

# Out & About

Recorder Community Newspapers

GUIDE TO THE ARTS AND LEISURE • THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018

## FROLIC IN THE FROST

### Just because it's winter doesn't mean you have to hibernate

By ANNE ABRAMS  
OUT & ABOUT EDITOR

For folks who just can't stand being cooped up all winter, a few good clothing layers can help make it comfortable to get outside to one of the dozens of nearby locations, and take in some fresh air.

In a region with a vast assortment of parkland and open spaces, winter does not have to limit outdoor time. Morris County alone has 28 unique parks with many outdoor activities in the cold season, while Somerset County has a variety of its own outdoor recreation facilities.

While fewer in number, New Jersey's state parks, including Round Valley Recreation area in Lebanon, Hacklebarney in Chester, and North Branch Greenway Park in Bridgewater Township offer a wide variety of outdoor terrain accessible year-round.

A lot of towns also have outdoor recreation facilities that are open to the public year-round, like Chester's Chubb Park, and Harding Township's Bayne Park, which are home to skating ponds.

In addition, there are a wealth of national historical sites, including Washington's Headquarters and Morristown's National Historical Park, which are both home to historic structures and park rangers who can offer insight into local pages in our nation's history.

If the great outdoors sounds appealing, there are all kinds of activity areas in park spaces. From hiking and snowshoeing to cross country skiing, sledding and skating, all of the traditional winter activities are available.

If you prefer a slower pace, many of the parks offer places to take your leashed dog on a nature walk and simply soak up some beautiful views.

Some say regular immersion on woodlands and open spaces is good for your health, so make the most of the opportunities. Photographers can take their camera and go on a local photo safari. Some of the region's parks, including Seaton Hackney Stables (Morris County) and Lord Stirling Stable (Somerset County) offer equestrian activities all year long. A number of parks also offer equestrian trails for those who want to bring their own horses to the parks.

Montville's Pyramid Mountain Park offers Snowshoe Sundays, guided snowshoe hikes on the trails. Newcomers to the sport can try it out accompanied by park staff, or



Photo by Debbie Weisman

Hannah and Janna Han of Stirling enjoy skating at Stirling Pond in Long Hill Township

rent snowshoes and take a solo hike.

One portion of the Columbia Trail, a 16.5 miles flat, multi-use, linear trail with natural and gravel tread, spans segments of both Morris County and Hunterdon County. The Morris County section of the trail begins in Long Valley, is 8.5-miles-long and runs through Washington Township to the border of Hunterdon County. The Hunterdon County section of the trail is 8 miles and ends in High Bridge.

The trail can be used for a variety of cold-weather activities, including horseback riding, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Digital trail maps are available online.

In Somerset County, supervised ice skating and

cross-country skiing are offered when weather permits at Somerset's Colonial Park, and Bridgewater's Duke Island Park.

Among the varied park spaces are some indoor, like the William G. Mennen Arena at 161 Hanover Ave. in Morris Township, where the public can strap on ice skates and glide over a maintained surface. No skates of your own? No problem, as rental skates are available at the facility. Parsippany's Central Park of Morris County offers lit skating rinks for adult and youth leagues, open skating, pick-up games, and non-hockey activities.

Some of the parks offer winter activities and programs,

PLEASE SEE FROLIC, PAGE 2

# FROLIC: Outdoor winter fun

FROM PAGE 1

including the historic parks. If you fancy learning about the process of creating maple syrup, the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center in Chatham has your program. If you want to know more about life on a 19th century farm, Fosterfields Living Historical Farm in Morris Township offers that experience.


For more information about parks and programs, visit the Morris County Parks Commission's website at <http://www.morrisparks.net/>, the Somerset County Parks Commission at <https://www.somersetcountyparks.org>, the National Parks Service at <https://www.nps.gov/state/nj/index.htm>, and the New Jersey state parks at <http://www.njparksandforests.org/>.



Photo by Debbie Weisman

Ben Barkley, Lord Stirling Park Environmental Education Center naturalist, dons some wooden snow shoes for a winter hike.

## MORRIS COUNTY RECREATION BY PARK

		Sliding	Ice Skating (on rinks only)	Cross-Country Skiing	Snowshoeing
Location					
<b>Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center</b> 170 Longview Rd., Chester Township				X	X
<b>Central Park of Morris County</b> <i>For the most up-to-date ICE SKATING conditions, visit the Central Ave., Parsippany-Troy Hills Central Park of Morris County page on morrisparks.net</i>			X	X	X
<b>Columbia Trail</b> – Schooley's Mountain Road, Washington Township (Call 973.326.7600 for other access areas)				X	X
<b>Elizabeth D. Kay Environmental Center</b> 200 Pottersville Road, Chester Township				X	X
<b>The Frelinghuysen Arboretum</b> 353 East Hanover Ave., Hanover & Morris Townships				X	X
<b>Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center</b> 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham Township				X	X
<b>Hedden County Park</b> 124 Reservoir Ave. & Concord Road, Town of Dover, Mine Hill & Randolph Townships				X	X
<b>James Andrew Memorial Park</b> West Hanover Ave., Randolph Township				X	X
<b>Jonathan's Woods</b> Old Beach Glen, Boonton, Denville & Rockaway Townships				X	X
<b>Lewis Morris County Park</b> 270 Mendham Road, Harding, Mendham & Morris Townships		X		X	X
<b>Loantaka Brook Reservation</b> Kitchell Road & South Street, Chatham, Harding & Morris Townships				X	X
<b>Mahlon Dickerson Reservation/Saffin Pond</b> 995 Weldon Road, Jefferson Township				X	X
<b>Mennen Sports Arena</b> 161 Hanover Ave., Morris Township, 973.326.7651			X		
<b>Old Troy County Park</b> 440 Reynolds Ave., Parsippany-Troy Hills Township				X	X
<b>Passaic River County Park</b> River Road, Chatham & Long Townships				X	X
<b>Patriots' Path</b> - Inamere Road, Lake Valley Road, Morris Township (Call 973.326.7600 for other access areas)				X	X
<b>Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area</b> <i>Guided snowshoeing &amp; snowshoe rentals 973.334.3130</i> 473 Boonton Ave., Kinnelon Borough & Montville Township				X	X
<b>Schooley's Mountain County Park</b> 91 East Springtown Rd., Washington Township		X		X	X
<b>Silas Condict County Park</b> 100 Kinnelon Rd., Kinnelon Borough				X	X
<b>Tourne County Park</b> Old Denville Rd., Boonton, Denville Township & Borough of Mountain Lakes		X		X	X



Photos By Morris County Parks

Above: Sledgers fly down one of the many great hills at Morris County parks. Below: Hiking on snowshoes is a great way to enjoy the outdoors. Bottom: Skating is available at Mennen Arena.



# Parks offer winter events

Maple sugaring demonstrations will take place on upcoming weekends at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham. Guests of all ages can come experience the fascinating process of maple sugaring from start to finish. Identify and tap maple trees, collect sap, and make syrup over a wood-fired evaporator. Taste-test different syrups, including syrup made at the Great Swamp OEC. This event will be held rain or shine, from 1 to 2 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays: Jan. 27, 28; Feb. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25. Cost is \$3 per person, age 3 and older. For information, call (973) 635-6629. No registration is required, but seating is on a first come, first served basis.

