

Out & About

Recorder Community Newspapers

GUIDE TO THE ARTS AND LEISURE • THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017

A TOE-TAPPING MARCH

The art of dance - from ballet to Tai Chi stylings - takes center stage in coming weeks

By **ROBERTA BURKHART**

OUT & ABOUT EDITOR

April comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. But what about March? Judging by the motley mix of acts dancing their way across local stages in coming weeks, March appears to waltz, tango and pirouette its way to spring.

March offers an extravagant bounty of diverse dance performances - from traditional ballet to the rhythms of African dance, Asian Tai Chi-inspired choreography and the fiery interpretations of the landscape of the American Southwest. Here is a sampling sure to set your feet aflutter:

Dancers take on the imagery of the American Southwest at **MOMIX: Opus Cactus** at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 2, at Morristown's Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street.

Artistic director Moses Pendleton brings the landscape of the American Southwest to life with his signature illusionistic style, creating dynamic images of cacti, slithering lizards and fire dancers. MOMIX is a company of dancer-illusionists that, for 20 years, has been celebrated for its ability to conjure up a world of surrealistic images using props, light, shadow, humor and the human body. Tickets are \$29 - \$59.

Also at appearing at the Mayo Center is the dancers of the **New Jersey Ballet**, with a performance of "**Sleeping Beauty**" at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 11, and "**Cinderella**" at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 19.

"Sleeping Beauty" is the full-length classical ballet that delivers high drama, tender romance, spectacular dancing and glorious Tchaikovsky music, organizers said. The stage is filled with familiar characters, including Princess Aurora, the Handsome Prince, the King and Queen and their splendid Royal Court, as well as charac-



The coming weeks bring myriad dance performances to local stages, including the American Repertory Ballet's "Masters of Dance and Music," **left**, at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 11, at the Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College in Branchburg and the Asian-inspired choreography of Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, **right**, who will present two performances during Centenary Stage Company's annual Dance Fest, which runs from Saturday, March 18, through Sunday, April 9, at the Lackland Center in Hackettstown.

ters from the fairy realm including the Lilac Fairy, the wicked Carabosse, Puss in Boots, Red Riding Hood, the Blue Bird and the Enchanted Princess. New Jersey Ballet's troupe of international artists brings the story to life with elaborate pantomime and glorious dancing in a magical fairytale castle, with phantasmagorical costumes straight out of an old storybook illustration. Tickets cost \$29 to \$59.

"Cinderella" is a colorful spectacle with a lush Prokofiev score, splendid scenery and more than 40 performers. This two-act romp through the well-known fairy tale features beloved characters such as the sweet-natured Cinderella, the handsome

Prince, a magical fairy godmother, wickedly funny stepsisters, hours of the clock that come to life and dance, and a pumpkin that turns into a coach before the audience's eyes. This performance will be accompanied by New Jersey Ballet's original "storyteller" narration so even the littlest theater-goer can keep up with ease. Tickets are \$15, \$20 or \$25.

In April at Mayo, the **Russian National Ballet Theater** will present "**Swan Lake**," one of the most magical and well-known works from the classical ballet repertoire. With choreography by Petipa and an unforgettable score by Tchaikovsky, "Swan Lake" will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 6.



Tickets are \$29 to \$59.

Tickets for Mayo events can be purchased online at www.mayoarts.org or by calling the box office at (973) 539-8008.

Dance Fest

Centenary Stage Company in Hackettstown also celebrates the artistry of dance this spring during its annual Dance Fest. This year's Dance Fest will feature the **XY Dance Project** on at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 18, **Moe-Tion Dance Theater** at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 26, and finally, **Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company** with its performance "**Chinese**

PLEASE SEE DANCE, PAGE 2

DANCE: Ballet and more take center stage in coming weeks

FROM PAGE 1

New Year" at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 1, and their repertoire of original works at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 9. All performances will be held in the Sitnik Theatre of Centenary Stage Company's Lackland Performing Arts Center, 715 Grand Ave. in Hackettstown.

The XY Dance Project has a unique movement style that blends contemporary dance through the spiritual rhythms of African Dance, the grace and peace of Tai Chi, and the heart of street dance. The artistic director Nijawwon Matthews is a resident teacher/choreographer for The Joffrey Ballet School as well as a resident teacher at Broadway Dance Center, both in New York City. In addition to the evening performance, Matthews will be leading a dance workshop from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 18, which is free with the purchase of a ticket to the XY Dance performance. The workshop is open to all levels of dancers.

Established in 2007, the Moe-tion Dance Theatre is a contemporary dance company based in New Jersey. Under the artistic direction of Maureen Glennon, the company is dedicated to experimenting and creating new forms of expression. The company is best known for their diverse repertoire and site-specific work and has performed at numerous festivals, showcases and venues throughout the tri-state area. Moe-tion Dance Theater seeks to promote an inclusive vision of the arts through the language of modern dance, painting, sculpture, photography, literature and live music. It strives to include people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. The company creates productions that expose the community to



The New Jersey Ballet will present "Cinderella" at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 19, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. This two-act romp through the well-known fairy tale features beloved characters including the sweet-natured Cinderella, the handsome Prince, a magical fairy godmother, wickedly funny stepsisters, hours of the clock that come to life and dance, and a pumpkin that turns into a coach before the audience's eyes.

multiple art forms in one event.

Closing the 2017 Dance Fest, Nia-Ni Chen Dance Company will be performing an exciting double feature: their family friendly "First Chinese New Year" on April 1 and then on Sunday, April 9 the dancers return to the Sitnik stage with an afternoon of their own unique works. The dances of Nai-Ni Chen fuse the dynamic freedom of the American modern dance with the grace and splendor of Asian art. The Company's productions take the audience beyond cultural boundaries to where tradition meets innovation and freedom arises from discipline.

The "First Chinese New Year" is a spec-

tacular production of dazzling props, colorful costumes, mesmerizing music, fantastic acrobatics, and lively dance. It is a family friendly production for children ages five to adults. A heartwarming story highlights the intrinsic value of coming together, courage, hard-working and ingenuity.

Advance tickets for Dance Fest cost \$20 for adults or \$15 for children under 12 for each performance. A flex pass that grants entry to any three performances costs \$37.50. For tickets, visit www.centenarystageco.org or call the box office at (908) 979-0900.

In Branchburg, the Philadelphia-based **Koresh Dance Company** will perform at

8 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at the Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC), 118 Lamington Road.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary season, the critically acclaimed company presents a program drawn from more than 60 existing works by artistic director Ronen Koresh. As part of this anniversary program, Mozart's "Piano Concerto No. 23" will be featured in a newly commissioned work, "23: Deconstructing Mozart," a collaborative initiative created by Koresh and multimedia artist Paul Miller, a.k.a. DJ Spooky. Tickets cost \$25 and \$35.

At 3 p.m. Saturday, March 11, the **American Repertory Ballet** will present "Masters of Dance and Music" at RVCC.

"Masters of Dance and Music" is a plethora of style, spirit, grace and innovation, organizers said. The program begins with "Glazunov Variations," a highly technical work danced to sections of composer Alexander Glazunov's magical score for the classical ballet, "Raymonda." A world premiere by American Repertory Ballet resident choreographer Mary Barton also will be highlighted. The program finishes with "There is a Time," a deeply evocative work by modern dance pioneer and choreographer José Limón. Based on Chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes ("To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven"), this moving, majestic dance reflects the human condition and the interminable passage of time, organizers said. Tickets cost \$25 and \$35.

Tickets for RVCC performances can be purchased at www.rvccarts.org or by calling (908) 725-3420.



Dancers take on the imagery of the American Southwest at MOMIX: Opus Cactus, left, at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 2, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. Koresh Dance Company, right, will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at Raritan Valley Community College in Branchburg.

'A Comedy of Tenors' offers wild romp of humor, romance

By **JOHN KAZMARK**

THEATER CRITIC

"A Comedy of Tenors," currently running at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn is a wild romp of humor, romance, mistaken identities and some show-stopping vocal performances by, at least, three tenors.

Written by Ken Ludwig, whose body of work has included six shows on Broadway and seven in London's West End, "A Comedy of Tenors" is a sequel to his Tony Award-winning "Lend Me a Tenor!"

Ludwig's amazing sense of dialogue and timing make "A Comedy of Tenors" a play that demands audience attention, evokes their laughter and, on occasion, a playful wince. One scene in particular involving a large and pliable cow's tongue and a famished opera performer pushes the bounds of hilarity to the very edge of the cliff, and then moves just a few steps forward.

