



Renu Chandra Agrawal

8-13-51 ~ 10-1-07

Autumn has been a season of much sorrow for Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the community. The loss of two Commissioners within several weeks has been devastating. Late September brought news of the passing of Mary Alice Quigley. Then, October 1 more sad news came with the passing of Renu Agrawal.

Renu had been a Commissioner for only a short time, but she made a considerable impact on the Commission. She had a great passion for the arts and culture, and approached each discussion with zealous enthusiasm and boundless energy. Always presenting multiple angles from which to approach a subject.

Renu came to the United States from the state of Uttar Pradesh in northern India after marrying Dinesh Agrawal. She brought with her a college degree in biology and an abundant love of her Indian culture.

For 30 years she has fed her appetite for education, graduating from Rutgers University with a master's degree in environmental science and working toward a Ph.D. in the same subject. All the while, as Renu was making friends, sharing her culture, customs and cuisine with others, she was growing a family of three amazing sons. And was an occupational-health consultant for the state Department of Labor.

Renu held leadership roles in various organizations, among them the South Jersey chapter of the Association of Indians in America. From 2003 she served as its president and most staunch advocate. She launched an award program for teenagers who create poems, essays and artwork inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's message of non-violence, world peace and harmony.

Renu partnered with the New Jersey Historical Commission on an Oral History project documenting the Indian immigrant experience in New Jersey. Interviews have since been archived by Rutgers University and the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Her legacy also includes the Dawali basket thank you program where Indian-themed food baskets are distributed to local emergency medical and firefighter volunteers in recognition of their service.

Renu will be missed, but her altruism lives on through her family and friends.

Film Festival Examines Race, Gender, Faith & Class

The West Windsor Branch of the Mercer County Library System is partnering with two local organizations to host a seven-month-long film festival titled **Race, Faith, Class, Gender—The Challenges and Opportunities We Face in A Global Community**. Each month a feature-length film will be screened, then followed by a facilitated discussion.

The West Windsor Township Human Relations Council and the West Windsor-Plainsboro African-American Parent Support Group are co-sponsoring the film series. The two grassroots organizations collaborated on this open forum to initiate a dialogue about a range of issues faced by many communities. Especially so in West Windsor, with its ethnically, culturally and religiously diverse population of nearly 22,000 within the 27-square mile radius.

The Human Relations Council fosters cultural exchange and understanding among the different groups in the community through programs such as a cultural fair, publication of an international cookbook, public celebrations of Black History Month, Pakistan independence day, Asian American heritage month and Chinese New Year, as well as Indian classical dance performances and scholarships for high school seniors.

The African-American Parent Support Group (AAPSG) works to support African-American students in the school district by enhancing positive self-esteem and helping the schools to maximize students' educational potential. This is accomplished through Black History Month Celebrations, Striving for Excellence Awards Program, High School and Middle School Student Speak-out, and College Admissions and Preparation Program.

The film festival kicked off in November with **Last Chance for Eden**, and continues



Citizen King is a PBS documentary about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr to be screened on January 21 at 1 p.m. in the West Windsor Library.

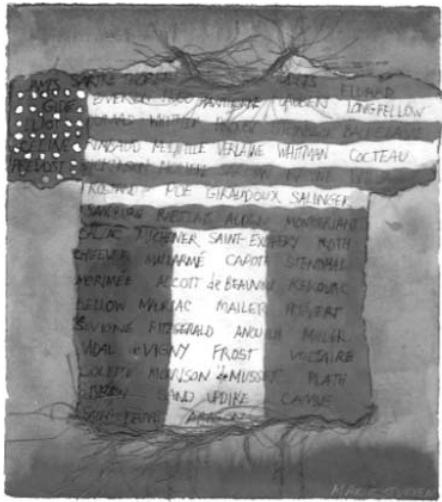
on December 29 with a film which considers the relevance faith has in our communities and how religion is used to both incite and unite our world community.

Citizen King will be shown on January 21 to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Produced by the Public Broadcasting System, the film highlights the final years of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., particularly the position he took on issues affecting the global community such as the war in Vietnam. Rev. Cornell Edmonds will lead the discussion. Rev. Edmonds is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and the Stated Clerk for the New York City Presbytery. He is a lawyer and frequent speaker on the life and legacy of Dr. King.

To commemorate African-American History Month, **Voices of the Civil Rights Movement** will be shown on February 9. This History Channel-produced documentary features interviews with ordinary citizens involved in the civil right movement. A diverse panel will facilitate a discussion on the civil rights movement and analogies with current global civil rights issues.

Films begin at 1 p.m. with facilitated discussions to follow. The West Windsor Library is located at 333 North Post Road in Princeton Junction. For more information or directions, please call (609) 799-0462 or visit www.mcl.org.

For more information about West Windsor Human Relations Council programs, please contact the Chair, Hassan Syed at hassansyed@yahoo.com or visit the website at www.west-windsor-plainsboro.k12.nj.us/aapsg.html.



Litteraire by Marie Sturken

Artbook Goes to France

As a commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of Princeton, NJ/Colmar, France sister cities relationship The Princeton Artists Alliance (PAA) has created a handmade book. The artbook features original works by each of the 22 members of the PAA, and was exhibited at the Princeton Public Library in October and November.

Princeton Artists Alliance is a group of professional artists who use their art for land preservation, environmental awareness, education, and now for cultural exchange. Their exhibit *Homer's Odyssey depicted visually* is on tour and will be at the Noyes Museum in January. *Marsh Meditations* was PAA's way to bring awareness to a valuable natural resource, the Trenton-Hamilton-Bordentown Marsh.

For two decades Princeton and Colmar have participated in Sister Cities International program dedicated to promoting and fostering town twinning between the United States and other countries.

Sister Cities International's mission is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation between communities. Their focus is on working at the municipal level, to promote cultural understanding and to stimulate economic development. Environments are established through which communities can creatively solve problems by means of reciprocal cultural, educational, municipal, business, professional and technical exchanges.

Officials from Colmar have already visited Princeton. In late November, an official delegation, which included the mayor of Princeton Boro, visited Colmar and took the artbook to be exhibited at The Salon du Livre, an international book fair. The artbook will return in December to be placed on display in the Princeton Public Library at 65 Witherspoon Street. (609) 924-9529.

Chorus Gets New Name and New Director

Sweet Adelines International is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and teaching four-part barbershop harmony, an American folk art, for women's voices. The local chapter, Jersey Harmony Chorus, has members from all over the Mercer County area and some have participated in Sweet Adelines for more than thirty years.

Membership includes women of all ages and represents a wide range of occupations and backgrounds. One common bond is a love of singing and performing. The chorus boasts a repertoire, which includes popular ballads, lively uptunes, jazz, patriotic, blues—a wide variety of music that's fun to sing and fun to listen to.

Formerly called the Millstone Valley Chorus, Jersey Harmony Chorus is celebrating a new director, Rich Gray. With a diverse musical background, Rich directs Barbershop style from a unique perspective.