Snowshoe Sundays at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, 472 Boonton Avenue, Montville Township, will give visitors aged 10 years and older the opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of guided snowshoeing and trekking through the landscape. Look for signs of wildlife, and view scenery, all while getting a great workout. No experience is necessary. For experienced snowshoers, or those wishing to venture out independently, there are all sizes of snowshoes, including children's, available for one-day rental and use at Pyramid Mountain NHA. Visitors must be 18 years or older to rent shoes. Shoes can be rented between 9 and 11 a.m., and must be returned between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. that day; 1 p.m. if renting shoes, 1:30 p.m. if using your own. Sundays: Jan. 21 through March 11. Cost is \$5 per person for trek, \$15 for trek and snowshoe rental. Preregistration is re-

quired. To register and for conditions, call (973) 334-3130.

**Outdoor Skills:** experiencing the dark woods, at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center will offer youth ages 10 through 15-years-old the chance to have a nighttime adventure and learn survival skills, and discover how to increase their comfort level in case they find themselves outdoors at night without a flashlight, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 26. Cost is \$10 per person, per class. Preregistration is required. To register, call (973) 635-6629.

**Blackburn Scholarship Lecture** will take place at Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 Hanover Ave, Morris Township. Speaker Ken Druse will discuss *The New Shade Garden: Creating a Lush Oasis in the Age of Climate Change*. Learn new ways to look at the gardening process including designing your garden, choosing and planting trees, soil conservation, critter issues, and more. Proceeds benefit the Blackburn Scholarship, offered to students of the Landscape Technology program at County College of Morris. Register by January 28. The lecture is from 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 3; snow date, Sunday, Feb. 4. Cost is \$30 for members of the Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum and \$35 for non-members. Preregistration is required. To register, visit [arboretum-friends.org](http://arboretum-friends.org).

**A Winter's Day on the Farm** at Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, 73 Kahdena Road, Morris Township, offers visitors the chance to experience an family adven-



Photo by Morris County Parks Commission

**Above:** Visitors to Fosterfields Living History Farm learn about ice harvesting. **Below:** A team of Percheron horses, below, stand ready at Fosterfields Living History Farm.

ture to experience traditional 20th century farm life. Take a tractor-pulled wagon ride, meet the farm animals, learn the importance of ice harvesting and what tools were used, and help with daily farm chores. Warm up in the Farmhouse where seasonal foods cook on the wood-burning cook stove. From 12 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 4. Cost is: \$8 per adult, \$7 per senior (65 and older), \$6 per child age 4 through 16, and \$4 per child age 2 and 3. Free admission for children younger than age 2. Friends members pay half price with a current membership card. For more information call (973) 326-7645.

**Valentine's Flower Arranging Workshop** at Frelinghuysen Arboretum will allow participants to join floral designer Marge Hulstrunk to create their own bouquet arranged in a vase just in time for Valentine's Day: 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 10; snow date, Tuesday, Feb. 13 (from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.). Cost is \$75 per person. Preregistration is required. To register, call (973) 326-7601.

**Matilda's Tea: Tally Ho!**, an annual event at Frelinghuysen Arboretum, will teach young people, ages 6-years and older (with an adult), about horses and the carriages that are on display. Enjoy brunch and an illustrated talk, and make a hobby horse to ride. Take a horse and carriage ride around the property, weather permitting, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 10. Cost is \$35 per person. Preregistration is required. To register, call (973) 326-7601.

**Landscape Design; The Basics and Beyond** will allow visitors to join Susan Olinger, longtime landscape and garden designer, at Frelinghuysen Arboretum and



learn the concepts and tools that landscape designers use to provide horticulturally and environmentally correct designs. from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 11. Cost is \$20 per person. Preregistration required. To register, call (973) 326-7601.

**Junior Naturalists**, ages 6 to 9, can come to the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center to learn how to study the plants, animals, and land that make up the Great Swamp. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Feb. 13 through March 20. Cost is \$55 per person. Preregistration is required. To register, call (973)635-6629.

**General admission public skating** at Mennen Arena 161 East Hanover Ave., Morris Township is open to all skaters, Sept. 9, 2017 through June 15, 2018: mornings: Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., afternoons: Monday through Friday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. (portion of ice used for instruction). Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.; evenings: Friday from 8 to 10 p.m. Cost: weekday general admission: \$6, Wednesday morning and afternoon: \$3, Weekend, evenings, and holidays: \$8. Skate rental: \$4 (tax included).

## Out & About

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# Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey returns from Italy

## With a flourish, concerts resume for 2018

By ANNE ABRAMS  
OUT & ABOUT EDITOR

It's not every day that a small, seemingly specialized classical music company is invited to Italy, the birthplace of so much of what Americans consider the greatest of classical music. For Robert Butts, however, the director and conductor of the Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey, that is just another feather in his already impressively festooned professional cap.

Not only did he, five instrumentalists, and a vocalist from the company travel to Venice and Padua for three performances, they have already been asked to return in a year. Then a short two weeks later, the orchestra's entire ensemble presented a polished and sumptuous feast for the ears in the BONJ's passionate opening performance of the 2018 year, as they presented A Warm Winter Beethoven Wassail the afternoon of Sunday, Jan. 14, at Madison's Grace Episcopal Church.

Despite the chill of the day, the church pews were well-filled with an appreciative audience as the orchestra presented a program featuring the work of contemporary composer Monsignor Marco Frisina, and the better known Georg Christoph Wagenseil, Charles Camille Saint-Saëns, and Ludwig van Beethoven. The orchestra's members were joined by internationally renowned harpist Merynda Adams for the Wagenseil and Saint-Saëns works.

The work "I Ricordi du una vita," by Frisina, is written entirely for strings. An



Maestro Robert Butts leads the Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey's Warm Winter Beethoven Wassail performance.

appropriately titled, contemplative and thoughtful piece, the title of which translates to "memories of a lifetime," it set a quiet tone to lead into the rounder, more intricate dance presented by Wagenseil's Concerto for harp.

Adams' nimble fingers danced along the strings in an intricate pas de deux with the orchestra, now including brass, winds, and tympani. The final piece of the first half of

the performance was Morceau de Concert, opus 154, by Saint-Saëns, a round, full and emotive composition. Best known for his work Danse Macabre, a hallmark of Saint-Saëns' work is the plucking of normally bowed string instruments. The result is haunting and memorable.

The intermission was followed by Beethoven's Piano Concerto #3, rich and resplendent in all one associates with Beetho-

ven; pomp, drama, piano runs that, while sumptuous to the audience, must provoke fear in all but the most skilled pianists. It is fitting that this piece was separate from the rest of the concert, as surely it would have overwhelmed the gentler and more reflective works.

On Dec. 27, Butts and pianist Paul Ziegler,

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Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey pianist, Paul Ziegler, left, and Maestro Robert Butts, right, smile, on either side of Merynda Adams, internationally renowned harpist, who performed with the orchestra on Sunday, Jan. 14.

# ORCHESTRA: Year starts with crescendo on Italy trip



Maestro Butts of the takes a break from the music on a recent BONJ trip to Italy.

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violinist and BONJ concertmaster Agnes Kwasniewska, flautist Laura Ferraro, oboist Nancy Vanderslice, bassoonist Andrew Pecota, BONJ's pianist Paul Zeigler, and tenor vocalist Kevin Peters, joined by Italian soprano Dominika Zamara performed at Palazzo Cavagnis in Venice.