Set in 1930s Paris on the day of a highly promoted concert, producer Henry Saunders, portrayed by Michael Kostroff, is about to pull out the few remaining hairs on his already balding pate. The reason for his apoplectic state is the care and feeding of Tito, an aging Tenor, played by John Treacy Egan, and his wife Maria, performed by Judy Blazer.

Tito is feeling threatened by the two, younger tenors he is about to share the stage with and Maria is erupting with her concern that Tito is giving out more than just autographs to his admiring female fans.



Photo by Jerry Dalia

"A Comedy of Tenors," with performances at Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn through Sunday, Feb. 26, stars, from left, David Josefsberg, Michael Kostroff, John Treacy Egan and Ryan Silverman.

All three of these principal roles are delivered in a manner worthy of the standing ovation they received at the curtain call of the opening night performance.

Four additional cast members, Donna English as Racón, David Josefsberg as Max, Jill Paice as Mimi and Ryan Silverman as Carlo, deserve kudos for their theatrical, physical and musical work. Collectively,

they keep this madcap rocket of mistaken identities and sexual hijinks on the rails through more turns than a Magic Mountain roller coaster ride.

Directing the kind of mounting chaos staged in "A Comedy of Tenors" takes a good deal of talent as well as a feel for this

brand of theatre. Fortunately for Paper Mill Playhouse, Don Stephenson, who directed Ludwig's "Lend Me a Tenor" at Paper Mill a few seasons ago was available and anxious to reunite the cast for this production. All seven members signed on and the rest is...hysterical!

Scenic design by Michael Schweikardt is attractive and sufficiently creative to provide countless doors and balconies for the approximately seven member cast to run a delightful display of human, 3-card monte.

The Paper Mill Playhouse has garnered tremendous praise over the years, including being the recipient of the 2016 Regional Theatre Tony Award and is currently nominated for three People's Choice Awards.

Great theatre doesn't just happen, it's grown and nurtured. Clearly, Mark Hoebee's role as artistic director has advanced the mission of a regional playhouse that has been entertaining generations since 1938.

A wonderful sign of a local theatre's position in the artistic community is the involvement of the giants of the theatre world taking notice and participating in the work. Therefore it is no surprise that on the recent opening night of "A Comedy of Tenors," playwright Ken Ludwig had an aisle seat in the orchestra. No doubt, there was a lot of well-deserved pride to go around that evening.

Performances of "A Comedy of Tenors" runs through Sunday, Feb. 26. For ticket information, call (973) 376-4343 or buy at www.PaperMill.org.

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The Yellowstone River through southern Montana

Editor's Note: This is the tenth in a monthly series detailing the discoveries made during the author's road trip following the trail of Lewis and Clark.

After visiting Lewis and Clark's 1805-06 winter quarters at Fort Mandan in North Dakota, my traveling companion, Barb, and I decided to explore the Yellowstone River where there is a unique Lewis and Clark landmark.

When the Corps of Discovery traveled west, they continued up the Missouri River as far as possible, obtained horses from the Shoshones and struggled across the mountains through present day Idaho, and down the Snake and Columbia Rivers to the Pacific Ocean.

However, on their return trip east, they separated in western Montana. Lewis went north to explore the Marias River, a tributary of the Missouri, and Clark went south to explore the Yellowstone River. Incredibly, they met at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers, which is just over the border of Montana in North Dakota.

On our way to the Yellowstone, we stopped at the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Circular depressions up to 40 feet in diameter are still visible, the "footprints" of the 50 or more earth lodges that once stood there. This area was a major trading center for the Northern Plains Indians for hundreds of years. Most of the area inhabitants were farmers.

Clark wrote in his journal, "...the houses are round and very large containing several families, as also their horses which is tied on one Side of the entrance..." (from a park brochure)

The National Park Service has recreated one earth lodge and furnished it as it would have been many years ago. Even though it



Jennifer Fischer

ROAD TRIP OF DISCOVERY

The writer has been traveling and writing about her adventures on the road for many years. Formerly a resident of Chatham, she and her husband Richard now live in Basking Ridge. She may be reached at: jwfisher.nj@gmail.com.



was 95 degrees the day we visited, it was surprisingly cool inside the lodge. The museum has exhibits about the Hidatsa people and artifacts recovered from the site. The Park Service certainly makes our history come alive.

Near Gladstone, N.D., we saw what reminded me of a giant dream catcher situated high on a hill near Interstate 94.

Dream catchers have been part of Native American traditions for centuries. They are traditionally made from a willow hoop with a webbing inside to catch the bad dreams and a hole in the center to let the good dreams through. The good dreams travel down the attached feathers to the sleeper.

We pulled off the road to take a good look at what is claimed to be the World's Largest



Above: At the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site in Stanton, N.D., the National Park Service has recreated an earth lodge and furnished it as it would have been many years ago. **Right:** This 70-ton roadside attraction – purported to be the world's largest outdoor sculpture – was erected in 2001 by artist Gary Greff, a metal sculptor and retired school teacher, on a hill near Interstate 94 near Gladstone, N.D.



Outdoor Sculpture. The 70-ton roadside attraction was erected in 2001 by Gary Greff, a metal sculptor and retired school teacher.

Titled "Geese in Flight," it has 10 metal geese attached to a huge ring of metal spokes. Black metal geese line the path up to the sculpture.

The beautiful Yellowstone River was often visible from the road, unlike the Missouri, which is hidden much of the time. Our other major rivers have dams and/or locks, but the Yellowstone is the longest free-flowing river in the U.S.: more than 670 miles long. It originates in northwestern Wyoming, wanders through Yellowstone National Park, carving out the magnificent "Grand Canyon of The Yellowstone," then flows northeast across Montana and meets the Missouri River just over the border in North Dakota.

Our first stop in Montana on the Yellowstone was Miles City. In the late 1800s when the railroad extended west, it became a center for the cattle business.

The rambling Range Riders Museum, established in 1939, preserves the area's frontier heritage. It includes about 10 buildings showing all aspects of western life. There are extensive collections of guns, boots, saddles, branding irons, ladies' hats, wag-

ons, and stage coaches. It also features a miniature replica of Fort Keogh, which was established in 1876, and a model of an Indian village, plus a full scale frontier home, a one-room school house and on and on. One of the most unusual items on display was a donut from a Civil War soldier that somehow has lasted all these years.

By now we were hungry for lunch. There were not many towns along the way, so when we saw a sign with a knife and fork, we turned off the highway and arrived in Hysham, Mt., population 250.

It has a wide main street, a vestige of the old days when cattle would be driven through the center of town. The Brunswick Bar & Café served the best burgers we'd had on the trip. When I was taking a picture of the noteworthy menu which included all kinds of "novelty burgers," the president of the local history museum came in and pegged us as "tourists." She offered to give us a private tour after lunch.

What a lovely surprise! I'll describe this unusual museum next time as well as the one landmark assuring that the Corps of Discovery really passed this way.



The author captured this view of the Yellowstone River near Miles City, Mt.

Red with fish and other whimsical pairings

I have always declared that the simplest of pairings are heavenly. Like milk and Oreos, peanut butter and jelly (or jam to some of us Anglophiles), burgers and Coke, steak and frites, Adam and Eve, and so on.

Wine-food pairing is an entirely different matter. To understand the gravitas of pairing, you have to understand the Rajan HOWA (Hierarchy of Wine Appreciation).

The pecking order starts with the most overused, generic term of wine imbibing: wine tasting. Everyone seems to have been to a wine tasting. Aha! Snob alert! Bottom of the pile goes tasting. A wine tasting would be akin to sitting in the driver's seat but not driving. I have a blah time at most tastings. The proverbial Soup Nazi must have sired the Wine Nazis that pour at tastings. They are bored, robotic, tight-scripted name callers of winery, winemaker and varietal.

Rarely, with some exceptions, would they discuss terroir, climat, vinification, winemaker's pedigree or alpha. Not that everyone is interested in the detail, but there is a black hole silence when asked by the few who are. Rude is by far the worst expression of a pourer. I recall exploring Oregonian Pinots at our single most favorite winery, St. Innocent, when our pourer was harsh, impatient and downright rude, so incongruous to that charming winery and the whole region, for that matter. Our loyalty to St. Innocent was quickly reinstated by change of guard to a warm and charming pourer. I confess that I started that way but Tasting is for the bus crowd.

