted, easier sleuth. See if you are up to figuring out who is trying to prevent Oakley Starr from playing the selected scary movie! This is the instant download version of the game - instantly download upon purchase. — Starting at \$41.95



Little Kids' Pick

Baby Shark Official Song Puppet with Tempo Control

by WowWee

Who doesn't love Baby Shark? Your littles will get a kick out of making their baby shark sing the song. Only tiny hands can control the puppet's tempo. Watch as your kids sing along to their favorite new puppet. Ages 2+ — \$16.99



Babies



one stuffed animal with six faces!

Whatsitsface

Flip the face or twist to knob to change between, happy, sad, surprised, angry, laughing and sound asleep. Our kids got a kick out of flipping the faces around. It's a great tool to help parents discuss feelings with their children.

—\$29.99

Toddlers



Baby Shark Tablet

by WowWee

This educational toy is listed for kids 2+ but we found our 9month old had even more fun pushing the buttons and “singing” along. Great learning toy and good quality for the younger guys. — \$16.99

Pre-School

Top and Bake Wooden Pizza Counter Play Food Set

by Melissa & Doug

A COMPLETE PIZZA COUNTER SET: The Melissa & Doug Top and Bake Wooden Pizza Counter Play Food Set is a 34 piece wooden play pizza making set with counter/ pizza oven that allows kids to create made the way you like it pretend pizza Our toddler enjoyed making mom and dad pizza for lunch! I can see this will quickly become her favorite activity! — \$16.99



Ages 5-7

MeDoozy 3D Pen Set

SUPER CUTE TOY - 3D pen can be customized with Emoji stickers (cat, bear, pig) which can be attached to the led area of 3D pen. Project book makes the characters alive describing their personality.



Wireless 3D pen - rechargeable built in battery, works up to 2 hours; Low temperature nozzle - no burns; No risk of nozzle clogging; Lightweight design & durable assembly \$59.99

Ages 8-10

Kidizoom Spin and Smile Camera

by VTech

Perfect for the child who shows an interest in taking pictures/video. My nephew is entertained for hours! This kid-friendly 2.0 Mega pixel camera features a rotating lens

so your child can easily snap a self-portrait. A great voice recording

feature with 5 different voice changing effects, movie taking, stop frame animation.

— 59.99





Holiday Plaid Caramel Apples and Confections GIFT TRAY

Impress your children's teachers all at one time with this festive gift tray. Includes two White Chocolate Dipped and two Milk Chocolate Dipped Caramel Apples with red and green chocolaty drizzle, two solid Milk Chocolate Christmas trees with peppermint crunch, and two bags of White Chocolate Pretzel Bites. This tray will make anyone's Christmas a little sweeter! — \$56.99

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UE Roll Volcano Black Wireless Portable Bluetooth Speaker (Waterproof)

by Ultimate Ears

UE ROLL is the powerful, pint-sized speaker that brings the noise to hidden beaches, cliff jumps and mountain climbs. It's big, beautiful, unapologetically awesome sound that's small enough to take anywhere. *Waterproof for up to 30 minutes and a depth of 1 meter. —\$94.85



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Holy Stone Drone with Camera Live Video WiFi Quadcopter by Holy Stone

With Altitude Hold and Headless Mode, you can keep the drone hovering in the air and tell the direction easily. Press one key to Take the drone Off or Land it. The advanced camera and gimbal dial function ensure high-quality image. Camera angle Adjustable. You can also wear your VR Glasses to enjoy the scenery. —\$105.00





Locker Lookz by Locker Lookz

Girls can give their school locker a make-over from basic to beautiful with high-fashion locker decorations that make it easy for them to have an amazing locker in no time! LockerLookz gives your girls the power to express themselves through our unique mix-and-match locker design collections of wallpaper, storage, accessories, rugs, and lighting. Our girls loved the LockerLookz Magnetic Chandelier... Classy!

Prices range from \$3.99 - \$18-99



Audiophile Shelf System by Crosley



The Crosley Audiophile Shelf System is different than anything you've seen or heard before. Start with the clean, "new-stalgie" look that takes design cues from modern art and features gently rounded cabinet corners with sleek retro accents. Featuring a dock for iPad, iPhone or iPod, that lets you hook up and charge your device

—\$249.95

Chromebook 11.6" LED Notebook in Silver

by Samsung

From among the world's lightest to the most powerful, Samsung mobile computers take productivity with you wherever you go. 1.70 GHz, Exynos processor, 2GB Memory, 16GB Storage. Super light, super fast, super cool.... AND affordable! Need we say more?

