

Out & About

Recorder Community Newspapers

GUIDE TO THE ARTS AND LEISURE • THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

Sample a spooktacular smorgasbord of ghoulish diversions all around the area

Looking for some thrills and chills this Halloween? Or maybe just some slightly spooky fun? The area is hosting a frightening number of Halloween activities in the coming days that will appeal to ghouls, ghosts, and goblins of all ages.

Here's a just a sampling of the tricks and treats that are coming up:

Thursday, Oct. 26

"The Bizarre Case of Lizzie Borden: A Portrayal by Kate Butler" at 7 p.m. at the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St., Chatham. Butler, a historical re-enactor from Merchantville, will present the case of Lizzie Borden, who was accused and acquitted of the axe murder of her father and stepmother. Registration requested. Sign up online or call (973) 635-0603.

Bernardsville will host Trick or Treat hosted by downtown Bernardsville Olcott Square businesses from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28. There will be free pumpkin decorating, while supplies last, in the Palmer parking lot behind Laura Clare's.

A Haunted History Tour hosted by Trilogy Repertory will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on the Ross Farm at 135 North Maple Ave., Basking Ridge. The tours last about 50 minutes and provide a scary, fun-filled Halloween family friendly event that will introduce participants to many local legends from this area. The tour will also run from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27-28. Participants will meet spooky creatures and wandering spirits and will learn about the ghost of the Bernardsville Library, the Swamp Devil and the Headless Hessian. The motto for the event is "It's 1776 and we are Revolting!" Members of the Friends of the Ross Southard Budinot Estate will be on hand to provide information on this historic site in town. Be prepared to be informed and alarmed at the same time. Tickets are avail-



Left: The 8th annual Pumpkin Illumination will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29, at the historic Vail Mansion, 110 South Street in Morristown. **Right:** Frelinghuysen Arboretum fields in Morris Township are filled with fall scarecrows.



able at the door or by reservation at (908) 604-4800. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. The event involves some easy walking. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. For additional information, contact Michael DePrima at michaeldeprima@gmail.com.

Friday, Oct. 27

Halloween Bash for sixth-graders from 6 to 8 p.m. in Chatham Middle School's upper gym. There will be a costume contest, DJ, games and prizes, and photo booth. Admission fee of \$10, which includes pizza and water, must be paid before the event.

Saturday, Oct. 28

A Miller's Halloween will be held from 1

to 3 p.m. at the Cooper Gristmill in Chester Township, and enjoy spook-tacular storytelling. Spend the afternoon creating corn husk dolls and playing old-time games. Tour the Gristmill, and look for surprises around every corner. The event is free, donations are welcome and costumes are encouraged. For more information, call (908) 879-5463.

Harvest Festival will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at Mobus Field, 210 Mountain Boulevard in Watchung. Event features music, giant haystack, rides, inflatables, hot chocolate and cider, hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, hot pretzels, sand art, face painting, pumpkin painting, costume contest, teen games and activities, prizes and entertainment. Free and open to all Watchung residents. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 29.

Teeny Tiny Trail Tales, for families with small children ages 2-5, will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd, Chatham Township. Explore the trails during daylight with a guide. Hunt for hidden surprises along the way, and listen to storytellers in the woods. Admission costs \$3 per person. Sign up for a time slot before they fill up. For more information or to register, call (973) 635-6629.

Trail Tales will be offered from 5:30 to 7:45 p.m. at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd, Chatham Township. Enjoy a memorable night of silly, slightly spooky, and nature-themed

SPOOKY: Plenty of tricks and treats planned around the area

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tales told by costumed storytellers along the moonlit trails of the Great Swamp. Between storytellers, discover hand-carved jack-o-lanterns in the forest that light the trails and add to the eerie atmosphere. Sign up for a time slot between 5:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. Admission costs \$6 per person. Early registration is recommended by calling (973) 635-6629.

Many Dreadful Tales will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Vail House at Historic Speedwell in Morristown. Enter the Vail House to hear haunted tales both old and new in a particularly special setting. Enjoy horror stories from the Victorian period shared by a costumed interpreter, along with modern day instances from museums all over the country. Admission costs \$7 per adult, \$6 per senior, \$5 per child ages 4-16, and free for children under age four. To learn more, call (973) 285-6537.

Terror Trail will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Mine Hill Beach, 34 Green Road, Mine Hill Township. Bring your nerve for a night of thrills and chills along a trail in the woods as live actors portray ghosts, goblins, zombies, and other characters out of the Halloween playbook. The event is meant to scare, so leave the faint of heart and youngsters at home. Cost is \$5 per person per hike and be warned: You may want to go through more than once. Proceeds benefit the Mine Hill Food Pantry. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 29.

The annual family-friendly Halloween Concert presented by



Two of the Revolutionary zombies residents are likely to meet at Trilogy Repertory's Haunted History Tour in Basking Ridge Oct. 26-28 are portrayed by Ted McMaster, left, and Michael DePrima, both of Basking Ridge.

Harmonium Choral Society and Grace Community Music bi-annually will take place at 7 p.m. at Grace Church, 4 Madison Ave. at Kings Rd. in Madison. Admission is by freewill donation at the door. Please also bring a non-perishable food donation if you can. The concert is appropriate for all ages, from 3 year olds to adults. A reception will follow. For information call (973) 377-0106, ext. 17.

Sunday, Oct. 29

Long Hill Township F.O.R.C.E. Tiger Tracks 5K Run/Walk, 8:30 a.m., Central Middle School, 90 Central Avenue, Stirling. There is a Halloween theme, and prizes

will be awarded for costumes, as well as for top finishers. A Halloween Pet Parade will follow at 9:30 with more prizes. To register, visit www.forcelonghill.org.

Historic Halloween Happenings will begin at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29, at Fosterfields Living Historic Farm off Kahdena Road in Morris Township. Play festive Halloween games, decorate cookies, and try on old-fashioned costumes at Fosterfields. Take a guided walk, and find all of the jack-o-lanterns hiding in the nearby woods. Top off the afternoon with an open-air wagon ride back to the visitors center. Admission costs \$6 per adult, \$5 per senior, \$4 per child ages 4-16, \$2

per child age 2-3, and free for those under age two. For more information, call (973) 326-7645.

Scaredy Plants will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29, at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morris Township. Voodoo lily? Bat flower? Some plants are simply wicked! Celebrate Halloween at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum with scary, smelly, and spiny plants from around the world. Explore a display of flesh-eating plants, and plant one to take home. Step into the Food Laboratory to decorate a Halloween treat, enjoy a creepy plant scavenger hunt, and create a spooky craft of your own. Admission costs \$15 per family. Registration is required, and can be made by calling (973) 326-7601.

The 8th annual Pumpkin Illumination will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29, at the historic Vail Mansion, 110 South Street in Morristown. Attendees are invited to bring a carved pumpkin to light at dusk for an evening of family fun including live jazz, an art workshop, luminary parade, pumpkin illumination and more. The Lintent, a New Jersey/New York based jazz ensemble led by Taiwanese-American trombonist, Peter Lin, will perform popular jazz standards, soul classics, originals, and even special renditions of Taiwanese folk songs. From 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. artist Dan Fenelon will host a Halloween workshop followed by a luminary parade led by Morristown Mayor Tim Dougherty. The pumpkin illumination will begin at 6:15 p.m.

The Florham Park Jaycees an-

nual Halloween parade will begin at 1 p.m. on the front lawn of Ridgedale Middle School at 71 Ridgedale Ave. Children from newborn to age 12 are welcome, along with their families. Members will have a "best costume" award for a variety of age groups and a bag of treats for each child. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be moved to the middle school's gym.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Halloween parade will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Library of the Chatham, 214 Main St., Chatham. Children of all ages should meet in the Children's Room, then parade around the library grounds. No registration is required.

The 2017 Flemington Halloween Parade, hosted by the Flemington Police Department and the Flemington-Raritan Parks and Recreation, will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 31, along Main Street, which will be closed between Mine and Capner streets. There will be a Halloween costume contest for age groups up to 3 years old, 4-6, 7-9, 10-13, or groups of three or more people. Judging will take place in front of the Police Department Building at 100 Main St. Prize categories are funniest, scariest and most original, and trophies will be awarded. There will also be a dog costume contest, sponsored and judged by Barkley's Gourmet Marketplace. Each participant will receive a goodie bag and a disc jockey will provide music.

Centenary Stage takes a haunting look at murder of Tillie Smith

Just in time for Halloween, Centenary Stage Company (CSC) will take a chilling journey back to the final days of Tillie Smith.

More than 100 years ago, the murder of Tillie Smith, a kitchen worker at Centenary Collegiate Institute (now Centenary University), rocketed the town of Hackettstown to national prominence. With wildly fluctuating reports driven by what some claim to be yellow journalism, the reputation of Tillie and her accused murder-

er, James Titus, swung from young innocent to harlot and upstanding citizen to lascivious predator.

