Local Artists Wanted for 'Mercer County Artists 2017'

Calling local artists! Artists aged 18 or older who live, work, or attend school in Mercer County are invited to submit art for consideration for the “Mercer County Artists 2017 Exhibition” at The Mercer County Community College Gallery. Submission and jurying takes place on Saturday, February 11, 9:30 am to 5 pm. The MCCC Gallery is located on the college’s West Windsor campus, 1200 Old Trenton Road.

Artists may enter up to two original works completed since February of 2016 in any media except photography. They are asked to drop off their work between 9:30 am and noon. Works that are not accepted for the show should be picked up between 3:30 and 5 pm. The exhibit is open to the public beginning February 20 and runs through March 23, 2017.

The community is invited to an Opening Reception on Wednesday, February 22 from 5 to 7 pm. Representatives from the college, the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission, and the West Windsor Arts Council will be on hand to make presentations. More than $1,500 in prizes will be announced, including the "Blick Art Supplies Best in Show” award, plus multiple Purchase Awards from the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Artwork selected for Purchase Awards will become part of the county’s permanent collection.

For more information or a full prospectus visit mccc.edu/gallery or call the gallery at 609-570-3589.

The Dryden Ensemble's 2017 Winter Concerts

This winter the Dryden Ensemble, who perform Baroque chamber music, will delight fans young and old with their 2017 winter concerts.

Their winter performances begin with Le Médecin & La Musique. This concert will be held on Sunday, February 12 at 3 pm and will feature medical and musical curiosities from the French Baroque, including Marais’s depiction of a bladder stone operation, narrated by Paul Hecht.

The second concert, Bach's Birthday, will celebrate 332 years of the genius of Johann Sebastian Bach. It will be conducted with exquisite chamber music by Bach, Buxtehude, Handel & Weiss. This concert will be held on Sunday, March 26 at 3 pm.

Both performances will take place at Miller Chapel, Princeton Theological Seminary, 64 Mercer Street, Princeton. Tickets are $25 and free to students with an ID. For more information about The Dryden Ensemble or to purchase tickets visit drydenensemble.org or call 609-466-8541.
Mark Your Calendar
Mercer Teen Arts Festival set for May 5

The 2017 Mercer County Teen Arts Festival is slated for May 5 and 6 from 8 am to 2:30 pm at the Mercer County Community College. This festival allows teenage middle and high school students in Mercer County’s public, private, parochial and home-schooling environments the ability to display artistry in the fields of dance, literature, media, music, theater and visual arts. It also allows the teens the ability to get critiqued by professionals, and attend workshops as well be selected to advance to the State Teen Arts Festival, which will be held May 31 -June 2.

For more info on how to get your child or school involved, e-mail teenarts@mercercounty.org or call 609-989-6060.

Toy Exhibit Opens at the New Jersey State Museum

Although nicknamed the Garden State, New Jersey also has represented the pinnacle of American industry. The Roebling family, makers of wire rope and builders of the Brooklyn Bridge, called Trenton home. So too did Lenox and hundreds of other pottery firms. Camden made radios and canned soup. Paterson, the “Silk City,” was a well-known producer of textiles and diners. And Newark had a reputation for electrical goods and plastics.

One industry, however, has largely been forgotten in the history of New Jersey’s industrial might – toys. In 1950, one-tenth of all of the nation’s toys and dolls were made in New Jersey. Only four states contributed more to the country’s annual production of more than $450 million in toys, games, and childhood playthings.

When the renowned New Jersey historian John Cunningham published his seminal text on the state’s industrial history, he included an entire chapter just on toys.

Toy World, a new exhibition at the New Jersey State Museum, explores New Jersey’s important role in the American toy industry. Focusing on the period from 1880 through 1970, this family-friendly exhibit features more than 100 toys made by 50 different New Jersey-based companies. These include nationally-known toys such as model trains by Lionel and Tyco, space toys by Remco, plastic playsets by Colorforms, and the popular holiday toy trucks marketed by Hess.

