

Out & About

Recorder Community Newspapers

GUIDE TO THE ARTS AND LEISURE • THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

NO LOSS FOR WORDS AT THIS BENEFIT

'Morris Arts' Great Conversations' benefit returns, but in a larger venue, on May 1

Lady Gaga's concert promoter, a climate change expert, former pro basketball player and celebrated novelist are just a few of the celebrities participating in Morris Art's 11th Anniversary of its Great Conversations gala, to be held 6 - 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, at the Birchwood Manor, 111 N. Jefferson Road, Whippany.

Co-chaired by Morris Arts board members Frank Vitolo and Stephen Aluotto, the event is Morris Arts' largest benefit of the year and provides attendees with an evening of cocktails, dinner and engaging dialogue with celebrated hosts from the arts, media, tech, sciences, healthcare, public service, sports, industry and more.

In fact, it's been so successful, that the event moved its venue at the Madison Hotel because it has, over the year, literally packed in attendees.

"The move to Whippany was that the event has become so popular we have outgrown our prior venue," said Lynn Siebert, Morris Arts' director of Arts Participation and Communications.

She credited the evening's draw not to its only being a benefit for a good cause, but as a breather to connect with the real world.

"In a world dominated by electronic communication and a constant onslaught of visual stimuli, it is a very special experience to spend an evening talking face-to-face with people," she said.

'Unlike many other benefit events, this one has no auction, no program of multiple speeches or presentations, but rather is truly devoted to spontaneous conversation among the attendees.'

LYNN SIEBERT

Morris Arts' director of Arts Participation and Communications

"Unlike many other benefit events, this one has no auction, no program of multiple speeches or presentations, but rather is truly devoted to spontaneous conversation among the attendees.

"And, as we have found in past years, people love the experience so much, they don't want it to end. Would you?"

In addition, it offers attendees the chance to meet and learn from guest conversationalists.

"Great Conversations offers a unique op-



Laurie Albanese



Jay Duckworth



David Hering



Michael Hill



Joseph Jones



Robin Leichenko

PLEASE SEE WORDS, PAGE 2

WORDS: Morris Arts benefit returns May 1

FROM PAGE 1

portunity to meet and talk face-to-face with some amazing, distinguished and highly accomplished individuals who are far more than just celebrities," Siebert said. "Their lives and hard earned accomplishments can provide genuine inspiration for one's own life path or can educate one about new and exciting subjects."

Guests

This year's special conversationalists include:

- **Laurie Albanese**, celebrated novelist and author of "Stolen Beauty";

- **Jay Duckworth**, Props Master Designer and "Proptologist" for Broadway and The Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park;

- **David Hering**, regional president, North America, Pfizer Vaccines;

- **Michael Hill**, news correspondent, NJTV News;

- **Joseph Jones**, vice president, BASF Corporation;

- **Robin Leichenko**, chair and professor of Rutgers University's, Geography Department and Co-Director of the Rutgers Climate Institute;

- **Jose Lozano**, president and chief executive officer, Choose New Jersey;

- **Maria Moats**, U.S. and Mexico assurance leader, PwC;

- **Cecilia McKenney**, senior vice president and chief human resource officer for Quest Diagnostics;

- **Bruce Moran**, concert promoter for such A-list bands as Lady Gaga, Ur and others;

- **Donald Parker**, president, Hackensack Meridian Health Carrier Clinic/Behavioral Health Integrative Medicine;

- **Dana Peters**, vice president, USA Operations for Mondelez International's biscuit and confectionary group.

- **Cary Renner**, vice president of sales, U.S. General Medicine for Allergan;

- **Jim Spanarkel**, TV basketball analyst for CBS Sports March Madness; and



BRUCE MORAN



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MARIA MOATS



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DANA PETERS



CARY RENNER



JIM SPANARKEL



DAVE TOMASI

- **Dave Tomasi**, senior vice president, marketing Bayer Consumer Health.

Seats are \$250 each. Proceeds from Great Conversations help to support the

'Great Conversations offers a unique opportunity to meet and talk face-to-face with some amazing, distinguished and highly accomplished individuals who are far more than just celebrities. Their lives and hard earned accomplishments can provide genuine inspiration for one's own life path or can educate one about new and exciting subjects.'

LYNN SIEBERT

Morris Arts' director of Arts Participation and Communications

grams, arts programming in the community, grants, scholarships, advocacy, innovative community-building/creative placemaking events and support for artists and arts organizations. These efforts are critical to enriching and improving the quality of life in the broader community.

Based in Morristown, Morris Arts is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1973 dedicated to building community through the arts. Using the arts to inspire, connect and engage, Morris Arts serves as a resource for Morris County with a special focus on arts programming in the schools and in the community, arts advocacy, creative placemaking and support of the Morris Area community of artists and arts organizations.

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts has awarded the Morris Arts a "Citation of Excellence" and designated it as a "Major Service Organization" in recognition of its "solid history of service excellence, substantial activity and broad public service."

To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.morrisarts.org.

many programs and services provided by Morris Arts. Often accomplished "behind the scenes," Morris Arts' work serves hundreds of thousands of people each year – with arts in education pro-

FILM REVIEW: 'CAPTAIN MARVEL'

There's a brave new suffragette in the house

By **MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER**
FILM CRITIC

Unless you're a card-carrying, dyed-in-the-wool devotee of comic book film extravaganzas like "Captain Marvel," they are extremely difficult to follow.

Each is chockfull of series lore, a veritable encyclopedia of minutiae that aficionados of the genre demand, and from which they deliriously kvell when given the slightest opportunity to relate in oral treatise.

While too lazy to submerge my gray matter into the seemingly endless intricacies each example of the filmic breed holds, I am respectful of the passion, even if it's just to prove I'm not as much a fuddy-duddy as I actually am.

As a stranger in a strange land, my modus operandi is to stay calm and not despair just because I don't have a built-in libretto and have absolutely no idea what's going on. Rather, I let it wash over me and, like a fisherman in a fast-moving stream loaded with salmon, am thrilled whenever I catch just one discernible thought or motivation.

Proud as a cat brandishing before his master a mouse he has just nabbed, I might take a celebratory break from the action to visit the concession stand and, whilst purchasing my box of Goobers, offhandedly relate, "Yeah, they just figured out the force field was a ploy by the Pythagoreans. So, it'll be a while before Xenon and his Antithetical Accelerants establish a foothold on the new planet, thus free-

>> **FILM: 'CAPTAIN MARVEL'**

'Captain Marvel,' rated **PG-13**, is a Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures release directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck and stars Brie Larson, Jude Law and Samuel L. Jackson. Running time: 124 minutes

★★★★☆

ing the Mendacities from their Past Memory State.