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Gamers



Space Blaster Shooting Game

by Sharper Image

This Space Blaster Shooting Game is the 2-in-1 playset that's out of this world! First, it's a two-player laser tag game in which opponents zap each other with harmless beams of infrared light. Second, it's a 1- or 2-person target shooting game, with a base station that projects meteors onto your walls. Blast as many meteors as you can... before you run out of time! Includes 2 blasters and projector. — \$59.99

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Perfect Drink App-Controlled Smart Bartending

By Brookstone

Now every Dad can be a bartending super hero. We were super impressed with the accuracy of the measurements along with the number of recipes. We couldn't get our Dads away from the bar... Perfect for holiday entertaining!

—\$99.00

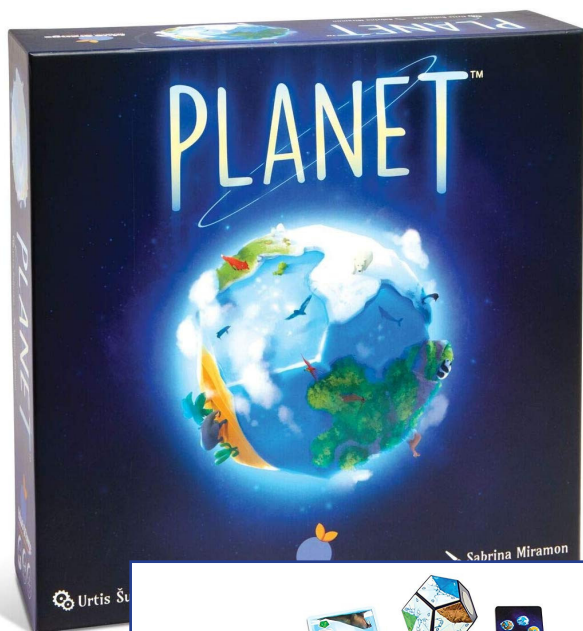


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Planet Board Game

by Blue Orange

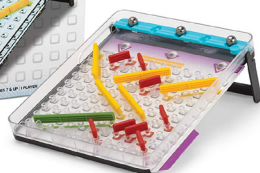
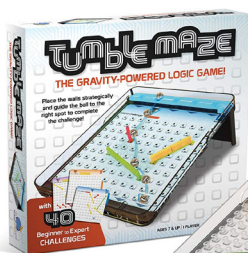
A unique family strategy game where you create your own world in your hands. Exclusive 3D globes are used as player boards. Strategize to create a perfect world and ecosystem for your wildlife. Simple rules but lots of room for strategy makes this a great game for families. You need to make a good use of space while including your own creative design. Only suggestion would be to include some educational information on the backs of the cards to help kids learn more about animals and habitats. We couldn't stop playing. Endless opportunities for strategic game challenges. Ages 8 & up. — \$29.99



Tumble Maze

by Blue Orange

Challenge your mind in this logic fueled solo puzzle game. Navigate through obstacles to get the stainless steel balls into a specific spot. Position specific walls on the board to guide the balls. This solo play game kept us busy for hours. Choose your own level of challenge and get the balls rolling. So much fun! Navigating between the obstacles and using the extra optional walls makes every game a different adventure in physics. Thumbs up all the way. Any puzzle lover will be thrilled to find this one under the tree. Ages 8 and up. — \$24.99



Slide Quest by Blue Orange

The bad guys have taken over our beautiful kingdom and it's in total chaos! Help the knight get to the end of each map all while avoiding traps and obstacles. Includes 20 maps for your knight to traverse. The extra rule variations extend gameplay and add even more suspense to the adventure! SO COOL! Great dexterity game. We loved rolling our little "Knights" through the huge assortment of "worlds" or mazes. So many levels are provided it seems like we could play this game for ever. You need to maneuver between different obstacles while you try to get your player to it's objective. SO FUN! You can even get an app for your phone to make it more interesting with timers and other options For 1 to 4 players. Ages 7 & up. — \$29.99



Bears in Barrels by Blue Orange



A fun team game focused on dexterity. Use one finger to flip the bear right side up as fast as you can And pass it to your neighbor. Don't get caught by the other bear or you'll lose honey tokens! Perfect party game for all ages! More difficult for our little guys but fun for the whole family. Some of our older kids got extremely competitive and really faught to keep their honey. We haven't seen these guys get so "into" a game in a long time. Definite thumbs up for originality. Ages 7 & up. — \$15.99



Beagle Or Bagel by Blue Orange

TA fun family friendly challenge, stimulating visual perception. Flip cards quickly and call out "Beagle" or "bagel!", depending on which one you think is showing the most 3 different ways of playing including a rule using tokens.

