Brothers on Broadway featuring Baritone Keith Spencer at Capital Philharmonic of New Jersey

Nationally-recognized baritone vocalist Keith Spencer presents his tour de force musical showcase, Brothers on Broadway, in partnership with the Capital Philharmonic of New Jersey. This one-man celebratory tribute to Broadway’s African American leading men has kept audiences and critics alike clamoring for more. With a showman’s flair, Keith leads us on a show-stopping musical journey from humble reflections of black minstrelsy through the undeniable progress afforded African Americans through musical theatre. Brothers on Broadway, which will be performed February 22, at 7:30 p.m., pays homage to the concert works and musical theatre performances of artists such as Paul Robeson, Ben Vereen, Sammy Davis, Jr., Gregory Hines, Brian Stokes Mitchell, and many other notable artists. This concert experience commemorating Black History Month includes well-known selections from shows such as Porgy and Bess, Ragtime, Pippin, The Phantom of the Opera, Hamilton, and more. Since its inception, Brothers on Broadway has continued to rise to critical acclaim. Now, for the first time, Brothers on Broadway will be presented as a full orchestral experience courtesy of the Capital Philharmonic of New Jersey and Maestro Daniel Spalding.

For more information or to get tickets, visit capitalphilharmonic.org.

Martin Koenig: Sound Portraits from Bulgaria

On January 25, at 2:00 pm, the Lawrence Headquarters Branch of the Mercer County Library System will host a meeting with ethnographer and cultural documentarian Martin Koenig. Between 1966 and 1979, Mr. Koenig made half a dozen trips to Bulgaria and filmed, recorded, and photographed the lively, yet endangered aspects of Bulgaria’s traditional village culture due to modernization, globalization and emigration. In 1968, he co-founded and was a director of the Balkan Arts Center in New York City.

This meeting with him will tell the story of this recording and will feature a film on traditional Bulgarian folk dancing from the period 1966 – 1979, followed by a Q & A session.

This program is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Lawrence Library and the Bulgarian Cultural Center of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. Registration is suggested. For more information about the library’s programs, call 609-883-8294.

Photo by Martin Koenig Lazarki, village of Bistritsa, Bulgaria, 1967.
Join popular historical interpreter and re-enactor Carol Simon Levin in presenting Women’s History Month and the centennial of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution (1920) giving men and women the equal right to vote. This program is scheduled for March 26, 7 p.m. at the Mercer County Library, Lawrence Headquarter Branch, 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville. The program is sponsored by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. Registration is suggested. To register or for more information please call 609-883-8294 or e-mail lawprogs@mcl.org.

The Princeton Public Library to Host Chinese New Year Celebration

Celebrate Chinese New Year, the Year of the Rat, on February 8, at 1:30 p.m., at the Princeton Public Library, 65 Witherspoon Street, Princeton. This event is geared toward participants of all ages, the celebration features a traditional Chinese lion dance, Chinese painting, calligraphy, music and paper cutting. There will also be origami stations and martial arts performances throughout the day.

Presented in partnership with the Princeton High School’s Mandarin classes and Chinese Club.

This event is open to the public and is FREE to attend.

For more information, please call the library at 609-924-9529 or visit princetonlibrary.org

Reclaiming Our Voice: New Jersey’s Central Role in the Fight for Women’s Suffrage

The Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion announces a juried exhibition of quilts by The Friendly Quilters of Bucks County and the Sankofa Stitchers. Featuring nearly 30 quilts across a range of sizes, styles, and color schemes, the exhibition’s display of artisanry, creativity, and story-telling will fill Ellarslie’s first floor galleries from January 19 to April 19, 2020. There will be an opening reception on Sunday, January 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. as well as a closing reception and Quilters Walk and Talk: Sunday, April 19, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Friendly Quilters and Sankofa Stitchers work to keep the traditions of quilt-making alive by creating works of art that tell stories and strengthen historical and community bonds. The members of both groups are experienced quilters and have quilted individually and together for many years, bringing a wide range of styles to this exhibition.

In addition to the exhibition, If These Quilts Could Talk, Ellarslie will offer workshops and lectures on quilting and lectures on the history and traditions of quilts in the African American community.