To this day, many say her ghost still haunts the campus of Centenary University, with reported sightings in dorm hallways and stories of phantom organ music playing. While James Titus was convicted of her rape and murder, the truth is still unknown as to what actually happened that fateful night.

The public is invited to join

Centenary Stage Company at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, for a guided walk, complete with historical narration, following the path of Tillie Smith moments before her tragic death, as well as a glimpse of old Victorian America and life in 19th century Hackettstown.

Then at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1, CSC will present a staged reading of PEW Fellow Jeanne Murray Walker's play, "The Tillie Project." Commissioned by Centenary Stage Company in 2002 "The Til-

lie Project" is the result of 18 months of research.

Directly following the reading of "The Tillie Project," Centenary Stage Company will host a talk-back with special guest author, Maryann McFadden. A north-west New Jersey resident and Tillie expert herself, McFadden just completed her fourth novel, "The Cemetery Keeper's Wife," a historical novel about Smith's murder.

The Tillie Smith Historical Walk on Saturday, Oct. 28 is free.

There is a \$5 reservation fee for the staged reading of "The Tillie Project" and booktalk on Wednesday, Nov. 1. Reservations are highly recommended.

For more information or to reserve tickets, visit centenarystageco.org or call the box office at (908) 979-0900. The box office is located in the Lackland Performing Arts Center, 715 Grand Ave. in Hackettstown. The box office is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and two hours prior to every performance.

Abstract landscape exhibit opening at J. Cacciola

“Boundless: The Abstract Landscapes of Carole Pierce” will be on view from Friday, Oct. 27, through Tuesday, Nov. 28, at J. Cacciola Gallery W, 35 Mill St. in Bernardsville.

An opening reception, which is open to the public, will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27.

In “Boundless,” Pierce’s landscapes are all; no human forms are depicted. And yet, humanity is present: in Pierce as the witness and interpreter of the natural world, and in the emotion shared between the imagery and the viewer; a silent conversation of pure feeling, according to a gallery statement.

Born and raised in Dallas, Texas, Pierce experienced from an early age the open, dramatic sky of her native Texas, a vast expanse of constant changes of mood, color, light, serenity and power, affecting the solid landscape below, permeating them with emotion and spirit. In her vision, physical entities breathe as if feeling, the statement continued. Pierce doesn’t come at this idea only through esoteric experience, but as an adept artist, with the finely tuned skill and discipline art requires. Her ability to see into the soul of nature is made manifest in



Oil paintings, “Fire,” left, and “Equator,” above, are among the works included in “Boundless: The Abstract Landscapes of Carole Pierce,” on view from Friday, Oct. 27, through Tuesday, Nov. 28, at J. Cacciola Gallery W, 35 Mill St. in Bernardsville.

the finesse with which she balances compositional elements, colors and light, and with the expertise with which she handles the brush.

Pierce’s work has been honored with awards, articles, and exhibitions across the country. Her works are represented in the collections of Louis Auchincloss, the Bill

and Melinda Gates Collection, Harvard University, New York’s Morgan Library, Merrill Lynch, and numerous other collections of distinction.

Harvest season is coming to a close at area farmers markets

Editor’s note: The following is a list of farmers markets now open throughout the area. Enjoy!

Bernardsville: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturdays through Nov. 11, train station parking lot located at the intersection of Route 202 and Claremont Road.

Boonton: 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturdays through Nov. 18, Upper Plane Street Parking Lot. Available will be a variety of fresh produce, honey, baked goods including gluten-free varieties, flowers, pasture-raised pork and poultry, and more.

Chatham Borough: 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturdays through Nov. 18, located in Railroad Plaza South off Fairmount Avenue. Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, bath products, artisan cheeses, dried fruits and nuts, eggs, fresh mozzarella, gourmet pickles and olives, honey, Jersey-made wines, and more.

Clinton: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sundays weather-permitting through Oct. 29, Clinton Fire Company parking lot, 1 New Street (off Highway 22 near the post office). The market provides support and promotes small family farms by offering locally grown healthy, nutritious, and seasonally fresh produce with organically raised greens for the community. Parking is also on nearby East Main Street and other side streets, as

well as the PNC Bank lot next door to the fire company.

Denville: 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 19, Bloomfield Avenue parking lot. Fresh fruits, vegetables, gourmet breads, cheeses, and more. WIC and Senior FMNP vouchers accepted by some farmers.

East Hanover: noon – 6 p.m. Mondays through Oct. 30, Lurker Park, 609 Ridgedale Avenue. Variety of fruits and vegetables. WIC and Senior FMNP vouchers accepted by some farmers.

Flemington: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Saturdays year-round at Stangl Factory Farmers’ Market, Mine Street and Stangl Road, Flemington.

Madison: 2 – 7 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 26, Central Avenue between Main Street and Cook Avenue.

Morristown: 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Sundays through November, in the municipal parking lot at the intersection of Spring and Morris Streets. Fruits and vegetables, local ingredient-prepared foods, cheese, fish, poultry, honey and more. WIC and Senior FMNP vouchers accepted by some farmers.

Raritan Township: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 19 at the Dvoor Farm, 111 Mine Street off the route 12 circle in Raritan Township. shoppers can find a bounty of locally grown, organic vegetables, grass-

fed beef, artisan breads, cheeses, honey, pies, plants and much more. The market also frequently features live music and family-friendly events.

Washington Township: The Long Valley Green Market, 3 to 7 p.m. Thursdays, 20 Schooley’s Mountain Road. For more information, visit: longvalleygreenmarket.com.

Out & About

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NEW JERSEY HILLS MEDIA GROUP

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To be considered for Out & About, please send information by Tuesday, the week before the publication date.

· BOOK NOOK ·

Washington Township Library Evening Book Group

How would you describe your group?

Long time friends – over 10 years! The group is comprised of approximately 10 members. They meet once a month at the Washington Township Public Library.

How do you choose your books?

In an open discussion, members are asked to suggest books. We try to choose books that the library can obtain multiple copies of.

Do you have any special activities?

We sometimes visit a member's home, or a local restaurant during holidays.

What have been your favorite fiction selections?

"All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr; "The Island" by Victoria Hislop, "The Zookeepers Wife" by Diane Ackerman, and "The 19th Wife" by David Eberhoff.



Members of the Washington Township Public Library's Evening Book Group are, in front from left, Susan Caravella, Joan Corwin, and Carol Kasperowitz, and, in back from left, Nancy Kadri, Jennifer Palmer, Gail Bogan, and Susan Turick, all of Long Valley. Members not pictured include Marie LaBue, Edith Wallace and Marie Fleming.

MOVIE REVIEW: 'PROFESSOR MARSTON AND THE WONDER WOMEN'

La différence to the rescue

By **MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER**
FILM CRITIC

>> MOVIE REVIEW

"Professor Marston and the Wonder Women," rated R, is an Annapurna release directed by Angela Robinson and stars Luke Evans, Rebecca Hall and Bella Heathcote. Running time: 108 minutes

★★★☆☆

I was a terrible grammar school student. Bored out of my mind, I survived the droning lessons by drawing cars and baseball stadiums.

It also didn't help that I was rather sleepy in class, the result of loving, liberal parents who allowed me to watch old movies on television way past a growing boy's acceptable bedtime. The one exception to this unsatisfactory scholasticism was reading. I got straight A's. But when the teacher asked me to tell the class why I was such a good reader and I answered "comic books," I was immediately shushed out of my First Amendment rights.

That's pretty much changed. Good teachers encourage kids to read, read, read, whatever it is... food labels, billboards and yes, even comic books. I was especially fond of "Superman," "Richie Rich" (the poor little rich boy) and "Little Lulu." Beats me... that last one. Maybe Lulu put me in touch with my feminine side, a subject dramatically, intellectually and engagingly dissected in writer-director Angela Robinson's "Professor Marston and the Wonder Women."

What immediately came to mind as the fascinating biopic unreeled, beginning with Dr. William Moulton Marston's days as a heralded psychology professor, was how many second tier, illustrious people there are...folks who did something major, but who are now all but forgotten. Oh, how fleeting is fame, especially if said celebrity was attended by no small amount of disassembling controversy. The origins of Marston's super heroine, "Wonder Woman," might render less tolerant souls aghast.

Marston, a Harvard Ph.D. and freethinker in many connotations of the term, was married to Elizabeth Holloway, an archetypal feminist of her day. He devoted most of his scientific research to quantifying and qualifying La Différence. Decidedly pro women's rights, in the course of developing a systolic blood pressure test that laid the groundwork for John Augustus Larson's invention of the lie detector, he became convinced that women were, in many areas of pursuit, more honest than men. From this deduction emerged "Wonder Woman."

One might then whimsically defend Professor Marston's unconventional lifestyle – which included his wife, the co-inventor of the prototype polygraph test, as well as Olive Byrne, a young lab assistant and daughter of feminist royal-

ty – as a necessary component of his research. It's one of the few instances in movie biographies where the more salacious aspects of the story are not dramatic license taken to pepper up a script, but actually true.

