

Out & About

Recorder Community Newspapers

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

A LIGHT TOUCH

The Light Opera of New Jersey excels at serving up lighter fare to eager audiences

By **ROBERTA BURKHART**
OUT & ABOUT EDITOR

Some people change their hairstyle or buy a new car on a whim. But how many can say the mood struck them and they decided to start a professional opera company?

Bill and Lauran Corson of Basking Ridge can count themselves among that exclusive group.

Maybe it was a bit more complex than a mere whim, but in 2013, the Corsons indeed took a leap and founded what has become a thriving professional opera company that performs three major shows and a variety of smaller outreach events annually for thousands of musical theater fans.

One could make the argument that the Light Opera of New Jersey owes much of its existence to the Victorian-era theatrical partnership of the librettist W. S. Gilbert and the composer Arthur Sullivan.

"We met singing Gilbert and Sullivan," Bill Corson explained during a recent interview.

Lauran Fulton Corson is an accomplished Coloratura Soprano. She is a graduate of the Juilliard School in New York City and holds a master's degree in music from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich. She has performed a wide variety of well-known roles in productions across the U.S., including Marie in "Daughter of the Regiment," Gilda in "Rigoletto," and Lucia in "Lucia di Lamamoor." In addition to running Light Opera of New Jersey, Lauran operates Corson Studios, dedicated to the development and enhancement of all styles of singing, from the amateur to the professional. Additionally she owns Creative Design by Lauran, an interior design firm in Basking Ridge.

Meanwhile, LONJ executive producer William Corson also serves as the company's most frequent stage director, hav-



Bringing the lighter side of opera to the masses with productions like "Don Pasquale," left, and "A Little Night Music," right, is a main focus of the Light Opera of New Jersey, founded in 2013 by Bill and Lauran Corson of Basking Ridge.

ing produced and/or directed more than 60 mini-shows ranging from "Gypsy" to "The Barber of Seville," and directed more than a dozen full-length productions. A former member of the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, Bill is a significant G&S enthusiast but with a wide musical theater background. Additionally he provides lighting design for LONJ and other groups regionally. He is a graduate of Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y., and works full time as vice president of Group Benefits at AEPG Wealth Strategies in Warren Township.

Lauran and Bill moved to Basking Ridge in 1994, where they discovered St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The duo realized that despite its large capacity and acoustically friendly construction, the church featured little live music.

An obvious next step came when the couple began planning, orchestrating and producing operettas as fundraising events for the parish. As the years went by, the duo staged more and more shows and began branching out to additional venues, including the outdoor amphitheater at Pleasant Valley Park in Basking Ridge, local libraries and schools and more.

"Then in 2013, my wife and I looked at each other ... and we basically went pro," Corson said, laughing.

The company – which changed its name from the Ridge Light Opera to the Light Opera of New Jersey to reflect its broader reach – began to audition and hire professional performers and narrowed its focus to three major productions each year: an operetta in the fall, a spring opera, and

a summertime musical theater production.

Corson says one of the company's most important missions is "keeping genre of operetta alive. It's a genre which is not as well known as musical theater (like those on Broadway)."

He explained that operettas are a bit more appealing to the "regular guy; with more of a different taste than opera. Operetta is a cross between musical theater and opera, in that it's a trained style of singing but one that features lighter-hearted works." Opera tends to be more serious whereas operettas are almost always comedies, funny and light, or at least the music is light, Corson explained.

"People tend to be excited about the stuff

OPERA: Light Opera of NJ serves up softer side of opera

FROM PAGE 1

we do. It has a warm, family feeling.”

And maintaining that direction for the Light Opera of New Jersey is paramount, he added. “If they’re not having a good time, then why do it?”

Up Next

Coming up on Friday and Saturday, April 7 and 8, is LONJ’s production of “The Barber of Seville,” Gioachino Rossini’s classic and beloved comic opera, under the direction of Jamie Baer Peterson with musical direction by Robert Butts. The performances take place at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. Tickets may be purchased at www.lonj.org/tickets/ or by calling (908) 655-6023.

Count Almaviva has fallen hopelessly in love with Rosina, the beautiful ward of Doctor Bartolo. Bartolo intends to marry Rosina, and keeps her locked away from the outside world in his house. Almaviva engages his former employee, the barber Figaro, to help him contact Rosina and steal her away from the frumpy old Bartolo. Comedy prevails throughout as Figaro guides the Count through different disguises so he can gain access to the house, closer to Rosina and a marriage proposal. Barber will be presented in English with orchestra.

David Murray, who appeared as the titular role in LONJ’s production of “Don Pasquale” last season, returns to the stage as the pompous and oblivious Bartolo. Making their LONJ premieres are Ben Boskoff as the crafty Count Almaviva, Jessica Renfro as the rebellious Rosina, and Chuck Schneider as the clever and merry Figaro. Also appearing in their first LONJ production are Hyong Sik Jo as Basilio, Corne-



The Light Opera of New Jersey staged “The Mystery of Edwin Drood” in July 2016 at the South Orange Performing Arts Center.

lia Lottito as Berta, and Jason Barrameda as Fiorello. Returning company members include Michael Baruffi as the officer and Heath Weisberg as the notary with Zachary Morehouse, Anthony Alberti, and Will

Roper rounding out the talented ensemble. In a special collaboration, Robert Butts of The Baroque Chamber Orchestra of New Jersey will be the musical director of this production.

In July, the LONJ returns to the South Orange Performing Arts Center with six performances of Stephen Sondheim’s “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street,” which likely will draw more than 1,000 audience members, Corson estimated.

“Sweeney Todd” will be directed by Jeffrey Fiorello with music direction by Stephen Fox and choreography by Samantha Hahn Simpson. Returning from exile, Benjamin Barker arrives in London under the name of Sweeney Todd in order to exact his revenge on the judge who exiled him in order to steal his wife. Todd resumes his old residence in his barber shop over the meat pie establishment of Mrs. Lovett. A competing barber, Adolfo Pirelli, recognizes Todd and threatens to reveal him to the authorities, causing Sweeney to kill Pirelli in a rage. When Mrs. Lovett discovers the body, she proposes disposing of it through her meat pies as she hasn’t been able to afford real meat for weeks. Todd and Lovett continue to plot together; throats are slit, and business begins to flourish. Can Todd be stopped before exacting his revenge on the judge? Tickets go on sale in June.



Left: Starring in LONJ’s upcoming production of “The Barber of Seville” are, from left, Hyong Sik Jo as Basilio, Chuck Schneider as Figaro, Jessica Renfro as Rosina, Ben Boskoff as Count Almaviva, and David Murray as Bartolo. **Right:** Samantha Dango as Norina and Matt Ciuffitelli as Dr. Maletesta perform in LONJ’s March 2016 production of “Don Pasquale.”

Spring exhibits opening at Center for Contemporary Art

Two art exhibits will open tomorrow, Friday, March 24, at The Center for Contemporary Art, 2020 Burnt Mills Road in Bedminster Township. The shows will remain on view through Saturday, June 10.

The first exhibition features the work of Dara Alter, Matthew Borgen and HE Wei.

"Dara Alter: Missed a Spot," presents the work of Dara Alter, who makes multi-surfaced paintings on plexiglass and archival acetate. Born in Toronto, Canada, Alter is the recipient of the Giza-Daniels Endesha award from Rutgers University and was a recent resident artist at the Digital Painting Atelier at OCAD University in Toronto.

"Matthew Borgen: Comic Spatial Analysis," showcases the work of Matthew Borgen who removes individual 1930s and 40s era comics panels from their normal linear sequences and recombines them utilizing alternative strategies of organization. A native of Akron, Ohio, he is now a resident of Philadelphia, where he is the exhibitions coordinator for Arcadia University.

"HE Wei: Space Permeable," features the work of HE Wei whose work adopts an interdisciplinary approach by combining sculpture, installation, design, media, and performance in order to create what he calls a participatory art event. He is the founder of HE+HU Art Collective and a member of the NEW INC, the incubator program of art, design and technology under the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York.

"Each year The Center's Exhibitions Committee meets to select artists from our annual International Juried Exhibition for solo shows," said Elie Porter Trubert, The Center's executive director. "Unlike the juror, who selects artwork through a "blind" process, the committee dives into the full body of work of each accepted artist. We are very excited about the three artists who were awarded this opportunity and look forward to seeing Dara Alter's luminous multi-layered paintings, Matthew Borgen's dynamic reconfigured classic comic book narratives and HE Wei's playful and thought-provoking installations in our galleries."

The second exhibition, **"Lena Shiffman: The Art of Storytelling,"** is part of The Center's ongoing faculty exhibition series. Shiffman, who has been illustrating children's books for more than 20 years, was born and raised in Sweden, a country rich in storytelling which served as her inspiration. Shiffman studied at The Parsons School of Design and the Art Students League in New York City and is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She currently resides in Flemington and teaches book illustration, watercolor and drawing at The Center.