• February 2: Underground Railroad Quilts lecture by Cassandra Stancil Gunkel
• February 8: Improvisational Quilting workshop led by Rose Miller (workshop will accommodate up to 15 participants; rain/snow date Feb. 9)
• February 16: Quilt Arts and Culture lecture by Gail Mitchell
• March 7: Adinkra Stamping workshop by Cassandra Stancil Gunkel
• March 29: Improvisational Quilting workshop led by Mada Coles-Galloway and Juandamaire Gikandi (workshop will accommodate up to 15 participants; rain/snow date March 30)

The museum located in Cadwalader Park, Trenton, is open Wednesday-Saturday from 12 to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Parking is available in the park. There is no admission charge, but donations are appreciated.

For more information, visit ellarslie.org or call 609-989-3632.

If These Quilts Could Talk, Workshop & Lectures at the Trenton City Museum
The Trenton Artists Workshop Association (TAWA) will present the exhibition “Mummers X 2” at the Trenton Free Public Library from January 11 through February 28.

A reception with the photographers is set for Saturday, January 18, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

“Mummers X 2” features 29 photographs of one of the oldest folk-art events in the United States, the annual Mummers Parade in Philadelphia.

Held on New Year’s Day, the Mummers Parade is rooted in ancient European customs and traditions that included exaggerated mime presentations.

The two in the title are two central New Jersey journalists united by their interest in observing and photographing the Mummers: Bryan Grigsby and Dan Aubrey.

Grigsby, of Bordentown, is a retired newspaper photographer who spent 40 years at news publications in Florida, Missouri, and Philadelphia, where he

spent the last 30 years of his career as a photo editor at the Philadelphia Inquirer.

A graduate of the University of Florida, he got his start in photography while covering the war in South Vietnam as an Army Photographer.

Grigsby discovered the Mummers Parade in the early to mid-1980s and says, “It was love at first sight. I thought this event was the most bizarre thing I had ever seen, and I was determined to bring an outsiders point of view to capturing the participants. I almost never photographed the actual parade, choosing instead to focus on the staging areas deep in South Philly, where I felt like I was seeing the primal gut of the Beast.”

Aubrey, of Hamilton is the arts editor of U.S. 1 Newspaper and editor of the monthly Trenton Downtowner.

A former arts and theater columnist for the Trenton Times, Aubrey has also worked with nonprofit professional theaters and coordinated art exhibitions in New Jersey and New York City.

“I realized that at its heart the Philadelphia Mummers were following an ancient human impulse to resist the darkness of winter and bring in new life with bright colors, joyful sounds, and plenty of alcohol,” says Aubrey. “The more I saw, the more the event spoke to me. And although it can be rude and ridiculous, the Mummers Parade also has a beauty and a spirit of fellowship.”

Taken during different eras, the photographs show changes in both the parade and in American society.

Grigsby’s 1980s black and white images capture a time when the Mummers were only men of European ancestry – many of whom dressed and paraded as “wenches.”

Aubrey’s digital color photographs shows the parade changing to include women, men and women of Latino and African backgrounds, and a gay brigade.

The Trenton Free Public Library is located at 120 Academy Street in Trenton. Hours are Mondays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on the library, call 609-392-7188.

Dear Friends,

Winter is upon us, and here in Mercer County we have an exciting array of cultural experiences to carry us through the season.

In this edition of our Culture & Heritage newsletter, you’ll find a rich assortment of cultural events, displays, tours and crafts happening across the County this winter. Among them are the musical showcase “Brothers on Broadway,” featuring baritone vocalist Keith Spencer and the Capital Philharmonic of New Jersey, at the Patriots Theater at the War Memorial; a program celebrating Women’s History Month and the centennial of the 19th Amendment at the Lawrence Library; and a juried exhibition of quilts at the Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie. Also featured is a story about the historic Ely-Norton Farm in East Windsor, best known for its most famous visitor, Clara Barton.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and for a winter filled with new experiences.