So be warned, ye who prefer that certain aspects of sexual behavior be treated with a modicum of discretion. Part of Marston's theories, elaborated under the heading of DISC (Dominance, Inducement, Submission, Compliance), might seem to the skeptical viewer as just a sophisticated way of dabbling in a realm that brought the curious yellow into theaters showing "Fifty Shades of Grey" (2015). Such is not the case. However, though I'm confident a genetic test wouldn't inform I was more than 3 percent Puritan, I did find some of this stuff, well, kind of icky.

It is a bit arduous to wrap your brain around the strands of ideas that went into the creation of Dr. Marston's über feminist. The film matter-of-factly informs he was fond of role playing in connection with his explorations of the psyche, with a special emphasis on restraint using ritually tied ropes. Voila...the inspiration for Wonder Woman's Lasso of Truth. "Suffering Sappho!" as our defender of truth and justice famously exclaims. Or, as my Aunt Sadie might've mused, "Who'd a thunk it?"

Thus the viewer is put in the position of challenging Jack Nicholson's Colonel Nathan R. Jessup's opinion in "A Few Good Men" (1992) when he vociferously declares that we "can't handle the truth." Fact is, though Marston's cogitations ostensibly led to morality lessons via comic book entertainment for generations of children, the backstory is anything but kids' stuff. The fictional character is actually but a by-product of auteur Robinson's sociological survey of attitudes toward women from the years just following female suffrage until the early 1950s.

We are once again reminded how difficult it is for humankind to shed its stone

PLEASE SEE MARSTON, PAGE 7

Thornton Wilder's

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WEEKENDS
THRU
NOV. 19

Location, location, location! Not for Realtors, but wine buffs

Blockbuster wines taste great in ambient environments where lighting, the right goblet, wine and venue temperature and atmospheric music are all painfully synchronized to create a memorable sense of time and place. Duh! Of course it is. How predictable is that posit? Downright boring.

Imagine the same blockbuster; this one a 1996 Cos Du Estournel, mined in St. Estephe, France, in the left bank of Bordeaux's Gironde river except that you are not tableside in a cozy bistro. Instead, your Land Rover has just pulled up from several grueling hours of leopard chasing in the Savannah that is Botswana, South Africa, and our Ranger has just declared a 'Sundown' – a Safari tradition for a refreshing pause.

I can still hear the pant of a nearby hyena as he ambles to catch up with his tribe and the earthy smell of dry grass and animal spirits, that are the broad strokes on an unending canvas of tawny terrain made golden by a setting sun.

This is consummate Africa. No lighting on a dimmer, no Count Basie in your ears, no starched white linens or Riedel goblets or air conditioning. Just a vast sheet of yellows and greens, a solitary Acacia tree, architecturally lonesome with a distant silhouette of a rogue tusker and an overhead formation of colorful saddle-bill storks in flight. And yes, the mocking laugh from that tardy hyena that just rejoined the pack interrupted only by the acoustic pour of heavenly Cos in to my metal tumbler.

First sip, searing hot knife on butter.



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

Eleventh sip, this time, a hundred meters away, watching a lion and a lioness devouring fresh zebra. I thought to myself, this is Africa's Red with Meat.

The point of that parable is that time and place and who you sip with, defines the wine. Not the other way around.

I have had a Mouton Rothshild by a babbling brook in Vermont in a plastic cup, my much criticized wine goblet, watching the occasional fish jump and wielding a twig as a makeshift landing pad for a hovering butterfly. A brush with Town & Country. The Mouton delighted. But it could have easily been a sub \$20 juice.

My journey of nearly 50 countries – some work, some play – meant imbibing wines at almost every point in a wide spectrum of locales. None of them wine-centric, necessarily, like by the famous clock tower in Prague, not at a street café as most would but bantering with the owner of the nearby Moser Gallery, a purveyor of crystal decanters to the Royal Family.

Or at the World Economic Forum in Da-

vos, Switzerland, where one grinding panel after another begged for some grape relief. And it came in the evening when I co-curated a magnificent parade of Margaux verticals from 1900 to 1990 with the late Paul Pontallier of Chateau Margaux and later with Olivier Krug of the venerable Champagne house in the courtyard of the Elysee Palace in Paris. The talk was cheap at these forums. Not the wines.

Likewise, a much coveted Rose Dom Perignon with my friend, Adit, in Monsieur Moet's Private Parlor in Epernay, France, where he and Napoleon once bartered cuvee for patriotism. Or at the fireworks on the Danube in Budapest with Hungarian Furmint and Tokaj wines on Szent Istvan Day and the countless cold, damp cellars in St. Emilion, Napa and Willamette are all rites of passage for this wine writer.

I have even sneaked a bottle or two to share with my friends in alcohol-forbidden countries where, if detected, I would still be in a one-window prison with a pet rodent. I have passed off prized Burgundies and Sauternes as church wines through airport customs to avoid hefty levies and have bantered on the finer points of Roussillon Languedoc at a charming wine purveyor in Amsterdam as the owner's bicycle was being robbed right under my nose. Then again, my nose was pre-occupied discerning mineral from fruit.

Harsh Patil, an adventure travel purveyor

(www.xplor.earth) has taken the time and place concept to travel where he seamlessly inserts a wine experience in the most exotic of locales like a base camp in the Himalayas, a trek up Kilimanjaro, or cavorting the Northern Lights in Iceland. It is true, he and I can say "location" more times than a Realtor.

My grandest unconventional wine setting, if there was one, came from my other friend, Sunil, on a business trip to Monaco. He sweet-talked the Maitre D' at George V, the iconic Michelin-starred Alain Ducasse restaurant and Grand Dame Hotel in Monte Carlo to open the rooftop door from their terrace bistro to a fragile, narrow, one-person balcony. The suspecting Maitre D' had broken all the rules and possibly, building codes, to navigate these two irrational men to a perch that no sane person had been to among this revered hotel's guests. Not even the fearless Napoleon.

All this to savor a prized bottle of Pontet Canet '02 that Sunil had cradled all the way from America. And it was the quintessential perch, high up in an azure sky sprinkled with baby-cheek, puffy white clouds presiding over the principality's inspired steeples and domes marked by distant mountains and the deep blue Mediterranean.

Mastercard would have said, "Priceless!" We said nothing. The wine did all the talking.

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Locks and dams on the Columbia River and Woody Guthrie

Editor's Note: This is the 18th in a monthly series detailing the discoveries made during the author's road trip following the trail of Lewis and Clark.

We are now on the mighty Columbia River traveling toward the Pacific Ocean. The locks on the Snake and Columbia Rivers were built to facilitate navigation and the workings of the locks fascinate me. I couldn't resist giving a brief description of the operation.

We were traveling downstream, so were at the higher level. After the lock is filled from the upstream side, the gates open and the boat enters. It is tied to two moveable floating mooring bits (one fore and one aft) to keep it stabilized in the lock. The back doors close and the water is slowly let out on the downstream side and the boat lowers down. When the boat reaches the downstream level, those gates open and the boat proceeds on.

At the McNary Lock there was a fish ladder beside the dam which the Chinook salmon were trying to climb. The sea lions have a feast at the bottom of the ladders as the fish bunch up trying to go up them.

One morning on the boat, The American Empress, we were educated about Columbia River history through the songs of Woody Guthrie. He was 28 years old when the U.S. government hired him for one month in 1941 to write what folklorist Alan Lomax called "propaganda songs about federal projects to gain support for federal regulation of hydroelectricity."

The dams have tamed the river and also inundated certain lands. Guthrie's most famous song from that month was "Roll on Columbia" about the river and its history. Two dams included in the song are Grand



Jennifer Fischer

ROAD TRIP OF DISCOVERY

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



Coulee and Bonneville. There is one verse about Jefferson's vision of an empire and sending Lewis and Clark to explore the western lands. Guthrie wrote 26 songs during that one month. When he died in 1967 he had written more than 1,000 songs.

After lunch we traversed the John Day Dam, which dropped us another 113 feet. It is the highest single lift lock in the U.S., maybe the world. The downriver gate is a guillotine type, which is pulled up by steel cables, whereas all the other gates are 'saloon door' type, which swing open and closed.

Along with taming the rivers the dams also flooded some areas, destroying the nat-



McNary Dam is a 1.4-mile long concrete gravity run-of-the-river dam which spans the Columbia River. The fish ladder is show in the foreground.

ural beauty and traditions of past generations. One of these areas is Celilo Falls, which is about 12 miles east of the town of The Dalles. Lewis and Clark wrote that this area was a great center of trade and socialization at that time. They judged that the water dropped 80 feet through rapids.