But excuse me, does that Supreme Bucket Popcorn for \$11.99, the one listed as 'best value,' come with unlimited refills, even if you take it home and bring it back with you next time?"

These films are packed with metaphors and, to protect myself from trivia overload, I delineate the various factors. Thus, I established, after it becomes evident, at least to me, that Brie Larson's Captain Marvel, superheroine and women's icon extraordinaire, represents everything that is good about America. Whereas the poor, misunderstood Skrulls are the immigrants demonized by the Krees, an aggressive faction masquerading as patriots but in their evil hearts just a bunch of would-be supremacists disingenuously wrapping themselves in a pseudo-veil of justice and freedom.

Naturally, Captain Marvel's path is populated, in a high-tech way, with an "Alice in Wonderland"-like cast of characters, some bad, some good, and some falling into the gray

area, if only to dangle that redemption is always possible.

There is much buzz about energy forces, and our gal goes through a crucible of identity crises on her way to earning title character status. Obscurity reigns. But I've almost come to embrace the confusion, wafting about in the mystifying abyss of the Brave New World in which I've been thrust.

Once I'm sure Captain Marvel is who we think she should be, albeit hassled by the Supreme Intelligence (Annette Bening) who would demand her loyalty, I fix my compass in her direction. She might as well be the Statue of Liberty, representative of what the Founding Fathers had imagined back in 1776.

For those only concerned with the bread-and-circus aspect of what a moving picture might offer them, rejoicing is in order. Directors Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck generously dump metric tons of cutting edge special effects into the public trough. Wiz-zoom-bang go the rocket ships, the weapons of the future and the magical superpower rays that emanate from pretty Captain Marvel's fingertips. She is our Jean d'Arc in a spandex jumpsuit, making Gloria Steinem proud as she follows in the heroic ethos Gal Gadot's "Wonder Woman" (2017) recently seared into pop culture, and once again striking an emblematic example of the lyrics, "Anything you can do, I can do better."

You don't have to be the dad of a little girl to have a cheering interest in the awesomely positive message that "Captain Marvel" blasts across the screen. However, fathering a daughter does give you a front row seat at the injustice that's been perpetrated ever since Oog told Marge that her place is in the cave, cooking mastodon and sewing loin cloths.

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morrisarts
building community through the arts



For him, Revolutionary War is a family affair

By **P.C. ROBINSON**
OUT & ABOUT EDITOR

So you think you know all there is to know about the area's role in the American Revolution?

You may not, according to Watchung author, self-described "Revolutionary Detective" – and Continental Army soldier descendant – Robert Mayers.

Mayers will discuss his latest book, "Revolutionary New Jersey: Forgotten Towns and Crossroads of the American Revolution," (American History Press, 2018) at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 7, at the Jacobus Vanderveer House and Museum, 3055 River Road, Bedminster.

The book details about 100 sites throughout the state that Mayers claims are often overlooked by historians, when in fact they played important roles in the country's battle of independence from Britain. Those sites include the Jacobus Vanderveer House and Museum, headquarters to General Henry Knox at the Pluckemin Military Encampment of 1778-79. The encampment is considered the country's first military academy.

But don't expect sanitized history from Mayers, whose great-great-great-grandfather was John Allison, a corporal in George Washington's Continental Army.

Those attending "are going to get the dark side of Pluckemin," he said.

According to Mayers, Knox, a bookseller with surprising tactical abilities, "was an amazing general but not a disciplinarian."

At the encampment, he said, "Soldiers ran amok. They had bars in the barracks and ladies of the night.

"Knox was a good guy, but he'd say, 'my boys deserve to relax.'"

'Forrest Gump'

Mayers is a retired human resources executive who worked for Airco in Murray Hill. A political science major at Rutgers University in Newark, he joined the Navy in the Korean War, at one point being assigned to the Marines as a gunnery officer on a destroyer.

Mayers said he had known about his military ancestor since childhood, but gave him no serious thought until the country's bicentennial celebrations in 1976 and the na-

tion was "caught up in a patriotic fervor."

Remembering Allison's name, – and the fact that he hailed from Haverstraw, N.Y., the Mayers' family ancestral home – he began his research, starting with the National Archives.

He wound up with "a great paper trail" on Allison that showed he had enlisted in 1775 and served the duration of the war, fighting as far north as Canada, as far south as Yorktown, and enduring the harsh Jockey Hollow winter encampment of 1779-80.

"He was like Forrest Gump – he was everywhere," Mayers said.

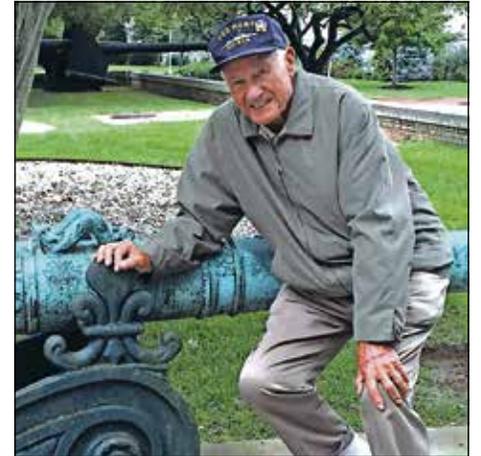
When someone finally suggested he write a book about his ancestor, he did. "The War Man: The True Story of a Citizen-Soldier Who Fought from Quebec to Yorktown," was published by Westholme Publishing in 2009.

As it turned out, that book was just the beginning of Mayers' publishing life.

While researching Allison, he learned more about just exactly who joined the Continental Army, and that led to his second book, "Searching for Yankee Doodle – Washington's Soldiers in the American Revolution."

"I realized the American public had the wrong story about soldiers," he said. "Being intensely patriotic wasn't the case. They were poor boys with no land. They were the dregs of society on the lower socio-economic level. They included convicts and African-Americans who served in their masters' place."

Their average age, he said, was about 20, with many being in their teens.



Historian and author Robert Mayers of Watchung will discuss the "dark side" of the Pluckemin Military Encampment and other sites at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 7, at the Jacobus Vanderveer House and Museum in Bedminster.

And still, Mayer, now fascinated by the history, kept researching and researching. A third book, "The Forgotten Revolution" (Heritage Books, 2014), focused on important Revolutionary War sites throughout the country.