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.



"America Today, Yesterday, Never - Labor 1," above, by Matthew Borgen and "Small Treasures," right, by Lena Shiffman are among the works on view at the The Center for Contemporary Art, 2020 Burnt Mills Road in Bedminster Township. The exhibits will be on view through Saturday, June 10. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.



Out & About

Recorder Community Newspapers

NEW JERSEY HILLS MEDIA GROUP

• WHAT'S INSIDE •

Art	7
Campus	10
Film	11
Kids	12
Music	15
Potpourri	14
Sudoku	12
Theater	13

Editor: Roberta Burkhart
Phone: (908) 766-3900 ext. 225
Fax: (908) 766-7199
Address:
 17-19 Morristown Road,
 Bernardsville, N.J. 07924
Email: rburkhart@newjerseyhills.com

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



20th Annual Gala & Auction for the benefit of

Woodlands Wildlife Refuge

Friday, April 7th, 2017 • 6:30—10:30pm

Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

Four-Course Dinner, Silent Auction, Tricky Tray Featuring
 live contemporary jazz and pop by
 The Dave Antonow Band with Kerry Blue

General Reservations \$85 -includes \$10 of Tricky Tray Tickets
 VIP Reservations \$125 -includes \$25 of Tricky Tray Tickets, and more!

www.woodlandswildlife.org

908.730.8300 Ext. 8

Ad-sponsored by:



'Incidental Edges' opens April 21 at J. Cacciola gallery

J. Cacciola – Gallery W will host "Incidental Edges," an exhibition of selected works by sculptor Tom Holmes and painter Laurie J. Kalb.

The exhibition will be on view from Friday, April 21, through Tuesday, May 30, at the gallery, which is located at 35 Mill Street in Bernardsville. An opening reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 21. An artist talk and champagne toast at the gallery will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 7. All are welcomed to attend.

Holmes is a sculptor working in stone, metal, wood, light, ice and water. He works seasonally, depending on available materials and the weather, which strongly influence his work.

According to the artist, "Ice follows the freezing mark of winter, stone and steel the exterior work space of summer. Spring begins the search for materials and fall

settles all debts, emotional, physical and intellectual."

"Incidental Edges" contains a selection of sculptures representing some of these phases in his work. Holmes' work is included in corporate, private and museum collections throughout the United States, and has been exhibited at Beacon Artists Union, North Georgia State University, the LuDAP Sculpture Park in Paris, The Frank Lloyd Wright Museum, and other venues throughout the country and internationally.

Kalb's career as an exhibiting artist has been evolving for the past two decades. Kalb works in oils, pastel, and cold wax medium, drawing from her life's experience to explore the relationship between art and the soul. Kalb's work often contains abstracted vessels, which form energetic compositions of line and color, crowding the space creat-

ed on the canvas while playing with the viewer's sense of harmony and visual tension. Her work has been included in exhibitions throughout the region, including the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, Mayo Performing Arts Center, The Pastel Society of N.J., Speakeasy Gallery, and S.H.E. Gallery, as well as in public and private collections.

Holmes's abstract sculptures interspersed with Laurie Kalb's paintings add solidity to the exhibition, grounding the viewer and offering a unique reference point, organizers said. Although these artists have distinct styles, this exhibition merges their work seamlessly into a lively exploration of form, line, and the relationship between the space on the canvas and the space we occupy.

For more information, call (212) 462-4646 or email info@jccaciolagallery.com.



"Strength of the Voice," above, an oil on canvas by Laurie Kalb is among the works included in the "Incidental Edges" exhibition on view from Friday, April 21, through Tuesday, May 30, at J. Cacciola – Gallery W, 35 Mill Street in Bernardsville.

THE HAPPY MEDIUM

Kim Russo "The Happy Medium" comes to Morristown's Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 30. Known as "The Happy Medium," Russo is no stranger to the paranormal world; she's been able to communicate with spirits since the age of nine. Join the star of Lifetime Movie Networks' hit show "The Haunting of..." for a very special spiritual journey as she shares insights from beyond. Tickets are \$29 to \$59.



Chatham Community Players will host musical audition workshop

The Chatham Community Players will host "How To Choose Your Best Audition Song Workshop" presented by Ty Stephens from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 8, at the Chatham Playhouse, 23 North Passaic Avenue, in Chatham.

Stephens is an award-winning singer/songwriter; entertainer; recording artist and the co-writer and an original cast member of "From My Hometown", co-writer/production, choreographer and star of the long-running "Shades of Harlem" revue show, and co-writer/production, choreographer and currently starring in the new touring hit, "On Kentucky Avenue." Stephens appeared on Broadway in the original productions of "Sophisticated Ladies" with Gregory Hines and Phyllis Hyman and "Marilyn, An American Fable."

In spring 2010, Stephens joined with vocalists from Broadway's "The Lion King" singing on the recording of the soundtrack for the World Cup. He has performed or appeared with: Harry Belafonte, Gregory Hines, Phyllis Hyman, Toshi Kubota, Patti Austin, Jeffrey Osborne, Phoebe Snow, Smokey Robinson, Jon Hendricks; at Carnegie Hall with Liza Minnelli and Natalie Cole and more.

Stephens' original recordings include



TY STEPHENS

"Aquarian Mind," "Deeper In Fantasy," and "Musichameleon", and the recent release "GOOD MEDICINE". Find more information and downloadable songs at www.tystephensmusic.com, CDBaby.com, iTunes, Amazon, Reverbnation, Soundcloud, YouTube, Myspace and more.

The class will consist of finding the song that fits, based on one's skill, taste and needs. What song shows off the best parts of your voice, your personality, the character you are auditioning for? Choosing the right song is a crucial factor in who ends up capturing attention and landing the part. Bring your best audition songs and learn how to best deliver that winning performance, organizers said.

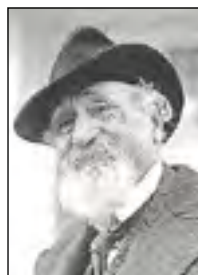
Admission at the door is \$20 and is open to anyone 14 years old and older. Spaces are limited – reserve yours by sending your name, age, contact number / address to ChathamWorkshops@gmail.com.

Historical society will host lecture on WWI-era inventor Hudson Maxim

Martin Kane, local historian, author, and president of the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum, will give a special presentation on Hudson Maxim at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, at the Morris County Historical Society's (MCHS) Acorn Hall, 68 Morris Avenue in Morristown.

Kane will share little known information on Maxim, a highly respected, local innovator who held a patent for smokeless gunpowder, invented a variety of high explosives, and designed a torpedo-proof ship. Maxim, well ahead of his time, advocated for a national armaments movement prior to the United States' entry into World War I, and was an early and ardent supporter of women's rights.

MCHS's exhibit, "1917: World War, Women's Rights, and Weaponry Sciences," features the work of Hudson Maxim, and illustrates how local men and women contrib-



HUDSON MAXIM

uted to tremendous advances in weaponry sciences during the W.W.I era. The exhibit also focuses on sacrifices of Morris County residents who served, and gave their lives, during the War, and highlights the era's associated cultural changes as women sought equal recognition and the right to vote.

Space is limited, and tickets must be purchased in advance. The cost for the presentation is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$7 for students, and free for MCHS members. Call (973) 267-3465, or email MCHSAcornHall@gmail.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

Women Playwright Series returns to Centenary stage

The annual Women Playwright Series returns to Centenary Stage Company in April with new plays from writers from all over the country.

The line-up features the works of playwrights Sholeh Wolpe, Jennifer Fawcett and Michelle Kholos Brooks, and distinctive new plays, which will feature professional casts and directors. The performances will be presented in the Lackland Center on the campus of Centenary University in Hackettstown at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, April 12, 19 and 26.

A fast-paced dramatic comedy about the secrets and cost of happiness, "Shame" by Sholeh Wolpe will open the festival on April 12. Chaos ensues and before long, the players are all engaged in a head-to-head clash over each other's moral values and cultural expectations.

On April 19, a play about mothers and sons, how we care for each other, and how to make a good apple pie, "Apples in Winter", by Jennifer Fawcett, is the winner of the Smith Prize, encouraging emerging writers to tackle the pressing issues of our times. On April 26, inspired by



SHOLEH WOLPE

the true story, "Hitlers Tasters" by Michelle Kholos Brooks, brings to life the story of the young women given the opportunity to die for their country, three times a day, every day.

Lively talk-backs with the playwright and cast follow each presentation, and one play is selected each year as the winner of the Susan Glaspell

Award, which promises a full production in the company's main-stage season and a monetary award for the playwright.

Admission to each play is by donation and reservations are requested, as seating is often limited. For information and reservations, call the box office at (908) 979-0900, or visit www.centenarystageco.org.

DOLCE
HOTELS AND RESORTS
BASKING RIDGE

Now Accepting Reservations for our Annual Easter Brunch!

