



Cultural HERITAGE

NEWS UPDATE

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Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission

Winter 2009-10

Voices Chorale

VOICES was founded by a group of musicians and educators in 1987. The twelve-member professional ensemble perform new and classical music and endeavor to inspire children to sing and compose music.

Working with the Composers Guild of New Jersey the ensemble presents unique theme concerts. The highly developed pitch skills of the professional singers generate expressive performances of many new works each year.

VOICES Chorale was established in 1992 to attract serious amateur musicians. Establishment of the Chorale made performances of larger works with orchestra possible. The auditioned chorus, under the direction of Dr. Lyn Ransom, performs music which ranges from Renaissance to contemporary—from spirituals and show tunes to the sacred and classic. Chorale members have the opportunity to learn vocal technique, music history and performance style. Voice classes have been offered by outstanding area soloists including Martha Elliott, William Walker and Rochelle Ellis.

The youngest group, Sotto Voce (the name means quiet or small voice), is a chamber ensemble that attracted members from Germany and Switzerland. This opened up the opportunity to tour with the German chorus Chorkreis St. Sebald in 2000. Sotto Voce toured Austria, eastern US and Germany twice with St. Sebald in addition to recording a CD of their 1999 concert.

Music Director and founder Dr. Lyn Ransom grew up in central Indiana playing and teaching the violin and composing music. She has studied violin with Steven Staryk, voice with Eva Likova, piano with Dady Mehta, viola da gamba with Enid Sutherland, sitar with Vilayat Kahn, and conducting with Helmut Rilling and Elmer Thomas. She has been a faculty member at several universities including Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, Westminster Conservatory of Music at Rider University, and Iowa State University, where she taught early childhood music and conducted choruses.

Dr. Ransom holds an A.B. degree in Music from Oberlin College and Conservatory, an M.A. from Eastern Michigan University in voice performance and choral conducting, an M.M. from the University of Michigan in choral music education, and a



Voices Chorale will perform An American Holiday concert on December 18 and 19.

D.M.A. degree from Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music in conducting. She is the author of several books including *Children as Music Makers*, *Learning through Movement*, and *A Sequence of Musical Concepts*.

Dr. Ransom believes people sing to be more creative, to reduce stress and socialize with other singers, and they sing for the pure pleasure of recreating beautiful music.

She feels that singing is innate—babies sing long before they talk and children of three or four often sing to themselves in a stream of consciousness song, while adults whistle, hum or sing to themselves.

People with speech problems, such as stuttering or loss of vocabulary, may be able to sing freely, according to speech pathologists. Business people and researchers are drawn to singing because it gives them an opportunity to use right brain or more creative "artsy" thinking.

Singing is primal and music as an international language supports universal understanding of common themes and emotions. Singing provides a bridge to other cultures and people who do not necessarily share a common language.

VOICES provides interactive programs for local schools. Forums for education include residencies with school choruses, workshops designed to interest students in singing, and song-writing workshops integrating music and classroom teachers' goals. Funding from Geraldine R. Dodge

Foundation, allowed VOICES to include workshops on improvisation and composition, choral master classes, songfests, concerts, and a Children's Composition Contest.

The Music Composition Contest is a great opportunity for children to get feedback from a professional composer. Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to compose a piece of music with a vocal element. They are asked to write it down in any kind of notation (formal or invented) and make a recording. More information is available at www.voiceschorale.org.

VOICES also welcomes new members throughout the year. Interested singers should call 799-2211 or email auditions@voiceschorale.org to schedule an audition.

Voices Chorale will present **A Season of National Styles! An American Holiday** on December 18 at 8 pm in the Pennington Presbyterian Church at 13 South Main Street, and on December 19 at 8 pm in St. Paul R.C. Church at 214 Nassau Street in Princeton. The program will include Conrad Susa's Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest for chorus, harp, guitar and marimba; carols by American composers from Colonial times to our time, Magnificat by Theodore Pachelbel of Colonial New England, "It's Happy Holiday Time" by Ken Guilmartin, and Christmas music from classic American films. Rochelle Ellis, soprano, will be featured soloist. Tickets may be ordered online at www.voiceschorale.org or by leaving a message at 637-9383.

Local Arts Program Regrant Update

Brian M. Hughes, Mercer County Executive, and the Board of Chosen Freeholders have made funds available for support of the Arts through a State/County Block Grant Partnership for Arts Organizations and County Arts Agencies through The New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

The three-year block grant is an essential part of the State arts community and a most effective vehicle through which to promote the programs of local arts organizations. Applications are carefully evaluated to insure programs of high quality, ethnic diversity and community participation with maximum availability and accessibility to all county residents. The grants are intended to promote the growth and expand the public impact of community arts groups and community arts projects.

Congratulations to the following Mercer County arts organization who will be receiving regrant funds for FY 2010: ArtWorks; Assn. of Indians in America; Cathedral Arts Series at Trinity; The Chin Yun Chorus Inc.; College of NJ Art Gallery; The Dryden Ensemble; ECHO, Inc.; Encorp, Inc. Theatre School; Greater Trenton Choral Society; Hopewell Valley Children's Theatre; Hopewell Valley Chorus; Kidsbridge Children's Museum; The Latina Women's Council of Mercer County, Inc.; Le Triomphe de l'amour; MCCC Aspirations; MCCC Band; MCCC Dance Ensemble; MCCC The Gallery; MCCC The Kelsey Review; MCCC Kelsey Theatre; MCCC Tomato Patch; New Jersey Poetry Society; Old Barracks Association; The Pennington Players, Inc.; People and Stories; Princeton Girlchoir; Princeton Garden Statesmen; Princeton Summer Chamber Concerts; Rider University Art Gallery; Rimon-the Mordecai T. Mezrich Center for Jewish Learning; Shakespeare '70; Sinfonietta Nova; Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association; Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK); Trenton Artists Workshop Association; Trenton Community Music School; Trenton Museum Society; Voices, Inc.; Westminster Conservatory of Rider University; West Windsor Arts Council; YWCA Dance Project; and Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey.

Culture and Heritage also administers a History Regrant Program through a partnership with the NJ Historical Commission/Department of State. For more information, please contact Tricia Fagan at 989-6418 or tfagan@mercercounty.org.

For more information about either regrant program, or to download guidelines and applications, please visit the Culture and Heritage website at www.mercercounty/commissions/cultural.

Ellarslie Mansion: A Gem in the Park

The Italianate villa was built for Henry McCall Sr. of Philadelphia in 1848 as a summer residence. John Notman was the architect. He designed Riverside (Burlington), the first Italianate building in America and the Athenaeum (Philadelphia), the first Renaissance Revival building. State officials were so impressed with his redesign and enlargement of the New Jersey State House that they selected his design for the State Hospital in 1847.

In September of 1888, the city of Trenton acquired the Ellarslie estate and 80 surrounding acres from George Farlee for \$50,000. Frederick Law Olmstead, best known for his design of Central Park in New York, was contracted to landscape what is now Cadwalader Park.

