Potteries of Trenton Society Invites the Public to ‘The First Ladies and Their China’

The Potteries of Trenton Society invites you to their annual meeting on April 6 at 1:30 pm. This year’s lecture will be “The First Ladies and Their China” by Ellen Denker. The lecture will be held in the Woodrow Wilson Board Room at the Trenton War Memorial on 1 Memorial Drive, Trenton.

Hospitality is the keynote of international diplomacy, and a state dinner in the White House is the highest symbol of American hospitality, displaying grand tables set with beautiful flowers and the finest china, silver and crystal. Our First Ladies are called upon to muster American hospitality by making sure that the appointments for a White House state dinner are impeccable. Since the beginning of the United States, Congress has appropriated funds to furnish the White House and demonstrate our nation’s wealth and power to foreign heads of state. But White House china has often been supplied by foreign potteries. Mrs. Denker’s lecture, sprinkled with anecdotes, will examine the topic of White House China from Martha Washington to Melania Trump, explain the history, use and preservation of the table china they chose, and demonstrate Trenton’s role in this fascinating story.

Ellen Paul Denker is a museum consultant and independent scholar based in western North Carolina. She holds degrees from Grinnell College, Iowa, and from the University of Delaware, where she was a Fellow in the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture. As a museum consultant, Ellen has worked on a variety of exhibition topics from ceramic and furniture history to visiting nursing and blindness. She has written extensively on American ceramics, the Arts & Crafts movement, and American home furnishings. Ellen’s list of publications as author and co-author is extensive, ranging from Lenox China to rocking chairs. She has lectured extensively for art and historical organizations across the United States, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Newark Museum, Museums of Fine Arts in Boston and Houston, Saint Louis Art Museum, and Art Institute of Chicago. Ellen is a founding member of the Potteries of Trenton Society.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and pre-registration is strongly suggested. To register, please email president@potteriesoftrentonsociety.org with your name and the number of people in your party.

Free parking is available in the state parking lots on Memorial Drive near the War Memorial. Handicapped parking is located beside the War Memorial on West Lafayette Street, available on a first-come, first-served basis. The War Memorial is fully ADA compliant.

For more information visit the Potteries of Trenton Society’s website at potteriesoftrentonsociety.org
Tiffany Window Tours at Princeton United Methodist Church

The spectacular stained glass window of Saint George and the Dragon, from the studio of Louis Comfort Tiffany, is a little-seen jewel in Princeton. On Fridays and Sundays from noon to 2 pm, Princeton United Methodist Church guides welcome visitors to view this and other spectacular stained glass windows. Stop by and marvel at the abstract and symbolic designs. Tours can also be arranged by calling (609)924-2613 or emailing at windows@PrincetonUMC.org.

Mark Your Calendar: The 9th Annual Mercer County Cultural Festival is June 15

Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes and the Board of Chosen Freeholders present the 9th annual Mercer County Cultural Festival, Saturday, June 15, rain or shine, from 11 am to 7 pm at the Mercer County Park, West Windsor. This one-day festival will celebrate the many diverse cultures of Mercer County through traditional art demonstrations, live cultural music, dance performances, kids activities and more! 2019 brings back the popular international Food Trucks featuring amazing dishes from some of the best ethnic Food Trucks in the region as well as the popular biergarten! Admission and parking are free. To learn more about the event visit nj.gov/counts/mercer/commissions/cultural/culturalfest.html, find us on Facebook at facebook.com/mercercounty-culturalheritagecommission or call (609)278-2712.

Now on View: 9th Voices for the Abbott Marshlands Photography Show

The 9th "Voices for the Abbott Marshlands" is a photographic exhibition featuring the works of local artists showcasing a New Jersey marshland and surrounding natural areas in Hamilton, Trenton, and Bordentown. The purpose of the show is to further the protection and preservation of the Abbott Marshlands, by illustrating to a broad audience its ecological and historic significance. Photographs were submitted in five categories: Plants, Wildlife, People Connecting with Nature, or History. Jurors were: Photographer - Ricardo Barros, well known for his Commercial & Fine Arts, including portraits, architecture, and advertising, and also Naturalist - Kelly Rypkema, Manager of the Tulpehaking Nature Center. The exhibit is on display now until September 15 during nature center hours and by appointment (609-888-3218). The Tulpehaking Nature Center is located at 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton. For more information please visit abbottmarshlands.org or mercercountyparks.org.
Dear Friends,

With winter behind us, it’s time to start looking forward to the wealth of cultural activities the spring season brings to Mercer County.