Admission to the Sunday, April 7 event at the Jacobus Vanderveer House and Museum is \$20 per person non-member, \$10 members, and fee for children 12 and under. For more information or to register, visit www.jvanderveerhouse.org/

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What the departed really meant to say

New Morris Museum exhibit explores handwriting of long-gone movers and shakers

The late 18th to the early 20th centuries was a prolific period during the golden age of letter writing, when handwritten communication also served as a means of personal expression.

The increasing demand for the associated materials—such as writing implements, inks, and papers—was reflected in the technological innovations that flourished.

The Morris Museum's new exhibition, *Pen to Paper: Investigating Famous, Historical Letters*, takes a closer look at 14 letters, presented in facsimile, by notable public figures to determine what new information may be revealed by an analysis of the writers' penmanship and the physical evidence of the documents themselves. The exhibition runs from Saturday, March 30 through Saturday, July 19, at the Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown.

The research was conducted on a selection of rare manuscripts, dating from 1781 to 1910, from the Lloyd W. Smith Collection, permanently housed at the Morristown National Historical Park.

Due to the fragile nature of the original letters, the park created high-resolution archival preservation copies and photographic details for reference in the exhibition.

Presented is research on documents by famous politicians, inventors and scientists, from George Washington and Abraham Lincoln to Civil War generals Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee, investor Alexander Graham Bell and scientists Charles Darwin and Thomas Edison, and social activists and authors Susan B. Anthony, Booker T. Washington, and Mark Twain.

At face value, the documents that were examined tell the average person one story. But to the trained eye more information can be deduced. Working with archivists from not only Morristown Historical National Park, but from Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Virginia, and the Morgan Library and Museum in New York City, exhibition curator Maria Ribaldo pieced together different trails of evidence.

"As we began to closely examine the original letters, hidden clues within the manuscripts began to tell a different story of how our writing communication developed over time. Presented in the exhibition are the clues we observed," she said.

Highlights

Exhibition highlights include:

- Examination of a letter from Jefferson detailing a solar eclipse that he witnessed in 1811. In consultation with an archivist

at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Virginia, it was discovered that the letter was actually a duplicate copy created by Jefferson using a duplicating device called a "polygraph," not to be confused with the current lie detector test, which simultaneously produced a second copy as he wrote. Also, on view in the exhibition is a reproduction of Jefferson's polygraph, on loan from Poplar Forest, his private retreat in Virginia.

- Analysis of a letter from Alexander Hamilton to his father-in-law, Philip Schuyler, describing an altercation with George Washington. Parts of the letter were torn in half, and filled with strikethroughs, changes in phrases, and erasures. Past scholars have concluded that Hamilton was angry and lost control of himself while writing it.

- Assessment of a letter from Abraham Lincoln to Grant, written about a month before his assassination and the end of the Civil War. Park archivists believe that the ink smudges may have come from Lincoln's own hand.

Beyond the physical examination of the manuscripts, the writers' handwriting characteristics and patterns were analyzed by leading graphologist Andrea McNichol to gain insight into their personalities and psychological states.

McNichol, whose forensic handwriting analysis skills have been enlisted by law enforcement agencies in several high-profile criminal cases, was provided with excerpts from the letters, but with the writers' identities concealed.

"I did not know who I was analyzing," said McNichol. "It soon became apparent that I was assessing extraordinary individuals who all had high innate intelligence, emotional stability, and ferocious work drive—the three most common traits of people who leave their mark on society in a positive way. It seemed especially fitting because the writing was penned by people who lived in a time when the uniqueness of handwriting was greatly valued."

Changes

The exhibition also includes short video clips showing how writing communication has changed over the centuries with the advent of mechanical technology such as typewriters, and a family-friendly "document research table" allows visitors to try their hand at being a document investigator.

"This exhibition, with its many layers, has something for everyone," said Ribaldo.

"The letters offer windows into the lives of these gifted people, but as the pieces come together small details begin to emerge about each personality that has not been captured in history books.

"In addition, as we examined the technological clues that the letters provided, a story of how our writing evolved comes to the surface. Today, instead of sending out a handwritten letter, we may just send a text message. These new ways of communicating have changed our culture."

Admission is \$10 non-members and free for museum members. To become a member and attend the Museum year-round for free, visit morrismuseum.org/museum-membership, email membership@morrismuseum.org, or call (973) 9713721.

The Morris Museum is located at 6 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown. Museum hours are 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, and noon – 5 p.m. Sunday. Closed Monday. For more information about the museum, visit <https://morrismuseum.org/>.



Abraham Lincoln's autograph is among those belonging to many historical figures that are scrutinized in a new exhibition at the Morris Museum in Morristown.



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Dominica: the Caribbean's best kept

By **KATHERINE PARKER-MAGYAR**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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"This stuff will fly you straight to Mars," Capt. Jerry Dawa warned while pouring another rum punch.

It was only my first refill, though I quickly understood that a second would be entirely beside the point. I was already on another planet entirely, or certainly a portion of the planet I hadn't even known existed mere months ago.

First things first: No, Dominica is not slang for the Dominican Republic. It's its own country and the name is pronounced Domin-EEEK-ahh. Hint: it rhymes with Martinique, plus a short sigh at the end, which mirrors the satisfaction you will feel by the end of your stay.

But, back to the rum punch. However proud Captain Jerry was of his skills as a mixologist, he was equally confident in his knowledge of marine wildlife.

I was the only passenger aboard the Island Style Fishing Whale Watching charter, and we were in the middle of the Caribbean Sea. Nearly a dozen sperm whales surrounded us in every direction, with a mother and calf surfacing just off the bow. The only other boat in sight belonged to none other than the documentary team from National Geographic filming footage alongside Shane Gero, founder of The Dominica Sperm Whale Project.

Captain Jerry, as he was called, had

cruised alongside the vessel moments earlier to offer his morning greetings and introduce the day's stowaway: yours truly. He's worked with them before, after all, taking out not only NatGeo film crews, but those from the BBC and Animal Planet. Hence, he knew a lot about the native sperm whale population.

After all, Dominica is the whale watching capital of the Caribbean, its remote terrain proving irresistible to the female sperm whales who live in these waters year-round, undisturbed by the boat traffic that would accompany the harbors of nearby Martinique and Guadeloupe. The males only come down to this unspoiled paradise in winter to mate, suggesting the women, as always, had the right idea. Besides, once you visit Dominica, you never want to leave.