Dolce Basking Ridge is proud to announce that we are now accepting reservations for our annual Easter Brunch! Seating is available on **Sunday, April 16th between 11:00 am and 2:30 pm**. We will be offering a full lunch buffet featuring various chef prepared action stations!

For reservations, please call
Vita Restaurant - (908) 953-3003

300 N Maple Ave • Basking Ridge
908-953-3000 • DolceBaskingRidge.com

DolceBRHotel DolceBaskingRidge DolceBR

One-Of-A-Kind Consignment Gallery

Fine quality, gently used furniture, rugs, art, lighting, silver, tableware, jewelry & decorative accessories...

All at a fraction of original prices!

301 N. Harrison Street, Princeton, NJ
609-924-1227 • oneofakindconsignment@gmail.com
oneofakindconsignment.com

Step back in time with the Corps in Hysham, Mt.

Editor's Note: This is the 11th in a monthly series detailing the discoveries made during the author's road trip following the trail of Lewis and Clark.

Hysham, Mt., population 250. My traveling companion, Barb, and I stopped here for lunch and were treated to a private tour of the history museum, which is located in an old general store complete with an old-fashioned soda fountain. The small collection of historical treasures included displays about fur trapping, Indian Wars, steamboats, the railroad, ranching and homesteading, and a rope used to hang outlaws.

Across the street was a most interesting part of the museum complex: an old Moorish-style theatre from the 1930s. Out in the front are some very unusual and eclectic sculptures of Lewis, Clark, Sacagawea, Jean-Baptiste (about 1 ½ yrs old), Charbonneau, a tiger, a woolly mammoth and a buffalo. Attached to the rear of the building is a house where the owners had lived, furnished from the 1950s — formica, shag rugs, pink sofas, flowered carpets. Our guide gave us a leisurely tour. Nowadays free movies are shown in the theater on Friday nights and the house is a time capsule museum.

When Lewis and Clark were on their return trip, they decided to take different routes through Montana to enable them to explore more territory. Lewis followed the Missouri River north and east to investigate the Marias River, while Clark traveled down the Yellowstone River in southern Montana.

Clark came upon a 150-foot sandstone butte rising from the Yellowstone Valley near the river. He wrote in his journal, "... at 4 pm I arrived at a remarkable rock... The natives have ingraved on the face of this rock the figures of animals, etc. near which I marked my name and the day of the month and year..." The date was July 25, 1806. This important landmark signature wasn't rediscovered until 1863 when a pioneer came upon it. This signature is the only physical



Jennifer Fischer

ROAD TRIP OF DISCOVERY

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



evidence of the explorers' presence.

Clark wrote, "This rock, which I shall call Pompy's Tower." Legend suggests he named the sandstone formation after Jean Baptiste, the son of Charbonneau and Sacagawea. The little boy was nicknamed "Pomp," which was Shoshoni tradition for a first born son. Clark was very fond of him and later adopted him and raised him as his own child. Biddle and Allen edited the journals in 1814 and changed the name to Pompeys Pillar as it is known today.

There is a wooden boardwalk up to a platform where I could view the signature, now protected by a brass and glass case. Climbing a little higher, I had an expansive view of the beautiful Yellowstone River and surrounding territory.

Pompeys Pillar was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965 and a National Monument in 2001. There is also a very nice interpretive center with exhibits giv-



Pompeys Pillar National Monument, **above**, a 150-foot sandstone butte that contains William Clark's signature, is located in Hysham, Mt. An interpretive center, **below**, provides visitors with a glimpse into the area's history.



ing the history of the area.

Now the day came for "the changing of the guard." I dropped Barb off in Bozman, Mt., to meet her husband and headed to Missoula to meet mine. Not far from Bozman, I arrived at the Missouri Headwaters State Park, near Three Forks, Mt.

Lewis and Clark arrived in this area in July 1805. They agreed to name the three streams that converge here after President Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State James Madison and Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin. It was gratifying to see the Jefferson and Madison Rivers meet with their distinct currents. People were fishing, tubing and swimming. A little way down the road there were outdoor exhibits and a rocky path up to the top of an overlook, from which I could see where the Gallatin meets the other two.

Reaching the headwaters of the Missouri River was a thrill, but now I wanted to complete the Lewis and Clark Trail all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Fortunately, I was able to do this the following year with my husband. Along the way we discovered many

more interesting and unusual places.

On that trip we picked up the Lewis and Clark Trail at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers in North Dakota, near the spot where Lewis and Clark reunited on the journey back east in 1806. It is incredible that they ever met here, more than five weeks after separating.

It was exciting to see this significant convergence. Over the years, the Yellowstone has moved a bit and the place where the steamboats used to dock is now high and dry, except when there is flooding.

The Corps of Discovery camped nearby in April of 1805. Lewis mentions "immense quantities of game in every direction around us as we passed up the river: consisting of herds of Buffalo, Elk, and Antelopes with some deer and wolves." There was no shortage of food for the Corps in this area. Both captains often mentioned the annoyance of mosquitoes.

Next time we'll visit the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site and a remarkable town beneath a town.



Left: The Yucca Theatre in Hysham, Mt., was built in 1931 by David Manning. **Right:** These sculptures of, from left, Sacagawea, her son, Jean-Baptiste, William Clark, and Sacagawea's husband, Charbonneau, stand outside the theater.

• ART CALENDAR •

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

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

“Common Ground” is on view now through Thursday, Aug. 24, at Gallery at 14 Maple, located at 14 Maple Ave. in Morristown. This exhibit features works by six New Jersey artists, including Alaine Becker of South Orange, Dominant Dansby of Jersey City, Dahlia Elsayed of Palisades Park, Hee-jung Kim of Bogota, Mel Leipzig of Trenton and Alex Piccirillo of Nutley. The Gallery at 14 Maple is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and by appointment.



“Incidental Edges,” an exhibition of selected works by sculptor Tom Holmes, including “Arc of History,” **above**, and painter Laurie J. Kalb, will be on from Friday, April 21, through Tuesday, May 30, at J. Cacciola – Gallery W, 35 Mill Street in Bernardsville. An opening reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 21. An artist talk and champagne toast at the gallery will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 7. All are welcomed to attend. Holmes is a sculptor working in stone, metal, wood, light, ice and water. Kalb



works in oils, pastel, and cold wax medium, drawing from her life's experience to explore the relationship between art and the soul. For more information, call (212) 462-4646 or email info@jccaciolagalleryw.com.

NJ Audubon: “Framing Nature – Seeing Forms, Patterns, and Structures in the Natural World” will be on view through Monday, May 29, at the Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, 11 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville. A beautiful mixed-media investigation of nature's own art, revealed, curated and framed by teaching artist and designer Karen Fuchs. Fuchs is a teaching artist and designer with a background in textile design and interior architecture. She has developed and teaches curriculum that focuses on looking closely at the natural world – its forms, patterns, and structures, as well as creating art-making projects that are inspired by this scrutiny. She leads workshops on integrating art and science, design thinking, and on making connections between the natural and man-made world. Her work includes cyanotypes, textiles, photography, printmaking, collage and assemblage. Admission is free. The gallery is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. It is closed Mondays.

“On the Road & Home Again,” featuring the works of artist Sally Abbott, will be on view through Tuesday, June 13, in the Lundt-Glover Gallery in the Chatham Township Municipal Building, 58 Meyersville Road

in Chatham. The exhibit, hosted by the Art League of the Chathams, includes landscapes and seascapes that Abbott painted from photos she took on her travels and still lifes that she painted at home. The Art League also will display work of its member artists in the strolling gallery through June 13. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday. Artwork is for sale. For information, call (973) 635-4600.

An exhibit of artwork by Laura J. Spector of Hillsborough will be on view at the Clarence Dillon Public Library, 2336 Lamington Road in Bedminster Township during the month of April. Her exhibit is titled “Artist Diversity – Finding My Voice” and includes paintings, photographs, and metal interactive pieces. Spector has degrees in art education and taught art in the Bridge-water-Raritan School District for many years. She has exhibited at many public libraries, the Jewish Community Center, and the Hamilton Street Gallery and the Sidetracks Art Gallery. Her works are also in private collections throughout New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The exhibit will be held in the downstairs meeting room of the library. It is free and open to the public. For more information visit www.clarencedillonpl.org.

“The Yacon Project” by Rutgers Master Gardeners of Morris County will be on view throughout March in the Haggerty Education Center at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Ave., Morris Township. The

project, from seeding to harvest, is on display in this uniquely informative exhibit. Admission is free.

“Lena Shiffman: The Art of Storytelling,” is on view through Saturday, June 10, at the The Center for Contemporary Art, 2020 Burnt Mills Road in Bedminster Township. The show is part of The Center's ongoing faculty exhibition series. Shiffman, who has been illustrating children's books for more than 20 years, was born and raised in Sweden, a country rich in storytelling which served as her inspiration. She currently resides in Flemington and teaches book illustration, watercolor and drawing at The Center. 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.