The following day, the musicians took the vaporetto, a water bus, to the train to Padua for a performance at Palazzo Zacco-Armeni, and then the next day, were back in Venice for a performance at the Scola dell'Angelo Custode, Lutheran Church.

"Venice is certainly a magical place," Maestro Butts commented. "To visit and wander the labyrinth of walkways and ca-



Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey pianist Paul Zeigler, tenor Kevin Peters, flautist Laura Ferraro, and bassoonist Andrew Pecota rehearse prior to a performance in Venice, Italy.

nals felt as if every corner turned led to an amazing and beautiful scene. Performing with BONJ musicians in Venice and Padua was an unbelievable experience."

Butts is an award-winning conductor

who studied at Julliard, has conducted in Romania, Czech Republic, Russia, Germany, and Italy and has led orchestras, operas

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## ORCHESTRA

FROM PAGE 5

and choruses. He is also a prolific composer whose work has been performed throughout the world. In addition, he is a musicologist and academic who lectures at Drew University's Casperson School of Graduate Studies, and has also lectured at Montclair State University, the College of Saint Elizabeth, and Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Maestro Butts founded BONJ in 1996 as the Baroque Orchestra of Boonton, which has spent the last 22 years gaining reputation, stature, and accolades under his exacting, humorous and passionate leadership. Contrary to its name, BONJ does not limit itself to baroque music, but performs music of all periods and styles.

Since its inaugural season, the orchestra has collaborated with numerous community organizations including New Jersey Foundation for the Blind, Birchwood School, the Arts Council of the Morris Area, The Tibetan Society, The Princeton Shakespeare Theater, and The Boston Early Music Festival. BONJ also has a working relationship with The Little Opera Company that has produced numerous opera performances including Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, narrated by the late Academy Award winning actress Celeste Holm.

The orchestra has continued to be a pivotal force for classical music in the region.

One aim of BONJ is to bring classical music, long considered to be the province of the aristocracy, to the masses. As a result, concert tickets are sold at reasonable prices, and many of the concerts take place in Madison, at Dolan



Musicians from the Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey performing in Venice, Italy, at the Scola dell'Angelo Custode, Lutheran Church.

Hall, located on the campus of The College of Saint Elizabeth.

Dolan Hall is a modern, acoustically sound site with ample free parking. In addition, concerts are also presented at Grace Episcopal Church, which also has its own parking lot and along Kings Road.

BONJ is largely volunteer supported, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. As a result, much of the work to keep the company going is handled by music lovers and Butts' former students.

Not only does the BONJ do performances for the public in concerts, through collaborations with organizations including Atlantic Health Sys-

tem, The National Park Service, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Morris County Chamber of Commerce, Morris Tourism, and Morris Arts it also performs at retirement communities, schools, hospitals and festivals. It is also behind New Jersey's most extensive orchestra-supported young artist program, the Pearl and Julius Young Music Competition which offers opportunities to young musicians to perform alongside the BONJ professionals, and scholarship for continuing music studies.

For more information about BONJ, visit <http://www.baroqueorchestra.org/>

## Beethoven comes alive

### Library event explores musical legacy

Library Director Sandy Putnam will explore the music, career, and persona of Ludwig van Beethoven, followed by a performance by young local pianist, Kevin Zhong, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, at the Clarence Dillon Public Library, 2336 Lamington Road, Bedminster.

Beethoven was a German composer and pianist who took Vienna by storm in his early 20s with spellbinding pianism, tempestuous behavior, and bold compositions.

Defying his encroaching deafness, he composed the impressive body of work that remains at the core of classical music today. Sandy Putnam tells his life story with commentary, anecdote, and recorded music. Following the lecture, Kevin Zhong will perform Beethoven's beloved "Waldstein" piano sonata.

Zhong, of Basking Ridge and an 11th grader at Delbarton School, has taken first place at several Music Educator Association of New Jersey piano competitions.


The library program will be held in the downstairs meeting rooms of the library. Admission is free but registration is requested. To register, call the library at 908-234-2325, or email [ref@dillonlibrary.org](mailto:ref@dillonlibrary.org) or enroll in person at the library's circulation desk.

The Clarence Dillon Public Library ([www.dillonlibrary.org](http://www.dillonlibrary.org)) is located at 2336 Lamington Road in Bedminster, New Jersey.

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# Light Opera of New Jersey returns for the spring

## Daughter of the Regiment is a tale of heroism and humor

Light Opera of New Jersey will present its second production of its 23rd Season of operetta and musical theater featuring humor and heroism, with Gaetano Donizetti's "The Daughter of the Regiment," under the direction of Jamie Baer Peterson and Lauran Corson with musical direction by Michael Avagliano.

Most young men are nervous to meet their girlfriend's father for the first time, but imagine if your girlfriend had 1,500 fathers and every single one of them had a rifle.

The Daughter of the Regiment tells the story of Marie, a strong young woman who was found on a battlefield just after being born and raised by an entire French Regiment as one of their own. She falls in love with Tonio, a young Swiss man, while the regiment is invading the Tyrols during the Napoleonic wars.

Tonio and Marie must prove their love to the whole regiment in this comic opera with many amusing twists and turns.

Making a return to the LONJ stage, Chelsea Friedlander brings the title role of Marie to life. Making his LONJ premier, Ivan Rivera plays Tonio and takes on one of the

most challenging tenor arias in opera history. David Murray and Hanne Dollase are veterans of the LONJ stage and play Sergeant Sulpice and the Marquise of Birkenfeld, respectively.

Jimmy Smith, who recently appeared in LONJ's Pattermania, plays Hortensius, the faithful servant of the Marquise and Beth Gleason plays the Duchess of Kracckenthorp. LONJ takes great pride in gathering strong and talented ensembles to create its signature "wall of sound," and members of the regiment include Jordan Wilhelm, Mike Baruffi, Zachary Morehouse, Frank Skokan, Will Roper, Rick Morley, and John Lamb. Members of Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra led by Michael Avagliano will bring Donizetti's score to life.

"Daughter" will be presented in English at 8 p.m. on March 23 and 24, at St Mark's Episcopal Church in Basking Ridge.

LONJ is a premier operetta, opera, and musical theater company founded in 1995 by William Corson, executive director, and Lauran Corson, artistic director. To learn more about upcoming productions, visit [www.lonj.org](http://www.lonj.org).



Chelsea Friedlander portrays the titular role in Light Opera of New Jersey's "Daughter of the Regiment."

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# Artist evokes garden in African-American exhibit

Morris Arts and Art in the Atrium will host a public opening of New Jersey's largest exhibition of African-American art, curated and assembled by Art in the Atrium.

A free opening reception will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26 at the Atrium Gallery (floors 2 through 5 of the Morris County Administration and Records Building, 10 Court Street, Morristown), and includes music and an opportunity to meet the artists. The public opening will include free refreshments in the 4th floor cafeteria.

Running through March 21, the exhibit is entitled *Lift Every Voice* and highlights the work of Charleston, S.C. artist Leroy Campbell, as well as works by Plainfield artist Alonzo Adams, and works by 27 outstanding locally and internationally known African American artists including Bisa Butler, Janet Taylor Pickett, Rosalind Nzinga Nichol, Lavett Ballard, Larry Poncho Brown, Carol Bailey, Anthony Gartmond, Ellaree Pray, Les Floyd, Wannetta Phillips, Onnie Strother, Terells Thomas, Andrew Nichols, B. Curtis Grayson, Jackie Collier, Elaine McCrary, Erik J. Montgomery, Bryan Collier, Deb Willis, Jo-El Lopez, Stephen Ellis, Jennifer Mack, Kara Rice, Ron EA Powell and Zaya Grauer.