Clark wrote in his journal "This is the Great Mart of all this Country. ten different tribes visit those people for the purpose of purchasing their fish... (other tribes visit) for the purpose of trading horses, buffalo robes for beads, and such articles as they have not." (quoted from the DeVoto edi-

tion of the Lewis and Clark Journals, April 16th, 1806)

The explorers estimated there were about 9,000 Native Americans in the area of the falls. They saw many small villages with fish drying. Scaffolds were built out over the falls, and the fisherman used dip nets and spears to catch the salmon. We saw some of these scaffolds still in use on other parts of the river. The Corps of Discovery portaged around these falls with the help of the natives.

PLEASE SEE ROAD, PAGE 7

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ROAD: Exploring the locks and dams of the Columbia River

FROM PAGE 6

When the floodgates of The Dalles Dam were closed below the falls in March 1957, two ancient Indian villages disappeared in a matter of hours along with Celilo Falls, destroying the fishing tradition of the natives there. There was some compensation, but...

In the afternoon on the boat we were treated to "Close-up Parlor Magic with The Riverboat Gambler," Bill Wiemuth. We were right in front of him but couldn't figure out how he did any of the tricks. He had an interesting observation about the deck of cards. There are four suits which represent the four seasons, 13 cards in a suit for the moons in a year, 52 cards which represent the weeks in a year. Add up all the 'pips' on the cards and you get 365 for the days in a year.

At dinner we met an interesting Native American couple who live on a reservation near San Diego, Calif. We think he was the "chief." A group of his people were with them, but he pointed out to us that only he and his wife "looked Native American." Most of the children on the reservation graduate high school and go on to higher education. This was good to hear. They do have a casino, which they said does a lot for the tribe.

Next stop on the Road Trip of Discovery: The town of The Dalles and some engaging historic museums.

MARSTON: Wonder Woman's backstory is not kids' stuff

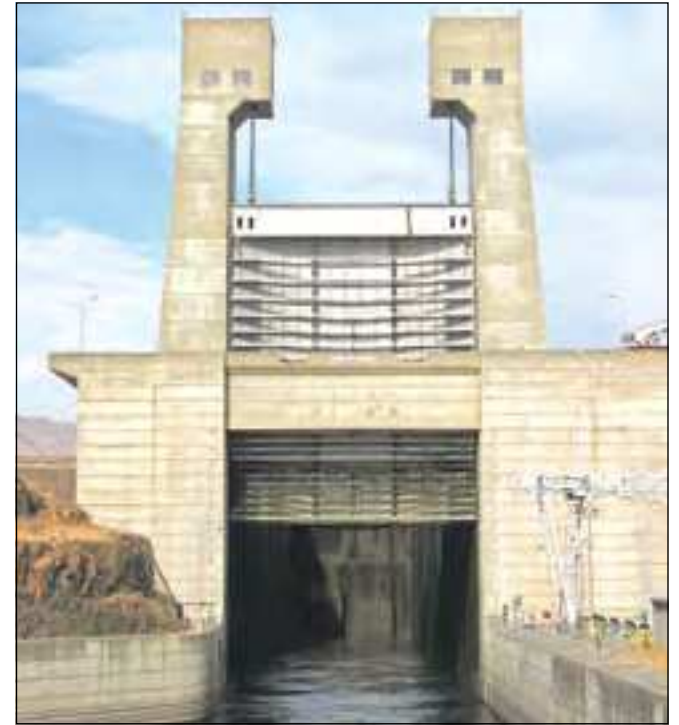
FROM PAGE 4

age of the mind when it comes to accepting progressive reality. Embodying the intriguing ball of psychological wax from whence the greatest lady superhero sprang, Luke Evans is provocative as the perennially upbeat and enthusiastic Marston, a dedicated if not entirely altruistic proponent of feminism. Assumedly helping keep that smile on his face, Rebecca Hall is cynically superb as Elizabeth, and Bella Heathcote is sympathetically vulnerable as the triangle's novitiate.

As Amazon hadn't yet delivered my time machine, I couldn't read my review before entering the theater. Therefore, expecting something much different, "Professor Marston and the Wonder Women" left me educated, but also a bit hogtied and hornswoggled, so to speak.



Above: A tow pushes a barge upstream on the Columbia River amid the region's barren scenery. **Right:** The guillotine gate is raised on the John Day Dam on the Columbia River, which has the highest lift – 110 feet – of any U.S. lock.



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PRESENTING GEORGE WASHINGTON

By **LIZ PARKER**
CO-PUBLISHER

So how do you bring a 260-year national icon, one of the most symbolic structures of the nation's founding and history, to its next level without sacrificing its character for relevancy?

You hire an HBO executive, of course.

Well, OK, that may not be the first resume requirement people think of but it is what the Mount Vernon Ladies Association did when they hired Curt Viebranz, a former president of HBO International, five years ago as president of George Washington's Mount Vernon, and all indications are they are very glad they did.

Viebranz, pronounced VEEbranz, whose family still owns their home on 23 acres near Hacklebarney State Park in Chester Township, had spent his previous career in leadership positions at Time Warner and its predecessor Time Inc., where he served as president of Time Inc. Multimedia, AOL and other Internet companies.

He arrived as president and CEO of Mount Vernon in 2012 in his first professional foray in the non-profit field. Now, at the age of 65, he and his wife, Cissy, plan to return to private life in New Jersey, perhaps downsize and pursue their various interests including the Brady Life Camp in Pottersville. While not saying specifically what his next plans are, he observed it is "not going to be a traditional retirement."

As president and CEO for five years, Viebranz was responsible for the successful opening and program development of the \$100 million, 45,000-square foot Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, as well as estate-wide educational and new media initiatives



At right: Douglas Bradburn is the founding director of the 45,000-square foot Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington. The library, built with cherry floors and sycamore walls, is open by appointment to scholars.

designed to accurately and engagingly portray the life and legacy of George Washington, including a new administration building, affectionately called the "APC" in honor of the mild-mannered rural South Carolina spinster, Ann Pamela Cunningham, who rescued the estate from disrepair in the 1850s, improvements to the mansion itself and cutting edge technical improvements at the museum and education center and at The Ford Orientation Center.

During his tenure, Viebranz spearheaded the development of a five-year strategic plan designed to ensure George Washington's enduring relevance and to affirm Mount Vernon's position as America's most visited historic site, welcoming more than one million visitors each year. He also vastly expanded Mount Vernon's digital footprint, overseeing the launch of a new website that attracted almost five million unique visitors last year, as well as the creation of two new apps and three multimedia presentations.

"Curt's robust and strategic leadership came at a crucial time in Mount Vernon's history as it expanded in many mission-driven areas" said the association's Regent, Sarah Miller Coulson, when announcing Viebranz' retirement. "His intellect and integrity, coupled with his dedication to Mount Vernon, echoed the same qualities of George Washington's leadership. His five years here at Mount Vernon have, in many ways, been transformational. Curt and his wife, Cissy, in service to this beloved national historic landmark, set the standard for modern-day Washingtonian hospitality and warmth."

Mount Vernon is America's most visited historic home, according to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, and Viebranz is just its 10th leader since the group's stewardship began in 1858.

Vice Regent for New Jersey and former Harding resident Betsy Holdsworth of Hanover Township called Viebranz a "cutting edge president," who attracted a very talented and energetic staff to Mount Vernon, including Douglas Bradburn, a professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the History Department at Binghamton University, State University of New York, to lead the new Washington library.

"His hiring has just been fabulous," Holdsworth said. "He has done just magnificent things for us."

Viebranz too complimented his staff.

"People like it here and are deeply dedicated" with a fine attention to details, Viebranz said, adding he had derived great "psychic income" from the post. "I was glad to be here and preserving the legacy of Washington.

"It is a perfect group of people here," he said of the job which he acknowledges is a 24/7 operation. "It is a community with passion" that has made Mount Vernon the gold standard of Founding Father homesteads. To model George Washington's hospitality to 1.4 million people is no mean feat.

"I was inheriting a place that was in great shape but there was a lot of work to be done in the digital realm. How can you extend and expand the reach and tell the story of the place and have public history come alive for this generation?"

Holdsworth later quipped appreciatively: "His strength has been bringing a sweet ladies organization into the 20th Century."

Viebranz is retiring in advance of another capital campaign that he said is better led by a new leader who will have the time to lead it through to a conclusion in the next five



Mount Vernon Ladies Association Vice Regent for New Jersey Betsy Holdsworth, formerly of Harding and now of Hanover Township, shares a laugh with Mount Vernon President and CEO Curt Viebranz in his office. A replica of Jean-Antoine Houdon's iconic bust of the first president is in the bookcase.

years or so. The new campaign is designed to focus on restoring and maintaining the mansion itself.

Some 1,086,741 people visited George Washington's Mount Vernon estate in 2016. Some 50 acres of the current 420-acre estate is open to the public, including its gardens, the pioneer farm, the wharf area where visitors can take a quick boat trip across the Potomac from Arlington, the tombs where the Washingtons are buried, the Mount Vernon Inn which serves lunch daily and dinner Tuesday through Saturday, and his distillery and gristmill. George Washington's rye whiskey is the official drink of the state of Virginia.