Rich started singing early in school choruses and church choirs. At ten he was singing 4-part harmony with his brother and two sisters. He taught himself to play the guitar and as a teen became very active in everything from small acoustic ensembles to full blown rock-n-roll bands.

Rich became a member of The Society

for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. The first quartet he formed, Runaway Sound, became the 2001 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions.

In 2003, Rich formed the Wheelhouse quartet, who won First Place in their first three contests, including the Atlantic Division, the Mid-Atlantic District, and the M-AD Prelims contests. These wins propelled them to a Ninth Place finish in their first year of international competition in Montréal.

Weekly rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 7:15 p.m. in the Trinity Church at 33 Mercer Street in Princeton. There are several coaching sessions throughout the year and optional workshops. The essential requirements for membership are the ability to carry a tune and the time to attend weekly rehearsals. Any women interested in auditioning is eligible for membership.

To book the Jersey Harmony Chorus, please call (215) 369-4314 or send an email to jerseyharmonychorus@hotmail.com. To book Wheelhouse send an email to jef-fgray@comcast.net. For more information about membership, please call (732) 469-3983 or visit www.harmonize.com/jersey-harmony.

Art and Poetry With Environmental Impact

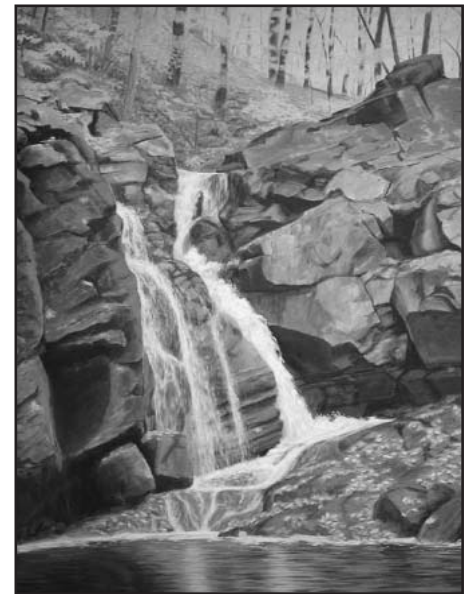
Having sufficient amounts of contiguous natural lands is vital to the survival of the environment. This open space is required to protect drinking water supplies and clean air, promote healthier, active lifestyles, preserve habitat for native plants and animal species. Land preservation plays a critical role in the future of our environment.

The arts do for our psyche and soul what land preservation does for our environment. The two meld perfectly in *The Road Not Taken, Journeys into Nature*, the latest exhibition sponsored by D&R Greenway Land Trust.

The art was inspired by beauties to which artists were drawn while out on the trail. Not taken refers to not yet explored, as well as not taken by developers.

Because of the Robert Frost connection, poets were invited to choose a work of art to inspire their own creations. Poets will read their works beside the artist whose visual creativity called forth new poems at a reception on December 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Reservations are requested.

Children in kindergarten through twelfth grade are invited to view *The Road Not Taken* and create their own art in response. Art in any media, unframed, unmatted, may be brought to D&R Greenway on December 6 to be featured from December 10 to Jan-



Byram Fall NJ by Sylvere Boureau is part of The Road Not Taken exhibit on view until January 11.

uary 11. Name and contact information should be on each piece.

The D&R Greenway's Marie L. Matthews Gallery is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is located at One Preservation Place (off Rosedale Road) in Princeton. For more information, please call (609) 924-4646, X 131 or visit www.drgreenways.org.

Local Arts Grant Program

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts awards multi-year Local Arts Program grants to the county arts agencies throughout the state to fund community-based arts organizations and projects. Organizations use these grant funds to present public arts and cultural programming to the residents and visitors of Mercer County.

Brian M. Hughes, County Executive, Board of Chosen Freeholders and Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission congratulate the organizations who will be receiving a grant through the 2008 Mercer County Culture and Heritage Local Arts Grant Program. These organizations include:

ArtWorks; Capriole Productions Inc.; Chin Yun Chorus Inc.; The College of New Jersey Art Gallery; The College of New Jersey English Department; Community Arts Partnership at the Peddie School; ECHO, Inc.; Encorp, Inc. Theatre School; Greater Trenton Choral Society; Hamilton High School West Band Parent Club; 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; Mercer County Italian American Festival; New Jersey Gay Men's Chorus; New Jersey Poetry Society; Old Barracks Association; The Pennington Players, Inc.; People and Stories Gente y Cuentos; Princeton Garden Statesmen; Princeton Summer Chamber Concerts; Rider University Art Gallery; Rimon-The Mordecai T. Mezrich Center for Jewish Learning; Shakespeare '70; Shakespeare '70 Thornton Wilder Society; Stony Brook Watershed Association; Trenton Artist Workshop; Trenton Community Music School; Trenton Museum Society; Voices, Inc.; Westminster Conservatory of Rider University; West Windsor Arts Council; YWCA Dance Project; Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey.

Many of these organization are staffed by volunteers who are pursuing a passion, educating, entertaining, enlightening and inspiring others including young people through their programs. They are featured in the newsletter and online calendar of events. Please support their activities and events.

The MCC&HC LAP grant program is open to any county-based non-profit organization that has been presenting public arts programming for at least two years. Anyone interested in applying for grant funding for 2009 may call (609) 989-6899 or download the Grant Guidelines and Application at www.nj.gov/counties/mercerc/commissions/cultural/grants.

Dear Friends,

As winter approaches and you think about how to celebrate the holiday season, I encourage all of you to consider the many outstanding opportunities to expand your cultural horizons that Mercer County offers to enjoy the holidays.

Our great County's diversity becomes more apparent—and more important—than ever during the holiday season. We should all take advantage of the rich assortment of cultural traditions represented right here in our communities, and embrace the spirit of sharing and good cheer that unifies holiday traditions across cultures.

One of the things I have always loved most about living in Mercer County is the endless array of traditions among our residents. A walk through our towns in the winter months will take you past 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 representations of the different traditions found in Mercer County.

In this edition of our Cultural & Heritage newsletter, you'll find listings of a variety of opportunities to celebrate the holidays in new and enlightening ways. 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 ways to make this holiday season joyous and exciting.

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



Sincerely,
Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

Dance in Education Pilot Program

The West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation is partnering with Target to support a unique pilot arts program in the Millstone River School—Dance as a Necessary Component of Education (D.A.N.C.E.).

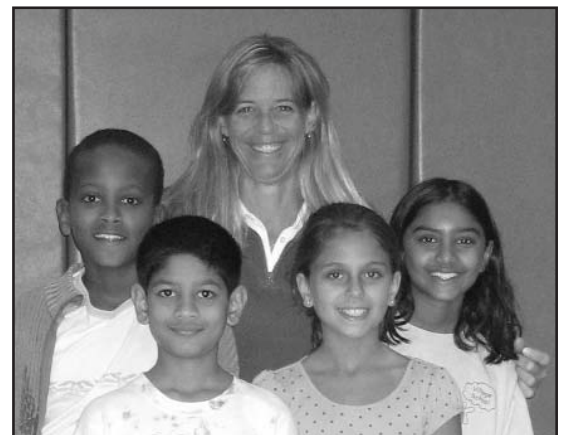
The funding for this project will bring into the district a five-day program that will allow students in Grades 4 and 5 at Millstone River School to experience introductory movement fundamentals and explore different ways of using movement to express themselves.