After being home to several noted Trenton families, a restaurant, ice cream parlor and monkey house, renovations began to create a Trenton city museum in 1971. Ellarslie Mansion, The Trenton Museum features a permanent collection of artifacts highlighting the historical past of Trenton including fine and decorative arts, cultural history, and industrial artifacts.

The first floor galleries are host to changing exhibitions of contemporary art in



Ellarslie Mansion as interpreted by Tom Malloy all media, where visitors may enjoy a diverse and exciting visual experience throughout the year. In addition to exhibitions, the museum is host to many special events, musical programs, and art classes.

The exhibitions have included internationally recognized artists such as master woodworker George Nakashima, watercolorist Betsy Zill, fine art photographer Geir Jordahl, and abstract painter Walter Darby Bannard. Celebrity artists include Norman Mailer, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Kurt Vonnegut, Allen Ginsberg and William Burroughs. Ellarslie also hosts the Trenton Artists Workshop Association's (TAWA) summer series of exhibits which highlights the abundance of local artistic talent. In addition, the Ellarslie Open, an annual juried exhibition provides visitors with an opportunity to view the finest regional work from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Ellarslie's pcoming series of exhibits and special events include:



Old postcard view of Ellarslie Mansion

The Wall Series by Bruce Rigby and Sculpture by Elizabeth Miller-McCue through January 3. Bruce Rigby's mixed media on wood presentations of everyday objects capture physical activity and energy not normally intended for formal view. Elizabeth Miller-McCue's unique bronze castings bring forth the primacy of touch—a world overflowing with machine-made objects.

Doubletake: Peter C. Cook photos and Howard Siskowitz drawings through January 3. Peter Cook and Howard Siskowitz exhibit a unique collaboration of simultaneously created portraits of several Princeton and Trenton residents.

Utility and Artistry: Works of the Stangl and Fulper Potteries through May 2. This exhibit offers a general history of Fulper pottery from its inception as Hill's Pottery Manufactory in 1815, through its evolution into Fulper in the 1860s, and the full run of Stangl pottery from its inception in 1924. It will document, through many rare and one of a kind pieces, its evolution from art pottery to its offering of the first open-stock dinnerware in America, to its close in 1978. There will be an opening reception on December 3 from 6 to 8 pm.

Holiday Shopping at Molly's, December 4, 11 am-7 pm; December 5, 11 am-5 pm; December 6, 12-4 pm. Art, crafts, and out-of-the-ordinary gifts will be for sale.

Trenton Public Schools Art Show, January 9 through February 21. Trenton school children show their amazing insights and talent in this very special exhibit. There will be an opening reception on January 16 from 3 to 6 pm.

Latin Guitar and Tapas, January 22, 7:30 pm. Warm up with the sounds of Latin music and tapas for a delightful South of the Border evening. \$15-\$20.

A Taste of Chocolate, February 13, 8 to 10 pm. Chocolate desserts of all types are paired with cheese and wine in this elegant event complemented by the music of love. \$35-\$40.

For more information, please call 989-3632 or visit www.ellarslie.org. (wv)

Impact of the Art\$

According to statistics compiled by ArtPrideNJ, New Jersey has more than 61,000 artists and 800 nonprofit arts organizations that attract more than 18,000,000 people to over 34,000 public events each year. The New Jersey State Council on the Arts claims New Jersey's nonprofit arts industry generates \$1.5 billion in economic impact, returns \$36 million in State tax revenue, employs 82,000 people, and helps support 17,000 businesses.

Several Mercer County towns are moving to grow their arts profiles. Hamilton officials recently announced a plan to create an arts district in a struggling industrial zone. Lawrenceville Main Street created an Artists Network with the main goal of finding a building that can house studios, galleries, art education, and events. Ewing Township reactivated the Ewing Arts Commission after ten years of dormancy.

Ewing also has the Center of Momentus Art. CoMA, a 180,000 square foot historic industrial complex, has been undergoing a multi-year restoration to become a membership-based campus for creative professionals.

Princeton and West Windsor have thriving arts councils that support the arts and attract wide audiences to their activities.

Statistics support the instrumental benefits of the arts in building better communities when the arts and culture are integrated into public and private decision making and planning at all levels. An excellent resource can be found at www.artsplannj.org.

Calls for Artists

Mercer County Artists, the annual juried exhibit of artists who live, work or study in Mercer County, is seeking submissions. Artists are requested to deliver their work to The Gallery at Mercer County Community College on the second floor of the Communications Building at 1200 Old Trenton Road in West Windsor on February 27.

For more information or to receive a prospectus, please contact the gallery at: 570-3588; gallery@mccc.edu, or visit www.mccc.edu/community_gallery.

Gallery 125 is seeking artists for a juried show **Art D'Eco**. Michelle Barfoot, Associate Professor, Digital Media Arts at MCCC will jury entries on December 17.

This show, open from February 12 through April 3, will feature artists who utilize found objects, recycled or non-traditional materials; or whose work addresses environmental issues or the preservation of ecological resources.

For more information, please contact Gallery 125 at 125 South Warren Street in Trenton by calling 989-9119 or emailing gallery125@trenton-downtown.com.

Dear Friends,

"The color of springtime is in the flowers, the color of winter is in the imagination," wrote poet Ward Elliot Hour. And for those who look around, Mercer County has plenty of eclectic cultural experiences to spur the imagination this winter 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 throughout the winter. Whether these events are themed around the holidays or are simply an enriching arts or cultural fair, I encourage you to join in and enjoy Mercer County's unique offerings.

Each holiday season in Mercer County, our towns display not only nativity scenes for Christmas, but also menorahs for Chanukkah, kinaras for Kwanzaa, bonfires for Hogmanay, dancing dragons for Chinese New Year, and many more expressions of tradition. At this time of year, we are reminded that although our residents represent a number of different backgrounds, cultures, and religions, we are unified in the celebration of holidays and spending time with those closest to us.

The opportunities to celebrate this season in new and refreshing ways are many. From traditional favorite winter pastimes such as sleigh rides and re-enactments of Washington crossing the Delaware to modern interpretations of holiday themes through visual art, music, and theatrical performance, you and your family will find no shortage of chances to make this holiday season memorable.

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



Sincerely,

Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

Cultural Access Network MC Institute for the Arts

The Cultural Access Network (CAN) of New Jersey helps connect arts patrons and organizations to a wide range of information about accessibility in the Arts.

Through programs such as technical assistance workshops, self assessment surveys, referral and information services and Cultural Access News, CAN works to assist arts organizations in making their programs and facilities accessible to individuals with disabilities.

The comprehensive Resources webpage provides Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) materials, information about accessibility, and an extensive collection of web accessibility resources. Transportation information for patrons of the arts with disabilities includes description of the accommodations, along with phone numbers, and weblinks. There are links to county offices of disability services as well as state and national organizations.

CAN Services section offers equipment rental, sign interpretation referral services, and sensitivity training sessions to arts organizations.

The Calendar has an extensive listing of arts events that can be browsed based on access criteria, event type, venue, and date.

The Network is also a place where artists with disabilities can find assistance with promotion and development.