“Dara Alter: Missed a Spot,” “Matthew Borgen: Comic Spatial Analysis,” and “HE Wei: Space Permeable,” are view through Saturday, June 10, 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 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.

“Through the Unfrequented Sky: Works by Cecilia Paredes,” including the **below** image, will open with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, at ArtYard, located at 62A Trenton Ave. in Frenchtown. Curated by Magda Gonzalez-Mora, the exhibit will run through Sunday, June 11. For more information, visit artyard.org.



Off-roading with reds

If you typically tell the waiter, "I'll have a red," the chances are you care less what red it is.

Implicit in that request is the blissful ignorance of not being underwhelmed by what the waiter brings back. You can change all that by looking at their wine menu and ordering a specific red.

And if your digits instinctively went to the all so familiar cab or a pinot, you are a Volvo. You like it safe. And that's ok.

But for those mid-summer nights that are around the corner, you could be a flashy red Maserati, taking some risks but getting paid with pleasure. These are the reds that should be on your try list.

Bordeaux: The lushness and fruit forward personality of most California Cabernet are, in my opinion, apt training wheels for Bordeaux. Indeed there are complex cabernet and even more complex California meritage that simulates a Bordeaux but the simple difference is that a Cali Cab is a single grape wine while Bordeaux is an amalgam three, often, four grapes: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, the cab and merlot being dominant players in the petri dish.

And there's a reason this bi-polar grape combination has worked for centuries. Imagine if you were blending the attributes of a librarian (strict, discipline, structure and endurance) with the DNA of a starlet (sweet, flamboyant, luscious, sensuous), you have successfully blended cabernet with merlot. Now can you imagine imbibing this divine collaboration. That's Bordeaux's claim to your senses.

Now take that test-tube further and add the aromatic complexity of a petit verdot, put there due to its thick skins and natural acidity, it helps bring additional tannins, color and freshness, along with a spicy pepper character and gives Bordeaux its aging character. Select Bordeaux can be put away for 20 to 30 years.

Cabernet Franc, the fourth grape, grows in chalky, limestone parcels in the Bordeaux region as well as in France's Loire Valley. With its floral, plum, blackberry, cassis, spice and fresh herb aromas, it also makes Bordeaux an intuitive pairing wine with roast pork, filet mignon, beef brisket, burgers, pot roast, venison, duck, goose, wild boar and any game. Ah! for a rare filet with a Bordeaux from St. Emilion.

A 1961 Chateau Cheval Blanc will set you back some, but under \$15 beauties like Chateau Hyot, Ch. Malbat, Ch. Ribeyrolles, Ch. Clinet-Ronan and Ch. Grand Jardin will make you an off-roader off the beaten Cab/



Ash Rajan

READ BETWEEN THE WINES

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

Pinot road.

Malbec: Malbec's origins are in old world France but really got re-birthing in Mendoza, Argentina. In my view, the best kept secret of an accessible red wine that tastes like it belongs to the snooty club of its hard-to-get red friends, Bordeaux and Burgundy. Tasters everywhere have documented its main fruit flavors – blackberry, plum, and black cherry – but have celebrated its nuanced flavors of milk chocolate, cocoa, violet flowers, leather and tobacco.

This is no wimpy house red. Colored a deep purple with a very visible rim of ruby, this unassuming blockbuster pairs well with veggies. Mushroom, roasted vegetables, green and red bell peppers, potato, arugula, kale, chard, grilled endive and onions. It's a chicken's best friend and its pairing soulmate.

Malbec pairs well with earthy flavors too, such as beef brisket, duck and lamb but poultry is where it wears its Sunday best. Altos Las Hormigas and Alma de Los Andes and Fabre Montmayou are terrific under \$15s that get consistent ratings.

Pinotage: Granted that this wine is an acquired taste. Widely punished by wine writers of having nail polish aromatics, this South African grape was born out of a Pinot Noir marrying another grape well outside of the family.

Yet if you are lucky to have traveled to Cape Town and its nearby Stellenbosch and Frankenhoeck wine country, you will become a believer.

Pinotage does not have a predictable flavor profile The Kanenkop Black label Pinotage will set you back \$350 but for mere mortals like us, The Backsburg and the Southern Right pinotage will be a welcome departure from the usual suspects.

So when winter cracks and the buzz comes back to global warming and summer explodes in all its glory with its breezy cool nights and wanton dreams, sip these off-road reds.

Take on the adventure, live a little, why thrive and make merry.

You Won't Be Fooled
at
THE STIRLING HOTEL
"The Tavern on Main"
Informal Dining
Indoors & Outdoors
Year-Round on the Terrace
NOW OPEN 7 DAYS
Lunch & Dinner
Mon - Sat 11:30am - 10pm
Sunday 11:30am - 9pm
227 Main Ave. • Stirling, NJ
(908) 647-6919
www.thestirlinghotel.com

Alexis
Diner • Restaurant
THE PERFECT PLACE TO MEET
WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY
973-361-8000
Denville Commons Plaza
3130 State Route 10 West
Denville, NJ
Visit us online at:
alexisdinernj.com
for menus and promotions!

**PRIX
FIXE**

Three-Course Dinner \$26.50
5:00-6:30pm
Wed.-Thurs.-Fri. Only



Every Friday 5 to 10 pm

Over 20 Hot and Cold items
\$34.75 per person.
First Friday Seafood Buffet—\$44.50.

Black Forest Inn

249 Route 206 Stanhope - a minute off Exit 25 on Route 80
973-347-3344 - www.BlackForestInn.com

To Advertise
on this page
please call
(908)766-3900,
x 238



YOUR TABLE IS READY

Plenty Happening at the Grain House

By Deb McCoy

From March through May, the Grain House will offer a variety of special events and menus to tantalize the palette.

On March 30th, the Coppertop Pub at the Grain House will offer a “Whiskey Dinner” featuring a tasting of four bourbons from the Buffalo Trace Distillery. Each of the bourbons will be paired with special menu items as follows:

- Buffalo Trace Straight Bourbon Whiskey with Gruyère Stuffed Gnocchi and French Onion Broth
- 1792 Small Batch with Applewood Bacon Beignets and Maple Chive Crème Fraiche
- Blanton’s Single Barrel with Samples of Pulled Pork, Baby Back Ribs, Burgoo Stew, Sweet Potato Waffle, Fried Green Tomato, Old Fashioned Slaw, Henry Bain Sauce and Homemade Hot Sauce
- Buffalo Trace Bourbon Cream with Derby Pie, Bourbon Balls and Pecan Bourbon Milkshake

This event starts at 6:15pm, and the cost for the evening is \$66 per person plus gratuity and NJ Sales Tax. Seating in the Pub is limited, and reservations are highly recommended by calling 908-221-1150.

April is “Grilled Cheese Month”, and the Grain House will celebrate everyone’s favorite indulgence with twenty days of deliciousness dedicated to the favorite. During the 20 days, lunch menus (Monday through Friday) will feature one unique interpretation including Turkey, Bacon, Avocado & Cheddar (April 3rd), Pulled Short Rib with Caramelized Onions (April 19th), and Caprese with Prosciutto (April 27th), to name just a few. See the complete schedule of the month of Grill Cheese specialties at GrainHouse.com.

Easter is just around the corner on April 16th, and reservations are already being taken for the Olde Mill Inn and Grain House Brunch Buffet. This spectacular buffet will offer a Salad Bar, Seafood Bar (featuring Hickory Smoked Salmon and Shrimp Cocktail), Panini Board, Omelet & Waffle Station, Carving Station (Slow Roasted Certified Angus Prime Rib with a Garlic Herb Crust), Bread Station, 12 Chafers, and a Dessert Station offering Gourmet Cakes, Pies, Pastries, Brownies, Cupcakes, Break Puddings, Fruit Cobblers, Cookies and more. Reservations are required and can be made at 908-696-2335.

Brunch is from 9:30am – 3:30pm, and a dinner buffet will be offered starting at 4:00 pm. The complete Easter Buffet menu and details are at GrainHouse.com.

The Coppertop Pub is now also offering a new menu of special cocktails to welcome spring.

The Grain House serves lunch and dinner seven days a week, with an expansive Sunday Brunch Buffet every Sunday (10am-2pm) and an À La Carte Lunch/Brunch menu on Saturdays from 11:00am-4:00pm.

The Grain House is located at 225 Hwy 202, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 (I-287 Exit 30B, GPS: 225 Morristown Road). Telephone: 908-221-1150. GrainHouse.com. Follow the Grain House on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

GRAIN HOUSE RESTAURANT



**EXCEPTIONAL AMERICAN CUISINE
SERVED IN A UNIQUE HISTORIC TAVERN
WITH 12 BEERS ON TAP**



COZY FIRESIDE DINING

PLUS PRIVATE SPACES FOR WEDDINGS, PARTIES, MEETINGS & EVENTS

**Telephone: 908-221-1150 GrainHouse.com
225 Route 202, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 (GPS: 225 Morristown Rd.)**

• COMING UP ON CAMPUS •

CENTENARY UNIVERSITY

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

• **Dance Fest: Nai-Ni Chen: The First Chinese New Year**, a family event, will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at the Sitnik Theater. This spectacular production features dazzling props, colorful costumes, mesmerizing music, fantastic acrobatics, and lively dance. This performance is intended for ages five through adult. Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company will perform a second show at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 9, at the Sitnik Theater. Tickets for each performance cost \$20 for adults or \$12.50 for children 12 and under.