Caribe

I first learned about Dominica while researching undiscovered islands in the Caribbean. While the Beach Boys harmonized about Guadeloupe's Port-au-Prince or Martinique's Montserrat mystique, Dominica, the third island in this West Indies chain, was overlooked. Which is just as well: Dominica has something else that



The author drinks spring water from a leaf while hiking to Dominica's Boiling Lake.



A view from the deck and pool of the Fort Young Hotel in Roseau, the capital of Dominica, offers a fabulous view of the Dominican coastline.

these so-called "French Isles" (in Dominican local parlance) do not: Its independence, to be exact.

After years of back-and-forth conquering by the French and the British, Dominica emerged as its own nation in 1978. The nation's cultural identity is nothing if not distinct, dating back to 500 years ago, when the Kalinago – also known as the Caribe, said to have originated in South America – first arrived on the island.

In fact, Dominica is home to the largest, and last, remaining indigenous populations in the Caribbean.

Native populations on smaller, flatter islands were vanquished in 1503, after Spain formally allowed settlers to enslave "all Caribs" south of Puerto Rico. It was the mountainous, lush terrain that allowed the Kalinago to survive until this day—and that is the source of endless inspiration for even the most jaded traveler.

The hashtag #DominicaStrong may have been heavily used in the wake of the devastating hurricanes, most recently Hurricane Maria in 2017, but its meaning predates recent natural disasters. Think:

500 years back, around the time the Kalinago first arrived in Dominica. Or, to quote the presentation I observed at the grand opening of the Kalinago Heritage Center, "We survived the coming of the conquistadors with their guns their knives their diseases, yet we survived."

Do note: The heritage center is important because it commemorates the history of people who aren't often in the history books, and whose culture is not just fascinating to learn about, but to witness with your own eyes. You can also take a part of it home with you. The handwoven baskets (retailing for \$20, looking like roughly \$200) and the Cassava bread (a local specialty) are not to be missed.

Though Dominica as a whole looks like nowhere else, parts resemble the most gorgeous places on the planet. Home to the most active volcanoes in the Caribbean, the hot springs and their luminescent shades of blue are reminiscent of those in Iceland. Its geysers will remind you of Yellowstone minus the crowds or red tape.

The cliff side overlooking the ocean in Roseau, Dominica's capital, home of the Fort Young Hotel, reminds one of Italy's



Dominica

Mediterranean side Pa looking ment.

Other out whi The lus lize, th up from in Kau

But t the inc its citiz plete st the wo fection this jad next wi

Hot, gorgeous secret



ca's rugged coastline looms off the bow of a whale watching boat.

rranean coastline, and the beach-
gua Bay House is heaven for those
g for a Bali-type immersive mo-

r breathless moments also stand
ile driving around the countryside.
sh rain forest is reminiscent of Be-
e dramatic, green mountains rise
n the water like the Na Pali Coast
ai, Hawai'i.

he best thing about Dominica is
redible warmth and hospitality of
zens. It's not uncommon for com-
rangers to end conversations with
rds "I love you." The genuine af-
was enough to warm the heart of
ed New Yorker, and I plan to return
inter, as well.



The author has a volcanic mud mask applied by guide Marvin Philbert during a trek to Dominica's Boiling Lake.



The sun sets in tropical splendor on the Caribbean island of Dominica.



The author looks for whales while on expedition with Island Style Fishing Whale Watching and Charters off the coast of Dominica.

· ART CALENDAR ·

MIXED MEDIA

"Women in the Arts," through Sunday, April 7, Farmstead Arts Center, 450 King George Road, Basking Ridge, on the historic grounds of the Kennedy Martin Stelle Farmstead. The annual celebration of Women's History Month features work by five regional artists: Laura Shabazz of Bernardsville, Irene Grabowski of Basking Ridge, Harmony Dougher of Summit, Roberta Scott of Middlesex and Diane Churchill of Nyack, NY. The exhibit will feature a variety of mediums, including painting, collage and photography. Most works will be for sale. An opening reception will be held 1–4 p.m. on Sunday, March 3. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mondays – Wednesdays, 1–4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The Farmhouse is wheelchair accessible. For more information contact Kathy Harris at 908-636-7576 or email admin@farmsteadarts.org.

Annual exhibition, Raritan Valley Art Association Exhibition, Tuesday, April 2 – Sunday, April 28, Bernardsville Public Library, 1 Anderson Hill Road, Bernardsville. Artists' reception is 2–4 p.m. Sunday, April 7. Established in 1939, the association is among the oldest in

the state. Original artwork will include oils, watercolors, drawings, pastels and book arts.

'Iconic Culture: From Little Black Dress to Bell Bottom,' Acorn Hall, 68 Morris Ave., Morristown. Through Sunday, June 16, 2019. The Morris County Historical Society exhibit highlights the trend-setting stylings of Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel to the colorful bell-bottom trousers of the 1970s, and explores more than 50 years of cultural history through a retrospective featuring more than 100 pieces from its historic collection. In addition to fashions, Iconic Culture highlights cultural milestones in local, state, and national history that coincided with the Roaring 20s, Great Depression, World War II, Civil Rights Movement, and Vietnam Era. This multimedia exhibit features music, television shows, and radio broadcasts. Acorn Hall is open 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1–4 p.m. Sundays. Admission, which includes the exhibits and landscaped grounds, is \$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$3 students, and free for children under 12 and MCHS members. For more information, call MCHS at (973) 267-3465 or visit MorrisCountyHistory.org.

OILS

"Crossing Lines," a solo exhibition by Paul Edward Pinkman, through Sunday, March 31, Watchung Arts Center, 18 Stirling Road, Watchung. Pinkman has worked with the center since 1992 and is currently vice president of



"Branch from the Tree of Life" by Jeremy Noonan will be among the works featured in the "More than a Feeling" exhibit showing at Raritan Valley Community College.

the center's visual arts programming. His work was seen in a special exhibit at the Louvre, Paris, in 2015, the Monmouth Museum, Lincroft, and Kinsey Institute, Bloomington, IN. Gallery hours are noon – 5 p.m. Tuesdays – Fridays; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, visit WatchungArts.org or call (908) 753-0190.