Featured artist Leroy Campbell's art addresses the African American perspectives of and contributions to humanity. More than just art, Campbell says each piece serves as his tithe; he uses his gifts and talents to teach others about the richness of the North Carolina Gullah/Geechee heritage and the beauty of his people.

Campbell describes humanity as a garden. In the 1300s, Native Americans invented a system of gardening called "Three Sisters," which involved strategically planting corn, beans, and squash together. The corn provides support and structure for the beans to grow, while the beans pull nitrogen from the air, returning it to the soil and enriching all the plants.

The squash spreads its large leaves, offers shade and protection, keeping the soil moist and cool. When each of the plants is thriving and healthy, it is able to reach its full potential and contribute to the garden. If one of the plants becomes sick, it affects the balance of the garden.

Master gardener, painter, storyteller, and lover of souls, Campbell strives to paint a portrait of hope for humanity through his art and words.

Telling the stories he knows best, he offers the wisdom of his community's elders as a gift to all. He believes that we are all searching for our place in the garden, our connection, our significance in this world, and that his stories are the most powerful



Leroy Campbell's painting, "You Are Not A Slave"



Armisey Smith's "Layered Lady"

gifts he can offer the universe, as they provide a foundation of wisdom based on patience, love, and discernment.

Campbell's vision is of a healthy garden, where each is whole, liberated and validated, where people are free to love who they are, to nurture others around them.

Campbell's paintings, infused with history, tie the past to the present in the practice of *sankofa*, the understanding that an individual cannot move forward until he or she receives the lessons of the past.

His ability to tell a story through the use of acrylic, paper, tapestries, and organic



Lavette Ballard's "Stories My Grandmother Told Me"



Ron EA Powell's "JAH Soldier"

materials, creates an opportunity for conversation, for the human connection that he feels all people desperately seek.

Art in the Atrium, a non-profit organization, began in 1992 after attorney Charles Craig noticed that no art works exhibited in the Morristown administration building were by African-American artists. Art in the Atrium's annual exhibition is the largest of its kind in the state.

Dedicated to exhibiting works by emerging and established black artists, Art in the Atrium's annual exhibit at the Atrium Gallery is now the largest of its kind in New Jersey, growing from a single floor to currently occupying four full floors of the County Administration & Records Building.

It has also expanded to include seminars, jazz brunches, collectors' workshops and cosponsored artist residencies in the Morris School District, reaching hundreds of students each year. It also awards an annual scholarship to a student artist, whose work is often exhibited in the show. For more information, visit [www.artintheatrium.org](http://www.artintheatrium.org).

The exhibition is made possible in part by funds from Morris Arts through the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Morris Arts, located in Morristown, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to building community through the arts, to inspire and engage.

Morris Arts serves as a resource for the county with a focus on arts programming in the community and in schools, arts advocacy, creative place-making and support of the Morris area community of artists and arts organizations.



# 'The Post,' a First Amendment primer

By **MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER**  
FILM CRITIC

When we look back at this currently shameful nadir in American history, we will have heartening movies like Steven Spielberg's "The Post," about how the titular newspaper fought a disingenuous U.S. Government, to remind us of our successful defense of the First Amendment.

It is a testament to the uses of history. Although the film is an exciting, often heart-pounding chronicle of the Nixon Era Pentagon Papers scandal, we know full well that, just as the Korea-based "MASH" (1970) was about Vietnam, this past triumph is also crucial to the here and now.

Once again we are heroically reminded that the Founding Fathers knew what they were doing. Although each from time to time had some rather harsh things to say about the Fourth Estate, they knew its indispensable role in a free society.

Indeed, while even back then there were propagandist arms of the government pretending to be objectively independent purveyors of the news, "The Post" intrepidly details how, despite claims of "fake news," honest journalism has historically prevailed to preserve democracy.

Displayed in Mr. Spielberg's fine muckrake against those who ceremoniously wrap themselves in the flag, rationalizing that it symbolizes the right to pursue their own interests, no matter how self-

## >> MOVIE REVIEW

"The Post," rated PG-13, is a Twentieth Century Fox release directed by Steven Spielberg and stars Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks and Matthew Rhys. Running time: 116 minutes 3 & 1/2 stars

★★★★☆

ish, is the grand disconnect between patriot and the opportunist who parades as one. Yep, it's a bit sanctimonious, the little emotional reward the smug altruist gets for not behaving like the winner of a contest who gets to keep everything he can put in his shopping cart in an hour... only in politics it's for the length of his term in office.

In the instance recounted here, the malady of deceit in government to protect interests both real and imagined, is shown to have accumulated in its fraud from Truman to Eisenhower to Kennedy, and then to Nixon. It was about Southeast Asia, and whether or not Communism can be stopped...y'know, the whole domino theory, since disproven, but nonetheless a treachery by which thousands of lives were lost. Nutty huh, that Commie scare stuff? But how much of our failure to install a humanitarian health plan has its rotten roots in falsehoods just as

shameless?

Representing all that is noble and good, Meryl Streep is Katharine Graham, publisher of The Washington Post, which was not nearly the journalistic powerhouse it is now, and Tom Hanks is Ben Bradlee, her firebrand editor. Facetiously, it is practically a tossup as to which is the greater accomplishment: that which Graham and Bradlee did to save our republic, or Streep and Hanks' portrayal of them. We are soon convinced that both are indeed the personages they play. The go get 'em dynamic they champion throws us into the crusade.

You feel good. You believe, like Victor Laszlo says to Rick in "Casablanca" (1942), "This time I know our side will win." Yet even though we know what happens, Spielberg, master of the medium, manages to maintain the suspense at every turn, educating us in the bargain. It's pretty complex, with lots of details to chew on, but screenwriters Liz Hannah and Josh Singer are able to winningly break it down to its parts without distracting us from the good fight that it was, and in the bargain informing how it paved the way for other crucial disclosures to come.

There are ubiquitous typewriters and middle class folks smoking. It is interesting to note as the adventure in truth, justice and the American way unravels, that a short time before the equally scandalous revelations of Watergate, there is still

basic innocence across the land. That the government would conceal information about a dead-end war just to "save face" would ultimately prove shocking to great portions of the population, especially tragic for those who lost loved ones to the smokescreen.

But the crazy thing is that while politics hasn't changed in methodology since the days of Caesar, it's amazing how old ploys, barely dusted off, prove effective in deluding just enough people to lever power over the masses. Philosopher George Santayana said: "Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Well, someone's not reading. We now have a base constituency that finds it totally unfathomable, despite daily proof, that the administration they elected is dedicated to the interests of their socioeconomic antithesis. What a way to save face.

I thought of a particular movie line while cheering the ennoblement of the species that Mrs. Graham and Mr. Bradlee personify in their glorious hour. It exerts a voltage that runs through your every scintilla when you know something is right and just. It comes in "All the President's Men" (1976) when Jason Robards' Ben Bradlee, after questioning Messrs. Woodward and Bernstein as to the veracity of their story, looks both men in the face and decisively instructs, "Print that baby!" Similarly, watching "The Post" you're certain you can hear freedom ring.

## Morris Choral Society in running for award

Morristown's Morris Choral Society has been nominated as the Favorite Choral Group in the 2018 JerseyArts.com People's Choice Awards.