For more information, please call (973) 540-0515; email rcarr@njtheatrealliance.org or visit www.culturalaccessnetwork.org.

A partnership between Mercer County Office for the Disabled and VSA Arts of NJ has transformed the MC Institute for the Arts into a coordinated succession of quality arts education experiences for students with disabilities.

This comprehensive year-round program provides after school visual and performing arts workshops and mentoring enabling young people to pursue their artistic interests.

The Theater Program, under the guidance of Unlimited Potential Theater Company, provides students ages 10 to 21 the opportunity to develop acting skills. Company members demonstrate diverse ways to interpret and create theater. Participants attend a live theater performance, then develop their own performance based upon the play to share with family and friends.

Theatre program meets Saturdays from January 9 through March 20, 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Registration is due by January 2.

The Music Program introduces students ages 8 to 21 to the fundamentals of music—rhythm, pitch, tonal perception, and tempo. Students experiment with different instruments, explore concepts, and learn songs. Participants experience a live musical performance.

Music program meets Wednesdays from January 27 through March 31, 4:30 to 6:00 pm at Mercer Elementary School, 1020 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor. Registration is due by January 20.

For more information, or to receive a brochure and application, please call the Office for the Disabled at 989-6468; or visit www.mercercounty.org.



Calendar EVENTS

The Mercer County Culture and Heritage Commission cannot be responsible for errors or omissions. Call ahead to confirm times and prices. Unless otherwise noted, the area code is 609. For an expanded listing, visit www.mercercounty.org/CH/nl.htm. Deadline for spring issue, which covers March, April and May is January 13, 2010.

Art Happenings

Elke Hannel mixed media, Dec 1-31, West Windsor Branch, 333 North Post Road, Princeton Junction. 799-0462; www.mcl.org. (wv)

Pakistan photos, Dec 5-Feb 5, Bernstein Gallery, Robertson Hall, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton. Panel discussion Dec 14, 4:30 pm; reception 6 pm. 497-2441; www.wvs.princeton.edu/bernstein.

Barbara Grossman & Charles Cajori, figure paintings & drawings, thru Dec 6, Rider University Art Gallery, Bart Luedeke Center, 2083 Lawrenceville Road. 895-5588; www.rider.edu/888_1371.htm. (wv)

Digital Photography, Sculpture & Ceramics, Dec 9-18, Lucas Gallery, Lewis Center for the Arts, 185 Nassau Street, Princeton. 258-1500; www.princeton.edu/arts. (wv)

The Art Station, Dec 13, 1-5 pm, 148 Monmouth Street, Hightstown. 903-7164; www.artstationstudios.net.

MOVIS art group RE-CONNECT, thru Dec 17, Gallery, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor. Reception Dec 5, 2-4 pm; gallery talk Dec 1, 11 am; concert Dec 9, 7:30 pm. 570-3588; www.mccc.edu. (wv)

Richard Trenner photos, Jan 4-29, Reception Jan 6, 5-7 pm, Gallery, Chapin School, 4101 Princeton Pike, Princeton. 924-2449; www.chapin-school.org/Internet/Gallery.

Consumed: Artists Comments, Jan 7-Feb 27, Taplin Gallery, Arts Council of Princeton, 102 Witherspoon Street. 924-8777; www.artscouncilofprinceton.org. (wv)

Strands, Jean Burdick mixed media, Jan 8-Feb 4, Silva Gallery, Pennington School, 112 West Delaware Avenue. Opening Jan 8, 6-8 pm. 737-8069 ext. 400; www.pennington.org. (wv)

Make Others See, faculty, Jan 18-Feb 18, Gallery, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor. Reception Jan 27, 5 pm. 570-3588; www.mccc.edu.

Inherited Traits, Jan 20-Feb 24, Gallery, College of New Jersey, 2000 Pennington Road, Ewing. Reception Jan 20, 5-7 pm. 771.2198; www.tcnj.edu/~tcag. (wv)

Paul Rickert paintings, Jan 28-Feb 28, Gallery, Rider University, Bart Luedeke Center, 2083 Lawrenceville Road. Reception Jan 28, 5-7 pm; talk

Feb 4, 7 pm. 895-5588; www.rider.edu.

Richard Trenner & Jim Morgan photos, thru Jan 31, Reference Gallery, 2nd Floor, Princeton Public Library, 65 Witherspoon Street. 924-9529; www.princeton.lib.nj.us. (wv)

Bruce Rigby, digital paintings, Feb 1-26, Reception Feb 3, 5 pm, Gallery, Chapin School, 4101 Princeton Pike, Princeton. 924-2449; www.chapin-school.org/Internet/Gallery.

Point of View, thru Feb 6, Gallery 125, 125 South Warren Street, Trenton. 989-9119; www.gallery125.com.

Ruth & Lionel Goodman photos, Feb 12-March 11, Silva Gallery, Pennington School, East Delaware Avenue. Reception Feb 12, 6-8 pm. Artist Talks Feb 17, 11 am & noon 737-8069 x400; www.pennington.org. (wv)

Art D'Eco, Feb 12-Apr 3, Gallery 125, 125 Lafayette Street, Trenton. 989-9119; www.trenton-downtown.com.

Mercer County Artists Jurying, Feb 27, Gallery, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor. Prospectus: gallery@mccc.edu. 570-3588; www.mccc.edu. (wv)

Rocks & Dinos! Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins paintings, thru spring, Morven, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton. \$4-\$5. 924-8144; www.morven.org. (wv)

Chakaia Booker sculpture, thru July 10, Arts Council of Princeton, 102 Witherspoon Street. 924-8777; www.artscouncilofprinceton.org. (wv)

Peddie School

Cathy Watkins assemblages, Dec 4-17. Reception Dec 4, 6:30-8 pm; gallery talk 7:15 pm.

Jim Clark sculpture, Jan 8-27. Reception Jan 8, 6:30-8 pm; gallery talk 7:15 pm.

Bezalel Exchange artists from Israel, Jan 29-Feb 17. Reception Jan 29, 6:30-8 pm.

ArtSpace at HomeFront, Feb 21-22. Reception Feb 21, 6:30-8 pm.

Student Exhibit, Feb 24, 6:30-8 pm.

Peddie School, Mariboe Gallery, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. 490-7550; www.peddie.org. (wv)

PU Art Museum

Highlights Tour, weekends, 2 pm.

Fairies Revealed talk w/Marianne Grey, Dec 4, 12:30 pm; Dec 6, 3 pm.

Art for Families, Dec 5, 10:30 am.

Life Objects: Rites of Passage in African Art, thru Jan 24.

Asian Moments, thru Jan 30.

Bering Strait Ivories, thru Jan 10.

Emmet Gowin, thru Feb 21.

Princeton University Art Museum, McCormick Hall. 258-3788; www.art-museum.princeton.edu. (wv)

PU Library

Liberty and the American Revolution, thru Jan 3, Main Gallery.

19th & 20th Century French Illustrations, thru Jan 2010, Milberg Gallery.