Also included in the exhibition are dolls made by Regal and Horsman companies at a factory in Trenton, and a rare tinplate toy carousel made by Hoproco of Hopewell.

The exhibit runs from now until April 30. For hours, directions or more information, visit state.nj.us/state/museum.

Hidden Mercer: Cotsen Library at Princeton University

The Cotsen Children’s Library is a very special library tucked away in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University’s Firestone Library.

Not only does this library serve as a resource for children, families, educators, and book lovers but it also houses a hidden gem known as Bookscape. Bookscape, is a sculptural yet whimsical reading gallery designed specifically for children. It begins with a giant blue book and a garden of charming topiary animals. From there, the room unfolds in a succession of reading areas stocked with books. One can stop and rest on a comfortable leather chair by the “Hearth of Darkness” fireplace or continue onto a koi pond, a wishing well, a playful puppet theater, or a towering bonsai. The bonsai, which is hollowed out, can be used for the ultimate reading experience.

The rear of the library houses space for workshops and special programs.

Cotsen offers a variety of programs for children, including weekly story times, Saturday art events/workshops, online author interviews, an annual writing contest, a teen writing resource, and a literary society for kids.

Bookscape is open to the public and free of charge. Check it out today!

For more information on library hours, or their programs visit princeton.edu/cotsen or call 609-258-4820.
The Annual New Jersey Senior Citizen Artist Show Celebrates Its 50th Year

The 2016 New Jersey Senior Citizen Art Show, which opened September 23 at Meadow Lakes Senior Living Community, East Windsor, was on display and open to the public, through Friday, October 28. This was the 50th Annual State Senior Art show, and comprised more than 260 works created by artists from all 21 New Jersey counties. The artists ranged from 60 to 95 years of age. The artwork, featured was by both professional and non-professional artists in 11 categories -- acrylic, craft, digital imagery, mixed media, oil, pastels, photography, print, sculpture, watercolor, and works on paper and was reviewed by a three-person panel of professional artists who selected first, second and third-place winners and honorable mentions in each category.

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. Did you know that toys once were among New Jersey's biggest industries? A new family-friendly exhibit that runs through April at the State Museum in Trenton spotlights more than 100 toys made by 50 different New Jersey-based companies from 1880 through 1970. Also featured is a story about a special children's library tucked away in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University’s Firestone Library. And not to be missed is the annual Mercer County Artist Exhibit at The Gallery at Mercer County Community College.

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

Sincerely,

Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

This year's Best in Show Professional went to Hudson County's Jim Fallon for his print on handmade paper, "Orphans' Opus '68."

2016 Best in Show Professional went to Hudson County's Jim Fallon for his print on handmade paper, "Orphans' Opus '68."

This year's Best in Show Non-professional went to Martin Hitzig of Bergen County for his oil painting, "Blue Pitcher."

2016 Best in Show Non-professional went to Martin Hitzig of Bergen County for his oil painting, "Blue Pitcher."

With that said, we are very much looking forward to next year's show and seeing more of New Jersey's amazing talented seniors. Thanks again to all who participated and congratulations to all of this year's winners!

This program was made possible, in part, by funds from the NJ State Council on the Arts, with additional support from the County of Mercer, Meadow Lakes and the NJ Association of Area Agencies on Aging.
Calendar of Events

Art Happenings

January 15, Ice Sculpture Demonstrations, Grounds for Sculpture, 2pm. Let the chips fall where they may as these master carvers turn huge blocks of ice into art! For more information, please visit groundsforaustsculpture.org. [W,A]

Auditions

January 24, Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey. New student auditions will be held at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North. For more information visit yocj.org. [W,A]

Concerts

January 18-19; March 15 & 16, Takacs String Quartet, Princeton University Concerts, Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall, 8pm. For more information visit the princetonuniversityconcerts.org.

January 19, Volanti Flute Quartet, Westminster Conservatory at Nassau, 12pm. For more information visit the rider.edu/conservatory / 609-921-7104.