Twelve original wooden buildings grace the riverfront property. Most of the others burned down in the Civil War. Washington, who was quite the entrepreneur as witnessed by his distillery, gristmill and the fishery business he explored on the shores of the Potomac River, was obsessed with land and running the estate, albeit remotely, provided solace and a much-needed happy distraction during the eight-year Revolutionary War.

The estate is open 365 days per year and is staffed by 617 full-time employees and some 369 volunteers. It is the only restored home in the country that sees a million visitors a year. And it takes not one cent from the government.

Some \$17.5 million alone was raised in contributions in 2016, accounting for more than a third of the estate's 2016 \$56.5 million total income. Some \$14.4 million was raised in admission prices – \$20 is the standard adult admission – the product and food sales accounted for \$16.4 million while the endowment and other support garnered another \$8.2 million.

Visitors seem to be struck by the vibrant colors in the mansion, with blues and yellows and light greens, a sign of wealth at the time. A guest bedroom, the so-called "Blue Room" under restoration, is eye-catching with its vibrant blue colors. "It is out of this world," exclaimed one recent



George Washington's bust in the bookcase.

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George Washington's Mount Vernon is the most visited historic home in America with well more than a million visitors a year.

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or as she peered into the bedroom.

Washington kept meticulous records of all of his activities at Mount Vernon, indeed every facet of his life. So historians can read of his exchanges with English and French merchants on all aspects of the mansion's design, including wallpaper selection. Historians, armed with new information and documentation, are in the process of studying in what his bedroom, where he died in Dec. 14, 1797 at the age of 69 of epiglottitis, really looked like.

The 21-room Mount Vernon mansion was built in three different stages with the cupola and colonnades added as the addition. Most of the glasswork is original as is 80 percent of its rusticated wood. A key to the Bastille, the infamous Parisian prison destroyed in the French Revolution, presented to him by Marquis de Lafayette is displayed in the front hall.

The last room called the "New Room" was finished in 1787 with yellow pine and painted wallpaper that was restored five years ago. The light green color is paint made from red and ground malachite stone. Twelve-foot ceilings in the newest areas of the mansion often decorated in zinc materials which was also a sign of wealth. The main entrance and oldest section has always been the river side with its imposing colonnaded two-story piazza.

Comic Duo

Washington, who stood at 6' 6" and Martha, at 4'11", made the pair. She was as indefatigable and imbued with the same work ethic as her slightly younger husband and she traveled with him for fully half of the eight-year Revolutionary War. All the Washington men married up, Washington's grandsons will say, and that model holds with Martha Custis who was a rich widow with two young children when Washington married her. His prominence and her amiability

generated a constant entertainment regimen that resulted in them eating alone only twice in 14 years.

He was a very good dancer and a good listener. One of his signal strengths was his ability to remain silent, said his vice president, John Adams.

His study is the most private room in the house where, in keeping with a farmer's work ethic, he would go at 5 a.m. for a couple of hours to read and write before his 7 a.m. breakfast and then ride out to the estate, which at its peak consisted of some 8,000 acres in four different nearby farms. Some 120 books line the study, from Shakespeare to tomes on agricultural studies.

Washington's death at the age of 69 made him an anomaly among his relatives for most Washington men died young. His father died at the age of 49 when George was 11; his beloved 14 year-old half-brother and mentor, Lawrence, died at the age of 39.

His great-grand-nephew, John Augustus Washington III, was living in the house in the 1850s and it was in such a state of disrepair that ship masts were holding up the famous portico. He offered the estate to the state of Virginia and to the federal government. Both said no.

It was a South Carolina woman on a ship passing by the mansion who saw its pitiful state and wrote her daughter, the now-acclaimed and aforementioned APC, that she should save the historic homestead.

"If the men of America have seen fit to allow the home of its most respected hero to go to ruin, why can't the women of America band together to save it?" Louisa Bird Cunningham wrote her daughter, Ann Pamela Cunningham.

Miss Cunningham did what her mother told her and raised some \$200,000 in private funds to start the effort – an enormous amount in those pre-Civil War days. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, now comprised of about 27 women representing their respective states, was the first national historic preservation organization and is the oldest women's patriotic society in the United States. Previous vice regents from New Jersey include Ann West of Bernardsville.

Slavery

In 2014, Mount Vernon's archaeologists began a multi-year project to learn more about the Slave Cemetery at Mount Vernon on a ridge just southwest of Washington's tomb.

Washington freed his 123 slaves upon his death, the only slave-owning Founding Father to do so. The other slaves on the estate, some 317 all told, were part of the Curtis family estate and could not be freed under the codicils of the estate. Compounding the problem was that some of Washington's original slaves had married slaves who belonged to the Curtis family who were not free.

The museum attempts to be upfront about the slavery issue with its "Lives Bound Together: Slavery at George Washington's Mount Vernon" exhibit, running through 2018, in which the lives of some of slaves are detailed, with the person portrayed in shadows, symbolic of their treatment as slaves, and because so little is known of their lives.

The exhibit explores Washington's changing attitude towards slavery and the experiences of the enslaved people who lived and worked at Mount Vernon. "We have tried to be up front of this and tackle it head on," Holdsworth said

What's in the staircase?

There's a ringer in the staircase at historic Mount Vernon. And it's got a Morris County connection.

When historians were redoing the black walnut-spindled main staircase at Mount Vernon, they realized they were missing one spindle.

Enter Vice Regent for New Jersey Betsy Holdsworth, formerly of Harding and now of Hanover Township, who realized she had black walnut wood in her basement from her grandfather's backyard in Glendale, Ohio, just outside of Cincinnati, and where she grew up with her family. The wood was identical to what was needed.

"No one would ever believe my family's wood is actually in Mount Vernon," Holdsworth, a former member of the New Jersey Historical Commission, noted.

"Most of my furniture was made from from this wood. What I had remaining was the leftover to me but gold to Mount Vernon."

Actually it was her interest in colonial furniture as a newlywed that set her on the path to Mount Vernon, choosing and researching furniture for her first home with husband, David.

One thing led to another for the math and economics major, her Junior League work restoring two bedrooms at the Vail House at Speedwell Village in Morristown, her involvement with Washington's ancestral home in England, Sulgrave Manor, where she served as associate trustee, trustee and now honorary trustee through the Colonial Dames, her involvement as a member of the New Jersey Historical Commission as appointed by Gov. Christine Todd Whitman of Tewksbury who stressed the importance of historical tourism to the state's economy, to the Washington Association of New Jersey where she met her predecessor on the Mount Vernon board, Ann West of Bernardsville, whose spot she took in 2005 when West stepped down.

"Growing up or living around Morristown, we have George Washington in our blood. There is no way you don't," Holdsworth said.

Holdsworth, who has been active in local civic groups in Harding as well as the Colonial Dames, has also been involved in Republican politics, serving as the first legislative aid for former Sen. Donald DiFrancesco, R-Union. DiFrancesco appointed her in 1999 to serve on the New Jersey Commemorative Coin Design Commission for the New Jersey State Quarter. It was the third coin in the 50 State Quarter Program.

The quarter's reverse design features George Washington crossing the Delaware River, based on an 1851 painting by Emmanuel Leutze. The reverse design meant that George Washington appeared on both sides of the coin. She called it "one of the most fun assignments I have ever had."

Like Mount Vernon CEO Curt Viebranz, Holdsworth is also stepping down this year.

She has truly loved her 12-year involvement with MVLA.

"You know when you are over 60 and still learning and I mean really learning, that is why I love Mount Vernon. And I love George Washington. The deeper you get into the personality of the first president and what was going around him and what he had to deal with – John Adams and Thomas Jefferson in his Cabinet hated each other.

"You know I don't get upset about all the crazy politics these days. There has always been crazy politics.

"He was a cutting edge president. He and Martha really set the standard for everything going forward. He had to make people who thought they were just Colonists realize they were citizens of a new country.

"I will always love something where I can always be learning," she said "We have all done a lot of volunteer work but I will always be happy working when I am learning. Actually it has just been fascinating to me."

· THEATER CALENDAR ·

AUDITIONS

Auditions for Robert Harling's "Steel Magnolias" will be held by The Chatham Players at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 6 and 7, at the Chatham Playhouse, 23 North Passaic Ave. Production dates are Friday, Feb. 23, through Saturday, March 10, 2018, with rehearsals to begin mid-December. Jeffrey Fiorello directs. "Steel Magnolias" – the basis for the much-loved multi Oscar-nominated film – is the bittersweet story of six women who gather under the dryers at Truvy's Beauty Salon to share gossip, laughter, recipes and beauty secrets on four significant days across three years of their lives in a small southern town. When tragedy strikes, they face it with sass and strength, supporting each other through thick and thin. Director Fiorello seeks six women to fill out his cast. Auditioners should arrive by 7:30 p.m. There will be readings from the script, based upon the character auditioners wish to be considered for, as well as type. Audition sides will be available at the audition. To access the audition form, visit <http://www.chathamplayers.org/auditions.html>. The Chatham Players have an open call casting policy. All roles are open, none

are precast, and everyone is encouraged to audition. For more information, call Gus Ibranyi at (201)-563-0362 or email casting@chathamplayers.org. For directions or additional information, visit www.chathamplayers.org.