This edition of our Culture & Heritage newsletter takes a look at a variety of events taking place during the coming months, including a talk on White House china, from Martha Washington to Melania Trump, presented by the Potteries of Trenton Society; a program that will provide some answers to the mystery of the 19th century shoe found in the cornice of the historic William Trent House; and an exhibition at The Gallery at Mercer County Community College featuring the work of talented local artists.

Abundant opportunities to enrich our lives through history, arts and culture can be found in this newsletter, from concerts to theatrical productions to outdoor festivals and more. I encourage you to explore all that Mercer County has to offer this season.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

Calling all artists! Artists aged 18 or older who live, work, or attend school in Mercer County are invited to submit their art for consideration for the “Mercer County Artists 2019” exhibition at The Gallery, located at Mercer County Community College, West Windsor.

Drop-off submissions take place on Saturday, May 11, 10 am to 2 pm, at the MCCC Gallery. Early drop-offs will also be accepted Thursday, May 9, from 12 to 3 pm. Judging takes place on Saturday, May 12 at 10 am. Artists may enter up to two original works completed since May 2016 in any media except photography. An entry fee of $10 for one piece and $15 for two must accompany entries. Works that are not accepted for the show can be picked up on Sunday, May 12, 2 to 5 pm or Monday, May 13, 11 am to 3 pm.

Awards include $1,500 in Purchase and Merit prizes, including the Utrecht Art Supplies Best in Show prize and the annual West Windsor Arts Council Purchase Award for outstanding work by a West Windsor artist. Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission Purchase Award winners become part of the County’s permanent art collection.

The “Mercer County Artists” show will be on display from May 20 to July 8 and an Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony will be held May 22, 5 to 7:30 pm. The show is free and open to the public. For more information on submitting work, please visit mccc.edu/gallery or call the Mercer County Division of Culture and Heritage at (609) 278-2712.

Free Recital Series at St. Michael's Church, Trenton

The inaugural recital in a new lunchtime series titled "Music at St. Michael’s" will take place at 12:15 pm Thursday, April 4 in the sanctuary of St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, an historic building located in downtown Trenton at 140 N. Warren St. The performers, Kenneth Ellison, clarinet; Dezheng Ping, violin; and Larissa Korkina, piano, are faculty members of Westminster Conservatory, the community music school of Westminster College of the Arts of Rider University. The program, which will last approximately 45 minutes, is free of charge, and concertgoers are invited to bring a bag lunch for consumption during the event.

The program comprises the Rondo in B minor op. 70, D. 895 for violin and piano by Franz Schubert, Gioachino Rossini’s Introduction, Theme, and Variations for clarinet and piano, and the Trio for Clarinet, Violin, and Piano by Gian Carlo Menotti. The next Music at St. Michael's recital will take place at 12:15 pm on Thursday, June 6, and will feature the Loeffler Trio – Melissa Bohl, oboe; Marjorie Selden, viola; and Christopher McWilliams, piano.

For more info visit rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/westminster-college-of-the-arts/westminster-conservatory-music
1. Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission cannot be responsible for errors or omissions. Please call ahead to confirm times and prices. Deadline of June 1, 2019 for the July, August and September - Summer 2019 Newsletter.
Festivals

April 6 – 7, Punk Rock Flea Market, Roehling Machine Shop, 10am. 675 S. Clinton Ave, Trenton. For more information visit trentonpunkrockfleamarket.com

April 27, 11th Annual One Act Playfest, Mercer County Library, Lawrence Headquarters Branch, 7pm. Local actors will perform staged readings of six one-act plays by Delaware Valley playwrights. Registration is required. For more information visit mcnj.org / email lawprogs@mcn.org / (609) 989-6920.

April 28, Community Arts Council of Princeton, 1pm. Nassau St, downtown Princeton. For more information visit arts councilofprinceton.org

May 18, Pennington Day, 10am. Pennington Day highlights the best of the town of Pennington and historic Hopewell Valley. More than an average street fair, this event combines community with art as well as family friendly fun and local vendors. There are three stages of live music, performing and dance troupes, as well as the colorful Quilt Show which can be found inside of The Toll Gate Grammar School. Hopewell Valley Arts Council will feature a live installation at Howe Commons throughout the day with renowned local artisans. Through the generosity of event sponsors, the Pennington Day Board of Directors raises funds in the form of community grants. For more information visit penningtontoday.org

June 15, Mercer County Cultural Festival, Mercer County Park, West Windsor, 11am to 7pm. Rain or Shine. Free admission & parking. For more information visit us on facebook at Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission or call 609-278-2712.