PHOTOGRAPHY

"Passage," photography by Florham Park resident Jennifer Hughes, through March at

The Gallery at the Summit Free Public Library, 75 Maple St., Summit. The exhibit comes courtesy of a partnership between the library and the Visual Art Center of New Jersey, located at 68 Elm St., Summit. Hughes, according to her biography, is a mixed media artist and photographer who brings a love of storytelling and a penchant for the offbeat to her work from a career in film, television and event design in New York City and San Francisco. Library hours are 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Mondays – Thursdays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 1–5 p.m. Sundays.

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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· KIDS CALENDAR ·

EASTER EGG HUNT

Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m., Saturday, April 13, Lidgerwood Park, Morristown. There will be candy for all children and a visit from the Easter Bunny. The following age categories will be considered: under 3, 4 to 6 and 7 to 10. Registration is required. Visit townofmorristown.org or call the Recreation Office at 973-292-6717.

MINI-CAMP

Spring break mini-camps for kids at the Hunterdon Art Museum, 9 a.m. – noon, 1–4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, April 23 and 24, at the museum at 7 Lower Center St., Clinton. The sessions encourage children

ages 6 to 10 to discover the joys of working with paint, clay pastels, fabrics and other materials. A supervised lunch from noon to 1 p.m. is available and includes time for children to create art or take a walk into downtown Clinton with staff or volunteers, weather permitting. Children should bring a nut-free bag lunch. HAM camps are taught by professional artists and teachers, ensuring a fun and enriching camp experience. Mini-camp programs include: • Nature's Gallery from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, April 23. Children can discover the art and design possibilities found in nature, and experiment with painting, clay, sculpting, printmaking and more with instructor Nan Krotcha; • Meet the Masters takes place from 1 to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23. Students will learn about famous artists

through painting, sculpture, collage and mixed media with instructor Liz Tracey; • Sculpture Sampler runs from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, April 24. Kids can explore the world of three-dimensional art with the help of clay, and soft materials like felt, fabrics and stuffing. Students will design clay creations and create their own plush toys, puppets, pillows and more with instructor Anita Genovese; and • Mix It Up! Clay, Paint, Fiber takes place from 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24. Children can explore two- and three-dimensional art with paint and clay, plus soft materials such as felt and stuffing with instructor Liz Tracey. Tuition for each mini-camp is \$45, or \$35 for members. Supervised lunch is \$10. To register, visit www.hunterdonartmuseum.org or call (908) 735-8415.

Wine cellars: a dream-home wish-list

A fabulous kitchen is likely to be on the top of any dream-home wish list for couples but the media room is usually the male spouse initiated. Enter a new dream. Farewell media room, hello wine cellar.

People ask me all the time, where do you build one? The most common answer, basement, is not the best one. Truth be told – and my wife Mariette and my circle of friends would vouch for this – I never called my basement a basement for the sheer scorn of the mediocre implied in the root word “base,” as in basic.

The B word was hence banned from the Rajan Family lexicon and substituted with an equally blah proxy, Lower Level.

A naked basement, in my view, is a snake-pit for those bottled beauties. Between the damp, the odors, the creepy crawlies, the vibrating washer-dryer and the monster heat spewing furnace, the basement is a war zone for the demure juice.

Yet all my cellars past have been in the lower level. But they were ensconced in dedicated cellar rooms with all the temperature and humidity trappings of an Intensive Care Unit.

My last one in Short Hills actually had three micro climates, one each for wines, single-vineyard olive oils and artisanal cheeses, admittedly an over-indulgence and a source of scorn from my humble catholic wife.

My bourgeois friends, however, relished the layering. It was not the temperature nuances that charmed them but the mood evocation when visiting each dedicated chamber within chamber of whispering clarets, oils and raw-milk cheeses.

Theater my friends, theater as implied in this insensitive nod to Shakespeare’s immortal words, “All the world’s (cellar’s) a stage, And all the men and women (wine, olive oil and cheese) merely players; They have their exits and their entrances,

“And one man (me) in his time plays many parts...”

So, it’s abundantly clear that boring rack-warehouses that describe most of today’s cellars do little for me. And that ever so predictable motif of wine labels, grapes, vine stencils and wine goblet images splattered over walls, borders and cellar doors has, at least for me, the excitement and al-

Ash Rajan

**READ BETWEEN
THE WINES**



The writer is a French-certified Maitre Du Vin Du Bordeaux from the Ecole Du Vin in France. While his hobby passion is wine, Ash, a former Wall Street strategist, is currently a V.P. Investments at Janney Montgomery Scott. Contact him at arajan@janney.com



A suite of Boscarelli wines, not to mention the vineyard’s Olive Oil, complement any inventory.

lure of an old Ford Pinto.

Booring. Wine barrel furniture recently making the rounds would be the absolute low. I submit that I am snobbish, arrogant and judgmental when it comes to wine and lifestyle. But the rest of my life is humbling to provide the balance.

Cellar design should be brave and theatrical as in taking a former church and re-shaping its stained-glass attic into a cellar; the subdued light in myriad colors adding to the red in those divine glass vessels. The belfry tower would be a tad more dramatic except for the vibrations from the hourly gong.

Brave is taking an decommissioned fire-station, poles intact, polka-dotted Dalmations and all to create drama around the wine. That would be a double whammy, es-

pecially, for the Peter Pans among us men who never grew up from our fire engine obsessions.

Or, how about a carriage house with stable stalls intact to earmark left and right bank Bordeaux or to distinguish French Burgundy from a Willamette Pinot Noir? Pedigree wines! Get it?

Brave is moving a grain silo from a country farmhouse to your McMansion compound and having the wines stacked in a rising spiral fitted internally with an open elevator akin to those used at construction sites to reach for the 1961 Lafite that’s right at the top, where it should be.

You are getting the drift, I presume.

The Oceanographic Museum in Monte Carlo, Monaco’s lower level (not basement)

viewing room juts into the Mediterranean and the sea’s vibrant creatures are at full view. What a perfect place to put down some inspired whites like Batards and Montrachets and some Paris-tasting bound 1976 Montelenas. Mermaid-magnet guaranteed.

Perhaps an abandoned factory or printing press with its resident lathes and hardware painted in red and burgundy to complement your muscular, masculine reds like Barolos, Zinfandel, Bordeaux, Syrah and Chateaufeuf du Papes.

My wanderlust has enabled cellar viewings in about four dozen countries around the world. Most have immaculate collections, not to be confused with cellar charisma.

One stand-out for sheer creative dazzle is the glass and steel wine-tower at Aureole at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas with its ultra-creative wine-girl wine pull. Admit, dreaming up “out of the box” architectural homes for my wine is a wasteful, indulgent exercise in empty fantasy, rooted in the impractical. But then again we should all be driving Volvos. Should we? Live a little.