Not you. You are ready for a well-heeled, sophisticated wine adventure: pairing. But first channel Yente ("Fiddler") or Dolly ("Hello Dolly"), the quintessential matchmakers. That's who you want to be when you pair wines. My fundamental pairing baseline is pair from the same terroir: Tuscan vineyards that produce Sangiovese wine, Florentine beef and Pecorino cheese are more likely to pair well with each other. A Guado al Tasso I had with a Florentine steak in a cobbled street trattoria in Sienna still holds a fire to my buds. Not sure if my pairing the Guado would have had the same chemistry with a Kobe steak at the Ginza or Shinjoku in Tokyo. You can draw the same parallel between the mushrooms and truffles in the Loire region of France and the Sancerres, Vouvrais and the Chenin Blancs that emanate from the same terroir. Epioesses, a Burgundian cheese and its cousin the Ami di Chamberlain are two peas in a pod with the neighboring Chamberlain Grand Crus and their village wines.

Here is an exception to my terroir the-



Ash Rajan

READ BETWEEN THE WINES

The writer is a French certified Maitre' Du Vin Du, Bordeaux and a Wall Street wealth strategist at Janney Montgomery Scott. Email him at arajan@janney.com on wines and tasting-pairing events.

ory. An angus steak from Nebraska, Kansas and Texas has no mates in the wines from those states. At least not yet. California to the rescue. When you are At Cabanas de Lilas steakhouse in Buenos Aires, Argentina, watch with your own eyes, a prized cow ask the Malbec out. Pairing is powerful. Enough said about geology, botany and chemistry. Are we having fun yet?

My personal doctrine on pairing is that either you can or you simply can't. Hard to learn in a hurry. It is 90 percent muscle memory and 10 percent luck. Muscle memory for fragrance and palate signals from wines and foods take years of inspired epicurean travel and a nose for matchmaking. Matchmaking implies that you know the personalities of the wine and the foods that you are pairing and the palates of the victims of your experiment. As there is no right or wrong in pairings, they are subjective as they come and often spark heated debate at the table.

Red with Fish or White with Meat: The very notion is funky. Not when your fish is a Chilean Bass with a Thai fusion sauce. I would argue an Oregon Pinot would do better justice than most whites. As for white with meat, that's even more awkward, but not if the meat is a spicy, savory Indian dish, the go-to white is a Kabinett Reisling, a Hungarian Furmint or a Gewurztraminer from Alsace.

Granted, filet mignon and a big California cab are America's pairing darlings. But for me, a T-bone, a New York strip or even a rib eye is wedlocked to a Right Bank Bordeaux, a St. Emilion or a Cote de Castillon, both, with a higher merlot-cab ratio.

Foie gras and sauternes were long hailed as the count and contessa of pairing. I admit I succumbed to that cliché for years until I found the sweetness of the sauternes compounded the syrupy sweet accompaniments of foie gras. I have had better matings with an acidic Austrian Grun Vetliner; even a grand crus Chablis or closer home, with a crisp, dry Riesling from the Finger Lakes. Ports and blue cheeses like Stilton and Roquefort were trapped in a child marriage for years. At a recent pairing, I had a

vintage 1953 Taylor served right at the beginning of the meal versus its traditional place as a dessert wine, a convenient legacy left by British military officers at their cantonments when they nursed their ci-

gars with Port, another pairing fallacy. The Port did not sing the blues that night, but a tart aged gouda made for a perfect pairing. I could hear the silent applause from the taste buds around the table.

MUSIC DIRECTOR **DAVID WROE**

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Noted Millburn harpist will perform at Farmstead Arts

Farmstead Arts will present harpist Odarka Stockert at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 19, in the historic farmhouse at 450 King George Road, Basking Ridge.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$10 for seniors, students and Farmstead members, and \$20 at the door. Tickets are available at <http://farmsteadarts.eventbrite.com>.

Stockert, a Millburn resident, returns to the Farmstead in a family friendly concert which will include works by T. O'Carolan and other material of the Celtic tradition. An accomplished harpist with a repertoire spanning the centuries, from classical to Broadway to folk, she performs on both the concert pedal harp and the folk harp, and has been playing professionally since the early 1980s.

She was a long-time student of celebrated concert harpist, the late Leone Paulson of South Orange, with whom she performed as a member of the Paulson Harp Ensemble. She spent several summers in Dublin, Ireland, in workshop studies and participating in the O'Carolan Irish Harp and Granard Harp Competitions, winning awards and honors in both.

She is also a collaborator of the Yara Arts Group based in New York, and has performed in many Yara events and productions. Additionally, she is a founding member of Glendalough's Muse, a Celtic



Harpist Odarka Stockert will perform at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 19, at Farmstead Arts in Basking Ridge.

flute and harp duo and Suenos del Alma, a Latin-inspired harp and violin duo.

More information can be found at www.farmsteadartscenter.org/performances/ or calling (908) 636-7576.

Stony Hill Gardens will host 29th annual orchid open house

The 29th annual Orchid Open House will be held at Stony Hill Gardens in Chester from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Friday to Sunday, March 3 to 5. Snow dates are March 10-12.

The event includes hundreds of orchid varieties and thousands of blooms, as well as tastings and sales of wine by Ventimiglia Vineyards of Wantage and of cheeses

by Springhouse Dairy of Fredon. Stony Hill experts will offer orchid care tips and will host demonstrations and lectures daily at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Stony Hill Gardens is located at 8 Route 24 – at the intersection of Route 513 and Furnace Road – in Chester. For more information, call (908) 879-2696 or visit www.StonyHillFarms.com.



Oncidium, left, and Phalaenopsis, above, orchids are among the best varieties for beginners. Orchid experts at Stony Hill Gardens in Chester will share tips and techniques for orchid novices and experienced growers alike at the 29th annual Orchid Open House Friday to Sunday, March 3 to 5.

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· POET'S CORNER · 'Ireland'

*Half Irish New Yorker; that I am;
who in my midnight dreams,
see green fields in multi shades
sliced by your fish filled streams;
and once I dreamt of a rainbow's end,
with little men dancing around a gold
filled pot
my mind much earlier did portend.*

*And who, when waking from one deep
dream
perused a Yeats' poem purposely to see,
if the cabin in my dream I'd seen
lay next the lake- he loved in Innisfree.*

*And who, flew to you once to find for sure,
the roots and cause of your broad allure.*

*And while driving north
-from Dublin City to Cashel's Rock,
through Tralee Town and Kerry's Ring,
in many pubs I paused to sing;
and drink black beer with friendly folks,
who with a smile,
and blarney laced with blessed jokes,
beckoned me to stay awhile.*

*But 'twas twixt these pleasant party
times
while hunting your history and my blood-
lines,
I learned too of your famine ships,
on which your folks fled hunger
and oppressive Brits,
to shores far off from your County Cork,
in my grandfather's case, to my dear New
York,
where they found fresh opportunity and
built new lives,
in their adopted countries,
where your culture, and its beauty
blooms forth so it thrives.*

*And by your people's conveyance of great
intellect and charm,
your diaspora dealt world progress no
pause for alarm;
and from all that I witnessed in your land
through its shore,
I'm prouder now that I'm Irish then I'd
been before.*

John J. Burns
Basking Ridge

Send us one of your original works, just one please, for consideration. Email it to happeningeditor@newjerseyhills.com with the subject line "Poet's Corner." Please include your name and hometown.

NJFO will stage 'La Traviata' March 4

Soloists from the New York Metropolitan Opera and beyond will join the New Jersey Festival Orchestra (NJFO) at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 5, to present Giuseppe Verdi's renowned masterpiece, "La Traviata."

The concert takes place at The Concert Hall at Drew University in Madison.

Verdi's most timeless and lyrical score, "La Traviata" has continued to captivate audiences for more than 150 years, organizers said. In the glitzy world of Paris, a naive young man falls head over heels for a glamorous society party girl. Together they trade the fast life for an idyllic love nest in the country...until bourgeois society values tragically tear them apart and force them to give up their dreams.

This powerful romantic drama, illuminated through Verdi's soaring arias and passionate duets, is one of the most popular operas of all time, organizers said.

The Metropolitan Opera soprano Jessica Sandidge makes her NJFO debut as Violetta, the fallen woman who sacrifices her last chance for love. Tenor Cody Austin (one of NJFO's December Holiday tenors) returns to co-star as Alfredo Germont, a young man from a good family who is will-



ELENA BIRD



JESSICA SANDIDGE



CODY AUSTIN

ing to risk everything for Violetta.

Another Metropolitan Opera star, Louis Otey, sings Giorgio Germont, Alfredo's father, who disapproves of Violetta's lifestyle, but is moved by her plight.