• **"Colin Quinn: Bully," above**, will be presented at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 25, in the Sitnik Theater of the Lackland Performing Arts Center in Hackettstown. Advance tickets for "Colin Quinn: Bully" cost \$48 for orchestra seating and \$43 for balcony seating. Tickets on the day of the event cost \$55 for orchestra seating and \$50 for balcony seating.



• **NEXTStage Repertory** will present Deborah Zoe Lauffer's "End Days," **above**, in five per-

formances from Thursday to Monday, March 23-27 at the Lackland Performing Arts Center in Hackettstown. Directed by Stephen Davis, an associate professor of theater at Centenary University, "End Days" tells the story of 16-year-old Rachel Stein, who is having a bad year. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 24 and 25, at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 26, and at 7 p.m. Monday, March 27. Performances will be held in the Edith Kutz Theater of the Lackland Performing Arts Center, 715 Grand Ave. in Hackettstown. Tickets cost \$12.50 for adults and \$10 for children under age 12.

• **Women Playwrights Series 2017**, including "Shame" by Sholeh Wolpe, "Apples in Winter" by Jennifer Fawcett, and "Hitler's Tasters" by Michelle Kholos Brooks, will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 12, 19 and 26. Reservations are encouraged and a \$10 donation is suggested. To reserve seats, call the box office at (908) 979-0900.

• **"The Pleasure of His Company"** will be staged by Randall Duk Kim and Anne Occhiogrosso at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 23, in the Sitnik Theater of the Lackland Performing Arts Center. Honoring the birth and death of William Shakespeare, classical theater giants Randall Duk Kim and Anne Occhiogrosso star in *The Pleasure of His Company: Our Love Affair with William Shakespeare and the First Folio*. Conceived and written by Kim and Occhiogrosso the two character performance piece combines personal recollections, dramatic scenes and stories of Shakespeare's influence on Kim and Occhiogrosso's lives and careers for more than four decades. Reservations highly recommended and donations are appreciated.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit 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

• **"The Little Mermaid"** will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, through Saturday, April 8, at the Dragonetti Auditorium on campus. A matinee performance will also be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 8. In the musical adaptation of Disney's 1989 film, a curious young mermaid falls for a handsome human prince and agrees to a dangerous bargain with a powerful sea witch in exchange for

legs and a chance to live with the prince on land. Tickets cost \$15 or \$10 for students, seniors, and children under age 12. Purchase them at the door or at www.ccm.edu/tickets/mermaid.asp.

FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY

• **"Legally Blonde,"** will be staged from Friday, March 24, through Sunday, April 2, at the Dreyfuss Theater located on the College of Florham campus, 285 Madison Avenue, Madison. "Legally Blonde, The Musical," follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, snobbery and scandal. Performances are at 8 p.m. March 24, 25, 31 and April 1, at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 30, and at 2:30 p.m. Sundays, March 26 and April 2. A high school matinee will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 24. Tickets cost \$6 for students, seniors, and the FDU community, and \$12 for all others. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling (973) 443-8644.

• **"Getting the Most from your Bottle of Wine,"** a 3-part lecture series, will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Thursdays, April 13, 20, and 27, at the Mansion in Lenfell Hall at the Madison campus. The lectures will be conducted by John R. Cilli, who has been conducting similar seminars for more than 10 years in various locales throughout the New York metro-area. Cilli will discuss the traditional wine producing areas of France, Italy and California in addition to up-and-coming wine regions, such as Argentina, Chile, Australia, South Africa, Portugal, Spain and some eastern European countries. The 3-part seminar costs \$90 per person. To register, email Jessica Kane at elakane@gmail.com.

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

118 Lamington Road, Branchburg.



• **"Broadway's Next Hit Musical," above**, will be staged at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 8. "Broadway's Next Hit Musical" could be described as the Tony Awards meets *Whose Line Is It*

Anyway? Join the fun as talented artists from New York City's original, award-winning improvised musical comedy show gather made-up hit song suggestions from the audience and create a spontaneous evening of music, humor and laughter. To add to the fun, audience members may arrive fashionably early and walk the red carpet at the Phonys (kind of like a fake Tonys), where they'll be interviewed by a hilarious emcee extraordinaire. The paparazzi will be in a frenzy. Tickets cost \$15 and 25.

• **Pierre Bensusan** will perform at noon and 7 p.m. Thursday, April 13. Pierre Bensusan is considered one of the most eloquent and unique world musicians performing today, as his shows take audiences on a mesmerizing musical journey. The French-Algerian guitarist/singer's compositions and improvisations express an unparalleled sense of freedom. His style defies classification, encompassing world, classical, jazz, traditional, folk and more, fusing cultures in ways never before experienced. All tickets cost \$15.



• **"Grug and the Rainbow," above**, will be staged by Windmill Theatre at 10 a.m., 12:30 and 4 p.m. Friday, April 21, and 1 p.m. Saturday, April 22. A sensory friendly performance will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 22. Once upon a time, the top of a Burrawang tree fell to the ground and became — Grug! The classic Aussie hero is back and ready to enchant a new generation of youngsters. Audience members will watch in wonder as this adorable little bush animal embarks on an epic journey to find the rainbow that always seems just beyond his grasp. Adapted from the popular Australian picture book series, this production features the exquisite puppetry and gentle storytelling that has delighted audiences around the world. This show is recommended for ages 2 and older. Free face painting will be available before the April 22 shows for all children in attendance. Face painting will be offered from 9:15-9:45 a.m. for the 10 a.m. show and from 12:15-12:45 p.m. for the 1 p.m. show.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the box office at (908) 725-3420, or order online at www.rvccArts.org.

'Kong: Skull Island' is some serious monkey business

By **MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER**

FILM CRITIC

While director Jordan Vogt-Roberts's "Kong: Skull Island" asserts independence from the original 1933 legend, as well as the 1976 and 2005 remakes, it is – all the same – a throwback, a good old adventure yarn. To quote an eloquent teen in the theater lobby who ruminated it afterwards, "That was a most satisfying movie experience."

The 14-year-old in me agrees; the curmudgeon has reservations. But despite some modernizations and nods to contemporary sensibilities integrated into the ethos of the tale, there is one heartening fact. Indeed, on this uncharted, South Pacific island where Charles Darwin would have enjoyed a veritable feast of evolutionary phenomena, there lives a very big monkey the natives call Kong. And that almost rhymes with con. You see, to most of the expedition, comprised of U.S. soldiers who a handful of scientists inveigled to ride shotgun for them, it's a "research trip."

Maybe they'll find a cure for cancer, or so went the spiel. But we all know that something else is going on here, and suspect that the final arbiter will be, as the Irish like to say, Himself. But gone is the purely felt, carnival barker excitement Robert Armstrong's film director Carl Denham exuded in the 1933 "King Kong" when he convinced Ann Darrow (Fay Wray) to join in by exhorting, "It's money and adventure and fame. It's the thrill of a lifetime and a long sea voyage that starts at six o'clock tomorrow morning."

Nope. In this go-round, set during the Vietnam War, which offers plenty opportunity for punditry and social comment, a confluence of power players interact and conflict. Good establishment of mood and philosophical inferences almost makes up for an un-inventive plot and disappointingly little creativity in the spoken word department.

The impetus behind the gambit is Bill Randa, point man for the secret government organization, whose men fly the group to its destination. Filmmaker Vogt-Roberts cleverly utilizes this Vietnam Era backdrop for his rousing adventure-fantasy to satirize our current political climate the way "MASH" (1970) used Korea to disseminate its antiwar messages about Vietnam.