January 22, Winter Concert, Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey, 3pm & 7pm, Kendall Hall, TCNJ. The Symphonic Orchestra will be joined that day by Jeffrey Lang, Associate Principal French Horn of the Philadelphia Orchestra. For tickets visit yocj.org.

January 29, Un/Restrained, Princeton Symphony Orchestra, 4pm. Richardson Auditorium, Princeton, For tickets visit princetonphilharmonic.org

February 9, Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, Princeton University Concerts, Princeton University Chapel, 8pm. For more information visit the princetonuniversityconcerts.org.

February 12, Médecin & La Musique, Dryden Ensemble, 3pm. Miller Chapel, Princeton Theological Seminary. For tickets visit drydenensemble.org

February 14, Colin Currie, Per- it drydenensemble.org

logical Seminary. For tickets visit concerts.org.

February 16, Dezheng Ping, violin and Phyllis Lehrer, piano perform music of Jo- hannes Brahms, Westmin- ster Conservatory at Nas- sau, 12:15pm. Located at 61 Nassau St, Princeton. Free Admission! For more information visit the rider.edu/conserva- tory / 609-921-7104.

March 3, Paddy Moloney and the Chieftains, McCarter The- atre, 8:00pm. Located at 91 University Place, Princeton. Performing Irish music in the spirit of St Patrick. For more information visit mccarter.org.

March 11, Meet The Music: Albert & Wolfgang, Richard- son Auditorium, Alexander Hall, Princeton University Concerts, 4pm. For more information visit the prince- tonuniversityconcerts.org.

March 11, Musical Review - 40’s to 80’s, Lawrence Headquaters Branch, Mercer County Library, 2pm. 2751 Brunswick Pike, Law- renceville, New Jersey band Rhythm‘N Sound will present this program that covers a varied genre of Classic Oldies, Rock n’ Roll, Classic Rock, Motown, Disco, and Classical songs from the great American song book.

March 11, Cuban Violinist Ilmar Garclan, The Capital Philharmonic. Located in Pa- rticilar Theatre at Trenton Windsor Memorial, Trenton. For more information visit capitalphilharmonic.org

March 11, Speakeasy Soiree, West Windsor Arts Center, step out into a jazzy night-club at West Windsor Arts Council’s annual gala fund- raiser! Swing to early jazz sounds while enjoying the- matic décor, fine foods, and spirits. Our celebration at the West Windsor Arts Center will also feature silent and live auctions with must-have artist works alongside other wonderful prize packages. For more information visit capitalphilharmonic.org

March 16, Kevin Willois, flute and Kyu-Jung Rhee, pi- ano perform music by wom- en composers, Westminster Conservatory at Nassau, 12pm. Located at 61 Nassau St, Princeton. Free Admission! For more information visit the rider.edu/conserva- tory / 609-921-7104.

March 19, Restless Roman- tics, Princeton Symphony Or- chestra, 4pm. Richardson Au- ditorium, Princeton. French violinist Philippe Graffin will perform Elgar’s stormy Violin Concerto, a blend of Romantic ideals and 20th Century atti- tudes. For tickets visit prince- tonsymphony.org.

March 26, Bach’s Birthday, Dryden Ensemble, 3pm. Mill- er Chapel, Princeton The- ological Seminary. For tickets visit drydenensemble.org

Dance

Every Tuesday night, Interna- tional Folk Dance, Princeton Folk Dance, 7:30pm. Kristina Johnson Pop-Up Studio, Princ- eston Shopping Center, 609-921- 9340 Lesson followed by dance. $5, princeptonfolkdance.com

Every Wednesday night, New- comer Dance, American Ball- room Dance Company, 7pm. $5. 609-931-0149. For more information visit americanballroomco.com

Every Thursday night, Viva Tango, 8pm, Suzanne Patter- son Center, 1 Monument Dr., Prin- ceton. Live music always. For more information visit vivatango.org

Every Friday night, Friday Night Social, American Ball- room Company, 7:30pm. Lo- cated at 1523 Parkway Ave, Ewing. 609-931-0149, $15. For more information visit americanballroomco.com