Basking Ridge resident and Morristown vocal coach Elena T. Bird sings the role of Aninna, Violetta's maid. David Wroe conducts and stage director Maria Todaro updates this emotional, timeless tale of hypocrisy and sacrifice to modern day with colorful artistic design.

"We are thrilled to be joined by these fabulous singers," Wroe said. "Each of them is a star who has already graced the stages of concert halls and opera houses across the

world. With their outstanding technique and artistic interpretation of this, Verdi's most loved and most poignant work, I predict that there will not be a dry eye in the house!"

Presented in conjunction with Ray Catena of Union, the

production with supertitles, costume, and sophisticated staging, has been made possible through additional support of The DeAlessandro Family in memory of Joseph T. DeAlessandro, Marty Jeivens, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

An additional performance will be staged at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Ave. A pre-concert lecture by Michael Rosin will be held at 6 p.m.

Tickets for both performances cost \$28 to \$76 and can be purchased online at www.njfestivalorchestra.org or by calling (908) 232-9400.

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Centenary stages world premiere of 'The Surrogate'

Groundlings Theatre alumna and Emmy Award-winning author Patricia Cotter brings her unique sense of comedy and contemporary issues to Centenary Stage Company with the world premiere of "The Surrogate," with performances through Sunday, March 5 at the Lackland Performing Arts Center in Hackettstown.

Winner of the 2016 Susan Glaspell Award and finalist in the prestigious 2016 O'Neil National Playwrights Conference, "The Surrogate" is a smart and funny play about blended families, desire, motherhood, class and sexual politics examining just how much we can ask of our friends, our parents and our spouses, and whether we'll get any of our important life decisions right in this new age.

A multigenerational blend of "Modern Family" and "All in the Family" for the 21st century, when Billy and Sara ask their best friends Margaret and Jen to be the guardians of their precious Tallulah (and yet-to-be-born baby Carroll), lives change and friendships are tested. When Sara's mother, a colorful New Zealand Vineyard owner, blows into town for an "ankle replacement", the definition of what makes a modern family is hilariously rewritten, or-



"The Surrogate," with performances through Sunday, March 5, stars, in front from left, Susan Barrett, Caitlin Duffy and Katrina Ferguson, and in back from left, Diana Cherkas and Clark Scott Carmichael.

ganizers said.

Tickets for The Surrogate range from \$17.50 to \$27.50 with discounts for students and children under 12. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.centenarystageco.org or call (908) 979-0900. The box office is open 1 to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and two hours prior to performances. The box office is located in the Lackland Center, 715 Grand Ave. in Hackettstown.

Quilt & Sewing Fest of New Jersey returns to Somerset March 2 to 5

The Quilt & Sewing Fest of New Jersey and the Tri-State Quilt Competition will return to the Garden State Exhibit Center, 50 Atrium Drive in Somerset, from Thursday to Sunday, March 2-5.

Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Attendees may feast their eyes on beautifully crafted works of quilt and textile art from all over the country, organizers said.

At this year's event, the must-sees include the entries to the juried and judged Tri-State Quilt Competition and the special exhibitions. The competition highlights an array of quilts created by residents of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. These talented regional quilt artists will display a stunning collection of artwork while competing for over \$5,500 in prizes. In addition, showgoers won't want to miss the special exhibits on display including the beautiful, award winning quilts of the 2017 Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival.

Also among the exhibits will be "Quilt-

ing Leather?" featuring leather quilts created by Cathy Wiggins, quilts by Quilt Fest instructor Jessica Skultety, an exhibit of modern quilts presented by the North Jersey Modern Quilt Guild and more.

The festival also features workshops for beginners as well as for more advanced textile artists. Those interested in learning new skills, honing skills already acquired or just wanting to have some quilting fun can learn from faculty, including David Sirota, Jessica Skultety, Bobbie Bergquist, Debora Konchinsky, Nancy Murtie and Lisa White Reber.

In addition, certified quilt appraiser Phyllis Twigg Hatcher will be on-site offering quilt and woven coverlet appraisals by appointment.

There will be a Merchants Mall filled with rows of vendors offering a variety of quilt, wearable and textile art supplies.

Admission, which includes re-entry, costs \$13. Sunday-only admission costs \$11. Those under age 16 are admitted free. Carts are not permitted.



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YOUR TABLE IS READY

Good Times at The Stirling Tavern AND The Stirling Hotel

By Deb McCoy

Plenty is happening in Stirling and in Morristown these days.

Stop in at The Stirling Hotel from February 24th through the 28th and celebrate Mardi Gras with Cajun/Creole specials and festive New Orleans-inspired cocktails. Music Mondays continue with "The Dead of Winter II" performing with "This Old Engine" on March 6th, beginning at 6 pm.

Gather a few friends to join you on Thursday, March 9th at 5 pm for the Red Hook Raid Tap Takeover. Choose from 8 beers on draft and enjoy a specially suggested pairing menu.

Mid-March will bring another Community Supper. Watch for details appearing on the website soon. Check the website for news about upcoming St. Patrick's Day's specials and the Craft Beer Brunch on March 26th.

April 15th marks the changeover from the winter menu to the spring menu. The restaurant will also be open for Easter celebrations, with both an Easter Brunch/Lunch and a Dinner being planned. Stay tuned. Looking ahead to May, the Beer Garden will open on weekends.

For another memorable meal in a lovely space, owners Tom and Dori remind you to also try The Stirling Tavern at 150 South Street in Morristown. Only open for a few months, it has developed a loyal following and is one of the best restaurants in Morristown. A short walk from the Mayo Performing Arts Center, the Tavern also features live music on Wednesdays.

The Tavern offers starters like the Duck Quesadilla and the Grilled Octopus as great accompaniments to any main dish. Lunch sandwiches are creatively prepared with options like the Fig and Brie Grilled Cheese. Dinner selections range from a grilled Skirt Steak with Salsa Verde to a Pan-seared Salmon. The salads make it easy to stick with a diet, if you must.

The Stirling Hotel is located at 227 Main Avenue in Stirling within walking distance from the Stirling Train Station. In fact, there is a link to the train schedule right on the restaurant's website. This favorite eatery is open Monday through Saturday from 11:30 am until 10 pm and Sunday until 9 pm. The bar closes later. The restaurant can be reached by calling 908-647-6919. Details about events and daily specials can be found by visiting the websites. The Stirling Tavern is located at 150 South Street in Morristown and can be reached by calling 973-993-8066.

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MOVIE REVIEW: THE OSCAR PICKS EDITION

The Great Goldberger Squirrel Conspiracy of 2017

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER

FILM CRITIC

O.K....maybe the Academy Award leak previously alleged to exist, the one the squirrels in my backyard either engineered or facilitated, and which allowed me to successfully predict a good percentage of last year's Oscar winners, indeed exists. But first, a little backstory for those unfamiliar with the bushy-tailed adventures of the Goldberger Squirrels.

Thankful for the assorted nuts I've occasionally thrown on the lawn to ensure their strength and safety against neighboring squirrels and other varmints who would illegally cross property lines to take what is rightfully theirs, last year the Goldberger Squirrels showed their loyalty with a bold act.

Braving the gridlock caused by the "Traffic Study" on the George Washington Bridge, they nonetheless persevered, doing their version of a high wire act to get to Manhattan, meet up with their Holly-

wood connection, Deep Rat, obtain the Oscar picks, and deliver them to me.

Grateful, I enlarged the nut allowance and, sadly proving that no good deed goes unpunished, upset the backyard geopolitics in the bargain. Seeing the Goldberger Squirrels flourishing, the neighboring squirrels increased their incursions into Goldberger territory...some even assimilating into the culture. Protests arose, although some groups of squirrels claimed the protesters were really skills paid with expensive Macadamia nuts. Still, they were cute with their little signs...some of them quite witty, like the one that read: "Squirrels against Goldberger using animal metaphors. How about cutting out the Aesop/Orwell stuff and just being creative?"

This demanded action. Dressed up as Teddy Roosevelt in an attempt to appear strong but just, and standing on the set of a train's rear platform that I hastily constructed on the back deck, I gave what has since become known as my Rodentia Whistle-Stop Speech. It read:

"Ich bin ein squirrel. Thus, when in the course of squirrel events it becomes self-evident that a backyard divided cannot stand, let it be known that from here on in all squirrels, regardless of coat color, eyes, type of incisor and bushiness of tail, will be welcome to traverse freely across these henceforth borderless lands in the pursuit of tree climbing, running around like crazy with no apparent direction, burying and unearthing nuts, and whatever else isn't prohibited by the Constitution of the Backyard."