Really? A game about beagles? Our family dog is a beagle so we were super interested in this one from the start. Fast game play made for fast fun. Good for the whole gang. We had fun playing this after a big family dinner. Our pup Rivers gives it a "Paws Up" for sure. For 2 to 6 players. Ages 7 & up. — \$13.99

Sherlock Express by Blue Orange



Why can't I win this game? The kids won every time, they are just too fast! Use logic and deduction skills to help Sherlock find moriarty's accomplice! Channel your inner detective to expose the culprit and win the round. Includes 27 suspect cards, 36 alibi cards, and illustrated rules. This game is deceptibly complex. It appears to be super fun and easy, until you notice the very slight differences in the cards. That kicks it up to a whole new level. Our kids still continued to beat our butts, but we were at least able to even the playing field a little by adding in the optional detail. 2-6 player game Ages 7 & up. — \$15.99

Stocking Stuffer



Cubebot Micro by Areaware

These little robots were a BIG hit with the entire family. Kids between ages 4 and 9 had fun changing shapes and playing "robot." Older kids had races trying to get the wooden toys back into their cubes. Moms and Dads were finding homes for them on their desks at work.

—Available at www.areaware.com

Holiday Poppers

by Hog Wild Toys

Lookout for popping holiday fun! We LOVE these little poppers, safe and fun for everyone. POP! We couldn't put them down!

The ever-festive Holiday Pig Popper is joined by three new friends: the Holiday Snowman, Holiday Elf and Holiday Reindeer! — \$9.99



Charm Necklace Jewelry Kit

by Sugar LULU

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A perfect gift to give and get! —\$25.99



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Pets



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Play iC200c Mini Projector by Duo

This is a pretty nifty little gadget. It worked right out of the box with both a MAC laptop and an Android phone. We like small, minimalist devices, and this seems to be just perfect (rather than a big bulky beamer). We were surprised at how bright it was and the speaker quality was great. — \$149

Bissell SpotClean Cordless Portable Spot Cleaner

Does this baby ever do the job! We tried it out on furniture, car upholstery, carpets and even a bed spread...Amazing! It's lightweight and easy to use, perfect for tight spaces and spot cleaning. With a household full of kids and pets we don't know how we kept the house clean without it. A great gift for a busy mom or dad. — \$149.99



Star Wars Droid Inventor Kit

by littleBits

Kids can now create their own Droid and bring it to life using littleBits electronic blocks!

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Oh What Fun!

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Victorian Influence in Christmas Traditions

With the marriage of Queen Victoria of Great Britain to Prince Albert in 1840, many new fashions and traditions were begun in both Europe and the United States, particularly the celebration of Christmas as a holiday. By the end of the nineteenth century, Christmas had become the most celebrated event of the year. After nearly one hundred and eighty years, many of those Christmas customs are still practiced today, centered around family, charity, goodwill, peace, and the birth of the Savior.

As Prince Albert was from Germany, he brought with him the tradition of decorated Christmas trees. In 1848 the "London Times" featured an illustration of this new holiday tree at Windsor Castle, decorated with nuts, fruits, sweets and treats. The custom of live trees in the Victorian Era quickly became popular when it arrived in America in 1850. By 1901, buying a tree from a commercial vendor had become such a

trend that conservationist president Theodore Roosevelt in protest, refused to have a Christmas tree in the White House. As a result of the shortage of trees, the first Christmas tree "farm" was started in our own state capital of Trenton, New Jersey.



Mistletoe started with the Victorians in the form of a glass trinket called a 'kissing ball'. The ball was lined with various greens and hung in entryways to invite a kiss on the cheek and a wish for a prosperous new year. Decorating with evergreen sprigs and holly branches were also a popular holiday decoration for their continuous color throughout the winter season. This tradition would often include scented herbs and foliage and the practice of decorating would become known as 'decking the halls'.

In 1843 the first Christmas card was commissioned with a festive illustration and a Christmas message. By 1880 the practice of sending Christmas cards had become such a popular holiday tradition that over 11.5 million pieces were produced that year. By comparison, in 2017 more

than 15 billion holiday cards were delivered by our US Postal Service.

Another Christmas custom introduced by the Victorians is a warmed beverage usually made with hot ale or mulled cider, referred to as "wassail". Eventually the practice of going door to door called 'wassailing' became popular in 1833 when the first significant collection of carols were written. Later, the tradition of singing festive Christmas songs was referred to as 'caroling' a holiday ritual that continues today with choral groups and church choirs.

Gift giving was initially a custom celebrated with the New Year. However, as the Victorians placed more emphasis on the Christmas holiday, gift giving became more central to the Christmas festivities. Early on, presents were hidden among the branches of the holiday tree. Often

they were gifts of food including: preserves, jams jellies, cookies, candy, and especially oranges and apples. As gifts became more elaborate and handmade or store bought, they moved from the tree's branches to underneath the tree.

