



Going Places

Mercer County Culture & Heritage Happenings

Volume 2 | Number 1 | Winter 2023

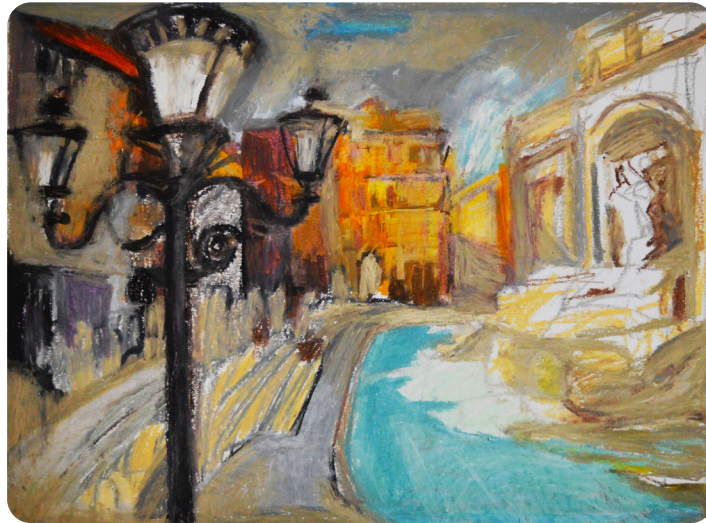


Artists unite for 'Off the Wall' holiday market fundraiser

For those who love to support the local economy and good causes when they shop for holiday gifts, West Windsor Arts presents its annual Off the Wall Holiday Market. The market highlights over 100 original and affordable artworks and hundreds of handcrafted items made by artisans including jewelry, accessories, ceramics, and one-of-a-kind items for the home.

Funds raised will support the construction of a new Cardiac Catheterization Lab at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Hamilton. By supporting this pop-up gallery, the community can invest in its health and well-being.

Artists donated work for this special fundraising project by taking on the challenge to create art with the theme of "Whoever your heart beats for, our hearts beat for you" (RWJBarnabas Health



Trevi Fountain, Italy, by artist Robert Hazzon.

Cardiac Care). One-hundred percent of the artist's portion of the sale will go to the Cardiac Care unit. This part of the Off the Wall Holiday Market opens on Sunday, Nov. 19 and will be available throughout the show, while art lasts.

West Windsor Arts welcomes visitors to Off the Wall on the following December dates: Dec. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18, 12:30 to 5:30 pm each day.

Private appointments and gallery tours available upon request by sending an email to info@westwindsorarts.org. All of the artwork can be viewed online where work can be purchased through a secure online payment system. Call (609) 716-1931 or visit www.westwindsorarts.org for more information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check out the many things to see and do in Mercer County.

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE

A letter from Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes.

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MERCER'S HISTORY

Learn about local people and places.

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OPPORTUNITIES

For artists, historians, and related organizations.

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Celebrate Hanukkah with Rabbi Adler

Join a Hanukkah celebration with Rabbi Adler at the Lawrence Headquarters Branch of the Mercer County Library System, 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville, on Thursday, Dec. 14 from 6 - 7 p.m. Rabbi Benjamin Adler has been the spiritual leader of Adath Israel Congregation

in Lawrenceville since 2014. He is a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City, where he earned a master's degree in Jewish Philosophy, and also studied at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. All are welcome to join Rabbi Adler to celebrate

Hanukkah, which is an eight-day Jewish festival that commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem after its desecration by the Seleucid Empire in the second century BCE. Crafts will be provided especially for children by Librarian Molly. For more information,



Rabbi Benjamin Adler call (609) 883-8292 or visit mcl.org.

Patriots Week returns to the City of Trenton

Every year, between Dec. 26 and 31, New Jersey's Capital City presents Patriots Week, a unique opportunity for residents and tourists to explore historic sites and experience those pivotal days in our nation's history — events that changed the world.

This year, the City of Trenton, Trenton Downtown Association (TDA), and the Old Barracks

Museum are partnering with local groups to bring history to life for individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Through the immersive experience that is Patriots Week, the city recognizes Trenton's unique and pivotal role in the American Revolution.

Last year, many events were canceled due to the COVID pandemic. For 2023, Patriots Week

rebounds with a full menu of favorite events such as the Battle of Trenton Re-enactment in Mill Hill Park, and the Colonial Ball. This year will also feature a Pub Crawl, lectures, historic tours, a "Revolutionary Conversation" living museum, Hogmanay and lots more.