In reaction, the original Goldberger Squirrels, the ones claiming ancestry dating back to my purchase of the house, were miffed by my dictum. Thus they irrationally elected a new leader who ran on the campaign slogan, "Promise them anything, but give them Arpège," which actually still has a lot of political thinkers scratching their heads. Suffice it to note, he was mean and bad.

Now, it bears informing that much of what followed is uncertain in its details, and will imminently be thoroughly investigated by a panel of independent chipmunks. But it's definitely a conspiracy meant to undermine the peace, tranquility and highminded principles that have long comprised the noble doctrine cherished and adhered to by my backyard's fauna.

It is not known who exactly the culprits are. However, leaks far more serious in nature than those that supplied my Oscar picks last year suggest that a splinter

group of the Original Goldberger Squirrels, known as the Gray Supremacists, fomented the treachery. Suspiciously, it's this wing of the Original Squirrels most opposed to an investigation. One chipmunk, speaking on the condition of anonymity, quite succinctly noted, "It's all about the nuts. Follow the nuts."

Here's the theory. One member of this splinter group who, through treasonous plotting with known predators of squirrels on the promise of power and wealth, convinced a couple of his number to gnaw a hole beneath an eave of my house, allowing the squirrels to then occupy and stash their bounty within its walls. They noisily and cavalierly made their presence known. Note, this is an action strictly prohibited by the Geneva Convention, Article No. 1, Section 3: Squirrel Containment.

The plan was, as best can be discerned at this juncture, that I would think it was the now freely migrating squirrels who committed this most egregious violation of human-squirrel rules of sovereignty. What was hoped for by the Gray Supremacists, especially after I had a wall with a one-way door constructed over the gnawed hole, was that I would now build a great wall around the entire perimeter of the backyard to keep out all new squirrels. Then, after the conspirators were finished brainwashing the otherwise loyal Goldberger Squirrels and began systematically limiting their squirrel rights with a campaign of fascist misinformation, the wall would serve to keep the now disenfranchised squirrels in. I have vowed there will be no wall. It would be nuts!

Needless to note, the squirrel community continues to be bitterly divided, each looking at the other group with trepidation and distrust. Now, I'm not sure who's responsible for this packet I've just received containing a list of every Academy Award winner for 2016, right down to sound mixing. But I assume it's the squirrels' way to curry favor, and yet another investigation will be necessary...after I've released my picks.

Of course my choices will all be correct...big league. And, even if they're wrong, in tribute to the new doublespeak that's become so popular of late, I'll staunchly contend that I was right...claiming that those who voted for the Oscar winners were not really members of the Academy, but rather, fraudulent voters flown in from Bad Foreign Backyards to diminish the greatness of my picks. I mean, what's the harm? It's just the Oscars. It isn't as if the future of Democracy itself was at stake.

Here are the winners:

- Best Picture: "Moonlight"
- Best Director: Barry Jenkins, "Moonlight"
- Best Actor: Tie...Casey Affleck, "Manchester by the Sea" and Denzel Washington, "Fences"
- Best Actress: Isabelle Huppert, "Elle"
- Best Supporting Actor: Michael Shannon, "Nocturnal Animals"
- Best Supporting Actress: Viola Davis, "Fences"
- Best Song: "Audition (The Fools Who Dream)," "La La Land"
- Best Animated Feature Film: "Moana"
- Best Foreign Language Film: "Toni Erdmann"
- Best Documentary Feature: "I Am Not Your Negro"
- Best Original Screenplay: "20th Century Women"
- Best Adapted Screenplay: "Moonlight"
- Best Original Score: "La La Land"
- Best Live Action Short Film: "Silent Nights"
- Best Animated Short Film: "Pearl"
- Best Documentary Short Subject: "Joe's Violin"
- Best Film Editing: "Moonlight"
- Best Cinematography: "Arrival"
- Best Visual Effects: "Doctor Strange"
- Best Production Design: "La La Land"
- Best Makeup and Hairstyling: "Star Trek Beyond"
- Best Costume Design: "Jackie"
- Best Sound Editing: "Arrival"
- Best Sound Mixing: "La La Land"

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 ★ ★ ★ HOO BOY!

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>> SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 13

· KIDS CALENDAR ·

MUSEUM FUN

Dr. Seuss Family Festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown. Celebrate the birthday of one of the most beloved children's authors, Dr. Seuss. Mix up a batch of Oobleck, enjoy readings of Dr. Seuss classics by the Cat in the Hat, and see a performance of "Seussology." Tickets cost \$10.

NATURE FUN

Snowshoe Sundays: Moderate for ages 10 and up will be held Sunday, Feb. 26 and March 5 and 12, at the Morris County Parks Commission's Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area in Boonton. Enjoy an afternoon of guided snowshoeing and trekking. Call (973) 334-3130 to check conditions and to register. Use your own snowshoes or rent them for an additional \$10. No experience necessary. Arrive by 1 p.m. if renting shoes or 1:30 p.m. if using your own. The trek costs \$5 per person, or \$15 if renting snowshoes.

The Great Hibernation Mystery will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 5, at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd, Chatham Township. Do all the animals that we believe are hibernators actually hibernate? Spend a winter afternoon discovering fascinating facts about New Jersey's hibernating animals with a fun, interactive presentation. This program costs \$3 per person.

Tree Time for Tykes: Maple Syrup Fun will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, March 13, at the Schiff Nature Center, 339 Pleasant Valley Road, Mendham. Many trees of the forest give gifts for us to enjoy like acorns and wal-

nuts. The Maple Tree gives us the sweetest gift of all. Join Schiff naturalist as we find and hug a maple tree, and learn how to tap the tree to collect the sap and turn it into Maple Syrup. Ages 2-4 with an adult. Members pay \$10 per adult/child pair. Non members pay \$15 per adult/child pair. Advance registration is required. Call (973) 543-6004 to register.

Nature Tots and Tykes: Fabulous Frogs! will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the Morris County Parks Commission's Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area in Boonton. Cost is \$5 per child. For ages 2 to 5 with an adult.

NJ Audubon: Signs of Spring Walk will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at the Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, 11 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville. Let's explore the trails at Scherman Hoffman for any signs of wildflowers, fern fiddleheads, sounds of birds and frogs, and early mushrooms. No strollers permitted. Limit is 15 people. The program costs \$5 for members or \$10 for non-members. Call (908) 396-6386 by Friday, March 24 to register.

STORYTIME

The 11th annual Storytelling Festival of World Music and Story will begin at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 12, in the student community center. Don't miss CCM's Annual Storytelling Festival featuring outstanding storytellers and musicians who will bring to life tales and tunes old and new. Admission costs \$6 and tickets can be purchased at <http://www.ccm.edu/tickets/storytelling.asp>.

THEATER

Drumline Live will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. This high-octane musical spectacle pays homage to the show-stopping marching popularized at historically African-American colleges. Musical styles ranging from hip-hop to American soul, gospel to jazz, combined with a unique style of drumming, mesmerizing musicianship and lively choreography, create a dynamic production guaranteed to get you on your feet by halftime. Tickets cost \$29 to \$69.



Dr. Seuss's "The Cat in the Hat," above, will be staged at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 12, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. Dr. Seuss's most beloved character comes to life onstage to create an afternoon of mischief. With some tricks (and a fish) and Thing

Two and Thing One, the fun's never done! This show is intended for ages 3-10. Tickets cost \$12 or \$15 and can be purchased at www.mayoarts.org.


STOMP, below, will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, March 17, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. Stomp is explosive, inventive, provocative, witty and utterly unique—an unforgettable experience for audiences of all ages. Stomp uses everything but conventional percussion instruments – matchboxes, wooden poles, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, hubcaps – to fill the stage with magnificent rhythms. Tickets cost \$49 to \$89.




"Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood Live" will be presented at 2 and 5 p.m. Saturday, March 18, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. Donning his familiar red sweater, Daniel takes you on an interactive musical adventure as he and his friends explore the vibrant world of their much-loved neighborhood. Based on the PBS Kids series produced by the Fred Rogers Company. This show is intended for ages 2-6. Tickets cost \$20 to \$50 and can be purchased at www.mayoarts.org.

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· COMING UP ON CAMPUS ·

CENTENARY COLLEGE

Centenary Stage Company is a professional regional theatre in residence on the campus of Centenary University in Hackettstown.