June 15 - 16, Art All Night, Historic Roebling Machine Shop, 675 South Clinton Ave, Trenton, 609-635-6736. For more information visit artallnighttrenton.org

June 22, Sourland Mountain Festival, Hillsborough Country Club, 3pm. The Sourland Music Festival is hosted by the Sourland Conservancy, a non-profit organization that works to protect the Sourland Mountain region. Bring a lawn chair, a blanket, some sun screen, and your sunglasses. Grab some local food, a cold beer, and lose yourself to a music lineup that covers the Blues, Folk, Jazz, and Rock. Rain or shine. For more info visit sourlandmountainfest.com

June 30, Mercer County Freedom Fest, Mercer County Park, West Windsor, 3pm. This festival features a wide range of activities for the entire family. Fireworks at 9:30pm. For more info mercercountyparks.org

Garden Tour

June 8, 27th Annual Mill Hill Garden Tour; Old Mill Hill Society, Mill Hill District, Trenton, 12pm. Tours of one of Trenton's oldest neighborhoods. $15. Tour and places www.19thcvalley.com. Hopewell, Trenton. For more information visit trentonmillhill.org

Historical Activities

Every Third Tuesday of each month, Stamp Collecting, Hamilton Philatelic Society, 7:15pm, Hamilton Library, Justice Alito Way, Hamilton, (609) 751-4642. For more information hamiltonphilatelic.org

Every Second Tuesday, Central Jersey Genealogical Club, Hamilton Library, 7 p.m. For more information visit cjgcnj.com

April 4, Three Centuries of African American History in Trenton, 7pm. Mercer County Library, Earlyn Branch, 7pm. Learn about the people and places associated with Trenton’s African-American community from its founding to the mid-twentieth century. Presented by Jennifer B. Leynes, author of Three Centuries of African American History in Trenton: Significant People and Places, which was published by the Trenton Historical Society with support from the New Jersey Historical Commission. She serves on the Trenton Landmarks Commission and is employed as a Historic Preservation Specialist by the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office. Registration required. Call 609-882-3148.

April 8, Hudson River Lighthouses, Mercer County Library, Earlyn Branch, 7pm. Join Kevin Wayne, author, photographer, and lecturer specializing in New Jersey and New York Regional History, for a tour of the Hudson River’s lighthouses, past and present—from the long lost lights at Cosackale and Stuyvesant to New York City’s beloved “Little Red Lighthouse.” Discover how and why these lighthouses were built, and hear the stories of the brave men and women who kept them shining. The program is illustrated with original photographs of Hudson River lighthouses and landmarks, plus vintage images of historic people, places, and events. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Registration required. Call 609-882-3148.

May 5, Sunday Afternoon Tea, Old Barracks Museum, 11am. For more information visit barracksmuseum.org

Howell Farm

April 6, Spring Beekeeping, Howell Living History Farm, 10am. 70 Woodens Ln, Titusville, 609-737-3299. For more visit howellfarm.org

April 20, Henhouse Visits, Howell Living History Farm, 10am. 70 Woodens Ln, Titusville, 609-737-3299. For more visit howellfarm.org

April 27, Potato Planting, Howell Living History Farm, 10am. For more information visit howellfarm.org

May 4, Sheep Shearing, Howell Living History Farm, 10am. For more information visit howellfarm.org

May 18, Corn Planting, Howell Living History Farm, 10am. For more information visit howellfarm.org

May 25, Hog Weighing, Howell Living History Farm, 10am. 70 Woodens Ln, Titusville, 609-737-3299. For more information visit howellfarm.org

June 1, Hay Raking & Hayrides, Howell Living History Farm, 10am. 70 Woodens Ln., Titusville, 609-737-3299. For more information visit howellfarm.org

June 8, Old Time Baseball, Howell Living History Farm, 10 am. 70 Woodens Ln., Titusville, 609-737-3299. For more information visit howellfarm.org

June 15, Dairying, Howell Living History Farm, 10 am. 70 Woodens Ln., Titusville, 609-737-3299. For more information visit howellfarm.org

June 22, Ice Cream Party/Picket Fence Art Show, Howell Living History Farm. Featured activities include music, wagon rides, games and contests, a children’s craft program and lots of ice cream. For more information visit howellfarm.org

June 29, Wheat Harvest, Howell Living History Farm, 10 am. 70 Woodens Ln, 11am. Titusville, 609-737-3299. For more information visit howellfarm.org