With dozens of events taking place during the week, the partnering organizations invite families and history aficionados to spend a few days in Central New Jersey this December. For more information about Patriots Week 2023, visit www.barracks.org/patriots-week.html



Battles of Trenton reenactment on Patriots Week

Capital Singers of Trenton present Winter Songs XVII: In December

Capital Singers of Trenton, under the direction of Artistic Director and Conductor Vinroy D. Brown, Jr., will present *In December* on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m. The concert will take place at Sacred Heart Church, 343 South Broad Street in Trenton. Works will include Oratorio de Noel by Camille Saint Saens, accompanied by a string quartet, Bogoroditse Devo by Sergei Rachmaninoff, Seven Principles by Honey in the Rock, Light One Candle by Peter, Paul and Mary, and other repertoire. For more information about *In December*, call Capital Singers of Trenton at (609) 434-2781 or visit www.capitalsingers.org.

Voices Chorale NJ presents Joyful Reflections

On Saturday, Dec. 9, join Voices Chorale NJ for a festive concert featuring the heartfelt, rarely performed Christmas Oratorio by Camille Saint-Saëns and spirited arrangements of holiday favorite classics including, Joy to the World, There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth, Wassail, and joyful Hanukkah favorites.

Led by Artistic Director Dr. David A. McConnell, the chorale continues its tradition of present-

ing engaging, challenging, and diverse music in this winter concert. Dr. Akiko Hosaki will accompany the choir on piano and organ. Assistant Conductor Emily DeMerchant will conduct two pieces, and soloists will include current choral scholars.

Celebrate this holiday season with *Joyful Reflections*. The show starts at 4 p.m. at Trinity Church, located at 33 Mercer Street in Princeton. General Admission tickets cost \$20 online and



Voices Chorale NJ

will be \$25 at the door day-of. Students and children pay \$10 online and \$15 day-of. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.voiceschoralenj.org.

Expiience Washington's landing in New Jersey

The Washington Crossing Park Association (WCPA), NJ State Park historians, and the First Rhode Island Regiment, will give the public an opportunity to experience both the Crossing and the March to Trenton through the eyes of the men and women who lived it. Thanks to the First Rhode Island, also known as the "Black Regiment," the event, taking place on Dec. 10 from 11 a.m - 3:30 p.m. at the park, will feature the tales of our nation's Black patriots whose stories, too often, are not told. This will happen in sync with Washington Crossing Historic Park of Pennsylvania's "First Crossing" rehearsal event. Reenactors who crossed with Washington during the rehearsal will be met by Ronald Rinaldi, portraying General Greene, and Antoine Watts of the First Rhode Island portraying a colonial officer, who will lead many of them to the Overlook. The encampment at the Overlook will be anchored by members of the First Rhode Island Regiment, who made history as the first African American colonial reenacting unit hosting an event in a NJ State Park.



The First Rhode Island Regiment

Dear Friends,

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

In this edition of our Culture & Heritage newsletter, you'll find a rich assortment of cultural events, displays, tours and crafts happening across the County this winter. Among them are the festive holiday concert "Joyful Reflections," with Voices Chorale NJ at Trinity Church, Princeton; the Capital Singers of Trenton, under the direction of Artistic Director Vinroy D. Brown, presenting "In December" at Sacred Heart Church; and a presentation on the First Rhode Island Regiment, also known as the Black Regiment, featuring tales of the nation's Black patriots whose stories are often not told.

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

Sincerely,



Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

Members of the First Rhode Island will portray the roles of Black soldiers, sailors, artillerymen, marines and musicians. They will be supported by members from the Northampton County Militia, Lamb's Artillery, and the New Jersey 3rd Regiment (New Jersey Greys). For more information about Washington's landing in NJ, call (609)738-0765 or visit wcpa-nj.com/landing.

2023 Rise Holiday Toy Drive

Fill the exact holiday gift wish of a child or struggling family. That single, specially chosen gift lets them know that someone in the community is thinking of them.

In 2022, community members provided over 1249 gifts to local children. For our local families in need often there isn't enough money to spend on gifts. With your support, our community's children will be able to celebrate a fulfilling and memorable holiday in 2023.