- The world premiere of "The Surrogate" by Patricia Cotter will be staged from Friday, Feb. 17, through Sunday, March 5, at the Sitnik Theater. When Billy and Sara ask their best friends Margaret and Jen to be the guardians of their precious Tallulah (and yet-to-be-born baby, Carroll), lives change and friendships are tested, and the definition of what makes a modern family is rewritten. Tickets cost \$27.50 to \$17.50.

- Dance Fest: XY Dance Project will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 18, at the Sitnik Theater. The XY Dance Project has a unique movement style that blends contemporary dance through the spiritual rhythms of African dance, the grace and peace of Tai Chi and the heart of street dance. Tickets cost \$20 for adults or \$15 for children 12 and under.

- Dance Fest: Moe-tion Dance Theater will perform at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 26, at the Sitnik Theater. The company enjoys collaborating together, creating new work that speaks to each one of the dancers. Tickets cost \$20 for adults or \$15 for children.

- Dance Fest: Nai-Ni Chen: The First Chinese New Year, a family event, will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at the Sitnik Theater. This spectacular production features dazzling props, colorful costumes, mesmerizing music, fantastic acrobatics, and lively dance. This performance is intended for ages five through adult. Tickets cost \$20 for adults or \$12.50 for children 12 and under.

- Dance Fest: Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company will perform a second show at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 9, at the Sitnik Theater. The dances of Nai-Ni Chen fuse the dynamic freedom of American spirit with the grace and splendor of the Asian soul. The Company's productions take the audience beyond cultural boundaries to where tradition meets innovation and freedom arises from discipline. Tickets cost \$20 for adults or \$15 for children 12 and under.

To purchase tickets, visit www.centenarystageco.org, call the box office at (908) 979-0900, or go to the box office, 715 Grand Avenue, on the campus of Centenary College in Hackettstown. The box office is open 1 to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and two hours prior to every performance.

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WATER ON MARS

"Water on Mars," will be staged at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at the Raritan Valley Community College, 118 Lamington Road, Branchburg. The 2 p.m. show is a sensory-friendly performance. This show is recommended for ages seven and up.

- 11th annual Storytelling Festival of World Music and Story will begin at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 12, in the student community center. Don't miss CCM's Annual Storytelling Festival featuring outstanding storytellers and musicians who will bring to life tales and tunes old and new. Admission costs \$6 and tickets can be purchased at <http://www.ccm.edu/tickets/storytelling.asp>.

DREW UNIVERSITY

- "Return of Dueling Pianists," presented by Discovery Orchestra, will be staged at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Concert Hall at Drew University. Sensational pianists Ko-Eun Yi and Daniel Hsu will leave you breathless with their performances of virtuosic gems from the piano repertoire, with commentary from Maestro Maull. Tickets cost \$40 for adults or \$20 for seniors, students and groups of 10 or more. To purchase a ticket, call the (908) 226-7300, ext. 10.

- "Fit for a King," will be presented by Masterwork Chorus at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at the Concert Hall at Drew University. This performance features Handel Coronation Anthems and Bach Cantata BWV 207a. It's all about pomp and circumstance as Handel, in his first work as a British citizen, crowns King George II of England, and J. S. Bach celebrates King Augustus III of Poland. Tickets to the performance and a champagne re-

ception cost \$55. Tickets for the performance only cost \$38.

- "Opera To Die For! – 'La Traviata'" will be presented by New Jersey Festival Orchestra (NJFO) at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 5, at the Concert Hall at Drew University. Verdi's soaring arias and passionate duets have long made "La Traviata" one of the most popular operas of all time. A cast of internationally acclaimed guest performers assembled from Maestro David Wroe's extensive contacts in European and American opera houses joins NJFO to present, acted and in costume, this powerful romantic drama that will not leave a dry eye in the house. Tickets cost \$28 to \$76 and can be purchased by calling (908) 232-9400.

FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY

- "Legally Blonde," will be staged from Friday, March 24, through Sunday, April 2, at the Dreyfuss Theater located on the College of Florham campus, 285 Madison Avenue, Madison. Performances are at 8 p.m. March 24, 25, 31 and April 1, at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 30, and at 2:30 p.m. Sundays, March 26 and April 2. A high school matinee will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 24.

Tickets cost \$6 for students, seniors, and the FDU community, and \$12 for all others. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in

advance by calling (973) 443-8644.

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

118 Lamington Road, Branchburg.

- "Masters of Dance and Music" will be presented by the American Repertory Ballet at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 11. The program begins with "Glazunov Variations," a highly technical work danced to sections of composer Alexander Glazunov's magical score for the classical ballet "Raymonda." A world premiere by American Repertory Ballet Resident Choreographer Mary Barton also will be highlighted. The program finishes with "There is a Time," a deeply evocative work by modern dance pioneer and choreographer José Limón. Based on Chapter 3 of "Ecclesiastes" this majestic dance reflects the human condition and the interminable passage of time. Tickets cost \$25 or \$35.

- "The Man Who Planted Trees" will be staged by the Puppet State Theatre Company at 2 and 5 p.m. Sunday, March 19, at 2 & 5 p.m. Featuring a unique blend of comedy, puppetry and storytelling, "The Man Who Planted Trees" tells the inspiring story of a peaceful French shepherd and his button-eyed dog who, amidst the ravages of war, transform a barren wasteland into a thriving, beautiful forest — one acorn at a time. This show is recommended for ages seven and up. All tickets cost \$15.

- "Hatched" will be staged by the Treehouse Shakers at 1:30 and 4 p.m. Friday, March 24. "Hatched" depicts a newborn chick who emerges from her shell to a strange and busy world. This show is recommended for ages two and up. All tickets cost \$10.

- "Water on Mars," will be staged at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 25. The 2 p.m. show is a sensory-friendly performance. "Water on Mars" could be described as intense juggling for space stations: 100 rings thrown through the air, backflips landed, feet twisted, water flying, 21 balls juggled and 15 pins spinning, all set to the pulsing rhythms of an electronic beat. Created in Stockholm, the show features three performers who combine juggling with music and acrobatics — not to mention snow, chocolate, tap dancing, and 400 rolls of tape. This show is recommended for ages seven and up. All tickets cost \$15. A local juggling center is offering a free workshop for adults and kids ages eight and up before the 2 p.m. show. The workshop is scheduled for 1-1:40 p.m. and registration is limited to 24 people. To reserve your spot, email Lisa at lisa.melillo@raritanval.edu.

To purchase tickets, call (908) 725-3420, or order at www.rvccArts.org.

· THEATER CALENDAR ·

AUDITIONS

Auditions For John Van Druten's "Bell, Book and Candle" will be hosted by The Chatham Players at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 28 and March 1. All auditions will take place at the Chatham Playhouse, 23 North Passaic Ave. in Chatham. The play will be staged from Saturday, May 5, through Saturday, May 20, with rehearsals to begin in early March. Elizabeth Rogers directs. Auditions will consist of cold readings from sides provided, which can be found on Chatham Players' website. To access sides and the audition form, visit www.chathamplayers.org/auditions.html.

COMEDY

Piff the Magic Dragon will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, March 3, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. Piff is back and funnier than ever in an all new magic show! Tickets cost \$29 to \$49 and can be purchased at www.mayoarts.org or by calling (973) 539-8008.

Graeme of Thrones will be staged at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. This original, hilarious and unauthorized take on "Game of Thrones" comes direct from London's West End. Unhappy with how his beloved books were realized for the TV series, avid "Thrones" fan Graeme shows you how it should have been done. He may lack talent and performance skills, but he's sure George R.R. Martin would approve. See it before the inevitable lawsuit! Tickets cost \$29 to \$59. Purchase them at www.mayoarts.org or by calling (973) 539-8008.

MUSICALS

"A Comedy of Tenors," will be staged through Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Paper Mill Playhouse, 22 Brookside Drive, Millburn. For ticket information, call the box office at (973) 376-4343 or buy online at PaperMill.org.

"Man of La Mancha" will be staged through Sunday, March 5, at Brundage Park Playhouse on Carrell Road in Randolph Township. Come "Dream the Impossible Dream" in this classic musical set in the 16th century during the Spanish Inquisition. While he awaits trial, Miguel de Cervantes captivates his fellow prisoners with the tale of the chivalrous knight errant, Don Quixote and his loyal manservant Pancho. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Brundage Park Playhouse at (973) 989-7092 or visit www.brundageparkplayhouse.org.



'AMERICAN SON'

Suzzanne Douglas, left, and Mark Juneke star in "American Son," which runs through Sunday, Feb. 26, at George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick. Read our review online at www.newjerseyhills.com.