No magnifying glass is necessary to read between the lines. There's lots of deceit, a few nutty ideologues, some patriots you hope will prevail, and the requisite moral conscience in the form of Brie Larson as Mason Weaver, photojournalist/peace activist. And, if you guessed that she contin-

>> **MOVIE REVIEW**

"Kong: Skull Island," rated PG-13, is a Warner Bros. release directed by Jordan Vogt-Roberts and stars Tom Hiddleston, Brie Larson and Samuel L. Jackson. Running time: 120 minutes

★★★☆☆

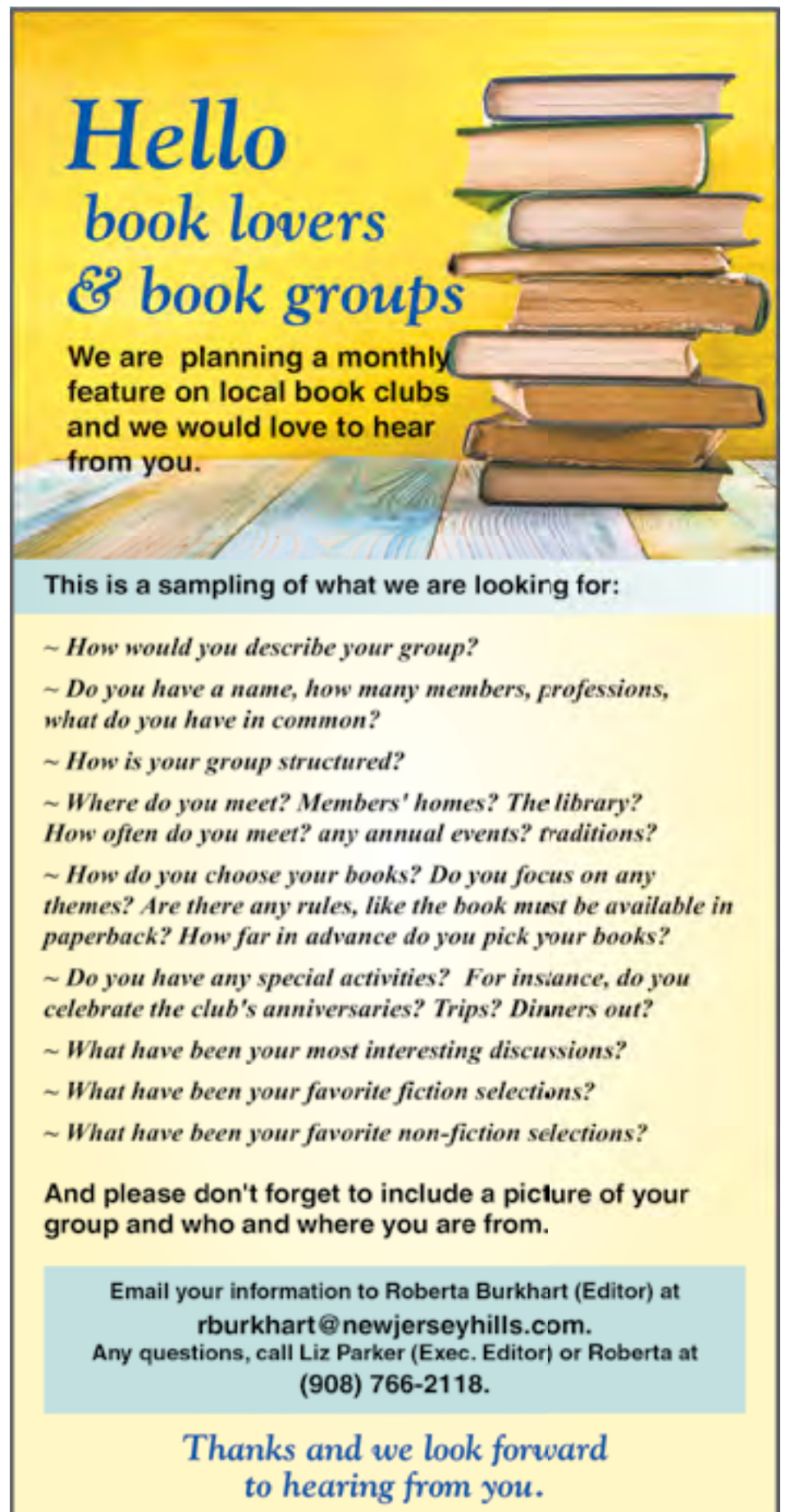
ues the tradition of the beauty who brings out the old softie in the beast, succeeding her movie sisters Fay Wray (1933), Jessica Lange (1976) and Naomi Watts (2005), you're right.

There is wit here and there, especially in an expository scene I suggest was spliced into the film postproduction. It comes in the form of the hauntingly humorous words uttered by Goodman's guv'mint guy. In D.C. to sell his mission, he exits the cab amidst protests against the Vietnam War and, turning to a cohort, says, "Mark my words: There'll never be a more screwed-up time in Washington!" We sigh.

But while the nostalgic subtext, complemented by the rock sounds of the era (think Creedence), is there for those who may enjoy the comparative poli sci, the blood and guts crowd won't feel left out. Count on a sizeable body count and, as is usually the case with such films, the rapid-fire attrition soon has us betting who will be left standing after Kong is done establishing who among the intruders is naughty, who is nice and who just winds up in the wrong place at the wrong time.

One of the two subplots is a surprise... shh; the other concerns infighting among the alpha males. Goodman as Randa is the single-minded zealot, while Samuel L. Jackson, describing his character in an interview, says he featured Lieutenant Colonel Packard as a Captain Ahab of sorts, with Kong his white whale. Playing contrast to the obsessed warrior is Tom Hiddleston as James Conrad, a British Special Forces captain who, while he knows his way around combat, would avoid it given his druthers. Naturally, he's the one our pretty photographer likes.

Of course, none of these dudes can hold a candle to the real leading man, sensationally created by special effects that nearly convince us such a creature exists. Bigger and even more dominant than his predecessors, his magnificence set against the travelogue-like panoramas of the unspoiled but forbidding paradise makes him a fine monster. Thus, as long as it doesn't trouble you that his grunts also represent the best of the film's dialogue, "Kong: Skull Island" proves a valid destination for pure escapist entertainment.



**Hello
book lovers
& book groups**

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

This is a sampling of what we are looking for:

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

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

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

Thanks and we look forward to hearing from you.

· KIDS CALENDAR ·

MUSEUM FUN

Dino Day will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 8, at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road in Morris Township. Travel back to the pre-historic times to when dinosaurs roamed New Jersey. Handle real fossils, meet a dinosaur expert, participate in a hunt for fossils in our dig pit, and make dinosaur related crafts in the galleries. Join Claudia Lemmerz for "Touch the Music" to explore drum instruments of the orchestra. Something special will also be brewing in our BASF Kid's Lab.

Astro Day will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 29, at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Rd. in Morris Township. Night sky observing will be held from 9 to 10:30 p.m. Join the Morris Museum Astronomical Society in celebrating National Astronomy Day. Enjoy solar observations, hands-on space crafts in the galleries, and more.

MUSIC

GuGu Drum Group from Shanghai will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 12, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South



GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS

The Golden Dragon Acrobats will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 2, at the Theater at Raritan Valley Community College, 118 Lamington Road, Branchburg. From tumblers to jugglers to contortionists and more, audiences will be treated to the best of a time-honored Chinese tradition that began more than 25 centuries ago. Tickets cost \$25 and 35. For additional information or to purchase tickets for any Theatre production, contact the Box Office, 908-725-3420, or order online at www.rvccArts.org. Senior citizen, student and group discounts are also available for most performances.

Street in Morristown. This award-winning Shanghai taiko drum group offers a dynamic, athletic and energetic theatrical drum drama that speaks to ancient Chinese traditions and is based on timeless Chinese proverbs, fables, and fairy tales. Tickets cost \$29 to \$59 and can be purchased at www.mayoarts.org.

Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox will perform at 8 p.m. Sunday, May 14, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. This show was postponed from Feb. 9 because of weather. Enjoy a whole new take on the songs you love in a way you've never heard before! Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox mashes up your favorite pop songs – from Miley Cyrus and Justin Bieber to Radiohead and Guns N' Roses – in completely different styles such as doowop, swing or ragtime that will give you a whole new appreciation of styles and sounds old and new. Tickets cost \$39 to \$79.

NATURE FUN

Frog Jamboree will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 25, at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd, Chatham Township. The spring peepers and wood frogs are calling from the vernal pools. All ages can learn about these two frogs while listening to their choruses. This

program costs \$3 per person, ages 3 and up.

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

Family Science Day: Frogs & Toads! will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, at the Morris County Parks Commission's Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area in Boonton. All ages are welcome with an adult. Learn about frogs and toads while rotating through hands-on activity stations designed to challenge families to work together to make new discoveries. This program costs \$8 per child ages 5 and up and \$5 per child ages 3 and 4.

All About Owls will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon Wednesday, March 29, at the Schiff Nature Center, 339 Pleasant Valley Road, Mendham. Come meet a live owl and get an in-depth look at the lives of these interesting and often misunderstood masters of camouflage. Join us and a naturalist

SKATING

Friday Night Skate with DJ Earl is held from 8 to 10 p.m. every Friday through April 28 at the Mennen Sports Arena, 161 Hanover Avenue, Morris Township. Have a blast with your friends while the DJ plays the newest hits and some of your favorite throw-backs all with the bonus of theme-nights, giveaways, shout outs, and disco lights. Meet up with your friends or gather your family on the ice every Friday night for skating, arcade games, and great eats from the snack bar. Admission is \$8 and skate rental is \$4. Call (973) 326-7651 for more information.