Treasures from the Archives, thru Jan 29, Mudd Manuscript Library. *Princeton University Library, One Washington Road. 258-3184; www.princeton.edu/~rbcs. (wv)*

Benefits

Empty Bowls, Dec 1-18, Silva Gallery, Pennington School, East Delaware Avenue. Benefits Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK). 737-8069 ext. 400; www.pennington.org. (wv)

Lecture Recital w/Richard Kogan, piano, Jan 10, 3 pm, Music Building, College of New Jersey, Ewing, 2000 Pennington Road, Ewing. Benefits NAMI Mercer. \$70-\$185. 799-8994; www.namimercer.org. (wv)

Dreams of Arcadia, Jan 16, 6:30 pm, Hyatt Regency Princeton, 102 Carnegie Center, West Windsor. Benefits Eden Institute Foundation. White tie. \$300. Register 987-0099; www.edenservices.org. (wv)

Dinner & Concert, Feb 21, 4:30 pm, High School South, 346 Clarksville Road, West Windsor. Benefits bands. 716-5050; www.wv-p.org. (wv)

Dance

dre dance beyond words, Dec 5, 8 pm, Swig Arts Center, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. \$10. 490-7550; www.peddie.org. (wv)

Nutcracker, Dec 12, 1 & 4:30 pm, Patriots Theater, War Memorial, Memorial Drive, Trenton. American Repertory Ballet. \$20-\$30. 984-8400; www.arballet.org. (wv)

Nutcracker, Dec 18, 7 pm; Dec 19-20, 1 & 4 pm, Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor. NJ Youth Ballet. \$12. 570-3333; www.kelseytheatre.net. (wv)

McCarter Theatre

Senior Dance Thesis, Dec 4-5, 8 pm; Dec 5, 2 pm. \$7-\$15.

Shen Wei Dance Arts Re-Triptych, Jan 27, 8 pm. \$42-\$53.

Spring Dance Festival, Feb 19-21, 8 pm. Princeton University. \$10.

Black Grace from New Zealand, Feb 23, 8 pm. \$39-\$50.

Ballet Folklórico de México's Deer Dance of the Yaqui Indians, Feb 25, 8 pm. \$38-\$50.

Sleeping Beauty, Feb 27, 7:30 pm. Tchaikovsky Ballet Theater. \$45-\$56. *Matthews Theatre at McCarter, 91 University Place, Princeton. 258-2787; www.mccarter.org. (wv)*

Dancing

Scottish Dancing, Mon, 7:30 pm, Meadow Lakes, Etra Road, Hightstown. \$3. 584-9764; www.rscds-nj.org.

Folk Dance Group, Tue in Dec, 7-9 pm, Riverside School, 58 Riverside Drive, Princeton. \$3. 655-0758.

American Ballroom Dance, Wed, 7-9 pm; Fri, 8-11 pm, 569 Klockner Road, Hamilton. \$10-\$15. 931-0149; www.americanballroomco.com.

Princeton Country Dancers, Contra, Wed, 8-10:30 pm; 4th Sat, 8-11 pm; **English Country**, 2nd Sat, 8-11 pm, Suzanne Patterson Center, Route 27 at 206, Princeton. \$4-\$7. 924-6763; www.princetoncountrydancers.org.

Black Cat Argentine Tango, Thu, 8-9 pm, intermediate; 9-10 pm beginner; 10 pm-12 am, practice, Suzanne Paterson Center, 45 Stockton Street, Princeton. \$10. 273-1378; www.TheBlackCatTango.com.

Film

Classic Movies, second Sun, 2 pm, **Foreign Films**, second Thu, 7 pm, Mercer County Library, Darrah Lane, Lawrence. 989-6922; www.mcl.org. (wv)

Autumn Spring (Babi léto), Dec 5, 7:30 pm, West Windsor Library, 333 North Post Road. 919-1982; www.westwindsorarts.org. (wv)

Classic Comedy Cavalcade, Jan 2, 3 pm, Arts Council of Princeton, 102 Witherspoon Street. 924-8777; www.artscouncilofprinceton.org. (wv)

Pranzo di Ferragosto (Mid-August Lunch), Jan 24, 3 pm; **Caos calmo** (Quiet Chaos), Feb 28, 3 pm, Dorothea's House, 120 John Street, Princeton. 924-9713; www.dorotheahouse.org.

Trenton Film Festival

No Man's Land, Dec 2

Dark Victory, Dec 9

Waiting for Guffman, Dec 16

Café Olé Coffeehouse, 126 South Warren Street, Trenton. 7 pm. \$5. 396-6966; www.trentonfilmfestival.org.

History Activities

John Abbott House, weekends noon-5 pm, 2200 Kuser Road, Hamilton. 585-1686.

Brearley House, first Sat, 10 am-noon, Meadow Lane, Lawrenceville. Lawrence Historical Society. 895-1728; www.thelhs.org. (wv)

Civil War/Native American Museum, second & third weekends, 1-4 pm, 2202 Kuser Road, Hamilton. 585-8900; www.campolden.org.

Drumthwacket, Wed, 11 am-2 pm, 354 Stockton Street, Princeton. \$5. Register 683-0057; www.drumthwacket.org.

Morven Tour and Tea, Wed, 11:15 am-2:15 pm, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton. \$15. Register 924-8144; www.morven.org. (wv)

National Guard Militia Museum, Tue & Fri, 9 am-3 pm, Lawrenceville Armory, 151 Eggert Crossing Road. 530-6802; www.state.nj.us/military/museum.

Princeton Doll & Toy Museum, 8 Somerset Street, Hopewell. 333-8600; www.princetondollandtoy.org.

State House, Mon-Fri, 10 am-3 pm; Sat, noon-3 pm, 125 West State Street, Trenton. 633-2709; www.njleg.state.nj.us. (wv)

Schenck House, second Sun, 1-4 pm, West Windsor Historical Society, 50 Southfield Road. 799-1278.

Hamilton Philatelic Society, third Tue, 7 pm, Hamilton Library, Justice Alito Jr. Way, Hamilton. 890-8211; www.hamilton.home.att.net. (wv)

Cottage Club Tour, Dec 1-2, Jan 5-6, 10 am-2 pm, 51 Prospect Avenue, Princeton. 921-6137; www.princeton.edu/~cotclub.

Stroller Strides, Dec 2, 10 am; **walking tour**, Dec 6, 13, 20, 2 pm, Historical Society of Princeton, Bainbridge House, 158 Nassau Street, Princeton. \$7. 921-6748; www.princetonhistory.org.

Camden & Amboy Railroad meeting, Dec 4, 7:30 pm, Hightstown Freight Station, 164 North Main Street. www.trainweb.org/camdenandamboyrhistoricalgroup.

Delaware Crossing Rehearsal, Dec 13, 1 pm, Washington Crossing Park, Routes 29 & 546, Titusville. 737-0623; www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests.

Wassail Party, Dec 13, 2-4 pm, Abbott House, 2200 Kuser Road, Hamilton. 585-1686; www.hamiltonnj.com.