Every Wednesday, Contra Dancing, Princeton Country Dancers, 8pm, Suzanne Patter- son Center, 1 Monument Dr., Princeton. Live music always. No partner needed. Free for first-time beginners! (908) 359- 4837. For more information visit princetoncountrydanc- ers.org

Exhibits


Now - February 5, 2017, Epic Tales from India: Paintings from The San Diego Museum of Art, Princeton University Art Museum. The exhibition will represent the most significant gathering of South Asian art ever shown at Princeton and will be arranged by book or type of book, thus placing the paintings in something approaching their original narrative context. Visitors will learn about the varied traditions of manuscript-making in the region, and be introduced to the most famous works of South Asian literature—from sacred texts in Sanskrit to the range of secular stories, poems and histories that became popular in later centuries.

Now - May 21, 2017, Bruce Springsteen, A Photographic Journey, Morven Museum, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton. For more information visit morven.org. [W]

Now - June 30, Sculpture by Patrick Strzelec, Graves Terrace, Arts Council of Princeton, 102 Witherspoon Street, Princeton. For more information visit artscouncilofprinceton.org. [W]

January 9 - February 5, West Windsor Arts Council Faculty & Stu- dent Show, 952 Alexander Rd., West Windsor. 609-716-1931. Opening reception is January 15, 4pm.

January 26 - February 6, Allen Fitzpatrick Exhibition, Rider University Art Gallery, Bart Luedeke Center, 2083 Lawrenceville Rd, 609-895-5588. Exhibit focuses on still- life and landscapes.

1. Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission cannot be responsible for errors or omissions. Please call ahead to confirm times and prices. Deadline of February 13, 2017, for the April, May and June 2017 Newsletter.
Historical Activities

Every Third Tuesday of each month, Stamp Collecting, Hamilton Philatelic Society, 7:15pm, Hamilton Library. For more information visit hamiltonphilatellic.org (WV)

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

Holiday/Heritage

March 11 - March 14, Princeton Public Library, 7pm. Co-sponsored by the Princeton Public Library, US 1 Poets’ Cooperative, and Delaware Valley Poets. (609) 924-9529 x228. princetonlibrary.org (WV)

Literary Lectures

January 9, Community Room, Poets at the Library, Princeton Public Library, 7pm. Co-sponsored by the Princeton Public Library, US 1 Poets’ Cooperative, and Delaware Valley Poets. (609) 924-9529 x228. princetonlibrary.org (WV)

Farmers Markets

January 14, Winter Market, West Windsor Community Farmers’ Market, Windsor Athletic Club, 10 am, Clarks-ville Rd, West Windsor, Produce, meats, woven fibers, honey, wine, flowers, baked goods, and prepared foods. For more information visit westwindsorfarmersmarket.org

February 11, Winter Market, West Windsor Community Farmers’ Market, Windsor Athletic Club, 10 am, Clarks-ville Rd, West Windsor, Produce, meats, woven fibers, honey, wine, flowers, baked goods, and prepared foods. For more information visit westwindsorfarmersmarket.org

March 11, Winter Market, West Windsor Community Farmers’ Market, Windsor Athletic Club, 10 am, Clarks-ville Rd, West Windsor, Produce, meats, woven fibers, honey, wine, flowers, baked goods, and prepared foods. For more information visit westwindsorfarmersmarket.org

Film Festivals

February 23 - February 25, Oscar Shorts Weekend, Trenton Film Society. For more information visit trentonfilmsociety.org

March 29 - April 2, Trenton Film Festival, Trenton Film Society. For more information visit trentonfilmsociety.org
Pi Day Princeton — Happy Birthday, Albert Einstein!

Albert Einstein lived in Princeton for over 20 years. He was born on March 14 or 3.14 — the numerical equivalent of Pi! In recognition of this amazing coincidence Princeton celebrates his birthday and all the genius residents of this famous Ivy League town like no other city!