DANCE

New Jersey Ballet presents "Gems of the Ballet" at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. New Jersey Ballet opens its 59th season at the Mayo Performing Arts Center with "Gems of the Ballet," an exciting program that will include a mix of classical and contemporary works ranging from the spectacular ballroom scene, "Grand Pas Classique" from "Paquita" to "Designs with Strings," a neo-classical piece set to Tchaikovsky's "Trio in A minor." Other gems of the evening will include "Facets," a lyrical contemporary ballet set to the third movement of Mahler's "Fourth Symphony" and "Marietta's Song," a romantic pas de deux with music by Erich Wolfgang Korngold. Tickets cost \$29 to \$59.

MUSICALS



"A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder," above, will be staged at 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. Getting away with murder can be so much fun... and there's no better proof than the knock-'em-dead hit show that won the 2014 Tony Award for Best Musical. Monty, an heir to his family fortune, sets out to jump the line of succession by eliminating the eight relatives (all played by one fearless man) who stand in his way. All the while, Monty has to juggle his mistress, his fiancée and the constant threat of landing behind bars! Of

course, it will all be worth it if he can slay his way to his inheritance...and be done in time for tea. Tickets cost \$49 to \$89 and can be purchased at www.mayoarts.org or by calling (973) 539-8008.

PLAYS



"Shakespeare in Love," above, will be staged in multiple performances beginning Wednesday, Oct. 11, by the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey at the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre, 36 Madison Ave. in Madison. The company's artistic director, Bonnie J. Monte, will direct the stage version of the Oscar-winning film, adapted by Lee Hall from Marc Norman's and Tom Stoppard's screenplay. For information and tickets, call the box office at (973) 408-5600 or visit www.shakespearenj.org.

"Bakersfield Mist" by Stephen Sachs will be staged from Thursday, Oct. 26, through Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Bickford Theatre inside the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road in Morris Township. Maude, a 50-something unemployed bartender living in a trailer park, has bought a painting for a few bucks from a thrift store. Despite almost trashing it, she's now convinced it's a lost masterpiece by Jackson Pollock worth millions. But when world-class art expert Lionel Percy flies over from New York and arrives at her trailer home in Bakersfield to authenticate the painting, he has no idea what he is about to discover. Inspired by true events, this hilarious and thought-provoking new comedy-drama asks vital questions about what makes art and people truly authentic. This show contains adult language. Tickets can be purchased by calling (973) 971-3706 or by visiting www.morrismuseum.org.

SPOKEN WORD

Deepak Chopra will speak at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 13, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. Book signing follows presentation. Tickets cost \$49 to \$99 and can be purchased at mayoarts.org.

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· MUSIC CALENDAR ·

A CAPPELLA

The GrooveBarbers will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, at The Concert Hall at Drew University, 36 Madison Ave. in Madison. Each member of this all-vocal powerhouse quartet is a bona fide star in his own right: Sean Altman, Charlie Evett and Steve Keyes are former members of the pioneering contemporary a cappella group, Rockapella, and Kevin Weist is a renowned bald vocal guru, organizers said. This concert is appropriate for ages 10 and up. Tickets cost \$40, or \$30 for seniors, students ages 10 to 18, or groups of 10 or more. They can be purchased at www.discoveryorchestra.org

BROADWAY HITS



Pattermania: A Gilbert and Sullivan Revue, directed by William Corson and performed by the Light Opera of New Jersey, will be staged at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, and 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 140 South Finley Ave. in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards Township. Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.lonj.org/tickets/> or by calling (908) 655-6023.

INDIE

The Michaela McClain Band will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Bernardsville Public Library, 1 Anderson Hill Road. This is a free concert with Michaela McClain, winner of the 2013 "Best Indie Act" at the Jersey Acoustic Music Awards. Born and raised in Bernardsville, she is a critically-acclaimed, folk-soul singer/songwriter with a "warm groove" and rich mezzo-soprano voice, and she tours with drummer Meredith Foreman, guitarist Raul Abbad, and bassist Brad Schwartzseid. Doors open at 2:45 p.m.

INSTRUMENTAL

Kenny G performs at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St. in Morristown. Superstar saxophonist Kenny G has been a staple in pop and contemporary jazz since the 1980s, with

crossover hits such as "Songbird" that have made him a favorite of fans worldwide who love his expressive melodies and emotional solos. Tickets cost \$59 to \$99.

JAZZ

Composer/pianist Carlos Franzetti and pianist Allison Brewster Franzetti will perform at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29, at Farmstead Arts Center, 450 King George Road in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards Township. The Grammy-award-winning duo will present a concert traversing classical, jazz,

tango and world music through their eyes, ears and hands. They will each perform selections of Carlos' music and other compositions representing each one's unique musical point of view. Advance tickets cost \$15. At the door, tickets cost \$20 or \$10 for students, seniors and Farmstead members. Purchase advance tickets at www.farmsteadarts.com.

The Bickford Benefit All Stars concert will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 13, at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road, Morris Township. Get set for an evening of rousing, hot jazz with the Bickford

Benefit All Stars. Clarinetist/saxophonist Dan Levinson has put together a swinging band comprised of the best musicians from the region for this annual benefit concert which supports programming and performances at the Bickford Theatre, organizers said. Joining Dan are Mike Davis on cornet, Jim Fryer on trombone, Jeff Barnhart on piano, Brian Nalepka on bass, Stéphane Séva on drums, and Molly Ryan on guitar and vocals. Tickets cost \$20 for museum members, \$22 in advance for non-members or \$27 for non-members at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased by calling (973) 971-3706 or by visiting www.morrismuseum.org.

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ARTS AND CRAFTS

The monthly meeting of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10, in the courtroom within the Raritan Township Police station at the municipal complex, 1 Municipal Drive in Flemington. All are welcome. Visit www.hcrag.com for more information.

Holiday Swag Workshop will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Ave. in Morris Township. Get a jump on your holiday decorating by making an outdoor swag under the expert tutelage of Marge Hulstrunk and Russell Gatzke. All materials are provided, but attendees should bring their own pruners and a box to carry the swag home. This program costs \$40 per person. Registration is required and can be made by calling (973) 394-1100 or at www.arboretumfriends.org.

BOOKS

New York Times best-selling author M.J. Rose, above right, will be speak at



Bernardsville Public Library at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29. There is no charge to attend the program at the library, but advance sign-up is requested. Register online at www.bernardsvillelibrary.org and follow the link from Adult Programs, or call the library at (908) 766-0118 to sign up.

COMMUNITY DANCES

The 10th annual Armistice Ball, a ragtime-era soiree hosted by the Metropolitan Vintage Dance & Social Club, will be held from 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, at the Morristown Masonic Center, 39 Maple Ave. in Morristown. The Metropolitan Club Orchestra will provide hot dance tunes of the early 20th century. A workshop in dances of the era will be held at the Masonic Center from 2 to 4 p.m. earlier that day. Ball tickets cost \$35 per person in advance or \$40 at the door. For students, admission is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door with a student ID. Purchase advance tickets at www.armisticeball.com.

CRAFT SHOWS

Hickory Tree Chorus Craft Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Long Hill Senior Center, 769 Valley Road in Gillette. Vendors include high quality toy lines, home decorations, jewelry, chocolate, crocheted items, Mary Kay, LuLaRoe, ceramics, wreaths and more. Admission is free. For more information, email info@hickorytreechorus.org.

The 19th annual Brookside Community Club Holiday Boutique will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at

the Brookside Community Club, 1 East Main Street in Mendham Township. Admission is free. The event will feature clothes to fit American Girl dolls, photos on cards, jewelry, Mendham Township blankets, hats, chocolate, bookmarks, journals, paper goods and gifts, board games, scarves, handcrafted organic soaps, baby items, snowmen, knit and crochet items, Thirty-One Gifts, hand-painted silk scarves, small watercolors, silk jackets, tapestry bags, pashmina/cashmere scarves, gift baskets, pottery and much more.

EDUCATIONAL



Death and Mourning Traditions of the Victorian Era, a special tour, will be offered through Sunday, Oct. 29, at Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, 73 Kahdena Road in Morris Township. Join a fascinating tour of The Willows, the Foster family's mansion, to explore unique death and mourning practices during the Victorian period. Discover how customs, now considered strange, influenced loved ones for months and years after a person passed. Learn about old these traditions, and compare with those practiced today. Tours are available Thursday and Friday, Oct. 26-27 and Sunday, Oct. 29. This program is appropriate for adults and children ages 12 and up. Admission is \$6 per adult, \$5 per senior, \$4 per child ages 4-16. Register for a tour at the visitors center reception desk. For more information and directions to Fosterfields Living Historical Farm in Morris Township, visit morrisparks.net or call (973) 326-7645.