THEATER

"The Little Prince" will be staged at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 7, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. Inventive puppets, live actors, original music and magnificent set design bring to life Antoine de St. Exupery's heart-warming story of the Little Prince who gains rare and unique insights into love, loss and laughter that awakens the child tucked away inside us all. This show is appropriate for ages 4-10. The 4:30 p.m. performance is sensory-friendly and has been designed to create a supportive, welcoming experience for children on the autism spectrum. The performance features modulated sound and light levels and a relaxed environment where the audience is free to talk, vocalize, and leave and re-enter the seating area. Tickets to both performances cost \$12 or \$15 and can be purchased at www.mayoarts.org.

New Jersey Ballet: "Beauty and the Beast" and "Peter and the Wolf" will be staged at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 21, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. Two one-act ballets based on classic stories. Goodness and love turn an ugly beast into a handsome prince in Beauty and the Beast, set to the music of Ravel. A plucky boy saves his animal friends from a wicked wolf in the Russian folk tale Peter and the Wolf, featuring the witty Prokofiev score. This show is appropriate for ages 4 and up. Tickets cost \$15 to \$25 and can be purchased at www.mayoarts.org.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

© 2016 King Features Synd., Inc.

>> SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 15

· THEATER CALENDAR ·

COMEDY

Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood: The Scared Scriptless Tour will be staged at 8 p.m. Friday, April 7, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. The popular stars of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* perform an evening of extraordinary improv comedy as they create scenes based on ideas from the audience with hilarious results. Tickets cost \$49 to \$79.

DANCE

Rhythmic Circus' "Feet Don't Fail Me Now!" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 29, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. Armed with a trunk full of tap shoes, funky costumes and a big brass band, Rhythmic Circus bursts onto the stage in a joyous celebration of genre-hopping music and percussive dance. Tickets cost \$29 to \$69.

MAGIC



The Illusionists: Live From Broadway, above, will be staged at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 15, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. This mind-blowing spectacular showcases the jaw dropping talents of some of the most incredible illusionists on earth! The Illusionists has shattered box office records across the globe and dazzles audiences of all ages with the most outrageous and astonishing acts ever to be seen on stage performing thrilling and sophisticated magic of unprecedented proportions. Tickets cost \$49 to \$89.

MEDIUM

Kim Russo "The Happy Medium" comes to Morristown's Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 30. Kim Russo is no stranger to the paranormal world; she's been able to communicate with spirits since the age of nine. Join the star of Lifetime Movie Networks' hit show "The Haunting of..." for a very special



GRAEME OF THRONES

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

spiritual journey as she shares insights from beyond. Tickets are \$29 to \$59.

MUSICALS

"42nd Street" will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 31, and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. The quintessential backstage musical comedy classic, "42nd Street" is the song and dance fable of Broadway with an American Dream story and includes some of the greatest songs ever written, such as "We're In The Money," "Lullaby of Broadway," "Shuffle Off To Buffalo," "Dames," "I Only Have Eyes For You" and of course, "42nd Street." Tickets cost \$49 to \$89.

"HMS Pinafore" will be staged by New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 23, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. Gilbert and Sullivan's delightful comedic tale about overblown nationalism, personal ambition and forbidden love amongst the social classes of British society and the Royal Navy. Tickets cost \$29 to \$69.

"The King And I" will be staged from Friday, April 21, through Sunday, May 7, at Brundage Park Playhouse on Carrell Road in Randolph Township. In this beloved musical

from Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, the newly widowed Anna Leonowens travels to Bangkok with her son Louis to become the schoolteacher in the employ of the King of Siam in 1860. Although the king wishes to be seen as a modern king, the ensuing conflict of wills yields tragic consequences that neither Anna nor the king foresee. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Brundage Park Playhouse at (973) 989-7092 or visit www.brundagepark-playhouse.org.

OPERA

George Bizet's "Carmen" will be staged by the Eastern Opera of New Jersey at 7 p.m. Friday, March 24, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 26, at the Bickford Theatre inside the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road in Morris Township. *Carmen* will be sung in English, fully staged with sets, costumes and chamber orchestra conducted by David Maiullo. The opera is directed by Karole Lewis. Tickets cost \$40 or \$30 for seniors or students ages 18 and under or with a valid college ID. Purchase them by calling (908) 566-5708 or by visiting www.EasternOpera.org.

Gioachino Rossini's "The Barber of Seville," will be presented by the Light Opera of New Jersey at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 7 and 8, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church,

140 South Finley Ave. in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards Township. Tickets for can be purchased online at <http://www.lonj.org/tickets/> or by calling (908) 655-6023.

"Mark Twain and The General," a one-act opera, will be staged by the Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 23, at Washington's Headquarters at the Morristown National Historical Park, 30 Washington Place in Morristown. Admission is free. On display will be the hand corrected proofs by Mark Twain of an article called "To My Missionary Critics," which appeared in the April 1901 edition of the *North American Review*. It dealt with the Boxer Rebellion in China. Jude Pfister, chief of cultural resources at Morristown National Historical Park, will be on hand to answer questions related to the museum and its vast manuscript collection.

PLAYS

"Clever Little Lies" by Joe DiPietro will be staged from Thursday, April 20, to Sunday, May 7, at the Bickford Theatre inside the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road in Morris Township. A mother always knows when something is wrong. When Alice notices her beloved husband Bill has returned home on edge after a tennis match with their son, she grows suspicious and springs into action. Determined to piece together the puzzle, she invites her son, Bill, Jr. and daughter-in-law, Jane, over for drinks and dessert. Chaos ensues as Alice digs for the truth, resulting in even more honesty than anyone expected. This play contains adult language and situations. Performances are Thursdays, April 20 and 27 at 7:30 p.m., and May 4 at 2 p.m.; Fridays, April 21, 28 and May 5 at 8 p.m.; Saturdays, April 22 and 29 at 8 p.m. and May 6 at 2 p.m.; and Sundays, April 23, 30, and May 7 at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$45, \$40 for seniors, \$38 for museum members, \$33 for groups of 10 or more, or \$20 for students ages 18 and under or with a valid college ID. Purchase them by calling (973) 971-3706 or at www.morrismuseum.org.

SPOKEN WORD

Jack Hanna's Into the Wild Live, presented by Nationwide, will be staged at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 30, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street, Morristown. America's most beloved animal expert, Jack Hanna brings his three-time Emmy Award winning TV series to the stage! Jungle Jack will introduce you to some of the world's most spectacular animals and shares humorous stories and amazing exclusive footage from his worldwide adventures. Tickets cost \$25 to \$35.

· POTPOURRI ·

ACTIVE ADULTS

The second annual Forever Young Lifestyles, a free event for active adults, will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 12, at Dolce Hotel, 300 N. Maple Ave. in Basking Ridge. Enjoy free entertainment, light food and refreshments, demonstrations, door prizes and more. For more information or to register, visit www.newjerseyhills.com or call Jerry O'Donnell at 908-766-3900 ext. 230. Tickets are complimentary. Walk-ins are welcome but reservations are highly encouraged.

BOOKS

Filmmaker, writer, actor and visual artist John Waters will sign and discuss his new book "Making Trouble" in a ticket-only event at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, at The Clinton Book Shop at 12 East Main St. The cost is \$20 per person and includes a copy of Waters' new book, "Make Trouble." Clinton Book Shop members are entitled to priority seating for this event. Clinton Book Shop members should add that information when placing an order. To become a member, or for more information, call (908) 735-8811 or visit clintonbookshop.com.

ECO-FUN

Green Cleaning will be presented from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 26, at the Schiff Nature Center, 339 Pleasant Valley Road in Mendham. Join Off the Grid Yoga at Schiff Nature Preserve for a workshop exploring ways to keep your home clean and tidy without harmful chemicals. We will learn how to create effective natural alternatives to some common household cleaners and everyone will leave with a bunch of recipes and a few concoctions to try at home. Gentle Yoga to follow with separate registration. This program is intended for ages 15 and up. Member fee is \$20. Non member fee is \$25. Register by Friday, March 24, by calling (973) 543-6004.

Make Your Own Healing Balm from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 30, at the Schiff Nature Center, 339 Pleasant Valley Road in Mendham. Join Schiff and Off the Grid Yoga for a workshop exploring the power of herbs as we create a small pot of healing salve to take home. Choosing from a variety of herbs, we will each make a salve that matches the needs of our body, and leave with plenty of recipes to continue making at home. Bring your own vessel from home to fill with salve, or we will provide one for you. Gentle Yoga to follow with separate registration. This program is intended for ages 15 and up.



A lecture on South Africa's Wildlife will be presented by associate naturalist Mike Newlon, whose photo appears above, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 8, at the N.J. Audubon's Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, 11 Hardscrabble Road in Bernardsville. South Africa has an impressive variety of habitats, mammals large and small, birds, and butterflies. Newlon photographed Cape Province and in and around Kruger National Park, which boasts more than 500 species of birds, and all of Africa's iconic safari species, including the once nearly extinct white rhinoceros. Register by calling (908) 396-6386 by Friday, April 7. This program is free for members or \$5 for non-members.