D.A.N.C.E. is being conducted by Dancevision Inc., a private non-profit organization whose mission is to provide dance educational programming and outreach for school age children (K-12) in central New Jersey. Studies have shown that students who take part in the arts tend to do better academically as well as socially as it helps with creative thinking, originality, social tolerance, and self-confidence among other things. Marie Alonzo Snyder, Dancevision Inc.'s D.A.N.C.E. Program Director, is an acclaimed dancer, choreographer, dance educator, and dance scholar.

Dr. Victoria Kniewel, superintendent of schools added, "The D.A.N.C.E. program is going to teach students about movements and dancing in general. They will experience learning something new and fun that is not usually

taught in the classroom curriculum. The program is a great way to give the children a break from the everyday textbook education and expand their minds in a creative, non-linear way."

The West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the continued excellence of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional Schools. Founded in 1995, the Foundation has awarded over \$170,000 in teacher and student mini-grants for more than 230 innovative programs in the schools. For more information on the WW-P Education Foundation, visit www.wwpef.org or email info@wwpef.org.



Physical Education/Health Education Coordinator Lynn Holman and her students Hossaenna Abebe, Koushik Kunchapu, Catherine Pechota, Veena Bhagavathi get ready for the D.A.N.C.E. program.



Calendar of EVENTS

The Mercer County Culture and Heritage Commission cannot be responsible for errors or omissions. Call ahead to confirm times and prices. For an expanded listing, visit www.mercercounty.org/CH/nl.htm. Deadline for Spring issue, which covers March, April and May is January 9, 2008.

Art Exhibits

Assumed Identities, thru Dec. 5, Gallery, College of New Jersey, 2000 Pennington Avenue, Ewing. (609) 770-2198; www.tcnj.edu/~tcag. (wv)

Peruvian Textiles, thru Dec. 7, Erdman Gallery, Princeton Theological Seminary, 20 Library Place. Mon-Sat. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun. 2:30-9 p.m. (609) 497-7990; www.ptsem.edu.

Mercer County Photo Show, thru Dec. 19, Art Gallery, MCCC, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor. (609) 570-3589; www.mccc.edu. (wv)

Summer Scenes, Lea Novak paintings, thru Jan. 5, The Triumph Brewing Co., 138 Nassau St., Princeton. 924-7855; www.triumphbrewing.com.

Herk Van Tongeren sculpture, thru Jan 6, Grounds for Sculpture, 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton (609) 586-0968; www.groundsfor sculpture.org. (wv)

The Road Not Taken, thru Jan. 11, Johnson Education Center Gallery, One Preservation Place (off Rosedale Road), Princeton. Reception Dec. 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (register). **Children Exhibit**, Dec. 10-Jan. 10. (609) 924-4646, X 131; www.drgreenway.org.

Andrew Harrison sculpture & Eric Drotch paintings, Jan. 11- Feb. 1, Mariboe Gallery, CAPPs, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. Jan. 11, 6:30-8 p.m. reception and gallery talk. (609) 490-7550. (wv)

Spiritual Transformation and Sacred Spaces, Jan 16-Feb. 13, Gallery, College of New Jersey, 2000 Pennington Avenue, Ewing. Reception Jan 23, 6-8 p.m. Symposium Feb 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Library. (609) 771-2198. (wv)

Bruce Rigby paintings, Jan. 24-Feb 24, Rider University, Bart Luedeke Center, 2083 Lawrenceville Road. Reception Jan. 24, 5-7 p.m.; artist's talk Jan. 31, 7 p.m. (609) 896-5033; www.rider.edu. (wv)

Student Exhibit opening, Feb. 20, 6:30-8 p.m., Mariboe Gallery, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. (609) 490-7550; www.peddie.org.capps. (wv)

Contemporary Art of Iran & Central Asia, Feb 20, Gallery, College of New Jersey, 2000 Pennington Avenue, Ewing. Gallery talk Feb 20, 5-8 p.m. (609) 771-2198; www.tcnj.edu/~tcag. (wv)

Int'l Sculpture Center Student Awards, thru April 27, Grounds for Sculpture, 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton (609) 586-0968; www.groundsfor sculpture.org. (wv)

Enclosures, thru April 27, Grounds for Sculpture, 18 Fairgrounds Road,

Hamilton (609) 586-0968; www.groundsfor sculpture.org. (wv)

Art Lessons, Dec. 9 & 11, 6:30-9 p.m., Murdoch Art Studio, The Art Station, 148 Monmouth Street, Hightstown. \$35. Register (609) 638-6555.

Lectures

Archaeological Discoveries in Jerusalem, Dec. 2, 9:30 a.m., Adath Israel Congregation, 1958 Lawrenceville Road. Register (609) 806-4977. (wv)

Italy's Cosmic Masterpieces, Dec. 2, 5 p.m., Dorothea's House, 120 John Street, Princeton. (609) 924-8275.

Early Byzantine Archangels, Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m., Archaeological Institute, Princeton University, East Pyne 010. (609) 258-3741; www.princeton.edu.

Athenia Akropolis: A Vase Painter's Perspective, Feb. 20, 5:30 p.m., Archaeological Institute, Princeton University, East Pyne 010, (609) 258-3741; www.princeton.edu.

Benefits

Stop the Wrecking Ball, Dec. 1, 6-9 p.m., Ferdinand Roebing Mansion, 222 West State Street, Trenton. Benefits Trenton Historical Society Grant Program. \$75-\$135. (609) 396-4478; www.trentonhistory.org.

Chip Mergott, acoustic guitar, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Church, 2730 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville. Donate men/women winter clothing. (609) 882-7891.

Womanspace Communities of Light, Dec. 16, 5:30 p.m. Light luminaria candles to raise awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault. Candle kit \$10. (609) 394-0136.

Dreams of La Masquerade Gala, Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m., Hyatt Regency, 102 Carnegie Center, West Windsor. Benefits Eden Institute Foundation. \$300. Register (609) 987-0099. (wv)

Princeton University Art Museum Gala, Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m., Prospect House, Princeton University. Benefits educational and outreach programming. \$200. (609) 258-3762.

Cabin Fever Cabaret, Feb. 23, 7-10 p.m., RMJM Hillier, 500 Alexander Park, West Windsor. Benefits West Windsor Arts Council's Princeton Junction Firehouse fund. (609) 919-1982; www.westwindsorarts.org.

Dance

WW-Plainsboro Dance Company, Nutcracker, Dec. 1, 7 p.m.; Dec. 2, 1 p.m., Grover Middle School, 505

Village Road West, West Windsor. \$8. Register (609) 799-9684; www.thedancecorner.org.