The Legend of the Jersey Devil, for ages 16 and up, will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31, at the Morris County Parks Commission's Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area in Boonton. Enjoy a humorous walk with a naturalist, and learn the original legend of the Jersey Devil, along with other interesting information on New Jersey folklore. This walk costs \$2 per person.

Potions and Elixirs – Myths Dispelled will be presented from 2 to 4 p.m. at Historic

Speedwell in Morristown. This entertaining seasonal program explores 19th century medical practices and the use of potions and elixirs to treat disease. This program is included in the price of admission.

FLAVORS

The eighth annual Harvest Fest and New Jersey Microbrew Night for Charity will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, at St. James Church, 200 South Finley Ave. in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards Township. Oktoberfest dinner and appetizers, along with wine and beverages will also be served. The event also includes live music from guitarist Joe Arbdaji, a tasting glass and a basket raffle. Advance tickets cost \$45 per person. Admission is \$50 at the door. Proceeds support local families in need. For tickets, call Paul Mattiola at (908) 419-0850. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/menofcharity.

Cooking Demonstration: Genius Ginger will be presented from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, at the Haggerty Center at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Avenue in Morris Township. Go beyond gingerbread, and work with ginger in its many forms. Candied, fresh, and powdered ginger are used in dishes both sweet and savory. This program costs \$25 per person. Registration is required and can be made by calling (973) 394-1100 or at www.arboretumfriends.org.



GARDENING

Pests and Diseases of Ornamental Woody Plants, presented by Rich Buckley and Sabrina Tirpak of Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Lab, will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 3, at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Avenue in Morris Township. The duo bring their extensive knowledge and expertise to give insight into diagnostic procedures, best courses, and timing of treatment. This program is eligible for 2.0 Rutgers Master Gardener CEUs. This program costs \$20 per person. To register and for more information, call (973) 394-1100.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★

★ Moderate ★ ★ Challenging
★ ★ ★ HOO BOY!

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>> SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 15

• COMING UP ON CAMPUS •

CENTENARY UNIVERSITY

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

- **Fringe Festival: Song & Dance Men** will perform as part of Centenary Stage Company's Fringe Festival, in four performances from Thursday to Sunday, Oct. 26-29, in the Kutz Theatre of the Lackland Performing Arts Center in Hackettstown. Direct from New York City, Song & Dance Men features famous tunes by George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, George M. Cohan, and the dance stylings of Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire and many more. Award-winning director/choreographer Justin Boccitto is joined on stage by the Nicky Romaniello and Eddy Francisco while accompanied on the keys by Sol Bloch. Tickets cost \$15 to \$27.50.

- **Fringe Festival: Seeger:** A multimedia solo show will be staged by Randy Noojin in four performances from Thursday to Sunday, Nov. 9-12, in the Kutz Theatre of the Lackland Performing Arts Center in Hackettstown. Noojin resurrects the prolific icon, Pete Seeger, America's beloved folksinger/activist, by singing Seeger's greatest songs, vocalizing a brilliant script, and projecting mesmerizing visuals to tell of his personal struggles for free speech. Tickets cost \$15 to \$27.50.

- **Fringe Festival: "My Name Is Gideon: I'm probably going to die eventually"** will be staged in four performances from Thursday to Sunday, Nov. 16-19, in the Kutz Theatre of the Lackland Performing Arts Center in

Hackettstown. A theatrical couch-surfing troubadour, Gideon has hopped from one town to the next on bike, rollerblades, and automobiles, performing and sleeping in 504 homes of perfect strangers. Now, with his banjo, Rossana, under his arms, Gideon invites audiences into his own living room on the stage. Tickets cost \$15 to \$27.50.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.centenarystageco.org or call the 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. It is located in the Lackland Performing Arts Center at Centenary University.

COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS

214 Center Grove Road, Randolph Township

- "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1, through Saturday, Nov. 4, with an additional matinee at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Dragonetti Auditorium on campus. "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" is a musical based on the 1831 novel of the same name written by Victor Hugo with songs from the 1996 Walt Disney Animation Studios film adaptation. Tickets cost \$15 or \$10 for students, seniors, and children under age 12. Purchase them at the door or at www.ccm.edu. For more information, call (973) 328-5427.

- "East of Eden" will be staged in three performances at 7:30 pm Thursday through

Saturday, Nov. 16-18, at the Dragonetti Auditorium on campus. Set during the first two decades of the 20th century, "East of Eden" tells the tale of the doomed Trask clan, Adam and Cathy and Caleb and Aron. Tickets cost \$15 or \$10 for students, seniors, and children under age 12. Purchase them at the door or at <http://www.ccm.edu/east-of-eden/>

DREW UNIVERSITY

- Drew Forum presents "In The Game: Keith Hernandez With Ira Berkow" at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14, in the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts on Lancaster Road in Madison. Two-time World Series champion Keith Hernandez talks with Pulitzer Prize-winning sports journalist Ira Berkow. Hernandez, considered one of the best first-basemen in history, was first a star with the St. Louis Cardinals in the 1970s and early 1980s, and

later an instrumental figure in the rebirth of the New York Mets in the '80s, culminating in the team's last world championship, in 1986. Tickets cost \$32 and can be purchased in cash and in person at The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey box office on campus. Tickets are limited to two per person.

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

118 Lamington Road, Branchburg.

- The Capitol Steps will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at 8 p.m. at the Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College, 118 Lamington Road in Branchburg. With these equal opportunity satirists poking fun at all side of the issues, an evening with The Capitol Steps may be the only thing sure to earn bipartisan support. Tickets cost \$35 & \$45.



"My Name Is Gideon: I'm Probably Going to Die Eventually," the third and final production in Centenary Stage Company's annual Fringe Festival, will be staged in four performances from Thursday to Sunday, Nov. 16-19, in the Kutz Theatre of the Lackland Performing Arts Center in Hackettstown. Tickets cost \$15 to \$27.50.

Christmas Concert Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea



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and Conductor of
A Chorus Line

Acclaimed in
People Magazine and
The New York Times

Sunday, December 10th 3:00 pm

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**THE REV. ALPHONSE STEPHENSON
AND HIS FULL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Immaculate Conception Church

316 Old Allerton Rd. Annandale, NJ

Tickets will be available after all weekend Masses and weekdays
at the Parish Office or by calling 908-735-7319
Donations: \$40. Balcony: \$30. Student (21 yrs & younger): \$25.

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off of exit 18
from
Route 78 West

• ART CALENDAR •

"Perceptions," an exhibit of oil paintings by new artist Peter Fiore, including "Winter, Golden Pass," at right, will be on view at Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery, 5 Morristown Road in Bernardsville from Wednesday, Nov. 1, through Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018. 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. Artist receptions will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Fridays, Nov. 10 and Dec. 1. 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.studio7artgallery.com.

"All that Jazz," an exhibit of paintings by Sam Bleecker of Millington, will be on exhibit at the Bernardsville Public Library, 1 Anderson Hill Road, throughout November. Bleecker was trained as a physicist and molecular biophysicist. Following graduation from college, he worked for Bell Labs writing speeches for executives and, in general, helping the company explain its science and technology. His abstract paintings, motivated by mathematics, physics and biological themes, have been exhibited at galleries around New Jersey. "Numbers and their connection to our understanding of the universe and our lives within it drive one aspect of my art," says Mr. Bleecker, "[I work] to somehow link the assemblage of numbers and their geometric patterns into a larger, more aesthetic whole. In my abstract paintings, much like a musician, I use color and form as my notes, but rarely to write a song, but rather as a jazz ensemble. It's the interplay of notes, not meaning, that is essential. The paintings I share here represent some of the outcomes of these considerations." This exhibition will be on view in the library's community room during regular library hours unless a meeting is in progress. For more information, call the library at (908) 766-0118.

"Eterna," featuring the artwork of Chatham artist, author and architect Maia Kumari Gilman, will remain on view through Tuesday, Nov. 28 in the Lundt-Glover Gallery at the Chatham Township Municipal Building, 58 Meyersville Road in



"Winter, Golden Pass" by Peter Fiore is among the works on view in "Perceptions" through Saturday, Jan. 27, at Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery, 5 Morristown Road in Bernardsville.

Chatham. In addition to "Eterna," the Art League of the Chathams also will host a strolling gallery displaying art of its member artists. Both exhibits run concurrently. For more information, visit www.artleagueofthechathams.org.

"icandy" is on view now through Thursday, Feb 15, 2018, 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. A free opening reception will be held at the gallery from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28. The exhibit is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and by appointment. Visit 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.