Sincerely,
Calendar of Events

Auditions

January 28, New Student Auditions, Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey. Students MUST study privately and be enrolled in either their school band or orchestra (if there is a band or orchestra in your school) in order to become and remain a member of the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey. Recommendation by the student’s private teacher is required. Home-schoolers are also invited to audition! For more information visit yo cj.org

Concerts

January 12, Winter Performance - A Night in Vienna, Central Jersey Choral Society, 4:30pm, Princeton Meadow Church, 545 Meadow Rd, Princeton. A tribute to the City of Music, which features the music of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, and a host of others! For more information visit cjchoralsociety.org

January 19, Winter 2020 Large Ensemble Concert, Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey, 3pm & 7pm, Kendall Hall, The College of New Jersey. For more information visit yocj.org

February 6, Isabella Faust, Violin Jean-Guihen Queyras, Cello AlexanderMelnikov, Piano at Princeton University Concerts, 8pm. 68 Nassau St, Princeton, princetonuniversityconcerts.org

February 6, Performance with Westminster Choir College Jubilee Chorus, Princeton Children’s Chorus, 6pm. The Black History Month Concert performance takes place at Westminster Choir College, Princeton. For more information visit trentonchildrenchorus.org

February 10, Music from China, Princeton Symphony Orchestra, 4pm. Located in Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall, Princeton. FREE. For more information visit princetonсимphony.org

February 11, Gabriela Montero, Piano, Princeton University Concerts, Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall, 6pm & 9pm. 68 Nassau St, Princeton, princetonuniversityconcerts.org

February 16, three Centuries of Lutes with Daniel Swenberg, Dryden Ensemble, 3pm. Located at Miller Chapel, Princeton Theological Seminary, 64 Mercer St, Princeton. For more information visit the drydenensemble.org / 609-466-8541.

February 20, Calidore String Quartet, Princeton University Concerts, 8pm. Nassau St, Princeton, princetonuniversityconcerts.org

February 22, Brothers on Broadway, Capital Philharmonic of NJ, 7:30pm. Located at Patriots’ Theatre, 1 Memorial Dr, Trenton. For more information visit yocj.org

March 8, Richardson Chamber Players, Beethoven at 250, at Princeton University Concerts, 3pm. 68 Nassau St, Princeton, princetonuniversityconcerts.org

March 13 & 14, Bach’s St. John Passion, Dryden Ensemble, 7:30pm. Located at Miller Chapel, Princeton Theological Seminary, 64 Mercer St, Princeton. For more information visit the drydenensemble.org / 609-466-8541.

March 14, The Coming of Spring with Lorenzo Mazzamuto, Capital Philharmonic of NJ, 7:30pm. Located at Patriots’ Theatre, 1 Memorial Dr, Trenton. For more information visit yocj.org

March 22, 2nd Annual Chamber Music Fundraiser, Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey, 3pm. Located at Crosswicks Friends Meeting House in Crosswicks. For more information visit yocj.org

March 29, Spring Into Song Concert, Trenton Children’s Chorus, 2pm. For more information visit trentonchildrenchorus.org

March 21; 8pm & 22; 4pm, Stefan Jackiw Plays Mendelssohn, Princeton Symphony Orchestra. Located in Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall, Princeton. For more information visit princeton symphony.org

Dance

Every Tuesday night, International Folk Dance, Princeton Folk Dance, 7:30pm. Kristina Johnson Pop-Up Studio, Princeton Shopping Center. (609)921-9340 Lesson followed by dance. $5. princetonfolkdance.org

Every Wednesday night, Newcomer Dance, American Ballroom Company, 7pm. $10. (609) 931-0149. For more information visit americanballroomco.com

Every Thursday night, Viva Tango, 8pm. Suzanne Patterson Center, Princeton. (609) 948-4448, $15. For more information visit vivatango.org

Every Friday night, Friday Night Social, American Ballroom Company, 7:30pm. Located at 1525 Parkway Ave, Ewing. (609) 931-0149. For more information visit americanballroomco.com

Every Friday, Friday Dance Social, Jersey Dance, 8:30pm. West Windsor Arts Center, 952 Alexander Rd, West Windsor. For more information visit jersydance.com

Every Saturday, English Country Dance, Princeton Country Dancers, 8pm. Suzanne Patterson Center, Princeton. $11. For more information visit princeton countrydancers.org

Exhibitions

Now - May 10, Dreaming of Utopia: Roosevelt, New Jersey, Morven Museum. The first of its kind, this show examines the history of Roosevelt, from its early days as an antidote to the Great Depression to a twenty-first century arts community. For more information visit morven.org.