Innovative Dance Academy Holiday Spectacular, Dec. 16, 1 p.m. & 5 p.m., Fire House, 1666 Pennington Road, Ewing. \$5-\$10. (609) 530-0979; www.innovativedanceacademy.com.

Moiseyev Dance Company, Jan. 16, 8 p.m., McCarter Theater, 91 University Place, Princeton. \$43-\$50. (609) 258-2787; www.mccarter.org.

Spring Dance Festival, Feb. 22-24, 8 p.m., Princeton University Theater & Dance Program, Berlind Theater, 91 University Place, Princeton. (609) 258-2787; www.mccarter.org. (wv)

NJ State Museum

Family Arts Festival, Dec. 2, 1 p.m. **Foot & Fiddle Company**, Jan. 25-26, 1 p.m., \$2.

7th Principle: Bantaba Circle of Celebration, Feb. 8, 1 p.m. \$2.

Dance China New York, Feb. 22-23, 1 p.m. \$2.

Ssuuna: Eda Ne Kakati Ugandan dance, music, song, Feb. 9, 1 p.m.

NJ State Museum Auditorium, 205 West State Street, Trenton. Young Audiences NJ collaboration. (609) 292-6310; www.newjerseystatemuseum.org.

Dancing

Scottish Dancing, Mon, 7:30 p.m., Meadow Lakes, Etra Road, Hightstown. \$3. (609) 936-0891; www.rscds-nj.org.

Dancing, Fridays 8-11 p.m., American Ballroom, 569 Klockner Road, Hamilton. \$10-\$15. (609) 931-0149.

Country Line Dancing, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26, 7 p.m., Hillbilly Hall Tavern, 203 Hopewell-Wertsville Road, Hopewell. (609) 466-9856.

Ballroom Dance, Dec. 7, 18, 21, 7 p.m., Paula Ludo's Ballroom, 23 Hankins Road, East Windsor. \$20. Register (908) 534-0004.

Princeton Country Dance, Jan. 27, Feb. 24, 3-5 p.m., Suzanne Patterson Center, Monument Drive. \$4. (609) 924-6763; www.princetoncountrydancers.org.

Film

Adult Film Group, Sundays 2 p.m., Ewing Branch Library, 61 Scotch Road. (609) 882-3130; www.mcl.org. (wv)

Independent Films, second Thu, 7 p.m., Lawrence Branch Library, 2751 Brunswick Pike. (609) 882-9246; www.mcl.org. (wv)

Spirituality Film series, Taste of Cherry, Dec. 1, 2:30 p.m.; **A Walk**

with Kiarostami, 4:30 p.m.; **Iranian Cinema lecture with Jamsheed Akrami**, Dec 1, 5 p.m.; **The Apostle**, Dec. 2, 2 p.m., Library, College of New Jersey, 2000 Pennington Avenue, Ewing. (609) 771-2198; www.tcnj.edu/tcag. (wv)

Divorzio all'Italiana (Divorce Italian Style), Dec. 4, 6 p.m., Princeton Public Library, 65 Witherspoon Street. (609) 924-8822; www.princetonlibrary.org.

Water, Dec. 7; **Born into Brothels: Calcutta's Red Light Kids**, Dec. 14, 6 p.m., Paul Robeson Center, Witherspoon Street. (609) 924-8777; www.artscouncilofprinceton.org. (wv)

African Cinema: Ndeyaan, Dec. 23, 7 p.m., Princeton Public Library, 65 Witherspoon Street. (609) 924-8822; www.princeton.lib.nj.us. (wv)

Italian Films: Tickets, The Legend of 1900, Feb. 17, 3 p.m., Dorothea's House, 120 John Street, Princeton. (609) 924-8275.

West Windsor Library

Children of Heaven, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. **Religion and our Communities**, Dec. 29, 1-3 p.m.

Citizen King, Jan. 21, 1-3 p.m. **Grbavica: The Land of My Dreams**, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m.

Voices of the Civil Rights Movement, Feb. 9, 1-3 p.m.

West Windsor Library, 333 North Post Road, Princeton Junction. Film & discussion. (609) 919-1982; www.westwindsorarts.org. (wv)

History Activities

Old Mill Hill House Tour, Dec. 1, 12-5 p.m., Mill Hill Playhouse, 205 Front Street, Trenton. \$20. (609) 656-9277; www.trentonmillhill.org.

Christmas on the Farm, Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Howell Living History Farm, Valley Road, Titusville. (609) 737-3299; www.howellfarm.org.

Festival of Trees, Dec. 5-Jan. 6, Wed-Fri 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sat-Sun noon-3 p.m. \$5.; **Wednesday Tour & Tea**, 1 p.m. \$15. Morven, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton. (609) 924-8144; www.historicmorven.org.

Drumthwacket Open House, Dec. 5, 9, 12, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 354 Stockton Street, Princeton. \$5. Register (609) 683-0591; www.drumthwacket.org.

Benjamin Franklin memorabilia, Dec. 5-March 30, Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton. Wed-Fri 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sat-Sun noon-4 p.m. \$4-\$5. (609) 924-8144; www.morven.org. (wv)

Schenck House Tour, Dec. 9, 1-4 p.m., Historical Society of West Windsor, 50 Southfield Road. (609) 799-1278.

Ten Crucial Days lecture, Dec. 15, 2 p.m., Washington Xing Park Visitor Center, Route 546, Titusville. (609) 737-0609; www.state.nj.us/dep/park-sandforests/parks/washcros.html.

Lantern Tours, Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m. & 7 p.m., Washington Crossing Park Johnson Ferry House, Route 546, Titusville. \$4-\$8. (609) 737-0609.

Patriots' Week, Dec. 26-30, downtown Trenton. (877) 788-9335; www.patriotsweek.com.

Cottage Club Tour, Jan. 9 & 30, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 51 Prospect Avenue, Princeton. Register (609) 921-6137.

Kuser Farm Mansion

Winter Wonderland, Nov. 28-Dec. 1, 6-8:30 p.m.

Dolls & Bears display, Sat-Sun in Feb., 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Valentine Family Pictures In Heart-Shaped Gazebo, Feb 2-3, 9-10, 8 a.m.-noon. Appointment required.

The Valentine video, Feb. 9-10, 2 p.m.

Biltmore House video, Feb 13, 7 p.m.

Lyndhurst video, Feb 13, 7:45 p.m.

Valentine Tours, Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m. Appointment required.

Valentine's Day Myths & Traditions by Kim Daly, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Romantic Songs, Feb. 17, 2 p.m.

La Belle Epoque (1890-1914) video, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

Kuser Mansion, 290 Newkirk Avenue, Hamilton. Reservations (609) 890-3630; www.hamiltonnj.com.