And live a little I did, with the magnificent Boscarelli Vino Nobiles. Ancient Etruscan traditions embracing the sunny terrain of nearby Sienna, this Tuscan, like its owner-winemaker, the charming Mr. Ferrari who my wife and I met at a tasting in New York City, embodies the old and the new.

The Vino Nobile Riserva is a lavish opus of sweet-sounding notes, each decibel as clear as a bell. The delineation and the balance is precise. Yet the mouthfeel of the sangiovese is a sensuous kiss for all senses with all the minerality of its alluvial terroir. So dense and complex, it can sleep for a while in that cellar atop the church steeple.

And when you think it’s impossible to top the Riserva, The Sotto Casa Single vineyard explodes in your palette like a hefty left-bank Bordeaux with its sangio, cabernet and merlot blend. Bravo Boscarelli! Their Il Nocio shows off a clay and loam profile and the French Oak’s raw complexity comes through. This one is an ager too. The Boscarelli suite gets a standing ovation in my review egged on by their Olive Oil which is a whisper of their wines’ texture and elegance.

Ukrainian Cultural Center in Whippany hosts annual beefsteak dinner

The Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ) on North Jefferson Road in Whippany will host its fourth annual beefsteak tricky tray fundraiser catered by The Brownstowne of Pat-

erson at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 7 at the center at 60 North Jefferson Road.

Antipasto, sliced beef tenderloin dipped in butter served on French bread, penne, fries, beer, soft drinks and dessert will be

offered. Items include a flat-screen TV, \$500 cash, bike, tech devices, theater tickets, food/wine, gift cards to spas, gyms, restaurants, retail, entertainment, fabulous 50/50, door prize and more.

Event tickets are \$60 each if purchased by Monday, April 1. Tickets purchased after April 1 are \$65. Cost is \$20 for children 10 and under. For tickets and more information go to , UACCNJ.org or 973 590-8026.

· POTPOURRI ·

BENEFITS

Second Annual Wheels for the Wheel Fundraiser Car Show, hosted by the Red Mill Museum Village, 10 a.m. – noon Sunday, April 28, Red Mill, 56 Main St., Clinton. Prizes will include awards for best in class and best in show. Attendees can also vie for prizes including a flat screen TV. Registration is \$15 prior to April 14, and \$20 thereafter. Spectators can be get in for the museum's regular admission fees of \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and veterans, \$6 children 6 – 12, and free to museum members and children under 6. For more information, visit <https://theredmill.org/>. Proceeds will benefit the museums water wheel restoration project.

6th Annual Freedom House 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Walk, Saturday, May 11, Clinton. The proceeds from this event will help ensure that those seeking recovery over addiction are not turned away due to their lack of financial resources. Services, such as those offered by Freedom House, are a key component to helping to combat the heroin epidemic. Entry fees for adults are \$30 for pre-registration and \$35 for day of registrations. Children ages 6 to 12 may walk and run for \$10, and children 5 and under may walk and run for free. Event check-in begins at 8 a.m., with the race starting at 9:30 a.m. followed by an awards ceremony. Sponsorships are available. To register, visit runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Bridgewater/FreedomHouse5KRunWalk. For more information, call (908) 617-5492 or visit www.freedomhousenj.org.

"Laugh your Tails Off" Comedy Night, 6 – 10 p.m. Saturday, March 30, the Polish American Citizens Club, 29 Kline Blvd., Whitehouse Station. To benefit the animal protection non-profit New Jersey AniMeals. The evening will be hosted by Bill Spadea of NJ101.5 radio and TV's "Chasing News" fame. New Jersey's own lawyer-turned-comic Kevin Israel and improv ace Joanne Filan round out the night's lineup. Tickets for the Comedy Night are \$65 in advance or \$75 at the door, which includes an evening of laughs, delicious buffet-style dinner, dessert, and soft drinks (cash bar). For tickets and more information, visit www.njanimeals.org. To explore volunteering or learn more, call New Jersey AniMeals at (908) 752-1927.

Tack Sale to benefit Mane Stream adaptive horsemanship and equine assisted therapies, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday, April 6, 83 Old Turnpike Road, Oldwick. This event is an important part of the yearly fundraising plan with all proceeds to benefit Mane Stream's horses, equine assisted programs including "Take the Reins" for Veterans and

"Horses for Healing" for those living with, recovering from and living life after cancer. Items include bridles, saddles, blankets, tack boxes as well as out-grown boots, breeches, jackets, and any horse related jewelry, models or knick-knacks. All donations can be dropped off at the stable at 83 Old Turnpike Road, Oldwick, office location during office hours. For information or to make a donation, contact Holland Kochanski at holland@manestreamnj.org, call (908) 439-9636 or visit www.ManeStreamNJ.org.

"The best is yet to come," a song made famous by Frank Sinatra, will be the theme of the 2019 Fellowship Senior Living gala, scheduled to take place on Thursday, April 4, at the Wyndham Hamilton Park in Florham Park. Funds raised will support Fellowship Senior Living's renovation and expansion project at Fellowship Village, a senior citizen community in Basking Ridge. The evening will also include a silent auction, dinner and dancing. To purchase tickets or for additional information, contact Julie Schuldner, director of philanthropy, at schuldner@fellowshipls.org, or call (908) 580-3875. For more information on Fellowships Village, visit www.FellowshipSeniorLiving.org or call (908) 428-4238.

FLEA MARKETS

Annual flea market, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday, March 30, Gillette Community Chapel, 123 Summit Ave., Gillette. The market will feature household items, antiques and collectables, bedding and linens, holiday decorations, glassware, electronics, games and toys, DVDs, CDs, books and much more. For more information, call (908) 647-2573, visit www.gillettechapel.com, or find the chapel on Facebook.

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVALS

4th Annual Food Truck Festival benefiting Netcong Fire Department's Hilltop Fire Company 2, noon – 4 p.m. Saturday, May 11, Netcong Train Station, Main Street, Netcong. Proceeds benefit company's member training and building and equipment maintenance. Tickets are \$4 adults and free for kids 12 and under. For more information, call Jack at (973) 479-9903.

LECTURES

John Kasich, the Former U.S. congressman, Ohio governor and candidate for the Republican nomination for president in 2016 will be the next speaker of Drew University's

Drew Forum at 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, at the Simon Forum on the campus of Drew University at 36 Madison Ave., Madison. Tickets for Kasich's speech on April 9 at Drew University are available at <https://tickets.shakespearenj.org/>.