On View - June 28, Preserving the Pinelands: Albert Horner’s Portraits of a National Treasure, New Jersey State Museum, 205 West State Street St, Trenton. The exhibit will feature images which capture the quiet beauty and intimate landscapes of New Jersey’s Pinelands. The artwork is created by photographer Albert Horner, and artifacts from the NJ State Museum’s collections which tell just some of the stories of the land, animals, people and industries that make the Reserve a state and national treasure. The 40th anniversary of the Pinelands Preservation Act, considered by former Governor Brendan Byrne to be the most important accomplishment of his administration, and the issue most central to his legacy as governor. For more information visit state.nj.us/state/museum. (WV)

Now - February 16, The Eternal Feast: Banqueting in Chinese Art from 10th to the 14th Century, Princeton University Art Museum. The exhibition brings to life the art of the feast during three transformative Chinese dynasties, the Song, Liao, and Yuan, which together enjoyed a thriving economy, cultural flourishing, and the intermingling of foreign and native traditions. Focusing on a rare group of surviving paintings from the period—along with ceramic, lacquer, metal, and stone objects as well as textiles—the exhibition reveals feasts to be singularly positioned to illuminate one of the most enduring and significant facets of the Chinese tradition: the continuum between life and the afterlife. The exhibition features fifty objects arranged in sections that focus on ladies banqueting in the past, gentlemen feasting in the present, and dining in the afterlife. Several other aspects of elite feasting—including costume, cuisine, music, and dance, as well as burial customs, architecture and gardens, artistic patronage, and painterly practice—are also explored, offering a window into life, death, and art during a time period whose cultural influence extends in China to the present day. For more information visit artmuseum.princeton.edu (WV)

January 9 - February 8, Badlands, BS BY Gallery, 143 East State Street Ste.4, Trenton. Badlands” is a new series of experimental works created by sculp-
tor Dominic Sansone relying heavily on everyday building materials easily accessible at local hardware stores and found objects. A collection of pedestal based and free-standing sculpture alongside various reliquary style “paintings”, form the basis for the proposed exhibition which addresses themes of environmental, social, and infrastructural decay in our society. Opening Reception: January 10, 4-7pm. For more information visit bsbgallery.com

February 20 - March 14, Collective Experiments, BS&B Gallery, 143 East State Street Ste 4, Trenton. Collective Experiments, presented by The International Society of Antiquaries, is a learned group of multidisciplinary artists. Individually and collectively their work references tribal, shamanic, ancestral, as well as contemporary art; esotericism; anthropology; and archaeology in various direct and indirect ways. The goal, thus, is to look back in order to look forward, as they unfold the narrative of the distant past. Collective Experiments features artists Olivia Baldwin, Kyle Cotton, Elisa Pritzker, and Greg Slick. Opening Reception: February 22, 5-7pm. For more information visit bsbgallery.com

Farmers Markets
January 4 & 18, February 1 & 15, March 7 & 21, West Windsor Farmers’ Market, 10am. Windsor Athletic Club Clarksville Rd, West Windsor. Produce, meats, woven fibers, honey, wine, flowers, baked goods, and prepared foods. For more information visit westwindsorfarmersmarket.org

Festivals/Holiday
January 5, Arts Council of Princeton - Three Kings Day Event, 3pm. Join the Arts Council of Princeton in our Solley Theater for a special dance performance! Fiesta del Dia de Los Reyes Magos, or Three Kings Day, is the last day of the Christmas season and is celebrated throughout the world by several different cultures. Enjoy a live Flamenco dance performance by Lisa Botalli’s Fiesta Flamenca and rosas de reyes (Three Kings cake). Learn about Spanish culture and end the celebration in celebration! Paul Robeson Center for the Arts, 102 Witherspoon Street, Princeton. For more information, please visit artsCouncilofprinceton.org or call 609.924.8777.