Holiday/Heritage

Santa & Snowy Arrive, Dec. 1, 12:30-3 p.m., Princeton Shopping Center, 301 North Harrison Street. (609) 921-6234; www.princeton-shoppingcenter.com. (wv)

St. Nicholas Bazaar, Dec. 1-2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Trinity Church, 33 Mercer Street, Princeton. (609) 924-2277.

A Christmas Carol in Victorian garb, Dec. 2, 2 p.m., Ewing Branch, Mercer County Library, 61 Scotch Road. (609) 882-3130; www.mcl.org. (wv)

Barry Wilcox, piano, Dec. 7, 5-7 p.m.; **George Dabrowski, piano**, Dec. 8, 2 p.m.; **Caroling, Capital City Singers**, Dec. 9, 2 p.m.; Ellarslie Mansion, Cadwalader Park, Trenton. (609) 989-3624; www.ellarslie.org.

Card & Gift Wrapping Workshop, Dec. 8, 1-3 p.m. 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton. (609) 586-0616; www.groundsfor sculpture.org. (wv)

Wreathmaking, Dec. 8, 1-3:30 p.m., Washington Xing Park Nature Center, Route 546, Titusville. (609) 737-0609; www.state.nj.us/dep/park-sandforests/parks/washcros.html.

Lee Whiteman, Winter Solstice, Dec. 22, 3 p.m., Cathedral Arts Series at Trinity, 801 West State Street, Trenton. (609) 392-3805; [\[tycathedralnj.org\]\(http://tycathedralnj.org\).](http://www.trini-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Santa Arrives, Dec. 24, 11 a.m., Princeton Airport, Route 206. Bring wrapped gift with child's name for Santa to distribute; unwrapped gift for Mercer County Board of Social Services distribution. (609) 921-3100.

Caroling with Blawenburg Band, Dec. 24, 5 p.m., Princeton Arts Council, Palmer Square. (609) 924-8777; www.artscouncilofprinceton.org.

Chanukah begins Dec. 4, sunset.

Holiday Walk & Festivities, Dec. 7, 6 p.m., Howe Commons, 65 South Main Street, Pennington. (609) 737-7765.

Pennington Dance Holiday Show, Dec. 7, 6:45 p.m., Pennington Presbyterian Church, 13 South Main Street. (609) 737-7596; www.penningtondance.com.

James Gibson as George Washington Crossing of the Delaware, Dec. 25, 1 p.m., Washington Crossing State Park, Route 546, Titusville. (609) 737-9304.

Kwanzaa begins Dec. 26.

Hogmanay Bonfire, Dec. 31, 6 p.m., Lawrence Historical Society, Brearley House, Meadow Lane. (609) 895-1728; www.thelhs.org. (wv)

Groundhog Day, Feb. 2.

Groundhog Day Dinner & Movie, Feb. 2, 5:30 p.m., Grounds For Sculpture, 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton. \$35. Register (609) 689-1089; www.groundsfor sculpture.org.

Chinese New Year Feb. 7.

Follow the Drinking Gourd, Feb. 7, 21, 11 a.m., NJ State Museum Auditorium, 205 West State Street, Trenton. \$2. (609) 292-6310; www.newjerseystatemuseum.org. (wv)

Death by Chocolate & Orrin Evans Jazz Trio, Feb. 9, 7 p.m., Trenton Museum Society, Ellarslie Mansion, Cadwalader Park, Trenton. \$25-\$30. (609) 989-3632; www.ellarslie.org. (wv)

Opera & Carnevale in Venice Lecture, Feb. 10, 5 p.m., Dorothea's House, 120 John Street, Princeton. (609) 924-8275.

Literary Events

Rev. Kathy J. Nelson, author, Listen With Your Heart, Dec. 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Princeton Theological Seminary, Erdman Center, 64 Mercer Street. (609) 497-7990; www.ptsem.edu.

Book Fair/Author Signings, Dec. 2, 12-2 p.m., Classics Bookstore, 117 South Warren Street, Trenton. (609) 394-8400.

Kids' Storytime, Dec. 4 & 11, 10 a.m., Borders Books, Nassau Park, West Windsor. (609) 514-0040; www.borderstores.com. (wv)

Vincent Sherry, author, reads Irish Decadence, Dec. 7, 4:30 p.m., Fund for Irish Studies, Princeton University, Stewart Film Theater, 185

Nassau Street. (609) 258-8561.

Poetry Group, Dec. 8, 12-2 p.m., Classics Bookstore, 117 South Warren Street, Trenton. (609) 394-8400.

Aminta Mark reads radical poetry, Dec. 9, 12-2 p.m., Classics Bookstore, 117 South Warren Street, Trenton. (609) 394-8400.

Children's American Sign Language Story Hour, Dec. 11, Jan. 15, Feb. 5, 10:30 a.m., NJ Library for Blind & Handicapped, 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue, Trenton. Register (888) 671-6983; TTY (877) 882-5593; colsen@njstatelib.org or. (WATSPLV)

Readings Over Coffee, Dec. 12, 10:30 a.m., Princeton Public Library, 65 Witherspoon Street. (609) 924-8822; www.princetonlibrary.org. (wv)

Frank Corcoran, author, reads Dolmens' Lament, Dec. 14, 4:30 p.m., Fund for Irish Studies, Princeton University, Stewart Film Theater, 185 Nassau Street. (609) 258-8561.

Booksigning, Deanie Yasner, Dec. 16, 12-2 p.m., Classics Bookstore, 117 South Warren Street, Trenton. Imani Praise Dancers. (609) 394-8400.

Book Discussion, Siddhartha by Hermann Hess, Dec. 20, 7 p.m., Lawrence Library, 2751 Brunswick Pike. (609) 882-9246; www.mcl.org.

D.J. Haslett reads winter tales, Dec. 23, noon-4 p.m., 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton. (609) 586-0616; www.groundsfor sculpture.org. (wv)

Book Discussion: Women's Room, Dec. 30, 2 p.m., Classics Bookstore, 117 South Warren Street, Trenton. (609) 394-8400.

Musical Performances

The Red Violin, Dec. 1, 8 p.m., Institute for Advanced Study, Wolfensohn Hall, Einstein Drive, Princeton. Register (609) 734-8175; www.ias.edu.

Princeton Pro Musica, Handel's Messiah, Dec. 2, 3 p.m., Patriots Theater, Trenton War Memorial, Trenton. \$25-\$45. (609) 683-5122.

Rider Choir, Dec. 2, 3 p.m., Rider University Gill Memorial Chapel, 2083 Lawrenceville Road. (609) 921-2663; www.rider.edu.

Princeton Garden Statesmen Dinner Show, Dec. 2, 5:30 p.m., Cranbury Inn, 21 South Main Street. \$45. (609) 655-5595; www.princetongardensatesmen.com.

Rider Band, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m., Rider University Yvonne Theater, 2083 Lawrenceville Road. (609) 921-2663; www.rider.edu. (wv)

Jersey Harmony Chorus, Mondays, 7:15 p.m., Trinity Church, 33 Mercer Street, Princeton 732-469-3983; www.harmonize.com/jerseyharmony.