Now in its 10th year, the annual awards program run by Discover Jersey Arts pays tribute to the work of New Jersey's diverse arts organizations. Arts lovers across the state are encouraged to vote for their favorite local arts organizations.

"Morris Choral Society is incredibly grateful for this nomination as Favorite Choral Group," said Bud Leppard, president of the Morris Choral Society. "We're honored to be recognized and to be a part of such a strong arts community in New Jersey. We encourage our supporters to vote for us and the other local nominees in this year's Awards."

Morris Choral Society and the other contenders in the 2018 People's Choice

**'Fans of the N.J. arts scene  
are passionate and loyal,  
and for good reason.'**

**NICK PALEOLOGOS**

Executive director of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts

Awards were nominated by their peers through the Jersey Arts Marketers network, which is made up of hundreds of arts groups across the state. In total, 116 organizations will compete in 18 categories, including favorite performing arts center, art gallery, dance company, and more. Morristown has several arts organizations on the 2018 nominee list including the Bickford Theatre, the Morris Mu-

seum, MPAC, Morris Arts, and the town of Morristown for Downtown Arts District.

"Fans of the N.J. arts scene are passionate and loyal, and for good reason," said Nick Paleologos, executive director of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. "This program has grown beyond our expectations, and that's a direct result of the distinctive, thriving arts industry in this

state offering high quality experiences all year round."

Public voting for the People's Choice Awards began Jan. 8 and runs through Feb. 20, at [www.JerseyArts.com/Vote](http://www.JerseyArts.com/Vote). Last year, almost 18,000 ballots were cast, and even more are expected during this milestone 10th anniversary year.

"Our state is rich with cultural and artistic opportunities," said Adam Perle, president and chief executive officer of ArtPride New Jersey, which co-sponsors the Discover Jersey Arts program with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. "The People's Choice Awards provides an opportunity to showcase the abundance of creativity across N.J., celebrating both winners and nominees with spirit and passion."

For a full list of nominees and to cast your vote, visit [www.JerseyArts.com/Vote](http://www.JerseyArts.com/Vote).

# 'Seminar' to open at Chester Theatre Group

## First show of 2018 a biting comedy to open Friday, Feb. 16

The Chester Theatre Group presents "Seminar" starting at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16 and extending for eight shows through Sunday, March 4. Performances are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20 with a discounted price of \$18 for seniors over 65 and students under 18.

"Seminar" is a provocative comedy from Pulitzer Prize nominee Theresa Rebeck, directed by Lauri MacMillan. Four aspiring young novelists sign up for private writing classes with an international literary figure. A well-to-do upper west sider has arranged the

seminar for herself and three friends. The seminar soon pits the classmates against each other. Some flourish under the teacher's tough love, while others flounder with self-doubt.

Wordplay is not the only thing that turns vicious as innocence collides with experience in this biting Broadway comedy.

The production contains mature content and language, and may not be suitable for children under 16.

Theresa Rebeck is an American playwright and novelist. Her work has appeared on the Broadway and Off-Broad-

way stage, in film, and on television. Among her awards are the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Award and the Athena Film Festival Award for Excellence as a Playwright and Author of Films, Books, and Television.

### Premiered On Broadway In 2011

"Seminar" premiered on Broadway in 2011 and starred Alan Rickman who originated the role of the lead character, Leonard. The production was nominated for Best Play by the Outer Critics Circle and the Drama League.

The Chester Theatre Group performs

in the Black River Playhouse, an intimate, 100-seat theater in the heart of Chester Borough's historic district. The 2017-2018 season marks the 50th anniversary of the Chester Theatre Group calling the Black River Playhouse home.

The venue's in-the-round format ensures that every seat offers an engaging, memorable experience for each audience member.

The theater is located on the corner of Grove Street and Maple Avenue.

For tickets and more information, visit the CTG website at <http://www.chestertheatregroup.org>.

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## • MUSIC CALENDAR •

### A CAPELLA

**Gobsmacked!**, an a capella performance will be presented at 7 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 18, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St. in Morristown. The show features seven singers and beatboxers to create pure, unadulterated musical magic. Featuring world champion beatboxer Ball-Zee and a cast of world-class vocalists, Gobsmacked! weaves stories through all forms of a cappella. It is funny, joyful and uplifts the spirits of all ages! Tickets cost \$39 to \$59 and can be purchased by calling (973) 539-8008 or online at [www.mayoarts.org](http://www.mayoarts.org).

### BLUEGRASS

**Mark O'Connor featuring the O'Connor Band** will perform at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 17 at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St. in Morristown. The Grammy Award-winning O'Connor Band, featuring Mark O'Connor, puts on a dynamic concert showcasing compelling arrangements, solos and vocal harmonies. Their debut album, *Coming Home* won the 2017 Grammy for Best Bluegrass Album. Tickets cost \$29 to \$59 and can be purchased by calling (973) 539-8008 or online at [www.mayoarts.org](http://www.mayoarts.org).

### CLASSICAL

**Dvorak's New World Symphony** will be performed by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra at 3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28 at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St. in Morristown. Come hear the piece that embodies and inspired the Winter Festival: Dvořák's Ninth. Chloë Hanslip will shine in Austrian emigré Korngold's resplendent violin concerto. Tickets cost \$20 to \$90 and can be purchased by calling (973) 539-8008 or online at [www.mayoarts.org](http://www.mayoarts.org).

### CHORAL

The African Children's Choir will perform at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 30, at the New Hope Community Church in Denville, performing lively traditional African songs and dances. The concert is free and open to all, although a donation is suggested. The funds will support African Children's Choir programs including education, relief and development programs.

### DRUMMING

**Recycled Percussion** will perform at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St. in Morristown. Finalists on "America's Got Talent," Recycled Percussion rocks the house with talent and creativity in a dynamic high-energy audience interactive

experience filled with comedy, music, amazing staging and of course – brilliant drumming, organizers said. Tickets cost \$29 to \$59 and can be purchased by calling (973) 539-8008 or online at [www.mayoarts.org](http://www.mayoarts.org).

### JAZZ

**The Birdland All-Stars featuring Tommy Igoe** will stage "The Art of Jazz" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St. in Morristown. Led by drummer Tommy Igoe, The Birdland All-Stars have been thrilling audiences for over a decade. The group creates new arrangements of contemporary artists such as The Police and Steely Dan, and fresh treatments of iconic compositions by Charlie Parker, Chick Corea and Herbie Hancock. As the band performs, visual artist Jeremy Sutton will create works inspired by the music on stage. Tickets cost \$29 to \$59.

### OLDIES

**Tommy James and The Shondells** will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St. in

Morristown. 2017 New Jersey Hall of Fame inductee Tommy James ("Mony Mony," "I Think We're Alone Now," "Crimson and Clover") celebrates 50 years of hit making as he performs the songs that have made him an enduring music legend since the 1960s. Tickets cost \$39 to \$69.

### ORCHESTRAL

**The Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra (HSO)** will present Bedrich Smetana's *Sarka*, from "Ma Vlast," Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No 2, C minor, Op. 18, featuring piano soloist, Nareh Arghemanyan and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 5, E minor, Op. 64 at 7:30, Thursday, Feb. 15 at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St. in Morristown. Tickets cost \$29 to \$59 and can be purchased by calling (973) 539-8008 or online at [www.mayoarts.org](http://www.mayoarts.org).