Hogmanay Bonfire, Dec 31, 6 pm, Brearley House, 100 Meadow Road, Lawrence. Lawrence Historical Society. 895-1728, www.thelhs.org.

Knights of Malta Secrets w/UN Ambassador Robert Shafer, Feb 14, 5 pm, Dorothea's House, 120 John Street, Princeton. 924-9713; www.dorotheashouse.org.

George Washington's Birthday! Feb 21, 12-4 pm, Rockingham, 84 Laurel Avenue, Kingston. Register

683-7136; www.rockingham.net.

Howell Farm

Christmas on the Farm, Dec 5.

Ice Harvest, Dec 31.

Sugar Tree Tapping, Feb 7.

Valentine's Day Rides, Feb 14.

Winter Kitchen, Feb 21.

A Winter's Tale, Feb 27, 7:30 pm.

Maple Sugaring, Feb 28.

*Howell Farm is a Mercer County Park System facility, Valley Road, Titusville. 10 am-4 pm unless noted. *Wheelchair accessible hayride: 737-3299; www.howellfarm.org.*

Holiday/Heritage

Festival of Trees, Dec 2-Jan 10, Sat-Sun, 12-4 pm; Wed-Fri, 10 am-3 pm, Morven Museum, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton, \$5. 924-8144; www.morven.org. (wv)

St. Nicholas Bazaar, Dec 5, 9 am-2 pm, Trinity Church, 33 Mercer Street, Princeton. 924-2277; www.trinityprinceton.org.

Open House & Greens Sale, Dec 5, 12-5 pm; Dec 6, 1-4 pm, William Trent House, 15 Market Street, Trenton. 989-3027; www.williamtrenthouse.org.

Mill Hill House Tour, Dec 5, 12-5 pm, Mill Hill Playhouse, 205 Front Street, Trenton. \$15-\$20. 656-9277; www.trentonmillhill.org.

Santa & Snowy Arrive, Dec 5, 12:30 pm, Princeton Shopping Center, 301 N Harrison Street. 921-6234; www.princetonshoppingcenter.com.

Gingerbread House Competition, Dec 5, 1-4 pm, Robbin's House, 245 Windsor Road, Robbinsville. Women's Club. www.robbinsville150.org.

Pancake Breakfast w/Santa, Dec 6, 8 am-noon, Community Middle School, 55 Groves Mill Road, Plainsboro. \$3-\$7. West Windsor Lions. 419-0156.

Village Holiday, Dec 6, 3-5 pm, Lawrenceville Main Street. 219-1900; www.lawrencevillemainstreet.org.

New Jersey Gay Men's Concert, Dec 6, 4 pm, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton, 50 Cherry Hill Road. \$15-\$25. 396-7774; www.njgmc.org. (wv)

Talmud Class, Dec 7, 14, 21, 7:30 pm, East Windsor Library, 138 Hickory Corner Road, Chabad of the Windsors. Register 448-9369; www.chabadwindsor.com.

Hopewell Valley Chorus: Latin Holiday, Dec 11, 8 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Route 546, Titusville. 737-3177; www.princetonol.com/groups/hvchorus.

Holiday Workshop, Dec 12, 1-3 pm; **Winter Tales w/D.J. Haslett**, Dec 12, 3 pm, Grounds For Sculpture, 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton. 689-1089; www.groundsforsculpture.org. (wv)

Christmas Candlelight House Tour, Dec 13, 3-6 pm, Ely House-Hightstown East Windsor Historical Society, 164 North Main Street, High-

tstown. Woman's Club. \$5-\$15. 426-9728; www.hewhs.org.

Candlelight Christmas, Dec 13, 11 am-3:45 pm, Rockingham, 84 Laurel Avenue, Kingston. \$5. Register 683-7136; www.rockingham.net. (wv)

Menorah Lighting, Dec 14, 5 pm, Palmer Square, North Hulfish Plaza, Princeton. (800) 644-3489; www.palmersquare.com.

Sauce For the Goose, thru Dec 23, Arts Council of Princeton, 102 Witherspoon Street. 924-8777; www.arts.councilofprinceton.org. (wv)

Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra Concert, Jan 23, 8 pm, Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall, Princeton University campus. \$10-\$20. 673-0150; www.princeton.edu/richaud. (wv)

Valentine's Workshop, Jan 30, 10 am & 12:30 pm, Arts Council of Princeton, 102 Witherspoon Street. 924-8777; www.artscouncilofprinceton.org. (wv)

Musical Valentine, Feb 5, 8 pm, Stuart Day School, 1200 Stuart Road, Princeton. Benefits Trenton Community Music School. 249-5820; www.tcmusicschool.com. (wv)

Colonial Candy-Making, Feb 13, 12:30-4 pm, 1719 William Trent House Museum, Market Street & William Trent Place, Trenton. Donation: canned good for Trenton Soup Kitchen. 989-3027; www.williamtrenthouse.org.

German American Club

German Christmas Show, Dec 1, 6-10 pm, Dinner 4-5:30 pm. \$16-\$20. Register 396-8332.

New Year's Eve Party w/The Windjammers, Dec 31, 6 pm-1:30 am. Dinner 7 pm; Music 8 pm. \$50-\$55. Register by Dec 17.

American Oldies Dance w/DJ Brett Gash, Jan 16, 8 pm-12 am. \$9. Register. **Mad Hat Dance w/Bud & Linda Gramer**, Jan 23, 8 pm. \$10. Register. **Valentine Dance w/The Windjammers**, Feb 13. \$10. Register.

Lenten Dinner, Feb 19, 6-8 pm.

German American Club, 215 Uncle Pete's Road, Yardville. Dinner 6-8:30 pm. Registration (856) 764-3106. 585-5200; www.gakclub.org.

Literary Events

Delaware Valley Poets, third Wed, 7:30 pm, Lawrence Library, 2751 Brunswick Pike; second Mon, Barnes & Noble, Princeton Marketfair, 3535 Route 1 South. www.delawarevalleypoets.com.

NJ Poetry Society readings, second & fourth Fri, 1-3 pm, Lawrence Senior Center, 30 East Darrah Lane. 844-7048; www.njpoetrysociety.org.

Book Sale, Dec 6, 9:30 am, Ewing Library, 61 Scotch Road. 882-3130; www.mcl.org. (wv)

Sappho's Cafe, Dec 12, 2-4 pm, West Windsor Library, 333 North Post Road. Register 799-0462; www.mcl.org. (wv)

Lewis Center for the Arts

Lecture: Jules Feiffer, cartoonist, playwright, screenwriter, Dec 2, 4:30 pm.

Student Readings, Dec 16, 4:30 pm.

The Fund for Irish Studies Lectures: Rock and Read? w/Larry Kirwan, novelist, lead singer, Black 47, Dec 4, 4:30 pm.

Death of Folklore, Rebirth of Poet: Yeats w/James Pethica, Feb 5, 4:30 pm.

Irony in Modern Irish Tradition w/Kevin Dettmar, Feb 19, 4:30 pm.