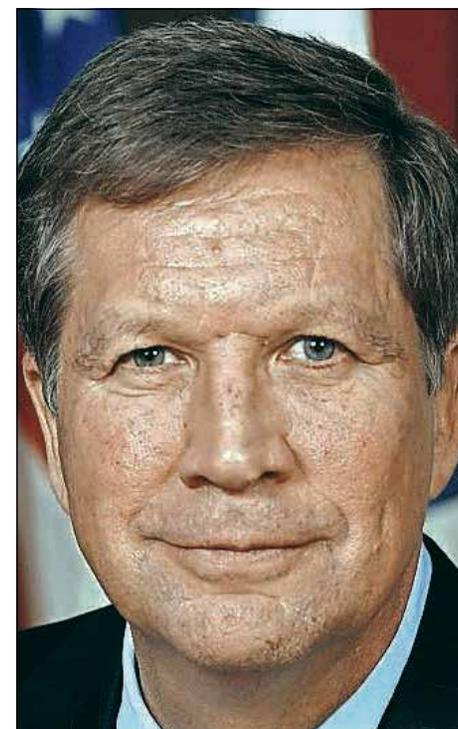
OUTDOORS

Learn all about the Garden State's owls when New Jersey Audubon Society teacher/naturalist Dorothy Smullen hosts "Give a Hoot! Owls of New Jersey" at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 31, at Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, 11 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville. The program is for children seven and older. Because seating is limited, please call and reserve a spot. The cost is \$7 for members, \$10 non-member and suitable for children seven and older. Because seating is limited, please register by Friday, March 29. To register, call (908) 396-6386.

"Winter Walking in the Pines," 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 31. The Somerset County Park Commission's Environmental Education Center (EEC), 190 Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge, will host an easy paced walk through the Pine Barrens with possible visits to Whitesbog Village, the Evert Nature Trail, the Franklin Parker Preserve and Lebanon State Forest. Fee is \$50 per adult and \$40 per senior. Advance payment is required. Register online at www.somersetcountyparks.org or call (908) 722-1200, ext. 5002.

Learn how to butterfly garden using native plants when Butterfly Gardener Magazine Editor Jane Hurlitz lectures at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 30, at New Jersey Audubon Society's Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, 11 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville. The event is free for members and \$5 for non-members. Registration is needed by Thursday, March 28. To register, call (908) 396-6386.

29th annual stream cleanup, 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 13. Hosted by Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA). Volunteers of all ages are needed. The cleanup will be held rain or shine. Online registration is now open. To sign up, go to www.raritanheadwaters.org/streamcleanup To view an interactive map of the 50-plus designated sites for this year's cleanup, then click the registration link to reserve a place at your preferred site. Individuals and groups who register by March 1 will be guaranteed a free T-shirt. Groups of more than 15 people should contact Stream Cleanup Coordinator Jeff Geist at jgeist@raritanheadwaters.org or (908) 234-1852, ext. 317, to make arrangements. Raritan



Former Ohio governor and Republican Presidential candidate John Kasich will be the next speaker in Drew University's Drew Forum at 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 9.

Headwaters' 470-square-mile region includes the North and South Branches of the Raritan River and their many tributaries.

Field trip to Crystal Springs, Teetertown Preserve, 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Saturday, May 4. New Jersey Audubon Society field trip is led by associated naturalist Alan Rennie. Crystal Springs is a section of the Teetertown Preserve, comprised of 233 acres of mature forest, active farmland, meadows, ponds, and the headwaters of the Spruce Run Creek in Hunterdon County. Participants will meet at the preserve's parking lot at 8 a.m. Wear weather-appropriate footwear. Cost is \$15 members and \$20 non-members. To register and for more information, call (908) 396-6386. The deadline to register is Wednesday, May 1.

Monthly guided bird walks will be held at 8:30 a.m. on the first Friday of each month at Somerset Hills Memorial Park, 95 Mt. Airy Road in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards Township. Local bird expert Randy Little will guide tours to spot the birds who make their home at Somerset Hills Memorial Park. Attendees should meet at the office at 8:30 a.m. Coffee and breakfast treats will be provided. Call (908) 766-0522 or visit www.shmpcemetary.com for more information.

• COMING UP ON CAMPUS •

Raritan Valley Community College

118 Lamington Road, Branchburg. For further information, visit www.raritanval.edu.

THE RVCC PLANETARIUM

Unless specified otherwise, all programs are \$10 for one show, \$16 for two shows on the same day. For reservations and information, call 908-231-8805. For additional information, visit www.raritanval.edu/planetarium.

"The Sky Above," a sensory friendly astronomy and music show, 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 6. Lasting about 45 minutes, the program is specially designed for families with children on the autism spectrum or those with developmental disabilities, with a comfortable and judgment-free space welcoming to all. During the show, doors will remain open so children may freely leave and return if they choose. Lights will be dimmed rather than darkened, and the audio lowered and kept at a consistent level. The show will include music, laser lights, stories, and information about the planets, the Moon and constellations, with information presented on a very basic level. Seating is limited and reservations are strongly suggested. For more information and to reserve seats, call (908) 231-8805 or visit www.raritanval.edu/planetarium.

"Laser Ladies," 8 p.m. Saturday, March 30. Singers Aretha Franklin, Madonna, Gloria Estefan, Beyoncé, and Shakira are just a few of the ladies whose music is highlighted in this new laser concert.

"From Earth to the Universe," 7 p.m. Saturday, March 30. The sky has been a place of wonder. Philosophers and scientists, from the Greeks to Galileo, began to unravel some of its mysteries. The invention of the telescope has allowed for still more discoveries. Fly by all the planets in our solar system,

then travel beyond to view the birthplace and death of stars, and still farther to the myriad galaxies in our Universe. The program includes a brief tour of the current night sky. Weather permitting, the 3M Observatory will be open after the show. Recommended for ages 10-adult.

"Rockin' Rocket Ride," 3 p.m. Saturday, March 30. Put on your space suit and blast-off into outer space to visit the Moon, Sun and planets. A lively experience for young people, the show features selected music from "Journey Into Space" by Jane Murphy. Recommended for ages 3-8.

"SkyLights," 4 p.m. Saturday, March 30. Our youngest audience members can sing along with songs by Mr. RAY ("Family Ride," "Kalien the Alien") and Jane Murphy ("Moon Rock Rock," "The Planet Song"). Some songs are illustrated with lasers, while others feature video images. Recommended for ages 3-8.