Help RISE Community Action Service Center provide holiday gifts for children in need. Presents can be dropped off between Dec. 4-7, 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church located at 187 Stockton St, Hightstown. Gift card donations can also be sent to the Rise Holiday Toy Drive at P.O. Box 88, Hightstown. For more information, visit njrise.org/risetoydrive

Calendar of Events¹

Art Happenings

Dec. 6, 6 - 7:30 p.m. ART OF Decking the Halls: Wreath Making with Moonshot Farm, The Arts Council of Princeton, 102 Witherspoon St, Princeton. Back by popular demand! Rebecca Kutzer-Rice, owner of Moonshot Farm - a specialty cut flower farm in East Windsor, will guide as you create the perfect holiday wreath to help kick off the season. You will quickly learn why Moonshot classes and events are a community favorite. *All wreath-making materials are completely biodegradable. \$100, (609) 924-8777 / info@artscouncilofprinceton.org / artscouncilofprinceton.org

Dec. 9 - 21, Arts Council of Princeton Annual Member Show, Arts Council of Princeton's Taplin Gallery, 102 Witherspoon St, Princeton. One of the perks of being a member of the Arts Council is eligibility for our Annual Member Show! Submit your work before December 6 to be a part of the action! We'll kick off with an opening reception (Dec. 16, 3 - 5 p.m.) that is free and open to all. (609) 924-8777 / info@artscouncilofprinceton.org / artscouncilofprinceton.org.

Concerts

Dec. 6, 6 p.m. Mercer County Community College Jazz Band Free Winter Concert, Quakerbridge Mall, 3320 US-1, Lawrenceville. mccc.edu/music

Dec. 10, 6 p.m. Stretto Youth Chamber Orchestra's Winter Concert, Trinity Cathedral, 801 W. State St, Trenton, Free. stretto-youthchamber@gmail.com / stretto-youthchamberorchestra.org

Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m., Mercer County Community College Faculty Scholarship Concert, Kelsey Theatre, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333 / kelsey.mccc.

Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. Mercer County Community College Jazz Band Small Group Performances, Kelsey Theatre, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333 / kelsey.mccc.]

Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m. Mercer County Community College Jazz

Band Winter Concert, Kelsey Theatre, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor. The MCCC Jazz Band, directed by Scott Hornick, features MCCC students, faculty, and special guests, and will present a varied program that includes the works of Cedar Walton, Herbie Hancock, Bart Howard, Charles Trenet, Arthur Johnston, Stevie Wonder, Dee Lite, The B-52's and more. All selections feature standout improvisations by MCCC jazz students. (609) 570-3333 / kelsey.mccc.

Dec. 21, 12:30 p.m., Stretto Youth Chamber Orchestra Concert, Capital Health Regional Medical Center, 750 Brunswick Ave, Trenton. stretto-youthchamber@gmail.com / stretto-youthchamberorchestra.org

Dec. 21, 3 p.m. Stretto Youth Chamber Orchestra Concert, Capital Health Medical Center - Hopewell, 1 Capital Way, Pennington. stretto-youthchamber@gmail.com / stretto-youthchamberorchestra.org

Jan. 28, 3 p.m. Brass Quartet: Bach to Broadway and Beyond, Capital Philharmonic of New Jersey (CPNJ), St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 335 Adeline St., Trenton. Led by CPNJ and Philly POPS trumpeter, Bob Gravener, explore music from Bach to Broadway and beyond with a brass quartet, featuring selections from Gabrieli and Bach, to selections from The Man of La Mancha and Caruso! \$25 General Admission; \$10 Students. (800) 514-3849 / etix.com

Jan. 28, 4 p.m. Altamura Legacy Concert: Mozart's Birthday Marathon, Sanford Davis Room of Princeton United Methodist Church, 7 Vandeventer Avenue, Princeton, (609) 924-2613 / legacyartsinternational.org

Exhibits

Nov. 28 - Dec. 7, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., When Pages Breathe: Immersive Elocution of Literature Exhibition, Lewis Center for the Arts - Princeton University, 122 Alexander St, Princeton. Lecturer in Theater Chesney Snow and students in his fall course, "The Oral Interpreta-

tion of Toni and William," present a multimedia oral interpretation of literature installation that examines speech as an aspect of fine art through the exploration of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, as well as the literary canons of iconic American writer Toni Morrison and English playwright and poet William Shakespeare. (609) 258-5262 / LewisCenter@princeton.edu / arts.princeton.edu.