An exhibit of works by Ridge High School art faculty will be on view through Saturday, Oct. 28, at Farmstead Arts, 450 King George Road, Basking Ridge. An opening reception will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1, and will feature live music, refreshments and the opportunity to meet and speak with the artists. For more information on upcoming events and classes at the Farmstead Arts Center, visit www.farmsteadartscenter.org or contact Kathy Harris at admin@farmsteadarts.org or call (908) 636-7576.

Morris Arts' Fall/Winter 2017-18 Invitational Exhibit is on view through Friday, Jan. 5, 2018, at the Atrium Gallery, located on Floors 2 to 5 of the Morris County Administration and Records Building, 10 Court St. in Morristown. The artists on display utilize oils, acrylics, mixed media, ink, and other media

and range in style from the abstract to hyper-realism to pop surrealism. Most works are available for sale, with details and pricing provided in the free catalogues found in the elevator lobby areas on floors 2 to 5. The Atrium Art Gallery is free and open to the public during business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., from Monday to Friday and will be open from 7 p.m. to midnight at First Night Morris County on New Year's Eve. For more information, contact Lynn L. Siebert, gallery director, and director of Arts Participation and Communication for Morris Arts, at (973) 285-5115, ext. 10 or Lsiebert@morrisarts.org.

"Synthesizing Nature," an invitational exhibition which explores the ongoing dialogue between nature and culture, is on view through Saturday, Nov. 4, at the The Center for Contemporary Art, 2020 Burnt Mills Road in Bedminster Township. The exhibition features work by 10 nationally and internationally acclaimed artists: Roberley Bell of Batavia, N.Y., Katrina Bello of Montclair, Tiffany Calvert of Louisville, Ky., Colin Edgington of Tobyhanna, Pa., Abraham Ferraro of Albany, N.Y., Nick Marshall of Rochester, N.Y., Jonathan Ricci of Robbinsville, Autumn Richardson and Richard Skelton, both of the United Kingdom, and

Aaron Williams of Queens, N.Y. The work in the exhibition includes photography, painting, collage and sculpture. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, call (908) 234-2345 or visit www.ccabedminster.org.

"Alternate Realities," featuring the work of Gary Godbee of Westfield, is on view through Saturday, Nov. 4, at the The Center for Contemporary Art, 2020 Burnt Mills Road in Bedminster Township. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. It is closed on Sundays and major holidays. The gallery is also open during the evening while classes are in session. For more information, call (908) 234-2345 or visit www.ccabedminster.org.

"William Bouguereau: It's All In The Details," featuring the paintings and preliminary studies of Anthony Panzera, will be on view through Saturday, Oct. 28, at Studio 7 Fine Art Gallery, 5 Morristown Road in Bernardsville. Artist receptions will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Fridays, Sept. 8 and Oct. 6. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays to Saturdays. For more information, call (908) 963-0365.



"Phantom of the Opera," above, by Sam Bleecker of Millington is among the works included in the "All That Jazz" exhibit on view through November at the Bernardsville Public Library, 1 Anderson Hill Road.

· KIDS CALENDAR ·

CIRCUS

Mutts Gone Nuts! will be staged at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. Disorderly duo Scott and Joan Houghton and their hilarious pack of pooches create a canine comedy stunt show like no other, featuring high-flying frisbee dogs, tightrope dogs, dancing dogs and of course, the one and only Sammie the Talking Dog. Tickets cost \$12 or \$15. This show is intended for ages four and up.

FILMS

Hotel Transylvania 2 will be screened at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. This film is rated PG and features the voices of Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Mel Brooks, Kevin James and Steve Buscemi. Admission is free.

HANDS-ON

Upcycle Sunday – Plastic Bottles will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29, at Historic Speedwell in Morristown. Get the most out of your everyday items, just like the old days. Learn how to upcycle plastic bottles into useful objects, while keeping them out of the landfill. This program is included in the price of admission.



The Laurie Berkner Band Holiday Concert will be staged at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. The Laurie Berkner Band celebrates the season with traditional holiday songs, originals from her well-loved album *A Laurie Berkner Christmas*, Hanukkah music and an array of Laurie's greatest hits. Tickets for ages two and up cost \$19 to \$39. Children under age one who sit on laps are admitted free.

NJ Audubon: Turkey Talk will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, 11 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville. Join Doro-

thy Smullen, Audubon teacher/naturalist, for a special seasonal program all about turkeys. Designed for families with kids ages four to eight years old, the program contains a short, illustrated, kid-friendly presentation on turkey behavior, anatomy and general facts, as well as an investigation of turkey feathers and making turkey sounds with a turkey "caller". After a walk outside looking for turkey food, participants will create a pine cone turkey for a Thanksgiving table. This program costs \$5 per child for members or \$7 for non-members. Register by Thursday, Nov. 16. Call (908) 396-6386 to register. Class size is limited to 15.

MAGIC

Dikki's Wacky Magic Show will be staged at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road, Morris Township. A combination of new and old magic with circus skills for all ages. Through audience participation, surprises and fun, this Big Apple circus performer makes the impossible become believable. Tickets cost \$12 or \$10 for museum members. Purchase them at www.morrismuseum.org or by calling (973) 971-3706.

MUSEUM FUN

Mad Science will be presented at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road, Morris Township. Children will be amazed when they create an indoor storm with thunder and lightning, bend light to see all rainbow colors, and much more. Tickets cost \$12 or \$10 for museum members. Purchase them at www.morrismuseum.org.

NATURE FUN

Witch Hazel Hike: Moderate for ages seven and up will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29, at the Morris County Parks Commission's Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area in Boonton. Late October through early November is the forest's "witching hour," when native Witch Hazel shrubs, the last flowers of the year, are in bloom. Hike to view and learn about this unique woody plant. The hike costs \$1 per person.

Trick or Trees, for ages three and up, will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31, at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd, Chatham Township. Before the candy collecting begins, spend the afternoon outdoors learning about all of the treats we get from trees. Admission costs \$3 per child.

THEATER

"Schoolhouse Rock" will be staged at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10, at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road, Morris Township. Tom, a nerve-wracked school teacher nervous about his first day of teaching, tries to relax by watching TV when various characters inside him come out of the tv and show him how to win his students over with imagination and music. Features such beloved Emmy winning Schoolhouse Rock songs as "Just A Bill," "Lolly, Lolly, Lolly" and "Conjunction Junction." Tickets cost \$14 or \$12 for museum members. Purchase them at www.morrismuseum.org or by calling (973) 971-3706.



Mutts Gone Nuts! will be staged at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. Tickets cost \$12 or \$15. This show is intended for ages four and up.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer								
5	3	2	6	1	8	4	7	9
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YOUR TABLE IS READY

A Busy Autumn at the Grain House

By Deb McCoy

Now that autumn has arrived, those at the Grain House have begun to celebrate the harvest of many colorful and flavorful foods. Here are some of the enjoyable events that are occurring in the next few weeks.

On October 29th from 10 am until 2 pm, join the staff at the Halloween Brunch. There will be candy and trinkets for the kids, face painting and seasonal Halloween-inspired desserts. Costumes are always a fun way to get ready for this holiday. Prices are \$29.95 for adults and \$12.00 for children ages 4 through 10. Reservations are strongly recommended.

For the big kids in all of us, the Grain House is featuring a Comedy Night on Thursday, November 2nd from 6 pm until 9. It's a great way to kick off the weekend, combining great food and lots of laughter. Performing is Michael Dean Ester, an award-winning comedian. You may have heard him on Sirius XM Radio's Comedy Channel or you may have seen his act on HBO or NBC's Late Night TV. Don't miss this opportunity for a good time.

Always a favorite at both restaurants, Thanksgiving will be celebrated on November 23rd from 11:30 am until 7:15 pm, for dinner at the Grain House or for a Thanksgiving Buffet in the Washington Ballroom at the Olde Mill Inn. Both meals feature the all-natural Griggstown Farm turkey. Reservations are required for both The Grain House and the Olde Mill Inn. Call 908-696-2335 with a credit card to secure your reservation.

The Thanksgiving menu at the Grain House includes delicious appetizer choices like the Roasted Beet Gnocchi, Lobster Bisque or Salumeria. In addition to the Griggstown Farm turkey, entrées include Short Ribs served with a Pancetta Potato Cake, a Cajun-crusted salmon and a vegetarian "Eggplant Lasagna." The Thanksgiving buffet at The Olde Mill Inn offers too many choices to list, but all are tempting.

The Grain House Restaurant at the Olde Mill Inn is a Central Jersey landmark in a building dating back to 1768, located at 225 Hwy 202, Basking Ridge, NJ (I-287 Exit 30B). Lunch and Dinner are served daily, with an a la carte Saturday Brunch/Lunch and an expansive Sunday Buffet Brunch (10am-2pm) that can also accommodate groups. The restaurant offers American cuisine with unique twists from the executive chef, and the ambiance is casual with options for dining room or Coppertop Pub dining. The Coppertop features 12 beers on tap and a good selection of wines plus special cocktails. Reservations are available at 908-221-1150 or on OpenTable.com.

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