Magic Tree House: Space Mission, 3 p.m. Saturdays, April 6 and 13. Join Jack and Annie as they discover the secrets of the Sun, Moon, planets, space travel, and more. Who can help them answer the questions left for them by the mysterious "M"? This show is based on the same-titled, best-selling series of novels. Recommended for ages 5 and older.

Laser Light Waves, 4 p.m. Saturdays, April 6 and 13. Lasers dance across the Planetarium dome while music is played. Songs include "Yellow Submarine" by The Beatles, "Tonight Tonight" by Hot Chelle Rae, "Counting Stars" by One Republic, and "Glad You Came" by The Wanted.

Astronomy Tonight, 7 p.m. Saturday, April 6, 7 p.m. Using the Planetarium's DigitalSky digital theater, experience a guided tour of the night sky. Learn about some of the popular

constellations visible from sunset to sunrise, as well as the stories behind them. Hear about how and where in the sky to find the brightest planets. Weather permitting, the 3M Observatory will be open after the show. Recommended for ages 8 and up.

Laser Beatles, 8 p.m. Saturdays, April 6, 13 and 27. Listen to hits from The Fab Four's long career, such as "Twist and Shout," "Revolution," and "Get Back," while lasers animate the songs on the dome overhead.

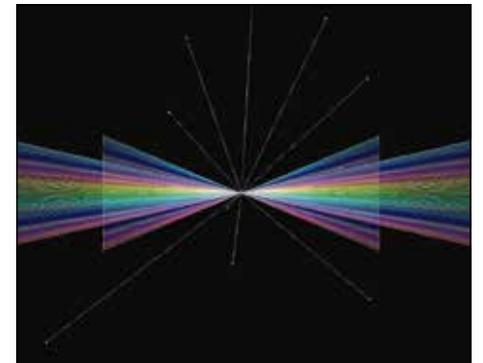
Exploding Universe, 7 p.m. Saturdays, April 13 and 27. The universe we see today is the product of explosive events. As the universe has transformed into its current state, even the most elementary particles have endured. The show follows the path of one of these particles, a proton, as it participates in nature's astounding events of rebirth and renewal. The program includes a brief tour of the current night sky. Recommended for ages 10 and up.

Rockin' Rocket Ride, 3 p.m. Saturday, April 27. Put on your space suit and blast-off into outer space to visit the Moon, Sun and planets. A lively experience for young people, the show features selected music from "Journey Into Space" by Jane Murphy. Recommended for ages 3-8.

Storybooks in Space, 4 p.m. Saturday, April 27. Enjoy story time in the Planetarium as we learn about the stars and planets. Recommended for ages 4-8.

SPECIAL SPRING BREAK PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS

RVCC will offer daytime classes for school-age youngsters ages 5 – 14 during Spring Break Weeks, Monday, April 15 – Thursday, April 18 and Monday, April 22 – Friday, April 26.



Raritan Valley Community College will offer several laser shows throughout April in its planetarium.

- **Visual Arts Classes:** Edible Art, Comic Book Creation, Creative Art Lab
- **Science Classes:** Junior Scientists, Technology and Engineering
- **Computer Classes:** Roblox Makers, Adventures in Augmented Reality, Battle Royale: Make Your First Fortnite Style Video Game, and eSports Apprentice – YouTube Streamers and Gamers
- **Enrichment Classes:** Cook and Connect, Jewelry Design, Introduction to the Sewing Machine

For a complete listing of all spring courses for kids and teens or to register, visit www.raritanval.edu/youth.

For information only, email youth@raritanval.edu or call 908-526-1200, ext. 8404. The Youth Program office is located on the first floor of Somerset Hall, in room S147.

'Wine with Friends' to benefit Mendham Township Library

The second annual "Wine with Friends" to benefit the Mendham Township Library is planned for 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Friday, April 26, at the Brookside Community club, 1 E. Main St., Mendham Township.

The evening will include wine tasting by "56 Degree Wine" and wine pull, silent auction and live music by Dave Elgart. Tickets are \$60 or \$70 at the door. For tickets visit www.mendhamtwplib.org.

— Weekly SUDOKU —
Answer

3	1	9	5	6	4	2	7	8
2	4	7	1	8	3	6	5	9
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9	5	8	6	3	2	7	4	1
4	3	1	7	5	8	9	6	2
8	9	2	3	4	6	5	1	7
6	7	5	2	1	9	4	8	3

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YOUR TABLE IS READY

Spring Has Sprung at The Stirling Hotel

By Deb McCoy

So much is happening this spring at The Stirling Hotel!

Happening on April 14th, the restaurant features the "Sunshine Daydream Brunch," featuring Dogfish Head Brewery.

The ever-popular Stirling Hotel Community Supper occurs on April 17th. This event benefits "Grow a Row," an organization whose mission is to create a positive impact on as many lives as possible. They strive to do this through volunteer efforts of planting, reaping, rescuing and delivering free and fresh produce. The owners of the Stirling Hotel have consistently served causes to benefit all of us.

Easter is celebrated at the restaurant on April 21st with an impressive Easter brunch. Look for further details as the date approaches.

The Beer Garden opens on May 10th, officially letting us know that Spring is here.

Moms are honored on May 12th, and reservations will be taken, both for brunch and dinner.

Two brewery events will take place in the Beer Garden in May. The first, on May 18th, features Two Roads Brewery. The second features Victor Brewery on May 31st.

May 19th is the date for the Raptor Trust Benefit, which will be held in the Beer Garden.

The Beer Garden is busy in June also. A fun "Plant 'N Sip" is scheduled for June 4th. June 21st marks the "Summer Kick-Off."

"Music Mondays" and "Music Sundays" are going strong at the restaurant, with Lucas Perez performing on March 31st. You should check the website often for event and entertainment details.

The Stirling Hotel's creative and always-changing "specials" menu shows the owner's desire to please their patrons. A few recent lunch specials were particularly tempting: A whipped goat cheese starter with pistachio mint pesto and served with warm pita and the "Gator Sausage Burrito," served with "voodoo" scrambled eggs, cheddar and more.

Cajun Fish Tacos and grilled asparagus appeared on a dinner special menu several days ago.

Cocktails are creative here too! Try the Mexican Mule with house-infused jalapeño tequila and ginger beer or cool off with a Cucumber Mojito Mule with Ketel One Cucumber and Mint Vodka, lime, mint and ginger beer.

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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