Dec. 9 - Jan. 6, 10X10 Red Dot Fundraising Exhibition, Artworks, 19 Everett Alley, Trenton. The Red Dot shows support of Community Arts in Trenton. Over 100 Trenton area artists create art on a 10"x10" canvas. The works are dynamic, diverse and all created specifically for Artworks. Experienced and novice artists create works in oil, acrylic, mixed media, photography, pastel, watercolor and more. All works sell for \$100.00. There will be a 50/50 split on proceeds with the artist. (Opening reception and sales will take place on Dec. 9 from 6 - 9 p.m.). (609) 394-9436 / info@artworkstrenton.org

Fairs & Festivals

Feb. 17, 1 - 5 p.m., Red, White & Brew Fest, CURE Insurance Arena, 81 Hamilton Ave, Trenton. CURE celebrates our founding fathers' presidents' weekend 2024 with a patriotic sampling event featuring over 50 styles from featured craft breweries, wineries, and spirits at the inaugural Red, White & Brew Fest! You can party with good old George Washington himself and quench your thirst for freedom with unlimited samples, live music from Nine Deez Nite, interactive games, contests, and more! General Admission, \$48; VIP, \$80. red-whiteandbrewnj.com

Film/Movie

Dec. 2, 10 a.m. The Grinch, Princeton Garden Theatre, 160 Nassau St., Princeton, (609) 279-1999 / princeton-gardentheatre.org. \$5 Adults & Kids; Free to Members

Dec. 6, 2 - 3:55 p.m., Best of 2023 Film Screening: Are You There God? It's Me, Mar-

garet (2023), Mercer County Library System - Lawrence Headquarters Branch, 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville. A plucky eleven-year-old named Margaret finds her life on the cusp of change as her family uproots from the heart of the city to a quiet New Jersey suburban neighborhood. Margaret must then navigate the ups and downs of adolescence, including her new friends, new feelings, and, ultimately, a new sense of self. Based on the novel of the same name by Judy Blume. PG-13. (609) 883-8292 / mcl.org

Dec. 6, 7 p.m. Everyone I Know is Sick, 160 Nassau St., Princeton, (609) 279-1999 / princeton-gardentheatre.org. Free Screening

Dec. 9, 10 a.m. The Polar Express, Princeton Garden Theatre, 160 Nassau St., Princeton, (609) 279-1999 / princeton-gardentheatre.org. \$5 Adults & Kids; Free to Members

Dec. 10, 2 p.m. Paul Robeson in "The Proud Valley" (1940), St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 140 N. Warren St., Trenton. Robeson's rarely-seen film "The Proud Valley" (1940) will be shown following an interpretive talk about his life, with original songs by Harry Jackendoff, performed by Pastor Rupert Hall of Turning Point Methodist Church, Trenton and Philadelphia jazz pianist Dave Posmontier. Originally staged as "Paul's Song" in Camden, May 2, 1991. (609) 392-8086 / stmichaelstrenton.org

Dec. 20, 4 p.m. It's a Wonderful Life, Princeton Garden Theatre, 160 Nassau St., Princeton, (609) 279-1999, / princeton-gardentheatre.org. \$13.50 General Admission; \$11 for Seniors, Military and PU Staff/Faculty; \$10 for Students; \$7.50 for Members

Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m. Christmas Film Screening: Die Hard (1988), Mercer County Library System - Lawrence Headquarters Branch, 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville. On Christmas Eve, NYC

1. Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission cannot be responsible for errors or omissions. Call ahead to confirm times and prices. Deadline of February 9, 2024 for the March, April and May 2024 Spring Newsletter.

cop John McClane fights terrorists in an L.A. high-rise in a bid to rescue his estranged wife, who happens to be one of the hostages. Meanwhile, the terrorists attempt to steal \$600 million from a high-tech safe. Rated-R. (609) 883-8292 / mcl.org

Dec. 23, 10 a.m. Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Princeton Garden Theatre, 160 Nassau St., Princeton, (609) 279-1999 / princetongardentheatre.org. \$5 Adults & Kids; Free to Members

Dec. 23, 2:30 p.m. Special Screening: Elf (2003), Mercer County Library System - Ewing Branch, 61 Scotch Road, Ewing. Hot chocolate and holiday treats will be provided! For adults ages 18 and up. Rated-PG. Registration Required. (609) 882-3148 / ewprogs@mcl.org / mcl.org