The influence for this unique and slightly outrageous jubilation is the brainchild of Mimi Omiecinski, owner of Princeton Tour Co., who moved to Princeton in 2006 and immediately became strangely obsessed by “all things Princeton.” In addition to Einstein being a long-time resident, Princeton, also home to more Nobel Prize winners. This shocking revelation sparked a genius moment, which prompted Mimi to approach the Princeton Public Library, which enthusiastically agreed to host the first celebration in 2009. With the assistance and support of the librarians, Mimi called in a ton of favors from shop owners, local officials, family and friends commencing the first Pi Day Princeton. Nine years later Pi Day has evolved to be kind of a big deal. The celebration is meant to honor Pi, mathematics, science, famous Princeton geniuses, local merchants and, of course, Einstein’s special day. This year’s events are set for Saturday, March 11 to Tuesday, March 14. A few of the festivities include:

- Pi Recitation Contest
- Surprise Party
- Pie Eating Contest
- Pizza Making Contest
- Cupcake Decorating Contest
- Einstein Look-A-Like Contest

Come out and enjoy these activities as well as numerous others and see how Princeton residents, non-profit organizations, academic institutions and businesses work together to celebrate this one of a kind Ivy League town. For more information or a complete listing of events visit pidayprinceton.com.

Pi Day Princeton — Happy Birthday, Albert Einstein!

Image from Pi Day Princeton 2016.
A Place In Time — The Day Albert Einstein Died

On April 17, 1955, the great mathematician and physicist Albert Einstein was admitted to Princeton Hospital complaining of chest pains. He was told he needed surgery yet he refused, saying: “I want to go when I want. It is tasteless to prolong life artificially. I have done my share, it is time to go. I will do it elegantly.” He died early the next morning, April 18, 1955, of heart failure at the age of 76. The funeral and cremation were to Einstein's wishes intensely private. However, one photographer did manage to capture the events of that extraordinary day. Unfortunately they were never published. Below is LIFE photographer, Ralph Morse's story and photographs.

"Einstein died at the Princeton Hospital, "Morse told LIFE, “so I headed there first. But it was chaos – journalists, photographers, onlookers. So I headed over to Einstein’s office at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton. On the way, I stopped and bought a case of scotch. I knew people might be reluctant to talk but most people are happy to accept a bottle of booze, in exchange for their help. So I get to the building, find the superintendent, give him a fifth of scotch and like that, he opens up the office.”

Early in the afternoon, Einstein’s body was moved for a short time from the hospital to a funeral home in Princeton. The simple casket containing the corpse, post-autopsy, only stayed at the funeral home for an hour or so. Morse made his way there, and soon saw two men loading a casket into a hearse. For all Morse knew, Einstein’s burial was imminent. Hoping to scope out a spot near the grave, he quickly drove to the Princeton Cemetery.

“I drive out to the cemetery to try and find where Einstein was going to be buried. But there must have been two dozen graves being dug that day! I see a group of guys digging a grave, offer them a bottle, ask them if they know anything. One of them says, ‘He’s being cremated in about twenty minutes. In Ewing!’ So I give them the rest of the scotch, hop in my car, and get to Ewing Crematorium just before Einstein’s friends and family show up.”

At one point early in the day, Einstein’s son Hans asked Morse for his name – a seemingly insignificant, friendly inquiry that would prove, within a few hours, to have significant ramifications.

"As the day wrapped up I headed back to LIFE offices in New York, certain I’d be feted for this colossal scoop.”

“I get to the New York office, only to be told by LIFE’s managing editor, ‘we’re not going to run the story.’ Turns out Einstein’s son, Hans, called while I was on the road to New York, and asked that we not run the story, that we respect the family’s privacy.’

Einstein’s ashes were scattered at an undisclosed location. It has been mentioned that possibly they were scattered around the grounds of the Institute for Advanced Study but to this day no one is really sure as to his final resting place.

*Story and images originated from TIME.com.
To have your events listed in our newsletter and online 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.

Please refer to the icons for ADA accommodations.

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