March 26 - March 29, 2020 Trenton Film Festival, Trenton Film Society. For more information visit trentonfilmsociety.org

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

Every Second Tuesday, Central Jersey Genealogical Club, Hamilton Library, 7 pm. For more information visit cjgcnj.com (WV)

January 29, John Baxter on Richard Stockton: Revolution’s Unsung Hero, 2pm. Local historian and author John Baxter joins us to examine the life of Richard Stockton in the two months immediately following the signing of the Declaration of Independence, some of the darkest days of the American Revolution. Mr. Baxter will present his research on Stockton’s work as a member of the Continental Congress; his courageous journey to upstate New York, the northern theater of the war, during the fall of 1776; and the extent to which he laid the groundwork for the victory at Saratoga a year later. The question on whether Richard Stockton deserves to be remembered as an unsung hero of the Revolution will be entertained. For more information visit morven.org

February 16, George Washington’s Birthday, Washington Crossing Park, 4pm. Bring the whole family to help George Washington celebrate his 288th birthday on Sunday, February 16, from noon to 4 PM at Washington Crossing Historic Park. Admission is free! Various children’s activities will be offered in the park buildings and Visitor Center. At 3 PM, visitors will sing Happy Birthday to George and enjoy cake cut from his sword. For info visit washingtoncrossingpark.org

Literary Events
January 9; February 13; March 12, Poets at the Library, Mercer County Library, Lawrence Branch, 2751 Brunswick Pike, 7pm. For more information please visit mcl.org (WV)

Photography
January 11 & February 1, Digital Camera Series: Settings & Beyond, Princeton Photo Workshop, 10am. For more information visit princetondigitalphotoworkshop.com

January 19, In the Studio: Still Life Product and Table Top Photography, Princeton Photo Workshop, 11am. For more information visit princetondigitalphotoworkshop.com

January 26, The Fine Art of Professional Model Photography, Princeton Photo Workshop, 10am. For more information visit princetondigitalphotoworkshop.com

February 8, Flash Photography on a Budget, Princeton Photo Workshop, 10am. For more information visit princetondigitalphotoworkshop.com

February 29 & March 14, Adobe Lightroom: The Basics and More, Princeton Photo Workshop, 10am. For more information visit princetondigitalphotoworkshop.com

March 29 & March 29, Mastering Composition: Beyond the Rule of Thirds, Princeton Photo Workshop, 10:30am. For more information visit princetondigitalphotoworkshop.com

Theatre
Kelsey Theatre
January 3, 4 & 11 at 8pm; January 5, 11 & 12 2pm. Calendar Girls, Kelsey Theater, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333. For more information visit kelsyteatre.net (WV)

January 17, 18, 24 & 25, 8pm. January 26 & 19, 12pm. Angry Men, Kelsey Theater, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333. For more information visit kelsyteatre.net (WV)

January 31, February 1, 7 & 8, 8pm; February 2 & 9, 2pm. Cabaret, Kelsey Theater, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333. $18 adults, $16 seniors, $14 students/children. For more information visit kelsyteatre.net (WV)

February 14, 15, 21 & 22, 2pm. February 16 & 23, 2pm. Last of the Red Hot Lovers, Kelsey Theater, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333. For more info. Visit kelsyteatre.net (WV)

March 6 & 7, 8pm; March 8, at 2pm. Tribute to the Gratifying Dead - Reo& Roll Revue, Kelsey Theater, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333. $30 all. For more information visit kelsyteatre.net (WV)

March 13, 14, 20 & 21, 8pm; March 15 & 22, 8pm. Variations, Kelsey Theater, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333. For more information visit mercerband.org (WV)

McCarter
January 10 - February 9, Goodnight Nobody, McCarter Theater. Named by Rolling Stone as one of the Top 20 Guitarists of All Time, Richard Thompson is also one of the world’s most critically acclaimed and prolific songwriters. For more information visit mccarter.org (WA,SA,SB,V)

January 18, Richard Thompson, McCarter Theater. Named by Rolling Stone as one of the Top 20 Guitarists of All Time, Richard Thompson is also one of the world’s most critically acclaimed and prolific songwriters. For more information visit mccarter.org (WA,SA,SB,V)

January 25, The Mikado, McCarter Theater: Gilbert & Sullivan’s operetta masterpiece is re-imagined in a new and innovative production combining the real-life characters of D’Oyly Carte’s Victorian London with the Japanese settings of the G&S original. For more information visit mccarter.org (WA,SA,SB,V)

February 1, Andy Borowitz, McCarter Theater: The man The Washington Post calls “America’s finest fake-news creator and sharpest political satirist” returns to McCarter for another evening of sold-out smash-hit comedy. For more info visit mccarter.org (WA,SA,SB,V)