Genetic Criticism / Joyce's Ulysses w/Michael Groden, Feb 26, 4:30 pm.

Lewis Center for the Arts, Stewart Theater, 185 Nassau Street, Princeton 258-1500; www.princeton.edu/arts.

Musical Performances

Harp Extravaganza, Dec 2, 8 pm; **Afternoon Concert**, Dec 3, 10, Feb 4, 11, 18, 25, 12:30-1 pm, Princeton University Chapel, Washington Road. 258-3654; www.princeton.edu.

William Bolcom, piano & Joan Morris, mezzo-soprano, Dec 4-5, 8 pm, Institute for Advanced Study, Wolfensohn Hall, Einstein Drive, Princeton. 951-4458; www.ias.edu.

Children's Concert, Dec 6, 1:30 pm & 3:30 pm, High School South, 346 Clarksville Road, West Windsor. Benefits orchestra groups. 716-5050; www.wv-p.org. (wv)

Chapel Choir: And Was Incarnat, Dec 6, 2:30 pm, Princeton University Chapel, Washington Road. 258-3654; www.princeton.edu.

Princeton Pro Musica: Messiah, Dec 6, 3 pm, Trenton War Memorial, Memorial Drive, Trenton. \$25-\$55. 683-5122; www.princetonpromusica.org.

OperaNJ Holiday Fare, Dec 11, 7 pm, Grounds For Sculpture, 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton. 689-1089; www.groundsforsculpture.org. (wv)

Band Concert, Dec 11, 8 pm, High School South, 346 Clarksville Road, West Windsor. 716-5050; www.wv-p.org.

Princeton Singers: A Child's Christmas in Wales, Dec 12, 6 pm, Nassau Presbyterian Church, 61 Nassau Street, Princeton. \$10-\$25. 896-0374; www.princetoningers.org.

Westminster Conservatory Volanti Flute Quartet, Dec 13, noon, Art Gallery, Luedeke Center, Rider University. 921-2663; www.rider.edu. (wv)

Messiah Sing w/organ, strings & trumpet, Dec 14, 7:30 pm, Princeton University Chapel, Washington Road. \$5. 258-3654; www.princeton.edu.

Vespers, Dec 16, 7:30 pm, Memorial Chapel, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. 490-7550; www.peddie.org. (wv)

Lessons & Carols w/Chapel Choir & a cappella, Dec 16, 7:30 pm, Princeton University Chapel, Washington Road. 258-3654; www.princeton.edu.

Stretto Youth Chamber Orchestra,

Dec 18, 7 pm, Trinity Cathedral, 801 W State Street, Trenton. Donations for food pantry. (484) 467-9194; www.strettoyouthchamberorchestra.org.

Orchestra Concert, Dec 18, 8 pm, High School South, 346 Clarksville Road, West Windsor. 716-5050; www.wv-p.org. (wv)

Voices Chorale: American Holiday w/Rochelle Ellis, soprano, Dec 18, 8 pm, Pennington Presbyterian Church, 13 South Main Street; Dec 19, 8 pm, St. Paul R.C. Church, 214 Nassau Street, Princeton. \$10-\$45. 637-9383; www.voiceschorale.org.

Boheme Opera Messiah, Dec 19, 7:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church, 540 Chestnut Avenue, Trenton. \$20-\$30. 581-7200; www.bohe-meopera.com.

American Boychoir: Voices of Angels, Dec 19, 8 pm, Princeton University Chapel. \$22-\$32. 924-5858; www.americanboychoir.org.

Choir Concert, Dec 22, 7:30 pm, High School South, 346 Clarksville Road, West Windsor. 716-5050; www.wv-p.org. (wv)

NJ Symphony Orchestra: Italian Opera, Jan 15, 7:30 pm, Patriots Theatre at War Memorial, Memorial Drive, Trenton. \$17-\$55. 984-8400; www.njsymphony.org. (wv)

Midori, violin, Jan 15-16, 8 pm, Institute for Advanced Study, Wolfensohn Hall, Einstein Drive, Princeton. Register 951-4458; www.ias.edu.

Westminster Conservatory, Jan 21, 12:15 pm, Niles Chapel, Nassau Presbyterian Church, 61 Nassau Street, Princeton. 921-2663; www.rider.edu.

Band Festival, Jan 22, 8 pm, High School South, 346 Clarksville Road, West Windsor. 716-5050; www.wv-p.org. (wv)

Stefan Young, piano, Jan 24, 3 pm, Jacobs Music, 2540 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville. \$18. 434-0222; www.princetonol.com/groups/steinway.

Orchestra Festival, Feb 4-5, 8 pm, High School South, 346 Clarksville Road, West Windsor. 716-5050; www.wv-p.org. (wv)

Westminster Conservatory, Feb 5, Noon, Art Gallery, Luedeke Center, Rider University. 921-2663; www.rider.edu. (wv)

Solo & Small Ensemble Band, Feb 10-11, 7:30 pm, High School South, 346 Clarksville Road, West Windsor. 716-5050; www.wv-p.org. (wv)

Westminster Conservatory, Feb 18, 12:15 pm, Niles Chapel, Nassau Presbyterian Church, 61 Nassau Street, Princeton. 921-2663; www.rider.edu.

Rule Britannia w/Eric Plutz, organ, Feb 19, 8 pm, Princeton University Chapel, Washington Road. \$15. 258-3654.

Zoya Shuhatovich, piano, Feb 21, 3 pm, Jacobs Music, 2540 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville. \$18. 434-0222; www.princetonol.com/groups/steinway.

Student Concert, Feb 26, 7:30 pm, Swig Arts Center, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. 490-7550; www.peddie.org. (wv)

NJ Symphony Orchestra: Fairy Tales, Feb 26, 7:30 pm, Patriots Theater at The War Memorial, Memorial Drive, Trenton. \$17-\$55. (800) 255-3476; www.njsymphony.org. (wv)

Princeton Singers: Mostly Medieval, Feb 27, 7 pm; Feb 28, 5:30 pm, Princeton University Art Museum. \$15. 896-0374; www.princeton-singers.org. (wv)

Jazz/Folk

Acoustic Showcase, Wed, in Dec, 7-11 pm, KatManDu, Waterfront Park, Route 29, Trenton. 393-7300; www.katmandutrenton.com.

Gentle Jazz w/Al Oliver, sax/vocals & Gerry Groves, flute, Dec 3, 17, 7:30-9:30 pm, Nick's Cafe 72, 72 West Upper Ferry Road, West Trenton. 882-0087; www.cafe72nj.com.

John McCutcheon, Dec 5, 8 pm, Concerts at the Crossing, Unitarian Church, Route 546, Titusville. \$25. 510-6278; www.concertsatthecrossing.com.

Nowell Sing We Clear, Dec 18, 8:15 pm, Princeton Folk Music Society, Christ Congregation Church, 50 Walnut Lane, Princeton. \$20. 799-0944; www.princetonfolk.org. (wv)

Jazz Vespers, Jan 13, 8 pm; Feb 21, 11 am, Princeton University Chapel, Washington Road. 258-3654; www.princeton.edu.