Literary Events

April 15, May 13, Poets at the Library, Princeton Public Library, 65Witherspoon Street, Princeton, Newsroom-2nd Floor, 7pm. Please bring 7-10 copies of your poem. For more information please visit princetonlibrary.org

Photography

April 7, Take Better Pictures with Your Digital Camera, Princeton Photo Workshop, 10am. For more information visit princetondigitalphotoworkshop.com

April 27, Learning to Photograph People On Location, Princeton Photo Workshop, 6pm. For more information visit princetondigitalphotoworkshop.com

May 4, In The Studio: Still Life, Product and Table Top Photography, Princeton Photo Workshop, 10am. For more information visit princetondigitalphotoworkshop.com

June 15, Mastering Composition: Beyond the Rule of Thirds, Princeton Photo Workshop, 10:30am. For more information visit princetondigitalphotoworkshop.com

Theatre

Kelsey Theatre

April 5 & 12 at 8pm; April 6 & 13, 8pm; April 7 & 14 at 2pm. Sunset Boulevard, Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor; (609) 570-3333. $20, $18, $16. For more information visit kelseyatmccc.org

April 26 & May 3, 8pm; April 27 & May 4, 8pm; April 28 & May 5 at 2pm. Return to Forbidden Planet, Kelsey Theater, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor; (609) 570-3333. $20 for all. For more information visit kelseyatmccc.org

May 11, 8pm; May 12, 2pm. Mercer Dance Ensemble - Escapes, Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor; (609) 570-3333. Featuring a group of Mercer County Community College’s most talented students, faculty and alumni, plus guest choreographers and dancers, this modern dance concert uses music and movement to sway
your emotions, and tell myriad tales. $16 adults, $16 seniors, $12 students. For more information visit kelseyatmccc.org (W,V)

May 27 & 28, 8 pm; June 3 & 7, 8 pm. Jersey City Premiere. Blue Guitar, Kittredge Theatre: Montclair State University, 1600 Prospect Street, Montclair, (973) 603-6170, $20, $18, $16. For more information visit mccc.edu/mcccboxoffice (W,V)

June 7 & 8, 8 pm; June 10 & 11, 8 pm. The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Kelsey Theater: Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333, $18 adults, $16 seniors, $14 students/children. For more info, visit kelseyatmccc.org (W,V)

June 14 & 15, 8 pm. Daring, Perilous: A Night of International Circus, Passage Theatre: 50 S Putnam Ave, Princeton, (609) 924-3725, $20, $18, $16. For more information visit passageplayhouse.org (W,V)

June 21 & 22, 8 pm; June 22 & 23, 8 pm; June 23 & 30, 2 pm. Macbeth, Kelsey Theater: Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333, $20, $18, $16. For more information visit kelseyatmccc.org (W,V)

June 29, 8pm. Inherit The Wind, Kelsey Theater: Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333, $20, $18, $16. For more information visit kelseyatmccc.org (W,V)

Macbeth, Kelsey Theater: Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333, $20, $18, $16. For more information visit kelseyatmccc.org (W,V)

Passage Theatre: May 27-19, Morir Sonyando, Passage Theatre: 205 E Front Street, Trenton, Genesis left her past behind long ago. But her mother’s release from prison forces them both to confront long-buried pain—and to wonder if they can ever become a family again. Erin Ortega’s play lovingly illuminates the blood ties that break and bind people. For more information visit passageplayhouse.org (W,V)

Pegasus Theatre: April 5 - 14, Fiction, Fridays & Saturdays 8pm, Sundays 2pm. 952 Alexander Rd, Princeton Junction, Linda’s request to read her husband Michael’s journals before dying from a malignant brain tumor sets off a series of events that blur the boundaries between past and present, fact and fiction, trust and betrayal. When Abbey returns—a woman they both have a history with—secrets and lies test the couple’s capacity for forgiveness, and force them both to face the consequences of their actions. No life, it turns out, is an open book. For more information visit pegasusplayhouse.org or call (609) 759-0045 (W,V)


May 9-12, Spring Awakening. Princeton University Players, 8pm. The Class of 1970 Theater in Whitman College. Princeton. (609) 258-3000. For more information/tickets visit princeton.edu/pup/season.shtml (WASPV)

Tulpehaking: April 27 & 28, History Weekend. Tulpehaking Nature Center. Explore the rich history of the Abbott Marshlands on this weekend of special lectures and tours of historic homes and sites. Learn how the local landscape contributed to the growth of America from pre-historic times to the modern era. Schedule of events at Abbottmarshlands.org. Sponsored by Friends for the Abbott Marshlands. (WASPV)