Piano Teachers' Forum, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 9:30 a.m., Jacobs Music, Route 1, Lawrence. \$10. (609) 921-1510.

Practitioners of Musick, Dec. 9, 4 p.m., Christ Congregation, 50 Walnut Lane, Princeton. \$15. (732) 599-0392.

Candlelight Vespers, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., Ayer Chapel, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. (609) 490-7550; www.peddie.org/capps. (wv)

Sing Children Sing, Dec. 14, 11:30 a.m. Ewing Library, 61 Scotch Road, Ewing. Register (609) 882-3130; www.mcl.org. (wv)

Opera New Jersey, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., Grounds for Sculpture, 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton. (609) 586-0616; www.groundsfor sculpture.org. (wv)

Hopewell Valley Chorus, Dec. 14, 8 p.m., Pennington Presbyterian Church, 13 South Main Street. \$11. (609) 397-1619. (wv)

Princeton Youth Recital, Dec. 15, 4 p.m., Paul Robeson Center for the Arts, Witherspoon Street, Princeton. (609) 924-8777; www.artscouncilof-princeton.org. (wv)

Café Improv, Dec. 15, 9 p.m., Paul Robeson Center for the Arts, Witherspoon Street, Princeton. \$1. Register www.cafeimprov.com.

American Boychoir, Dec. 15, 8 p.m., Princeton University Chapel, Princeton. \$10-\$30. (888) 924-5858; www.americanboychoir.org.

Greater Trenton Choral Society Handel's Messiah, conducted by Joseph Pucciatti, Dec. 15, 8 p.m., Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 2220 Pennington Road (Rt. 31), Ewing. \$10-\$15 (609) 448-1775. (wv)

Greater Trenton Symphony Orchestra Holiday Spectacular, Dec. 16, 3 p.m., Trenton War Memorial, Memorial Drive. \$20-\$40. (609) 396-5522 ext. 2; www.trentonsymphony.org. (wv)

American Boychoir, Dec. 16, 4 p.m., Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall, Princeton University campus. \$20-\$42. (888) 924-5858; www.americanboychoir.org. (wv)

Multicultural Holiday Show, Dec. 19, 11 a.m., New Jersey State Museum Auditorium, 205 West State Street, Trenton. \$2. Grades K-9. (609) 292-6310; www.newjerseystatemuseum.org. (wv)

Greater Trenton Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., Trenton War Memorial, Memorial Drive. \$25-\$65. (609) 396-5522; www.thewar memorial.com. (wv)

Dryden Ensemble, Handel Fest, Jan. 11, 8 p.m., Trinity Church, 33 Mercer Street, Princeton. \$15-\$30. (609) 466-8541.

Princeton Symphony Orchestra, Jan. 13, 4 p.m., Institute for Advanced Study, Wolfensohn Hall. (609) 497-0020; www.ias.edu.

Jennifer Tao, piano, Jan. 20, 3 p.m., Jacobs Music, 2540 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville. \$15. Register (609) 434-0222.

Princeton Symphony Orchestra,

Youth's Magic Horn, Jan. 20, 4 p.m., Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall, Princeton University. Pre-concert talk 3 p.m. \$16-\$64. (609) 497-0020. (wv)

Nassau at Six, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, 6 p.m., Nassau Presbyterian Church, 61 Nassau Street, Princeton. Concert, free; dinner, \$5. (609) 924-0103.

NJ Opera Theater, Feb. 1, 3 p.m., Matthews Theater at McCarter, 91 University Place, Princeton. (609) 258-2787; www.mccarter.org. (wv)

Rigoletto, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m., McCarter Theatre, 91 University Place, Princeton. \$39-\$75. OperaNewJersey performance. (609) 258-2787; www.mccarter.org. (wv)

Princeton Symphony Orchestra, Broadway, Feb. 2, 8 p.m., Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall, Princeton University campus. \$16-\$64. (609) 497-0020; www.princeton.edu/richaud. (wv)

Enso String Quartet, Feb. 8-9, 8 p.m., Institute for Advanced Study and Princeton University, Wolfensohn Hall, Einstein Drive, Princeton. Register (609) 734-8175; www.ias.edu.

Harpisichord concert, Feb. 10, 4 p.m., Christ Congregation, 50 Walnut Lane, Princeton. \$15. (732) 599-0392.

Princeton Pro Musica/New Jersey Gay Men's Chorus, Feb. 17, 4 p.m., Princeton High School, 151 Moore Street. \$25-\$45. (609) 683-5122; www.princetonpromusica.org.

Philadelphia Sinfonia, Trenton War Memorial, Memorial Drive. Feb 17, 3 p.m., \$5-\$25. (609) 396-5522 ext. 2; www.trentonsymphony.org. (wv)

Gabriela Montero, piano, Feb. 23, 8 p.m., CAPPs, Mount-Burke Theater, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. \$20. (609) 490-7550; www.peddie.org/capps. (wv)

Henry Butler, Feb. 24, 7 p.m., Trenton War Memorial, Memorial Drive. \$25. (609) 984-8400; www.thewarmemorial.com. (wv)

Winter Concert, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m., Mount-Burke Theatre, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. (609) 490-7550; www.peddie.org/capps. (wv)

College of New Jersey

Choir and Women's Ensemble, Dec. 1, 8 p.m., Mayo Hall

Chorale, Dec. 2, 8 p.m., Mayo Hall

Wind Ensemble and Concert Band, Dec. 6, 8 p.m., Kendall Hall

Nora Sirbaugh, Mezzo-Soprano, Feb 9, 8 p.m., Mayo Hall

Faculty Composers Recital, Feb 28, 8 p.m., Mayo Hall

College of New Jersey, 2000 Pennington Avenue, Ewing. (800) 595-4849; www.tcnj.edu/~music/events.

Jazz/Blues/Folk

Daniella Cotton & Wenonah Brooks, Dec. 1, 8 p.m., 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton. \$20-\$25. (609) 586-0616; www.groundsfor sculpture.org.

Tim Reynolds, Dec. 6, 7 p.m., Trenton War Memorial, Memorial Drive. \$30. (609) 984-8400; www.thewarmemorial.com. (wv)

Natalia Zukerman & Susan Werner, Dec. 8; **Silly Love Songs**, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., Concerts at the Crossing, Unitarian Church at Washington Xing, 268 Washington Xing-Pennington Road, Titusville. \$20-\$23. (609) 406-1424; www.crossingconcerts.com. (wv)

Debra Cowan, Dec. 14; **Robbie O'Connell**, Jan. 18; **Mustard's Retreat**, Feb. 15, 8:15 p.m., Princeton Folk Music Society, Christ Congregation Church, 55 Walnut Lane. \$15. (609) 799-0944; www.princetonol.com/groups/pfms.

David 'Fathead' Newman Quartet, Feb. 29, 7 p.m., CAPPs, Mount-Burke Theater, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. \$20. (609) 490-7550; www.peddie.org/capps. (wv)

Westminster Choir College

Bell Choir, Dec. 1, 8 p.m.; Dec. 2, 3 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$15-\$20.