Pat Humphries & Sandy O, Jan 15, 8:15 pm, Princeton Folk Music Society, Christ Congregation Church, 50 Walnut Lane, Princeton. \$20. 799-0944; www.princetonfolk.org. (wv)

DALA w/Sheila Carabine & Amanda Walther, Jan 16, 8 pm, Concerts at the Crossing, Unitarian Church, Route 546, Titusville. \$20. 510-6278; www.concertsatthecrossing.com. (wv)

Alexis & Lindsay Powell, Jan 29, 7:30 pm, Annenburg Library, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. 490-7550; www.peddie.org. (wv)

Beach Boys & Beatles Music, Feb 7, 2 pm, Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Road. \$16. 570-3333; www.kelseytheatre.net. (wv)

Shannon Lambert-Ryan & Runa Contemporary Celtic, Feb 13, 8 pm, Concerts at the Crossing, Unitarian Church, Route 546, Titusville. \$20. 510-6278; www.concertsatthecrossing.com.

David Massengill & Jack Hardy, Feb 19, 8:15 pm, Princeton Folk Music Society, Christ Congregation Church, 50 Walnut Lane, Princeton. \$20. 799-0944; www.princetonfolk.org.

Arts Council of Princeton

Cafe Improv, Dec 26, Jan 23, Feb 27, 7 pm.

Danny Kalb, Dec 11, 8 pm.

Community Park Fundraiser, Dec 11, 6 pm.

Sarah Donner's Indie Music, Jan 16, Feb 13, 8 pm.

Voices Chorale Cabaret Fundraiser, Feb 14, 8 pm.

Arts Council of Princeton, 102 Witherspoon Street. 924-8777; www.artscouncilofprinceton.org. (wv)

The College of New Jersey

Collegium Musicum, Dec 2, 8 pm.

Choir & Women's Ensemble, Dec 3, 8 pm.

Chorale, Dec 4, 8 pm.

Mark Moliterno, voice, Feb 7, 2 pm.

Chamber Music, Feb 25, 8 pm.

Saxophone Recital, Feb 26, 8 pm,

College of New Jersey, Mayo Concert Hall, 2000 Pennington Avenue, Ewing. 771-2551; www.tcnj.edu/~music. (wv)

Theatre

The Miser, Dec 3-5, 8 pm, Whitman Theatre, Princeton University Campus. Princeton Shakespeare Company. \$8. 258-1500; www.princeton.edu/psc.

Open Mic, Dec 4, 7:30-9:30 pm, Chicklet Bookstore, Princeton Shopping Center, 301 North Harrison Street. 279-2121. Register 908-963-0142; www.chickletbooks.com.

Don Jamieson, Dec 20-21, 7:30 pm, Hyatt Regency, 102 Carnegie Center. \$20. Register 987-8018; www.catcharisngstar.com. (wv)

Three Bears, Dec 28, 10:30 am, Princeton Public Library, 65 Witherspoon Street, Princeton. Youth Stages 924-9529; www.princeton.lib.nj.us. (wv)

Hairspray, Jan 12, 8 pm, Sovereign Bank Arena, Hamilton Avenue & Route 129. 656-3222; www.comcasttix.com. (wv)

State Street Project: Playmaking, Feb 19, 7 pm; Feb 20, 3 & 7 pm, Passage Theater, Mill Hill Playhouse, Front & Montgomery streets, Trenton. Register 392-0766; www.passagetheatre.org.

Arts Council of Princeton

Shockheaded Peter Production, Jan 15 & 19, 4-9 pm; Jan 22, 10 am-10 pm.

Jenny Allen, Feb 20, 5-9 pm.

Arts Council of Princeton, 102 Witherspoon Street. 924-8777; www.artscouncilofprinceton.org. (wv)

Kelsey Theatre

A Christmas Story, Dec 4-5, 7 pm; Dec 5-6, 2 pm. Pennington Players. \$10-\$14.

Children's Letters to God, Jan 8-17, Fri-Sat, 7 pm; Sat-Sun, 2 pm. Maurer Productions. \$12-\$16.

Nelson Illusions, Jan 22-23, 8 pm; Jan 24, 2 pm. \$12-\$16.

Rock and Roll-Squeaky Clean, Feb 7, 2 pm. \$12-\$16.

Pygmalion, Feb 12-21, Fri-Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 2 pm. Pierrot Productions. \$10-\$14.

Fiddler on the Roof, Feb 26-Mar 7,

Fri-Sat, 8 pm; Sat-Sun, 2 pm. Playful Theatre Productions. \$12-\$16.

Kelsey Kids

Night Before Christmas, Dec 11, 7 pm; Dec 12, 11am; Dec 12-13, 2 pm & 4 pm. The Kelsey Players. \$8-\$10.

NJ Youth Ballet: Nutcracker, Dec 18-20, Fri, 7 pm; Sat-Sun, 1 pm & 4 pm. \$12.

Magic w/the Nelsons, Jan 23, 2 pm & 4 pm. \$12.

Bugsy Malone (Jr.), Jan 29-31, Fri, 7 pm; Sat-Sun, 2 pm & 4 pm. \$8-\$10.

Little Mermaid, Feb 20, 2 pm & 4 pm. American Family Theatre. \$8-\$10.

Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor. 570-3333; www.kelseyatmccc.org. (wv)

Lewis Center

Other People's Houses, Feb 5-6, Feb 11-13, 8 pm.

God's Country, Dec 11-13, 15-17, 8 pm. \$10.

Zach and Willie, Jan 7-9, 8 pm. \$10.

Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton University, 185 Nassau Street. \$10. 258-1500; www.princeton.edu/arts.

McCarter Theatre

Christmas Carol, Dec 6-27, Tue-Fri, 7:30 pm; Sat-Sun, 1 & 5:30 pm; Dec 24, noon & 4 pm. \$40-\$55.

Fetch Clay, Make Man, Jan 8-Feb 14, Tue-Thu, 7:30 pm; Fri-Sat, 8 pm; Sat, 3 pm; Sun, 2 & 7:30 pm. \$20-\$55.

Cirque Mechanics, Feb 13, 2 & 7 pm; Feb 14, 3 pm. \$35-\$48.

Peking Acrobats, Feb 28, 3 pm. \$35-\$46.

McCarter Theatre, 91 University Place, Princeton. 258-2787; www.mccarter.org. (wv)

Off-Broadstreet

Thing About Men, Dec 4-19.

Bedside Manners, Jan 9-Feb 13. Great American Backstage Musical, Feb 26-Apr 3.

Off-Broadstreet Theater, 5 South Greenwood Avenue, Hopewell. Fri-Sat, 7 pm; Sun, 1:30 pm. \$28-\$30. 466-2766; www.off-broadstreet.com. (wv)

Peddie Theatre

Declamation Contest, Dec 10, 7:30-9:30 pm

Falcon Follies student/faculty variety show, Jan 9, 7:30 pm

Winter Musical: 8 pm. \$10.