The centerpiece of the holiday festivities was and continues to be the Christmas Feast. By the early twentieth century, roast turkey with all the trimmings had become the dominant dish of the celebration. Early Victorian recipes included mince pie which later evolved into more elaborate sweets and confections, including sugar coated plums (sugarplums) and Christmas pudding. Today, homemade cookies, holiday pies and fanciful pastries are the culmination of the holiday banquet for generations of American families.

— By: M D Dattolo



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december 1 thru december 22

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Historic Smithville, NJ

december 2 thru december 12

Holiday Inns Tour
Cape May, NJ

Wednesday

december 4 11:30am

Holiday Lunch & Learn: Christmas Traditions: Decking the Halls
Historic 535 Washington St, Cape May, NJ

Friday

december 6 4:00pm

Christkindlmarkt:
Old Time Holiday Craft Market
The Tuckerton Seaport, Tuckerton, NJ

Saturday

december 7 9:00am

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Calling all Vendors for A Dickens of a Holiday
Atlantic County Library System, Mays Landing, NJ

Crafts at Christmas
Cape May, NJ

december 7 thru december 28

Christmas Candlelight House Tours
Cape May, NJ

Sunday

december 6 7:30pm

Dickens Christmas Extravaganza
Cape May, NJ

Saturday

december 14 2:00pm

Atlantic City Christmas Parade
Atlantic City Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ

Sunday

december 15 1:30pm

A Longwood Gardens Christmas
Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA

december 16 thru december 19

Cheery Cherry House Christmas Tour
Cape May, NJ

enings

december **16** thru january **1**

Physick Family Christmas House Tour
Emlen Physick Estate, Cape May, NJ

Saturday

december **21** 6:00pm

Zion United Methodist Church
Bargaintown NJ

december **27** thru january **5**

Disney on Ice presents Road Trip Adventures
Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia, PA



Trains...Trains... Trains...

PatCong Valley Railroad
Rt. 40, Richland
December 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 2019
January 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 2020
The times each day are 10 AM to 4 PM unless otherwise noted

Ocean City Train Show
Music Pier, Moorlyn Terrace & Boardwalk
December 7th and 8th (10am-4pm)
Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children.

DECEMBER 24TH, 6:30, 7:30 & 8:30PM

FAA clears Santa for take off

Track Santa by calling 609-485-6000

CONCERTS

Thu, Nov 21 - Thu, Dec 5

FROZEN 2: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE

Tropicana Casino Hotel, IMAX Theatre

November 22nd

DOOBIE BROTHERS

Hard Rock Casino Hotel 8:00 PM

SOUTHSIDE JOHNNY & THE ASBURY JUKES

Hard Rock Casino Hotel 8:00 PM

November 23rd

JASON BONHAM'S LED ZEPPELIN EVENING

Hard Rock Casino Hotel

November 24th

DISCO LIVE

Hard Rock Casino Hotel

November 29th

WAYNE BRADY

Hard Rock Casino Hotel

November 30th

TANYA TUCKER

Hard Rock Casino Hotel

RUN DMC

Hard Rock Casino Hotel

December 7th

LUANN DE LESSEPS: COUNTESS AND FRIENDS

Borgata Casino Hotel The Music Box 8 PM

Michael Bolton Greatest Hits

Golden Nugget Casino Hotel

December 8th

STOCKTON PRESENTS:

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Borgata Casino Hotel Event Center

December 13th

RICK SPRINGFIELD & RICHARD MARX

Borgata Casino Hotel The Music Box 9:00 PM

December 15th

ATLANTIC CITY BALLET PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER
Caesars Casino Hotel

THE CULT - A SONIC TEMPLE
Hard Rock Casino Hotel 8:00 PM

December 19th-22nd

STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER
THE IMAX EXPERIENCE
Tropicana Casino Hotel, IMAX Theatre

December 21st

JASON ISBELL
Borgata Casino Hotel The Music Box 9:00 PM



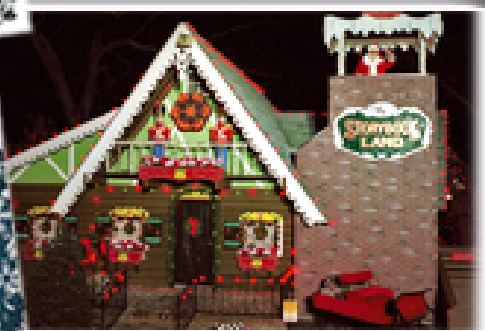
64
Years of Family Fun

Storybook Land

Booking
Birthday
Parties and
Class Trips
for the
Spring

Look out for
Our Annual
Early Ticket
SALE

(Feb. thru March)



Don't
Miss the
Christmas
Fantasy
with Lights
Parade
Nov. 16th.
Park Hours
2PM-9PM.

Rain date
November 17th.

Christmas Fantasy With Lights
A South Jersey Tradition for over 25 years!

See website for hours • www.storybookland.com
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