Member fee is \$20. Non member fee is \$25. Register by Tuesday, March 28, by calling (973) 543-6004.

EDUCATIONAL

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

"Getting the Most from your Bottle of Wine," a 3-part lecture series, will be

held from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Thursdays, April 13, 20, and 27, at the Mansion in Lenfell Hall at the Madison campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University. The lectures will be conducted by John R. Cilli, who has been conducting similar seminars for more than 10 years in various locales throughout the New York metro-area. Cilli will discuss the traditional wine producing areas of France, Italy and California in addition to up-and-coming wine regions, such as Argentina, Chile, Australia, South Africa, Portugal, Spain and some eastern European countries. The 3-part seminar costs \$90 per person. To register, email Jessica Kane at elakane@gmail.com.

GARDENING

The Tri-State Hosta Society welcomes hosta and shade gardeners to its not-to-be-missed sale of new and exceptional Hosta varieties on Saturday, April 1 at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 East Hanover Avenue in Morris Township. Come to hear innovative hosta breeder Bob Soleberg talk about these new plants before the sale. New members are welcome to bring a lunch and arrive at noon to preview the sale, which ends at 2 p.m. Admission is free. For more information,

call (908) 213-8780.

Fight Invasives. Go Native! will be presented from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 8, at the Schiff Nature Center, 339 Pleasant Valley Road in Mendham. A presentation provided by a Morris County Master Gardeners on the 10 most common invasive plants found in Morris County and various methods for their removal. Suggestions and descriptions of native plants that can be substituted for them will also be discussed. Member fee is \$8. Non member fee is \$12. Register by Thursday, April 6, by calling (973) 543-6004.

MUSEUM

"The Magic of Glass Through Time" will be presented at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, as part of the Tea and Treasures series at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road in Morristown. Explore the varied uses of glass through the ages with Patricia Elaine, owner of the Morris County School of Glass. Tickets cost \$10 and must be purchased in advance by calling (973) 971-3706.

OUTDOORS

Roaring Falls Hike: Moderate will be held from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 26, at the Morris County Parks Commission's Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area in Boonton. Enjoy a brisk early spring hike with other adults and visit the Valhalla Brook Falls to see if the winter thaw has resulted in a spring roar. This hike is for ages 16 and up and costs \$1 per person.

NJ Audubon: Old Mine Road Field Trip at the Delaware National Recreation Area Field Trip will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 8. Join audubon staff members Steve Bagen and Maura Griffin for a caravan trip on Old Mine Road at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. From river to forest, from bald eagle to black bear, the trip's highlights should be a variety of birds and mammals: waterfowl on the Delaware, late winter resident and early migrant birds, porcupine, beaver, and maybe even a bobcat. Participants should bring a lunch for a lunch stop at Millbrook. Binoculars are recommended. Loaner binoculars will be available, and we will have a spotting scope and field guide. Attendees will meet at the Worthington State Forest Campground Office parking lot, and caravan north on Old Mine Road, making a few stops and a few short hikes, and return to the parking lot at 1 p.m. The trip costs \$20 for members or \$25 for non-members. Call (908) 396-6386 by Friday, April 7, to register.

· MUSIC CALENDAR ·

BIG BAND

"In The Mood: A 1940s Musical Review" will be staged at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 9, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. Travel back to the 1940s and relive the music that moved the nation's spirit! This Swing Era celebration features the music of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman, The Andrews Sisters and more, performed by a big band orchestra complete with singers and dancers. Tickets cost \$29 to \$59.

FOLK

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

Silk City, the trio of Barry Mitterhoff on mandolin, Danny Weiss on guitar and lead vocals, and Larry Cohen on bass, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 7, at The Minstrel in the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd, Morristown. The opening act will be Dan Pelletier. Admission price is \$10 for adults, which is payable at the door. Children ages 12 and under are admitted free. For further information, call (973) 335-9489 or visit www.folkproject.org. The Folk Project website <http://www.folkproject.org/minstrel/minstrel.shtml> also offers music samples of Minstrel performers.

Folk 60s Music with Charlie Zahm will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at Investors Bank Theater, the Roxbury Performing Arts Center, 72 Eyland Ave. in the Succasunna section of Roxbury Township. Travel back to the great sing-along days of the great Folk Boom with songs like "If I Had a Hammer," "Charlie on the MTA," "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" and so many more. Balladeer Charlie Zahm returns with fiddler Tad Marks. Tickets cost \$20. Purchase them at www.roxburyartsalliance.org.

JAZZ

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

The John Pizzarelli Quartet will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at the Morris



Get the Led Out, **above**, will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, April 14, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. From the bombastic and epic, to the folky and mystical, Get the Led Out recreates the music of legendary British supergroup Led Zeppelin with attention to detail and nuance that captures the essence of the band's hallowed discography. Tickets cost \$29 to \$59.

Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road, Morris Township. Swing into spring with the John Pizzarelli Quartet. Hailed by the Boston Globe for "reinvigorating the Great American Songbook" and pegged by the Seattle Times as "a rare entertainer of the old school," Pizzarelli sets the standard for terrific jazz. Wine and beer available. Tickets cost \$40 to \$50 and can be purchased by calling (973) 971-3706 or by visiting www.morrismuseum.org.

Amani will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 8, at the Watchung Arts Center, 18 Stirling Road in Watchung. The band will perform hits from a variety of genres, including The Great American Songbook, Gospel, R&B, jazz, Bossa nova, and Broadway. Amani is led by Marty Eigen on saxophone and flute, the members of the group are veteran musicians Fred Fischer on keyboards, vocalist Stephen Fuller, and guitarist Flip Peters. The performance will be followed by a dessert reception with a opportunity to meet the musicians. Tickets are \$18 in advance, or \$22 at the door. Tickets may be purchased online at watchungartscenter.eventbrite.com. For more information, visit WatchungArts.org or call (908) 753-0190.

Joey Alexander will perform at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. Three-time Grammy nominee Joey Alexander started turning heads before he was ten. Learning by listening with no formal training, Joey quickly developed an authoritative technique, and with his depth of musicality, has gone to perform on the Grammys, at Lincoln Center and prominent jazz festivals worldwide. Tickets cost \$29 to \$59.

LIGHT ROCK

Neil Sedaka will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, April 21, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. For more than 50 years, Neil Sedaka's compositions such as "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do," "Calendar Girl," "Little Devil" and "Happy Birthday Sweet Sixteen" have stood the test of time to remain all-time pop music favorites. Tickets cost \$69 to \$99.

ORCHESTRAL

"Discover Brahms – Hungarian Dances," a Discovery Concert and 30th anniversary Celebration, will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 30, at the Concert Hall at Drew University and Mead Hall, in Madison. Concert tickets only cost \$40 or \$30 for seniors, students or groups of 10 or more. Tickets for the 30th anniversary celebration cost \$250 and up. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.discoveryorchestra.org or call (908) 226-7300.

"Fall in Love with More Musical Masterworks," a listening class, will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 6, at the New Jersey Youth Symphony Music Center in New Providence. Tickets cost \$50 or \$40 for seniors and students. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.discoveryorchestra.org or call (908) 226-7300.

POP

Jordan Smith will perform at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 2, at the Mayo Performing Arts

Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. Smith showed the world his musical gift in 2015 when he became the best-selling artist in the history of The Voice and the winner of Season 9. Smith launched eight songs into the Top 10 of iTunes – the first artist from any season to hit the iTunes Top 10 every single week of the Live Rounds, one of two artists to notch three No. 1s during the show's season, and the first act to own both the No. 1 and 2 titles on Billboard's Hot Christian Songs Chart. Tickets cost \$29 to \$59.

Olivia Newton-John, below, will perform at 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South Street in Morristown. Olivia Newton-John's appeal is timeless. With a career spanning more than five decades she remains a vibrant, creative individual adored by fans around the globe. Enjoy a night of hits such as "Hopelessly Devoted to You," "Physical," "Have You Never Been Mellow," "Summer Nights" and more! Tickets cost \$49 to \$109.



Answer

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

Weekly SUDOKU

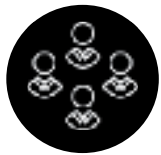


2nd Annual Forever Young Lifestyles

FREE Event for Active Adults

Friday May 12th - 10am to 2pm

Dolce Hotel - 300 N. Maple Ave, Basking Ridge



Meet with over 40 local businesses who provide Products and Services for Active Adults.



Enjoy Free Entertainment, Light Food and Refreshments, Door Prizes and More!



Entrance Tickets are Complimentary

Reservations prior to the event date are encouraged • Walk-Ins Welcome

Reserve Online at : www.NewJerseyHills.com

Or call Jerry O'Donnell
at (908) 766-3900 Ext. 230
to Reserve

New Jersey Hills

www.newjerseyhills.com

Media
Group