Readings and Carols, Dec. 7, 8 p.m., Princeton University Chapel. \$25-\$50.

Eric Allersee, Dec. 9, 3 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$5-\$10.

Hosanna, Hanukah, the Holidays, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$15.

Orchestra & Faculty, Dec. 15, 8 p.m., Princeton High School Auditorium, 151 Moore Street. \$10-\$15.

Trio Da Capo, Dec. 16, 3 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$5-\$10.

Chorus & Chamber Choir Carols, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$10-\$15.

Conservatory Faculty, Jan 13, 3 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$5-\$10.

Melissa Burton Anderson, cello, & Clipper Erickson, piano, Jan. 17, 12:15 p.m., Presbyterian Church, 61 Nassau Street, Princeton.

Actors Company Broadway Revue, Jan 20, 4 p.m., The Playhouse.

Choir, Jan 22, 8 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$10-\$15.

Nancy Froyland-Hoerl, soprano, Jan 27, 3 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$10-\$15.

Elem Eley, baritone, J.J. Penna, piano, Jan 30, 7:30 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$10-\$15.

Faculty Recital, Feb 2, 8 p.m., Playhouse. \$10-\$15.

17th Century Ensemble Music, Feb 7, 7:30 p.m., Rider Art Gallery, Bart Luedeke Center, 2083 Lawrenceville Road.

Women Flute Composers, Feb 10, 3 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$5-\$10.

Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra, Feb 10, 3 p.m., Gill Chapel, Rider University. \$5-\$10.

Phyllis Alpert Lehrer & Ena Bronstein Barton, Feb 13, 7:30 p.m., Bristol Chapel. \$10-\$15.

TriplePlay Winds, Feb 21, 12:15 p.m., Presbyterian Church, 61 Nassau Street, Princeton.

Orchestra, Youth Chorale, Feb 24, 3 p.m., Richardson Auditorium, Princeton University. \$10-\$15.

Westminster Choir College, Bristol Chapel, The Playhouse, 101 Walnut Street, Princeton. \$15-\$20. (609) 921-2663; www.rider.edu/arts.

Theatre

The Skin of Our Teeth, Nov 29-Dec. 1, 6-8, 8 p.m.; Dec. 8, 2 p.m., Theatre Intime, Hamilton Murray Theater, Princeton University campus. (609) 258-5155; www.theatreintime.org.

Playhouse Disney Live, Dec. 2, noon & 3 p.m., Sovereign Bank Arena. Hamilton Avenue, Route 129. \$16-\$41. (609) 656-3222; www.sovereignbankarena.com. (wv)

Declamation Contest, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., Mount-Burke Theatre, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. (609) 490-7550; www.peddie.org/capps. (wv)

Death and the Maiden, Dec. 7-8, 13-15, 8 p.m., Princeton University Theater & Dance Program, Matthews Acting Studio, 185 Nassau Street, Princeton. (609) 258-9220.

YouthStages Creative Drama Workshop (ages 3-5), Dec. 8, 1-2 p.m., Lawrence Library, 2751 Brunswick Pike. Register (609) 989-6921; www.youthstages.com. (wv)

Falcon Follies, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m., Mount-Burke Theatre, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. (609) 490-7550; www.peddie.org/capps. (wv)

Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen, Feb. 8-9, 14-16, 8 p.m., Princeton University Theater & Dance Program, Matthews Acting Studio, 185 Nassau Street, Princeton. (609) 258-9220.

Freshman One-Act Festival, Feb. 7-9, 8 p.m., Theatre Intime, Hamilton Murray Theater, Princeton University campus. (609) 258-5155; www.theatreintime.org.

Proof, Feb. 14, 7 p.m.; Feb. 15-16, 22-23, 8 p.m., Yvonne Theater, Rider University, 2083 Lawrenceville Road. \$4. (609) 921-2663; www.rider.edu.

The Secret Garden, Feb. 14-16, 8 p.m., Mount-Burke Theatre, Peddie School, Ward Avenue, Hightstown. (609) 490-7550; www.peddie.org/capps. (wv)

Macbeth, Feb. 21-23, 28, March 1, 8 p.m.; March 1, 2 p.m., Theatre Intime, Hamilton Murray Theater, Princeton University. (609) 258-1742.

The Constant Wife, Feb. 21-23, 28-29, March 1, 8 p.m.; March 2, 2 p.m., Don Evans Theater, Kendall Hall, College of New Jersey, 2000 Pennington Road, Ewing. \$6-\$12. (609) 882-5979; www.Shakespeare70.org. (wv)

Kelsey Theatre

Miracle on 34th Street, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 8 p.m.; Dec. 1, 8, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.; Dec. 2, 9, 2 p.m. \$10-\$12.

The Full Monty, Jan. 7-8, 2 p.m. \$16.

Elegies, Jan. 18-19, 8 p.m.; Jan. 20, 2 p.m. \$10-\$16.

Russian American Kids Circus, Jan. 26, 2 & 4 p.m.; Jan. 27, 2 p.m. \$12.

Driving Miss Daisy, Feb. 1-2, 8-9, 8

p.m.; Feb. 3, 10, 2 p.m. \$10-\$12.
My Favorite Year, Feb. 15-16, 22-23, 8 p.m.; Feb. 17, 24, 2 p.m. \$10-\$16.
Thoroughly Modern Millie, Feb. 29, Mar. 1, 7-8, 8 p.m.; Mar. 2, 9, 2 p.m. \$10-\$16.

Kelsey for Kids

'Twas the Night Before Christmas, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.; Dec. 15, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.; Dec. 16, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. \$8-\$10.

The Nutcracker, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.; Dec. 22, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. \$12.

Sideways Stories from Wayside School, Jan. 11, 7 p.m.; Jan. 12-13, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. \$8-\$10.

Funny Stuff Circus, Feb. 2, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. \$8-\$10.

Max & Ruby, Feb. 23, 2 & 4 p.m. \$8-\$10.

Kelsey Theatre at MCCC, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor. (609) 570-3333; www.kelseyatmccc.org.

Off-Broadstreet Theatre

Nobody's Perfect, Nov 9-Dec. 15.

Doubt, Jan. 4-Feb. 2

Johnny Guitar, Feb. 15-March 22

Off-Broadstreet Theater, 5 South Greenwood Avenue, Hopewell. Fri-Sat, 7:30 p.m.; Sun, 2:30 p.m. \$28. (609) 466-2766; www.off-broadstreet.com.

Passage Theatre

Urban Central, Dec. 13-14, 8 p.m., Dec. 15, 3 & 8 p.m. \$10.

Pa's Hat: Liberian Legacy, Jan. 24-26, 8 p.m., Jan. 27, 3 p.m., \$10.

Repairs: The Musical, Feb. 14-16, 8 p.m., Feb. 17, 3 p.m., \$15.