April 11, 2019. Sculpture Studio. West Windsor Arts Council, 7pm. Plaster, paper mache, paper clay and wire...can you think of a better way to ward off cabin fever blues? For more info visit westwindsorarts.org (WASPV)

April 12 - June 14, Poetry with Anna Evans, West Windsor Arts Council, 12:30pm. This series of structured workshops will benefit poets who are interested in honing their craft and working towards publishing their work. For more info visit westwindsorarts.org (WASPV)
A Place In Time: Joseph Henry House

The Joseph Henry House is a historic building located on the campus of Princeton University. Joseph Henry, a prominent American physicist who worked in electromagnetics, designed the house in 1836 and lived there from its completion in 1838 until taking a position as the first secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in 1848. The construction of the house was offered to the young physicist as part of the University’s effort to hire him away from the Albany Academy in an attempt to raise Princeton’s profile. After Henry’s departure, the house served as the official housing of the Dean of the College, the University’s senior undergraduate academic officer, from 1909 to 1961. The Henry house has been moved repeatedly throughout its history, first in 1870 to a site behind East College, again in 1925 to the corner of Washington Road and Nassau Street to accommodate the construction of the Princeton University Chapel, and finally in 1946 to its present location. The Henry house now stands along the northern edge of the University's campus adjacent to Chancellor Green and serves as Princeton’s Adlinger Center for the Humanities. The house was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1965. For more information visit princeton.edu /ssp/joseph-henry-project/joseph-henry-house/

April 7, Panel Discussion at The William Trent House — The Mystery of the Shoe in the Roof

In February of 2018, workers repairing the Trent House cornice discovered this shoe inside!

Why did someone put a shoe in the cornice of the Trent House?
It was a common custom, originating in Europe, to hide talismans, such as shoes and written charms, in the fabric of a building, to protect the occupants from evil. Discoveries in the United States have been made mostly in New England and the Northeast. They have been found in chimneys, fireplaces, under floors, above ceilings, in roofs, around doors and windows, under stairs and among foundations. They have been found in many different types of buildings including cottages, town houses, manor houses, hospitals, work houses, public houses, and factories.

What kind of shoe is it and when was it made?
All the experts we consulted agree that the shoe is 19th century, but is it from 1800, 1820 or 1830-1850? Is it a man’s shoe or a woman’s shoe? At least one expert says that this type of shoe would not have been worn by the rich, which brings up another question; How did such a shoe end up in the cornice of a building that was always occupied by the wealthy? Was it a shoe belonging to one of the workers themselves? Or one of their wives?

How did a 19th century shoe end up in the cornice of an 18th century house?
The cornice materials where the shoe was found were determined to be original from the time that the House was built in 1719. Were there repairs to the House roof or cornice that might have provided an opportunity for the shoe to be placed there?

Morven Museum Offers Victorian Pressed Flower Workshop

Spend Saturday, May 18, from 11 am to 1:30 pm, as Victorian women, such as Harriet Stockton might have and create pressed flower art surrounded by the Morven Museum’s historic garden. Learn the “love language” of flowers, enjoy an illustrated powerpoint on this Victorian art, and create artwork of your own suitable for framing. All flowers, materials, and art instruction provided. No previous experience required and space is limited, ages 12 and up. For pricing, to register or for more information, please call/visit (609) 924-8144 / morven.org
Please refer to the icons for ADA accommodations.

To have your events listed in our newsletter and on-line calendar, please write or email the following information: type of event, sponsor, location with street address and municipality, fees, phone number for public inquiries, a phone number for the staff to contact for questions, a website and/or email address, funding credit and ADA compliance. Please mail to: Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage, Box 8068, 640 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08650, or email to: c&hnewsletter@mercercounty.org. If you feel your event merits a longer story, please write, email or call (609) 989-6899.

Brian M. Hughes, County Executive
The Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders
John A. Cimino, Jr, Chair
Andrew Koonitz, Vice Chair
Ann M. Cannon • Pasquale Colavita, Jr. • Samuel T. Frisby
Nina Melker • Lucyle R. S. Walter

Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission
Milagros Medina, Chair
Nora Anaños • Laura Desai • Deborah Ford
Richard W. Hunter • Mel Leipzig • Ted Plunkett

Idamis Pérez-Margicin, Division Chief
Tricia Fagan • Cheryl Reed • Lisa Tramo

Anthony Carabelli, Jr., Director
Office of Economic Development

Cheryl Reed, Newsletter Editor

This newsletter is available in large print. To request a copy, please call (609) 989-6899.