Swig Arts Center, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. 490-7550; www.peddie.org. (wv)

Theatre Intime

Crime & Punishment, Dec 3-5, 10-12, 8 pm.

One-Act Festival, Feb 4-6, 8 pm.

The Tempest, Feb 18-20, 25-27, 8 pm. *Theatre Intime, Hamilton Murray Theater, Princeton University. \$12. 258-1742; www.theatreintime.org.*

225th Anniversary of Trenton as the Nation's Capital

Trenton is one of eight towns to have served as the meeting place of Congress and therefore considered to have been a national capital. The Sixth Confederation Congress met at the French Arms Tavern from November 1 to December 24, 1784.

Between mid-December 1776 and early 1785, Confederation Congress convened in Philadelphia, York and Lancaster in Pennsylvania, Baltimore and Annapolis in Maryland, Princeton and Trenton in New Jersey, and New York City, New York. It remained in New York City until it dissolved in favor of the Constitution Congress in 1789.

The Congress of the Confederation or the united States in Congress Assembled was the governing body of the thirteen states from March 1, 1781 to March 4, 1789. It was created by the ratification of the Articles of Confederation. The Articles officially changed the designation of the colonies to states.

As the immediate successor to the Second Continental Congress, its membership carried over. Delegates, no more than two and no less than seven from each state were appointed by their legislatures. This body became the United States Congress when the Articles were replaced by the United States Constitution in 1788.

Once the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783 ending the war, a concerted effort ensued to establish a national capital. Congress solicited recommendations from each state as to the best permanent location.

In order for an area to be considered, it had to meet the following criteria: it was neither a state capital nor commercial city; it

must have had access to navigable waters; it must have been able to receive prompt intelligence from all the states and from Europe; it must have been in a state whose constitution guarded against public turbulence; it must have been centrally located geographically; and it must have been independent of all state and local jurisdiction.

Easily meeting all of the criteria, Lambertton in present day South Trenton was lobbied as a candidate for the federal capital by New Jersey residents. They also offered to partially fund the construction of a capital city located in New Jersey. David Cowell, a physician from Lambertton, bequeathed £100 "to the congress of the U. S. of America if they settle themselves in Lambertton. This was the first legacy ever recorded as given to the United States.

This proposal received support from representatives north of the Mason-Dixon line, but southern states preferred an area further south. An awkward compromise was eventually reached whereby Congress would meet alternately at Trenton and Georgetown.

George Washington's support for a permanent location at a site on the Potomac won out with the Residence Act of 1790. Under that plan, the government would abandon New York in favor of Philadelphia, which would serve as the temporary capital city for ten years. In 1800, the government would again move, this time to its permanent location in Washington, D.C.

For more information and a list of activities sponsored by Trenton 1784–The Nation's Capital, please visit www.trenton1784.org.



Christmas in Hightstown

On December 13 Hightstown will be decked out for the season beginning at a Christmas Tea sponsored by the Hightstown East Windsor Historical Society from 1 to 5 pm in the Ely House at 164 North Main Street. At the same time, Rocky Brook Garden Club will offer boxwood trees and other Christmas arrangements for sale in the freight station behind the Ely house.

The Hightstown Women's Club will host a Christmas Candlelight House Tour from 3 to 6 pm. Seven Victorian homes in Hightstown and Lee's Turkey Farm in East Windsor will be featured.

The First Presbyterian Church will have a Live Nativity at 2 pm on front lawn of the church at 320 North Main Street. The First United Methodist Church on Stockton Street will have a Bell Choir at 6 pm.

House tour tickets are \$5 for children and \$10 for adults and will be available at the Ely House. For advance ticket purchase, please call 426-9728. For more information about the house tour or festivities, please call 448-8388 or visit www.hewhs.org.

A Place in Time French Arms Tavern

In 1784, the French Arms Tavern, in Trenton, served as the national capitol for 54 days. The Congress of the Confederation met there from November 1 to December 24. The Tavern, the largest building in the city at the time, was located at the southwest corner of King (now Warren) and Second (now State) streets.

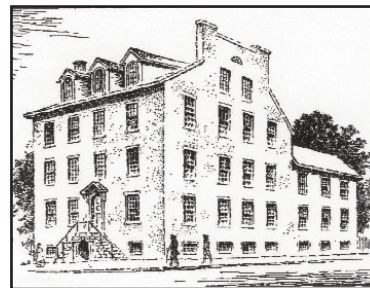
Built in 1730, the building was also known as the Thirteen Stars, Blazing Star Tavern, City Tavern and City Hotel. Historian William Backes described the original building as "the handsomest and most commodious house in Trenton in its day."

From 1740 until 1742 it was the official residence of Royal Governor Lewis Morris. The tavern was also where Marquis de LaFayette took his final farewell of Congress on December 14, 1784. George Washington dined in the tavern on April

21, 1789, en route to his inauguration in New York. Earlier the same day, he was received by the citizens of Trenton at the Assunpink Creek Bridge.

During the Second Battle of Trenton, one of the most brutal military murders of the New Jersey campaign occurred in the tavern when Reverend John Rosburgh was bayoneted to death by Hessian troops.

In an agreement signed on August 31, 1784 between Jacob Bergen, tavern owner, and Moore Furman, James Ewing, and Conrad Knotts, the tavern was leased for £150 a year for "the use and purpose of Congress of the United States of America to set in" from October until April 1786.



Under the name of Blazing Star Tavern, the building served as the meeting location for the New Jersey ratification convention for the United States Constitution from December 11 to December 18, 1787.

The tavern was razed in 1837 after the First Mechanics and Manufacturers Bank purchased the property to build the two-story building, which is presently occupied by a branch of Wachovia Bank.

There are three plaques, two on the Wachovia Bank Building at One West State Street, and one under the 18th Century marker in South Riverwalk Park over the Route 129 tunnel in Trenton.



Culture & HERITAGE NEWS

Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission
640 South Broad Street • Trenton, NJ 08650

This newsletter is available in large print.
To request your copy, call 609-989-6899
(VOICE) 609-989-6865 (TTY).

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 web site and/or email address, funding credit and ADA compliance. Please mail to: Mercer County Division of Culture and Heritage, Box 8068, 640 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08650, or email to: mrnyon@mercercounty.org. If you feel that your event merits a longer story, please write, email or call 989-6899.

Please refer to this chart for ADA accommodations codes.

W	A	T	S	P	L	B	V
Wheelchair Accessible	Assistive Listening System	TTY	Sign Language Interpretation	Large Print	Live Audio Description	Braille	Access for Blind or Low Vision



Please help us to better serve you, let us know what other information you are interested in. Please share this newsletter with your friends and colleagues; if you, or someone you know, would like to be added to our mailing list, call 609-989-6899 or email mrnyon@mercercounty.org.



This Newsletter is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts / Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and by funds from the Mercer County Executive and the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders

MERCER COUNTY DIVISION OF CULTURE AND HERITAGE
640 SOUTH BROAD STREET, PO BOX 8068, TRENTON, NJ 08650
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