ONE-MAN SHOWS

"One Woman Sex and the City" will be staged at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. Go on a laughter-infused version of all six seasons of "Sex and the City." Comedic whirling dervish Kerry Ipema brings all of your favorite characters to life as they brunch, banter, argue, support each other and swoon over men and Manolos. Tickets cost \$25 to \$45.

PLAYS

"Something Lucky This Way Comes," a holiday special in honor of St. Patrick's Day, will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 17, by the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey at the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre, 36 Madison Ave. in Madison. The one-night-only show will feature works from famous Irish writers and Irish music. For tickets, call (973) 408-5600 or visit www.ShakespeareNJ.org.

Weekly SUDOKU								
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12, at the Chester Theatre Group, 54 Grove Street in Chester. Performances are Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 or \$18 for seniors and students. Tickets may be purchased online at www.chestertheatregroup.org.

"American Son" runs through Sunday, Feb. 26, at the George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick. For ticket information, call the box office at (732) 246-7717 or buy online at www.GSPonline.org.

The world premiere of "The Surrogate" by Patricia Cotter will be staged through Sunday, March 5, at Centenary Stage Company's Sitnik Theater in Hackettstown. When Billy and Sara ask their best friends Margaret and Jen to be the guardians of their precious Tallulah (and yet-to-be-born baby, Carroll), lives change and friendships are tested, and the definition of what makes a modern family is rewritten. Tickets cost \$27.50 to \$17.50. To purchase them, visit www.centenarystageco.org, call (908) 979-0900, or go to the box office, 715 Grand Avenue, in Hackettstown. The box office is open 1 to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and two hours prior to every performance.

"The Trip to Bountiful" will be staged from Friday, Feb. 24, through Sunday, March

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· MUSIC CALENDAR ·

CHORAL

"Fit for a King," will be presented by Masterwork Chorus at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at the Concert Hall at Drew University. This performance features Handel Coronation Anthems and Bach Cantata BWV 207a. It's all about pomp and circumstance as Handel, in his first work as a British citizen, crowns King George II of England, and J. S. Bach celebrates King Augustus III of Poland. Tickets to the performance and a champagne reception cost \$55. Tickets for the performance only cost \$38.

"From Heaven Distilled a Clemency" will be presented by Harmonium Choral Society at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at the Chatham United Methodist Church, 460 Main St, Chatham. This concert will feature Durufle's "Requiem" and works by O'Regan, Poulenc, Heath, Chesnokov and Nico Muhly, with strings, harp and organ.

CLASSICAL

The Eroica Trio will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, March 24, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. One of the most sought-after trios in the world, the Grammy-nominated Eroica Trio thrills audiences with flawless technical virtuosity, irresistible enthusiasm and sensual elegance. Whether playing the great standards or daring contemporary works, the trio electrifies the concert stage with their passionate performances. Tickets cost \$19 to \$49.

"Music that Tells a Great Story," a concert program by Anthony LaGruth and the Livingston Symphony Orchestra, will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 11, at Mount Pleasant Middle School, 11 Broadlawn Drive in Livingston. The concert will include works by Rossini, Mendelssohn, and Prokofiev, and features a world premiere of a composition by Dr. Ting Ho of Montclair State University. Experience a Rossini opera overture (the lead female saves the tenor!), the most popular of violin concertos, a ballet suite that paints a musical picture of a Shakespearean love story, and an original work that



Rain – A Tribute to the Beatles will be staged at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. Tickets cost \$39 to \$79.

may very well have been inspired by the final scene of an action film. Tickets cost \$25 for adults or \$15 for seniors and students. Ages 11 and under are admitted free. Call (973)980-1809 or visit www.lsonj.org for more information.

FOLK

Spuyten Duyvil will perform its brand of big band folk music at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 17, at The Minstrel at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Road in Morris Township. The opening act will be Moss Henry and the Bryophytes. The event is part of the Minstrel Acoustic Concert Series, sponsored by the Folk Project each Friday evening at the Fellowship. Admission costs \$10 for adults. Children ages 12 and under are admitted free. For more information, call (973) 335-9489, or visit www.folkproject.org.

Kaia Kater will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 24, at Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd., Morristown. Tickets cost \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. For more information, call (908) 591-6491 or go to www.folkproject.org.

INTERNATIONAL

The Five Irish Tenors will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the Mayo Performing Arts

Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. The Five Irish Tenors fuse Irish wit and boisterous charm with lyricism, dramatic flair and operatic style to bring you a unique Irish tenor concert experience. This concert features famously beloved Irish songs and more. Tickets cost \$29 to \$59.

JAZZ

Jazz vocalist Kristen Lee Sergeant and her combo will present "Standards and Surprises: Selections from the Great American Songbook & Beyond" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 24, as part of the Concerts on Main series at Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church, 286 Main Street, Chatham. For more information, visit www.concertsonmain.org. Admission is a freewill donation.

OLDIES

The Temptations and The Four Tops will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. Two legendary supergroups – together again! From "Baby, I Need Your Loving" to "My Girl," enjoy an evening full of your favorite Motown memories from two classic 1960s hitmakers. Tickets cost \$69 to \$109.

OPERA

"Opera To Die For! – 'La Traviata'" will be presented by New Jersey Festival Orchestra (NJFO) at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 5, at the Concert Hall at Drew University. Verdi's soaring arias and passionate duets have long made "La Traviata" one of the most popular operas of all time. A cast of internationally acclaimed guest performers assembled from Maestro David Wroe's extensive contacts in European and American opera houses joins NJFO to present, acted and in costume, this powerful romantic drama. Tickets cost \$28 to \$76 and can be purchased by calling (908) 232-9400.

ORCHESTRAL

"Discover the Vibraphone," an intimate evening with Mike Truesdell, will be staged at 8 p.m.

Friday, March 17, at the Visual Arts Center of NJ in Summit. Tickets cost \$70 or \$35 for students ages 10 to 18. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.discovery-orchestra.org or call (908) 226-7300.

SPOKEN WORD

An Evening in Conversation with Yanni will be presented at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 9, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. Yanni, one of the most celebrated composers of our time, steps off the concert stage to give his fans the chance to interact with him on a more intimate and personal level. Each show is unscripted and will unfold differently each night depending on the questions being asked. Tickets cost \$49 to \$99.



Kaia Kater will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 24, at Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd., Morristown. The concert is hosted by The Folk Project. Tickets cost \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. For more information, call (908) 591-6491 or go to www.folkproject.org.

· ART CALENDAR ·

“Lino Tagliapietra: Maestro of a Glass Renaissance” will be on view from Sunday, March 12 to Sunday, June 18, at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road in Morris Township. The solo exhibit will highlight Tagliapietra’s place in the art historical canon as both a champion of the Muranese tradition and an innovative force among contemporary artists working in glass. Morris Museum is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays to Saturdays, and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. In addition, the museum is open evenings from 5 to 8 p.m. on the second and third Thursday of the month. Admission costs \$10 for adults and \$7 for children, students and senior citizens. Admission is always free for museum members. For more information, call (973) 971-3700, or visit morrismuseum.org.

An art and photography exhibit focusing on the beauty of the diverse moods and seasons of Far Hill’s Buck Garden will be on view at The Somerset County Park Commission’s Leonard J. Buck Garden from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday only, through Friday, March 17. Admission is free. Creative works on display will feature the garden as seen through the eyes of a wide range of talented individuals, from dedicated hobbyists to working professionals. The photographs and paintings show the garden from many perspectives, including sweeping landscape views to portraits of individual flowers. For information on the exhibit or other garden programs, call (908) 234-2677.

“Thomas Nast and The Art of the Book” will be on view through Sunday, April 30, at Macculloch Hall Historical Museum, 45 Macculloch Ave. in Morristown. Museum hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Sundays.

“The Garden State: Living off the Land in Early New Jersey,” is on view through Sunday, Sept. 3, at the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts at 9 Main St. at Green Village Road in Madison. The exhibit explores the odd assortment of tools, from bee smokers to cradle scythes, that farmers in 18th and 19th century New Jersey utilized in order to survive. The exhibit also features a new generation of Garden State farmers who are working to make the distance from farm to table a little bit shorter for today’s families. Regular admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for senior citizens, students, and children 6 and older, and free for museum members and children 5 and younger, with a maximum family admission of \$15. The museum’s summer hours, through August, are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; the museum is closed on Sunday and Monday during the summer, but will resume Sunday hours from noon to 5 p.m. in the fall.