February 16, Romeo & Juliet, McCarter Theater. Ukraine’s principal ballet company brings a new production of one of classic ballet’s all-time favorites set to Prokofiev’s beautiful score. For more in-
The West Windsor Arts Council presents
The Doom and Bloom Exhibition

Vernita Nemec

The Doom and Bloom art show runs Monday, January 6, 2020 to Friday, February 28, 2020 at West Windsor Arts Center in Princeton Junction, NJ. The juried exhibition showcases twenty-five artists whose artworks consist of materials that would otherwise be discarded. The artists’ works highlight the crisis of trash on earth and how artists can have a positive impact on the environment through the partnership of art and recycling. The opening reception of the show is Sunday, January 12, from 4 to 6 pm.

Vernita Nemec, (AKA Vernita N’Cognita), juror of the Doom and Bloom show, is a visual/performance artist/curator who has exhibited her art around the world. N’Cognita is currently the director of Viridian Artists art gallery in Chelsea, New York City. She has curated and organized exhibitions of art from recycled materials throughout the United States, including “Art from Detritus: Recycling with Imagination," for which she received a Kauffman Foundation Fellowship and a grant from the Puffin Foundation. Her artwork ranges across a variety of disciplines, including installations, collages, and tangible art objects.

The Doom and Bloom show includes N’Cognita’s “Endless Junkmail Scroll” installation. In a description of N’Cognita’s Endless Junkmail Scroll, Times Observer Writer Stacey Gross explains, “The dynamic nature of the piece allows it to morph and adapt to any space in which it is shown, allowing Nemec to “fill the air with detritus transformed” and creating a physical space out of art itself...The installation confronts multiple social and environmental issues inherent in twenty-first century life... Human beings’ ability to end life as we know it by the process of production and consumption, is the ultimate thesis of the piece.”

Visitors will have the opportunity to view and purchase artworks at the Doom and Bloom exhibition at West Windsor Arts Center, 952 Alexander Rd, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550. For more information, call 609-716-1931 or write info@westwindsorarts.org.

Vernita Nemec

March 10-29, Sleuth, McCarter Theater: A suspenseful game of cat-and-mouse, Anthony Shaffer’s Sleuth is a brilliant parody of the Agatha Christie thriller filled with plotted murders, jealousy, and revenge. For more information visit mccarter.org

Passage Theatre
March 20 - 22, Mother (and me). Passage Theater, Mill Hill Playhouse, 205 East Front Street, Trenton, 609-392-0766. Mother (and me) is the story of a larger than life Hungarian Mama Rose who’s slowly waltzing into dementia, as her Broadway baby, Melinda waltzing into dementia, as her Broadway baby, Melinda. For more information visit westwindsorarts.org.

Workshops
January 06 - February 10, Chinese Brush Painting, West Windsor Arts Council, 12:00pm. This class will show you how to paint beautiful and colorful nature images, while also incorporating bold calligraphy by using a simple kit, comprised of traditional ink brush, paint, and rice paper. Learn the techniques to paint a peony flower, bamboo, lotus, fish, mountains and water. You also will learn a brief history of Chinese Art in each class. For more information visit westwindsorarts.org.

January 18, Frost and Flames, Grounds For Sculpture, 11:00am. Get up close and watch as master carvers turn huge blocks of ice into art. Using power saws, chisels, and grit, in locations throughout the park. For more information visit groundsforsculpture.org.

January 28, Korean Knot Workshop, 10am. Traditional Korean knots have the same shape at the front and the back, which symbolizes symmetry and balance. With only string and a few tools, Korean knots allow you to make a variety of accessories such as bracelets, bookmarks, pins, and key chains. We will go over the basic knots and make a bracelet. Come learn to make your own unique bracelets with Korean yarn! For more info visit westwindsorarts.org.

March 13 - 27, Felting Techniques Workshop, West Windsor Arts Council, 12:30pm. Felt is one of the oldest known textiles and is perhaps one of the most unique and versatile fabrics available. Learn 3 methods for working with felt and discover the possibilities of its unique artistic properties. Each week you will complete a new project and learn progressively advanced techniques. For more information visit westwindsorarts.org.