### PERCUSSION

**TAO: Drum Heart**, the latest production from TAO, internationally-acclaimed percussion artists, will be presented at 7 p.m., on

Wednesday, Feb. 14, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St. in Morristown. Combining highly physical, large-scale drumming with contemporary costumes, precise choreography, and innovative visuals, the performers of TAO: Drum Heart create an energetic and unforgettable production. Tickets cost \$29 to \$59 and can be purchased by calling (973) 539-8008 or online at [www.mayoarts.org](http://www.mayoarts.org).

### PIANO

**Piano Battle** will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 1, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St. in Morristown. Two piano champions will take the stage; one dressed in black, the other in white. They perform; the audience decides who plays it best. Piano Battle pits internationally accomplished pianists Andreas Kern and Paul Cibis head-to-head, taking turns performing pieces by music's greatest composers as well as improvising music based on audience requests. Tickets cost \$29 to \$59 and can be purchased by calling (973) 539-8008 or online at [www.mayoarts.org](http://www.mayoarts.org).

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**ART**

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– NY Post

*by Yasmina Reza*  
*Translated by Christopher Hampton*

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*"You've got to hear this band!"*  
– Terry Gross, Fresh Air NPR

## • ART CALENDAR •

### Paintings by artist David John

**Rush** will be on view through Wednesday, Jan. 31 at the Morris County Library, 30 East Hanover Ave. in the Whippany section of Hanover Township. Rush's contemporary style, called Chromatic Structuralism, combines the elements of color theory and geometry. The library is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call (973) 285-6930 or go to [www.mclib.info](http://www.mclib.info).

**Lift Every Voice**, New Jersey's largest exhibition of African-American art, curated and assembled by Art in the Atrium will open with a free reception from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26 at the Atrium Gallery (floors 2 through 5 of the Morris County Administration and Records Building, 10 Court Street, Morristown). The reception includes music and an opportunity to meet the artists. Running through March 21, the exhibit highlights the work of Charleston, S.C. artist Leroy Campbell, as well as works by Plainfield artist Alonzo Adams, and

27 other recognized African-American artists.

**"Perceptions,"** an exhibit of oil paintings by new artist Peter Fiore, will be on view at Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery, 5 Morristown Road in Bernardsville through Saturday, Jan. 27. Fiore is an American landscape painter who is best known for painting light with his striking use of color and his exploration of the implied narrative. The gallery is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays to Saturdays. For information, contact Kathleen Palmer, director, at (908) 963-0365. Sign up for show announcements at [www.studio-7artgallery.com](http://www.studio-7artgallery.com).

**Altered Sisterhood** will present a mixed-media exhibit, opening from 4 to 7 p.m., on Feb. 10 and will run through the month, at 5 East Art Gallery, 5 E. Washington Ave., in Washington Borough (Warren County). The featured artists are female artists from Clinton, a group that meets at Heart Strings, owned by Carol Beder. Meet the artists during the Artwalk on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Fast and Slow**, the duCret School of Art student exhibition, will open from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10 at M Galleries, 67 E. Washington Ave. in Washington Borough (Warren County). The exhibition will feature the paintings of selected students. Each student will feature one large scale painting created during one class session (the title's "fast"), and one small scale which was worked on throughout the semester (the "slow"). Works will be on display through the month of February.

**"icandy"** is on view now through Thursday, Feb 15, at Gallery at 14 Maple, located at 14 Maple Ave. in Morristown. The exhibit features 28 works created between 2009 and 2017 by Morristown artist Dan Fenelon, including paintings, mixed media, prints on wood and sculpture. Fenelon's dramatic imagery references ancient tribal petroglyphs and reflects his study of and interest in mythology, art history and early civilizations, organizers said. Visit [www.morrisarts.org](http://www.morrisarts.org) or call (973) 285-5115 for additional information, including the exhibit catalogue which contains details and sale prices for all works. The Gallery at 14 Maple is a barrier-free facility. Individuals needing special accommodation should contact Kadie Dempsey at (973) 285-5115, ext. 17 or [kdempsey@morrisarts.org](mailto:kdempsey@morrisarts.org).

## • COMING UP ON CAMPUS •

### **CENTENARY UNIVERSITY**

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

- January Thaw Music Festival: Matuto shares their Brazilian Bluegrass music at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27. Advance tickets cost \$22.50 for adults and \$17.50 for children under age 12.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.centenarystageco.org](http://www.centenarystageco.org) or call the Centenary Stage Company Box office at (908)979-0900. The box office is open 1 to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and two hours prior to every performance and is located in the Lackland Performing Arts Center on the campus of Centenary University.

### **COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS**

214 Center Grove Road, Randolph Township

- 12th annual Storytelling Festival of World Music and Story will begin at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 11, 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.

Planetarium shows include:

- "Our Perilous Universe" will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9. Space is filled with the greatest of dangers: from massive solar flares to black holes, the perils are mighty. This show will explore some of the greatest hazards the universe has to offer. This program is intended for ages 8 and up.

- "Shapes in the Sky" will be presented at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10. Our storytelling series features fun myths and legends from around the world and throughout history. The whole family will enjoy the engaging tales told in the program. This program is intended for ages 4 and up.

Admission costs \$10 to planetarium shows. Advance reservations are strongly recommended and can be made by calling (973) 328-5076

### **DREW UNIVERSITY**

36 Madison Ave, Madison NJ 07940

- In the Game; David Stern with Ira Berkow, part of the Drew Forum series, will take place at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at

the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts The Concert Hall, Lancaster Road, Madison. NBA Commissioner Emeritus David Stern sits down with Pulitzer Prize-winning sports journalist Ira Berkow. During his 30 years as NBA commissioner, Stern built the model for professional sports in league operations, public service, global marketing, television distribution and digital technology. He oversaw the NBA's extraordinary growth with seven new franchises, a more than 30-fold increase in revenues, a dramatic expansion of national television exposure and the launch of two leagues, the Women's National Basketball Association and the NBA Development League. He negotiated the first anti-drug agreement in professional sports and introduced the salary cap system and revenue sharing to the NBA. He also headed up the launch of the league's online assets and mobile applications, which reach hundreds of millions of fans every day. An intense commitment to social responsibility both in the United States and around the world marked Stern's tenure as commissioner. General Seating: \$32 plus a \$6 handling fee per order. Purchase Tickets Online at <https://tickets.shakespearenj.org/>

### **RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

118 Lamington Road, Branchburg.

- Yamato – The Drummers of Japan will present "Chousensha – The Challengers" at 7 p.m. Fri., Jan. 26. This wildly entertaining group of energetic young Taiko drummers presents a high-energy spectacle of athleticism, superhuman coordination, and heart-pounding intensity, organizers said. With drums that weigh up to half a ton, the Yamato drummers display staggering physical strength. Continually challenging themselves to reach greater heights, this spirited performance celebrates the strength, hope, dreams and courage in all of us. Feel the uninterrupted vibration of the beat throughout our bodies. Tickets cost \$25 and \$35.

To purchase tickets, call the box office at (908) 725-3420, or order online at [www.rvccArts.org](http://www.rvccArts.org). Subscribers' packages are available for most Theatre series. Senior citizen, student and group discounts are also available for most performances.

Planetarium shows include the following:

Tickets cost \$8 for one show or \$14 for two shows on the same day. Reservations are strongly suggested for all Planetarium shows. For additional information, call (908) 231-8805 or visit [www.raritanval.edu/planetarium](http://www.raritanval.edu/planetarium).