‘SPRING IN THE GREAT SWAMP’

Works by Chatham artist Sally Abbott, including “Spring in the Great Swamp,” **above**, will be on view in a solo show at the Lundt-Glover Gallery in the Chatham Township Municipal Building from Friday, March 10, through Tuesday, June 13. The show is hosted by the Art League of the Chathams.

“The Yacon Project” by Rutgers Master Gardeners of Morris County will be on view throughout March in the Haggerty Education Center at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Ave., Morris Township. The project, from seeding to harvest, is on display in this uniquely informative exhibit. Admission is free.

The fourth annual Highlands Juried Art Exhibit will be hosted by the New Jersey Highlands Coalition through Wednesday, March 15 at Morris Arts’ Atrium Gallery, located on Floors 2-5 of the Morris County Administration and Records Building on 10 Court Street in Morristown. The exhibit, featuring a mix of photography, paintings, and mixed media, focuses on the natural, historic and cultural resources of the New Jersey Highlands. The exhibit is curated by New Jersey photographer and Coalition trustee Dwight Hiscano; and juried by Emmy

award-winning filmmaker Elliott Ruga, who is also policy director for the coalition; Kristy Brucale Jach, director of Speakeasy Art Gallery in Boonton; and Anita Fickenburger, Senior Art Consultant for ArtPlus, corporate art consultants in Livingston. The work will be judged and first, second, and third place prize-winners selected by Alexandra Willis, curator for the Morris Museum.

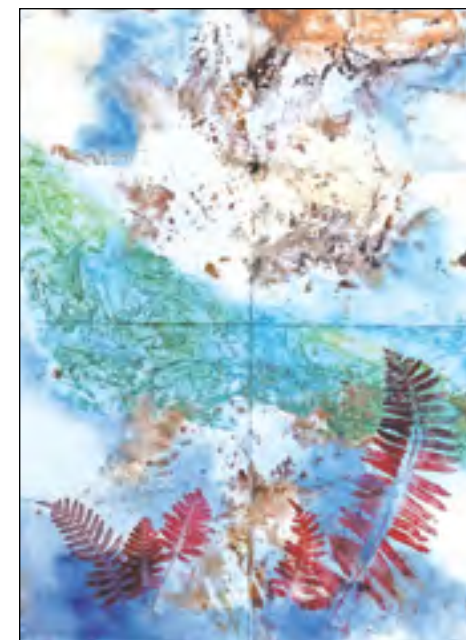
“In Flux” is on view now through Thursday, Feb. 16, at Gallery at 14 Maple, located at 14 Maple Ave. in Morristown. The gallery is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays, and by appointment. Call (973) 285-5115 for additional information.

NJ Audubon: Wayrick Gallery Volunteer Art Show will be on view through Monday, Feb. 27, at the Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, 11 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville. The exhibit will feature a

variety of artwork showcasing the talents of New Jersey Audubon volunteers, staff and board members. Admission is free. The gallery is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. It is closed Mondays.

The 16th Anniversary Exhibition, “For The Love of Art,” at Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery in Bernardsville will be on view through Saturday, March 25, with two artist receptions from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, March 3. Artist Charlie Churchill, who is known for his portraits and sunsets, will be available at the February reception to create portraictures of the guests. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays to Saturdays. For more information, call (908) 963-0365 or visit www.studio7artgallery.com.

“Inspirations from the Natural World,” including “River No. 1,” **below**, by Lisa Madson will be on view from Wednesday, March 1, through Monday, March 27, at the Bernardsville Public Library, 1 Anderson Hill Road. An opening reception will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 5. An artist from an early age, Madson learned drawing from her mother while her father taught her geology. The works in this show use a combination of drawing, mapping, printing and painting that reflects these early influences. The process used in some of these works chemically transfers found patterns to the paper using a dye and carbon process. The papers are steamed over a mixture of carbon black, vinegar, iron and sometimes copper. Each mix imparts a different color print based on the strength of the mix and the tannins in the leaves. Others are direct printing transfers.



Hello book lovers & book groups

We are planning a monthly feature on local book clubs and we would love to hear from you.



This is a sampling of what we are looking for:

- ~ How would you describe your group?
- ~ Do you have a name, how many members, professions, what do you have in common?
- ~ How is your group structured?
- ~ Where do you meet? Members' homes? The library? How often do you meet? any annual events? traditions?
- ~ How do you choose your books? Do you focus on any themes? Are there any rules, like the book must be available in paperback? How far in advance do you pick your books?
- ~ Do you have any special activities? For instance, do you celebrate the club's anniversaries? Trips? Dinners out?
- ~ What have been your most interesting discussions?
- ~ What have been your favorite fiction selections?
- ~ What have been your favorite non-fiction selections?

And please don't forget to include a picture of your group and who and where you are from.

Email your information to Roberta Burkhart (Editor) at rburkhart@newjerseyhills.com. Any questions, call Liz Parker (Exec. Editor) or Roberta at (908) 766-2118.

Thanks and we look forward to hearing from you.

· POTPOURRI ·

COOKING

Eating With The Seasons will be presented from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Schiff Nature Center, 339 Pleasant Valley Road in Mendham. This event is for ages 18 and up. Members pay \$20. Non members pay \$25. To register, call (973) 543-6004 or visit www.schiffnaturepreserve.org.

CRAFT SHOWS

Spring CraftMorristown will be held Friday to Sunday, March 17-19, at the Morristown Armory, 430 Western Ave. in Morristown. Show hours are Friday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission is \$9 (includes unlimited re-entry all weekend); seniors are \$8; children under 6 are free. Visit www.artrider.com or call (845) 331-7900 for more information.

EDUCATIONAL

Industrial Heritage Tour: New Jersey Canals and Local History Symposium will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at the Haggerty Center at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Avenue in Morris Township. This will be a full day of presentation focusing on canal history, preservation and local history topics. The event is sponsored by the Canal Society of New Jersey and the Morris County Heritage Commission. Space is limited to 100 participants. For more information, call (973) 292-2755 or email macgraphics1@verizon.net. To register, send a \$15 check payable to Canal Society of New Jersey to: Canal Society of New Jersey, P.O. Box 737, Morristown, N.J. 07963.

"Remembering the Ladies: From Patriots in Petticoats to Presidential Candidates" will be presented at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 12, at Farmstead Arts, 450 King George Road in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards Township. Historical re-enactor Carol Simon Levin will portray pioneering female activists and politicians who have worked to extend women's rights, including Abigail Adams who famously wrote to her husband, John, asking that the Continental Congress "remember the ladies" when drafting new laws for the nation. For more information, visit www.farmsteadartscenter.org/performance/lectures/ or call (908) 636-7576. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

FILM

The PBS FRONTLINE film, "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the

End," will be screened from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 11, at The Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township, 240 Southern Blvd., Chatham. Based on the best-selling book by Dr. Atul Gawande, this documentary explores the hopes of patients and families facing terminal illness and their relationships with their physicians. Seats are limited; register for this free program at www.pcct-nj.org or call (973) 635-2340.

GARDENING

The monthly meeting of the Home Garden Club of Morristown will begin at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 15, in the Haggerty Center at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Avenue in Morris Township. The meeting is followed by a lecture on "Peonies" at 1 p.m. by Dan Furman, owner of Cricket Hill Gardens in Thomaston, Conn. Talk includes information on botany and cultivation of all types of peonies. No registration is required.

"Creating an Inviting Garden with Style" will be presented by Susan Cohan from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 26, in the Haggerty Center at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Avenue in Morris Township. This program is eligible for 2.0 Rutgers Master Gardener CEU's. The program costs \$15 for members or \$18 for non-members. Register by Sunday, March 19, at www.arboretumfriends.org.

OUTDOORS

NJ Audubon: Owl Prowl Field Trip will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 10, at the Somerset County Park Commission Outdoor Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, in Basking Ridge. Explore the nocturnal world of these fascinating birds. Whether with long or short ears, Barred or Great Horned, these raptors are truly special. Dress with layers for inside and out, and good, warm footwear is a must. This outing is intended for adults and children eight years and older with parent. To register by Thursday, March 9, call (908) 766-2489 or (908) 396-6386 or visit www.somersetcountyparks.org.

NJ Audubon: Woodcock Watch will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 31, at the Somerset County Park Commission Outdoor Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards Township. Take a walk into the fields and meadows of Lord Stirling Park as we look and listen for these elusive and amorous bogsuckers. The program costs \$9 per person. To register, call (908) 766-2489 or visit www.somersetcountyparks.org.