Wednesday, N'Cognita is currently the juror of the Doom and Bloom art gallery in Chelsea, New York City. She has curated and organized exhibitions of art from recycled materials throughout the United States, including “Art from Detritus: Recycling with Imagination,” for which she received a Kauffman Foundation Fellowship and a grant from the Puffin Foundation. Her artwork ranges across a variety of disciplines, including installations, collages, and tangible art objects.

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- 6 -
**The New Jersey State Museum Exhibits — "Fine Feathered Friends: Birds as Mainstay and Muse"**

Birds are everywhere. They occupy our forests, fields, farms, beaches, backyards and even our homes. But many of us are largely unaware of the natural and cultural significance of these ubiquitous avian animals.

Opening January 4, 2020 and running through to September 13, the New Jersey State Museum brings birdwatching indoors, displaying our fine feathered friends and their role as both an ecological mainstay and a source of creative inspiration. Through nearly 200 original objects, the exhibition explores the wild, wonderful world of birds and their impact on New Jersey decorative arts— including needlework samplers, hand-carved duck and shorebird decoys, as well as the porcelain birds of Mercer County ceramic artist Edward Marshall Boehm (1913-1969).

Boehm loved birds so much that he built huge aviaries on the grounds of his Titusville home. This allowed him to study the anatomy and habits of his fine feathered friends. At his studio in Trenton, the artist replicated the avian world in hard-paste porcelain. Boehm began by sculpting a model of each species. He used the model to create molds and make limited-edition replicas. Each bird was then hand-assembled and hand-painted by a team of artists. Boehm’s unique ceramic art form embodied technical mastery and grand artistic vision.

Boehm’s birds are exhibited side by side with scientific taxidermy mounts of the same species, allowing visitors to see the amazing level of detail in these magnificent porcelain creations. This exhibition also explores the science of birds and raises awareness of the need for bird conservation through the stories of two extinct bird species—the Passenger Pigeon and the Carolina Parakeet.

Located at 205 West State Street in Trenton, the Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9 am to 4:45 pm; closed Mondays and all state holidays. Admission is FREE.

For more information please visit state.nj.us/state/museum or call (609) 292-6464.

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**A Place In Time: Ely-Norton Farm**

This farm is named for John Ely (1707-1795), who settled here in 1728, and Richard Norton (d. 1855), who settled here in 1831. The farm is best known, however, for its most famous visitor, Clara Barton. Clara had met Richard and Ellen Wyckoff Norton’s children, Charles and Mary, while they studied at a Universalist school in New York. She lived here with the Norton family from October 1851 to May 1852.

In a letter to her nephew, Clara recalled her first afternoon at the Norton’s “large, well-cultivated” farm. After a “good dinner,” she joined Charles and Mary for “a stroll in the woods in search of chestnuts, gum berries, and persimmons, and found plenty of them.” She also described the Norton’s “prettily furnished” sitting room with its “good piano” and “large window looking into the garden.” Clara clearly liked the Norton’s, later calling them “a sterling family, good as gold and true as the sun.”

Clara decided to begin teaching at the Cedarville School, a one-room private school on Cedarville Road, East Windsor Twp. Each of the thirty-nine students paid Clara tuition, $2 for each eleven-week quarter session. Clara found her students to be “quiet and obedient,” arriving with “good honest cheerful faces every morning.” The students later remembered Clara for both her interest in their progress and her informal methods. In late May 1852, Clara left the Norton’s to open a school in Bordentown, New Jersey.

Shortly thereafter she took a job with the Patent Office in Washington, D.C. in 1854, Clara Barton became the only American woman working in the federal government in the mid-nineteenth century. Clara left Washington after the Civil War began in 1861 to nurse wounded soldiers at the front. Throughout the war, she continued to write Mary Norton, who sent Clara boxes of food and clothing for the troops. After the war Clara visited Mary again in 1878. When Clara began organizing the American Red Cross in 1881, Mary was one of its four charter members.

The Ely House is the HEW Historical Society’s headquarters as well as a circa 1850 house, museum and library. The museum is located on 164 North Main Street in Hightstown. If you would like to make arrangements for a group tour, please call 609-448-0110.
This newsletter is available in large print. To request a copy, please call (609) 989-6899.

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.

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