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★**

★ Moderate    ★★ Challenging

★★★ HOO BOY!

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## · KIDS CALENDAR ·

### **HANDS-ON**

**A Winter's Day on the Farm** will be presented at Fosterfields Living Historic Farm off Kahdena Road in Morris Township, from noon to 4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 4. Offering visitors the chance to experience an outdoor family adventure, visitors can experience traditional farm life as it was in the early 20th century, enjoy an open-air, tractor pulled wagon ride, meet the friendly farm animals, learn the importance of ice harvesting and what tools were used, and help with daily farm chores. Warm up in the cozy Farmhouse where seasonal foods are cooking on the wood-burning cook stove. The cost is \$8 per adult, \$7 per senior (65 and older), \$6 per child age 4 through 16, and \$4 per child age 2 and 3. Free admission for children younger than age 2. Friends members are half price with a current membership card. For more information call (973) 326-7645.

**Matilda's Tea: Tally Ho!**, an annual event at Frelinghuysen Arboretum, will take place from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Feb. 10, will teach young people, ages 6-years and older (with an adult), about horses and the carriages that are on display. Enjoy a delicious brunch and an illustrated talk, and make a fun hobby horse to ride. Take a horse and carriage ride around the property, weather permitting. The cost is \$35 per person. Preregistration is required. To register, call (973) 326-7601.

### **NATURE FUN**

**Outdoor Skills: Experiencing the Dark Woods** will allow young people, ages 10 through 15, to satisfy their appetites for adventure while learning wilderness and survival skills, and discover how to increase comfort levels in case they find themselves at night without a flashlight. This event will run from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26 at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Cha-

tham Township. The cost is \$10 per child, per class. Registration is required. To register, call (973) 635-6629.

**Junior Naturalists**, ages 6 to 9, can come to the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 13 through March 20 to learn how to study the plants, animals, and land that make up the Great Swamp. Cost is \$55 per person. Preregistration is required. To register, call (973)635-6629.

### **THEATER**

**Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat** comes to life in this theatrical adaptation of the Dr. Seuss classic, at 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 5, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St. in Morristown. Tickets are \$12 to 15, and the program is recommended for children aged 4 to 10. For more information, visit the Mayo PAC website at [www.mayoarts.org](http://www.mayoarts.org)

**Enormous dinosaur puppets** will take to the stage in a musical trip through pre-history at 1:30 p.m. and again at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St. in Morristown. Tickets are \$12 to 15, and the program is recommended for children ages 4 to 10. For more information, visit the Mayo PAC website at [www.mayoarts.org](http://www.mayoarts.org)

**Go, Dog. Go!, a favorite children's book** by P.D. Eastman will be brought to life courtesy of Childsplay theater company, at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St. in Morristown. Tickets are \$12 to \$15, and the program is recommended for children ages 4 to 10. For more information, visit the Mayo PAC website at [www.mayoarts.org](http://www.mayoarts.org).

**"Boy Sees Flying Saucer"** (World premiere), will be presented by The Growing Stage, 7 Ledgewood Ave., Netcong, with showtimes at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, March 9 through 25.

## · POTPOURRI ·

### **FLAVORS**

**Maple sugaring demonstrations** will take place on several upcoming weekends from 1 to 2 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays: Jan. 27, 28; Feb. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham. Guests of all ages can come experience the fascinating process of maple sugaring from start to finish. Identify and tap maple trees, collect sap, and make syrup over a wood-fired evaporator. Taste-test different, delicious syrups, including syrup made at the Great Swamp OEC. This event will be held rain or shine. Cost is \$3 per person, age 3 and older. For information, call (973) 635-6629. No registration is required, but seating is on a first come, first served basis.

### **FUN AND GAMES**

### **GARDENING**

**The New Shade Garden: Creating a Lush Oasis in the Age of Climate Change** Blackburn Scholarship Lecture will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3; snow date, Sunday, Feb. 4, at Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 Hanover Ave, Morris Township. Join speaker Ken Druse to learn new ways to look at all aspects of the gardening process including designing your garden, choosing and planting trees, soil conservation, critter issues, and more. Proceeds benefit the Blackburn Scholarship, currently offered to students of the Landscape Tech. Register by Sunday, Jan. 28. Cost is \$30 for members of the Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum and \$35 for non-members. Registration is required. To register, visit [arboretumfriends.org](http://arboretumfriends.org).

### **OUTDOORS**

**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 [shmp-cemetery.com](http://shmp-cemetery.com) for more information.

**Snowshoe Sundays**, 1 p.m. if renting shoes, 1:30 p.m. if using your own, Sundays, through March 11, at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, 472 Boonton Avenue, Montville Township, will give visitors ages 10 years and older the opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of guided snowshoeing and trekking through the winter landscape. Look for signs of wildlife, and view beautiful scenery – all while getting a great workout. No experience is necessary. For experienced snowshoers, or those wishing to venture out independently, there are various sizes of snowshoes, including children's, available for one-day rental and use at Pyramid Mountain NHA. Visitors must be 18 years or older to rent shoes. Shoes can be rented between 9 and 11 a.m., and must be returned between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. the same day. Cost is \$5 per person for trek, \$15 for trek and snowshoe rental. Registration is required. To register and for conditions, call (973) 334-3130

**NJ Audubon: Merrill Creek and Alpha Grasslands Field Trip** will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon Sunday, Jan. 28, at Merrill Creek in Warren County. Led by Terry Carruthers, an Audubon associate naturalist, participants should see snow geese and wintering raptors and ducks. Alpha Grasslands is home to Horned Larks and the elusive Lapland Longspurs. Participants should meet at the Merrill Creek car parking lot, 34 Merrill Creek Road in Washington. Use GPS directions for Harmony, N.J. The hike costs \$15 for Audubon members or \$20 for non-members. Register by Friday, Jan. 26, by calling (908) 396-6386.

### **SINGLES**

**Outdoor Single Friends**, a social club for single, active men and women ages 50 and older, meets monthly, holds summer picnics at local parks, and hosts a variety of day trips and longer getaways to cultural events, tourist attractions, charity events and outdoor explorations. For more information, call Patty at (973) 770-3915.

### **>> 'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK**

**We hope you'll join the conversation** at our Facebook page and "like" us. Go to [newjerseyhills.com](http://newjerseyhills.com). We want to hear from you!



Photo by Abigail Thomas

Terri Andrechick, left, of Piscataway, watches as Reagan of Flemington and Speech-Language Pathologist Melanie Dominko-Richards of Clinton work on Equine Assisted Speech Therapy at Mane Stream in Oldwick.

## Mane Stream seeks items for tack sale

### Sale to benefit equine therapy non-profit

Mane Stream adaptive horsemanship and equine assisted therapies is seeking donations of new and gently used tack or horse related items for its Spring Tack Sale to be held from 8 a.m. to 4p.m. on April 7, at the stable at 83 Old Turnpike Road, Oldwick.

Horse owners and riders can drop off unwanted bridles, saddles, blankets, tack boxes as well as out-grown boots, breeches, jackets, and any horse related jewelry, models or assorted knick-knacks. All items donated will support the Mane Stream mission to improve the quality of life for individuals with physical, developmental, emotional and medical challenges

through a diverse program of equine assisted activities, therapy and educational initiatives.

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.