Passage Theatre, Mill Hill Playhouse, Front & Montgomery streets, Trenton. (609) 392-0766; www.passagetheatre.org.

PlayLAB Series

Signs of Life, Jan. 13, 3 p.m.

Blue/Orange, Jan. 27, 3 p.m.

Hamlet: Condensed, Altered, Rearranged; Shylock, Feb. 10, 3 p.m.

Princeton Rep Company/Princeton Rep Shakespeare Festival, Princeton Public Library, 65 Witherspoon Street. (609) 924-9529; www.princetonrep.org.

Tryouts/Opportunities

Volunteer readers, NJ Library for Blind & Handicapped, 2300 Stuyvesant Ave., Trenton. One hour per week. (609) 530-3258.

Singers Wanted, Dec. 15, 8 p.m., Concert, Handel's Messiah, The Greater Trenton Choral Society, Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 2220 Pennington Road, Ewing. Rehearsals on Mondays, 7:30 p.m. (609) 448-1775.

Artistic response to The Road Not Taken exhibition, ages k-12. Dec. 6 drop off art at Johnson Education Center, One Preservation Place, Princeton (off Rosedale Road). Will be exhibited Dec. 10-Jan. 10. (609) 924-4646, X 131; www.dr-greenway.org.

Mary Alice Quigley in memoriam

On September 21, 2007, New Jersey's historical community and Mercer County's Cultural and Heritage Commission have lost a good friend and invaluable historic resource with the death of former MCC&H Commissioner Mary Alice Quigley. She was 65.

Mary Alice, a lifelong resident and ardent advocate of Trenton, graduated from Cathedral High School. She earned a B.A. in history from Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey) and an M.A. in historical museum administration from SUNY, Cooperstown, NY.

Mary Alice taught briefly, but her great gift lay in preserving and working with primary sources—old ledgers, deeds, letters, and other documents or artifacts—to help bring history alive for children and adults alike. During her time working at the NJ State Archives and History Bureau she developed a successful program to do just that; and in more recent years was still documenting, preserving and utilizing Mercer County history as Archivist at the Pennington School.

Her dedication to the rich history of Trenton and Mercer County was also evident in her commitment to many of the region's historical sites and organizations. She was an active member, and past president, of the Old Barracks Association, and also served in several capacities as a Board officer and program director for the Trenton Historical Society.

For many years Mary Alice was a "voice of local history" as an appointed member of Mercer County's Cultural and Heritage Commission. She authored the Mercer County history used on the County website, and was an invaluable resource on local history for the Commission and County administration. She co-authored ***A Capital Place, The Story of Trenton***, with her husband, David Collier, and collaborated with others in compiling ***Historical Organizations in New Jersey: A Directory*** (1983) for the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Mary Alice was equally engaged in her family and community life. In addition to her husband David, a retired Mercer County Community College professor of history and geography, she leaves behind a son, William, a daughter, Victoria, and a strong community of friends at Sacred Heart Church in Trenton. All of us committed to preserving and celebrating the history of Mercer County and the State are indebted to Mary Alice for her vision, research, and commitment. She will be missed.

Inaugural History Regrant Awards Announced

County Executive Brian M. Hughes, the Board of Chosen Freeholders and the County's Cultural & Heritage Commission are pleased to introduce the County's inaugural History Regrant Program this year. In October, following application and a rigorous grant review process, a total of \$12,500 in grants for various history projects were announced, going to eight Mercer County organizations.

The History Regrant program is made possible through a General Operating Support Grant awarded to the Cultural & Heritage Commission from the NJ Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State. Those monies are re-granted to non-profit organizations based in Mercer County to support historical collections, sites, and programming that researches, promotes, preserves, and celebrates regional history through a competitive grant process. This marks the first year that the Cultural & Heritage Commission has received funding for the regrant program from the New Jersey Historical Commission.

This year's eight grant recipients are: the Delaware & Raritan Greenway Land Trust www.drgreenway.org; the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton; Friends & Historical Society of Washington Township, Inc.; the Historical Society of Princeton www.princetonhistory.org; Lawrence Township Public Schools www.ltps.org; The Contemporary; Trenton Historical Society www.trentonhistory.org; and the Trenton Museum Society www.Ellarsie.org. Organizations requesting

funding through Mercer County's History Regrant program have the option to applying for either General Operating or Special Projects funding. This first round of History Regrant awards are all in support of Special Projects initiatives. Funded initiatives include everything from website development and indexing of historical Vital Statistics, to a local oral history project and development of a preservation/use plan for one a historic building. Congratulations to these eight dedicated organizations.

Mercer County-based non-profit organizations (particularly historic sites, historical organizations, etc.) libraries, schools, and local government entities doing historical programming (especially with a focus on Mercer County and/or its communities) are eligible to apply for funding. Grants are awarded competitively after review by an independent peer panel and Commission members/staff. Grants funded must clearly demonstrate public benefit, responsible management, high quality, and historical relevance. For information about the Mercer County History Re-grants, contact the Division at (609) 989-6418 or tfagan@mercercounty.org.

Congratulations to the Trenton Downtown Association (TDA) who received a special award of recognition from The New Jersey Historical Commission at the Commission's November 17 Annual Conference. TDA was honored for its work in celebrating the historic battles of Trenton and Princeton through its popular Patriot's Week events.

A Place in Time Trenton's First Presbyterian Church

Trenton's First Presbyterian Church once dominated the East State Street neighborhood where it still stands. Today, surrounded by businesses and office buildings, this historical church can be easily overlooked by a casual by-passer.

The congregation, founded in 1712, is one of the oldest in the County. Their first church was built on this site in 1726. In 1804, the original stone building was leveled and a new brick church built. In 1839, church fathers again decided to expand and upgrade the church. The brick church was leveled and the beautiful Greek Revival church (the largest in NJ) seen today was built.

The congregation reportedly reviewed several plans and architects before selecting Nelson Hotchkiss (of Hotchkiss & Thompson in New Haven, CT) to design the church. This was an unusual choice, as most architectural commissions at the time were going to firms from New York City and

Philadelphia. The present church cost twenty thousand dollars to build.

Many historically important people are associated with the church. Buried in the small adjacent cemetery is Colonel Gottlieb Rall, commander of the Hessian troops stationed in Trenton's Old Barracks (killed in the December 1776 Battle of Trenton) and Rev. John Rosbrough (killed outside the Blazing Star Tavern, corner of State and Warren streets during the Second Battle of Trenton). The Marquis de Lafayette, Daniel Webster, and U.S. Presidents John Adams and James Monroe all attended services here; and the Rev. David Cowell (pastor, 1736-60) was a key figure in relocating the College of NJ (now Princeton University) from Newark to Princeton.

The Church is open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Archives are available by request, call (609) 396-1712 or email Old1712@aol.com.



Culture & HERITAGE NEWS

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

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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: runyon@mercercounty.org. If you feel that your event merits a longer story, please write, email or call (609) 989-6899.

Please refer to this chart for ADA accommodations codes.

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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 mrunyon@mercercounty.org.

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