Mane Stream is a 501c3 non-profit registered charitable organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with physical, developmental, emotional and medical challenges

through a diverse program of equine assisted activities, equine assisted therapy and educational initiatives. Mane Stream is designated as a Premier Accredited Center of PATH – Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International, who provides education, accreditation and resources for the equine assisted activities industry.

All donations can be dropped off at the stable at 83 Old Turnpike Road, Oldwick office location during office hours.

To make a donation or for questions, contact Holland Kochanski at [holland@manestreamnj.org](mailto:holland@manestreamnj.org), 908-439-9636 or visit our website at [www.ManeStreamNJ.org](http://www.ManeStreamNJ.org)

## Art Walk welcomes visitors

Washington Borough's Second Saturdays Art Walk will be held at 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 on Main St. in Washington Borough, Warren County. Professional exhibitions will be on display at 5 East Art Gallery and M Galleries, and artists will be available to talk to guests.

The exhibit at 5 East Art Gallery features the women artists of Altered Sisterhood of Clinton. The members of Altered Sisterhood, Carol Beder, Roberta Rose, Nancy Albin, Karin Gruss, Jennifer Smith and Donna Lish have been together for 8 years creating altered books and mixed media works.

M Galleries will feature the duCret School of Art Student Exhibition, entitled "Fast and Slow" which will feature the works of selected students comprised of new paintings that were created during the last semester. Each student will feature one large scale painting created during one class session (the fast) and one small scale which was worked on throughout the semester (the slow). The purpose of this work is for students to investigate both spontaneity and intention.

For more information, call Kathy at (908) 689-6878.

## Hosta Society hosts meeting

Tri-State Hosta Society will meet at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27 at Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Ave., Morris Township. The theme will be "Learn & Lunch," with in-house speakers talking about Hosta gardening and a buffet lunch with a food competition, for best main dish, side or dessert. New members are encouraged to attend.

Members, even those signing up that day, may enter their favorite/best main dish, side dish or dessert in a competition. Past entries have included salads, chili and pasta dishes as main entrees. The contest is open to anyone to win one of three prizes. For more information and weather cancellation updates, call 973-334-2116.

## · THEATER CALENDAR ·

### ONE-MAN SHOWS

**Turning**, a presentation and town hall meeting, will tell the tale of former Hackettstown resident Ada Lunardoni, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Lackland Performing Arts Center of Centenary University, 715 Grand Ave., Hackettstown, NJ 07840. Lunardoni had an illustrious claim to fame that was little known to her neighbors; she was a member of the first US Women's Gymnastics Team that had its genesis in the backyards and Turners Gyms of Newark, then going on to cross the Atlantic Ocean with Jesse Owens to compete in the controversial 1936 Berlin Olympics. Lunardoni and the team are now the subject of a play commissioned by Centenary Stage Company, in collaboration with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance in a project entitled the NJ Stage Exchange. Admission to the event is free, but reservations are requested. To reserve call the box office directly at (908) 979-0900.

### OPERA

**Gaetano Donizetti's "The Daughter of the Regiment"** will be presented by Light Opera of New Jersey, at 8 p.m., March 23 and 24, Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, 140 South Finley Ave., Basking Ridge, directed by Jamie Baer Peterson and Lauran Corson. Tickets at <http://www.lonj.org/tickets/> or by calling 908-655-6023.

### PLAYS

**Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery** will be performed at 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 9 at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. Laughter and intrigue are "elementary my dear Watson" in Ken Ludwig's (Lend Me a Tenor) acclaimed adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 1902 classic mystery, The Hound of the Baskervilles. The male heirs of the Baskerville line are being murdered and renowned sleuth Sherlock Holmes, along with his trusted sidekick Dr. Watson, must work feverishly to crack the curse before it dooms the newest heir. Join the investigation as these intrepid detectives follow leads, unravel clues, and zigzag with the story until the shockingly funny conclusion. All is not what it seems. Will you know whodunit? Tickets cost \$29 to \$59 and can be purchased at [mayoarts.org](http://mayoarts.org).

**"American Hero"** runs through Sunday, Feb. 25, 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](http://www.GSPonline.org).

**"Seminar"** will be staged from Friday, Feb. 16, through Sunday, March 25, 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. In Seminar, a provocative comedy from Pulitzer Prize nominee Theresa Rebeck, four aspiring young novelists sign up for private writing classes with Leonard, an international literary figure. The story begins with Kate, a well-to-do upper west sider with a fancy apartment and three friends. Leonard's unorthodox teaching style soon pits the classmates against each other: some of them flourish under his version of tough love, while others flounder with self-doubt. The wordplay is not the only thing that turns vicious as innocence collides with experience in this biting Broadway comedy. Tickets cost \$20 or \$18 for seniors and students. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.chestertheatregroup.org](http://www.chestertheatregroup.org).

### SPOKEN WORD

**Cesar Milan Live** will feature the renowned dog trainer at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. Cesar Milan, the renowned author and star of Nat Geo Wild's Leader of the Pack and the original host of Dog Whisperer, reveals the secrets of happier, healthier relationships between humans and their canine companions. Joined by his right-hand dog, Junior, Cesar shares his philosophies and methods and presents live demonstrations. Tickets cost \$49 to \$79 and can be purchased at [mayoarts.org](http://mayoarts.org).

#### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## 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 Anne Abrams (Editor) at [happeningseditor@newjerseyhills.com](mailto:happeningseditor@newjerseyhills.com). Any questions, call Liz Parker (Exec. Editor) or Anne at (908) 766-3900.

Thanks and we look forward to hearing from you.

# YOUR TABLE IS READY

## Cozy at The Stirling Hotel

By Deb McCoy

The Stirling Hotel's atmosphere is reminiscent of an old favorite sitcom, Cheers, but with amazing food! Even if everyone doesn't know everyone's name, you will feel welcome and well-fed.

The next few months are jam-packed with events along with the customary culinary treats. Starting with Monday, February 5th, get yourself to the Hotel to rock with Grateful Dead music. "This Old Engine" performs at 6 pm.

February's first brew night is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7th at 5 pm. Sierra Nevada Brewery Night will feature 4 beers on tap.

Low-key and cozy, the Stirling Hotel is a perfect spot to celebrate Valentine's Day. Check the website for further information.

Always inspiring and impressive, February's Community Supper will take place on Wednesday, February 21st. Proceeds will benefit Family Promise of Morris County, a non-sectarian, not-for-profit organization committed to ending the crisis of the homeless in Morris County.

Finally, in February, New Jersey Breweries will be highlighted with a Local Craft Beer Dinner on February 27th.

Music Mondays brings "This Old Engine" back on March 5th. Enjoy Grateful Dead Music at 6 pm.

St. Patrick's Day is Saturday, March 17th and will definitely have some attention at the Stirling Hotel. Check the website for more details soon.

March's Community Supper honors "Man's Best Friend." On Wednesday, March 21st, the restaurant will hold the Community Supper with some of the evening's proceeds being donated to the organization, Home for Good Dog Rescue.

The owners of the Stirling Hotel are always working on something, whether a brewery event, music or a Community Supper. Stay tuned to the website for new details.

Cuisine is creative and comforting at the same time. Recent specials included an Alabama Getaway Burger with a tangy sauce, Applewood smoked bacon, pimento cheese and baby arugula and the Chinatown Shuffle, a pork belly stir fry with rice, escarole and peas in a teriyaki sauce, topped with a sunny-side-up egg.

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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