Historic Activities

Dec. 10, 1 p.m. The Life and Times of William Trent, Merchant of Inverness: Father of William Trent of Trent's Town in the Colony of New Jersey, Virtual Event, William Trent House Association. The Trent House Association will host a virtual lecture from Scotland. Dr. James Mackay will share details of the life of the merchant William Trent during the 1600s and his family, which included his son for whom the city of Trenton is named. tinyurl.com/TrentHouseTalkDec10

Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m. Tempest in a Tea Pot: The Boston Tea Party, Virtual Program, Sponsored by the Friends of the West Windsor Library. Join us for a talk to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. That pivotal event, taking place Griffin's Wharf in Boston, was a response to the 1773 Tea Act, the latest of a series of parliamentary directives stretching back to the 1765 Stamp Act. But the Tea Act was never intended to be so provocative. University of Maryland historian Richard Bell explores the 1773 Boston Tea Party from both local and global perspectives. He argues that the Tea Party marks the first major protest in America against corporate greed and the effects of globalization. Registration required to receive link. mcl.org

Dec. 23, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Hessian Encampment Reenactment, Washington Crossing Park Association, P.O.Box 83, Titusville. The Park will host a Hessian encampment as they reenact a local skirmish that took place in the days before the Crossing. At 2 p.m. that day Park historian Clay Craighead will lecture on the Crossing. Free. (609) 738-0765 / wcpa-nj.com

Dec. 25, 12 - 3 p.m. Christmas Day Crossing, Washington Crossing Park Association, Nelson House, River Dr, Titusville. Celebrate the "Christmas Day Crossing Reenactment," arranged by the Washington Crossing Historic Park of PA, as we commemorate the 243rd anniversary of General George Washington's famous Christmas night crossing of the Delaware. A history narration, hot cider and donuts will be on hand at The Nelson House. An annual tradition not to be missed. Free. (609) 737-0623 / wcpa-nj.org

Dec. 28, 5:30 p.m. Christmas Movie Special: The Nativity Story (2006), Mercer County Library System - Lawrence Headquarters Branch, 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville. In this adaptation of the biblical tale, Mary and Joseph prepare for the birth of Jesus as they trek from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Based on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, this was the first feature film to premiere at the Vatican. Rated-PG. (609) 883-8292 / mcl.org

Jan. 7, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Experience The Battle of Princeton 247th Anniversary, Princeton Battlefield State Park, 500 Mercer Street, Princeton. Join The Princeton Battlefield Society for a reenactment of the January 3, 1777 Battle of Princeton followed by a memorial wreath-laying ceremony at the Colonnade and Memorial Grove at the Princeton Battlefield. (609) 232-8540 / pbs1777.org

Historical Tours

Dec. 2, 12 - 5 p.m. 2023 Mill Hill Holiday House Tour; Mill Hill House & Garden Tours, starting at Artworks, 19 Everett Alley, Trenton. The House Tour started 56 years ago, is Mill Hill's signature event and a Trenton tradition. Homes in the neigh-

borhood will display special decorations through their front windows and/or on their exteriors, with some of the homeowners hosting visitors with holiday music, refreshments, and insightful conversation on their stoops and sidewalks. With the variety of home sizes, ages, and architectural styles, Mill Hill's nineteenth-century streetscape is one of the most interesting between New York and Philadelphia. Tickets will be available for advance sale and can also be purchased the day of at Artworks. \$20. trenton-downtown.com

Dec. 3, Jan. 7, & Feb. 4, 2-4 p.m. Free Guided House Tour of the Benjamin Temple House, Ewing Township Historic Preservation Society. 27 Federal City Road, Ewing. (609) 883-2455 / ethps.org

Holiday/Heritage

Dec. 4 & 18, 6 p.m.; Dec. 7 & 21, 3 p.m. Holiday Gift Wrapping Station, Mercer County Library System - Ewing Branch, 61 Scotch Rd, Ewing. Bring in your gifts to wrap at our holiday wrap station! All supplies will be provided, including wrapping paper, bows, ribbons, tags and more! For adults and teens (14+). (609) 882-3148 / ewprogs@mcl.org / mcl.org

Dec. 9-10, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Trenton Punk Rock Flea Market: Wreck The Halls!, CURE Insurance Arena, 81 Hamilton Ave, Trenton. The Punk Rock Flea Market returns for their annual holiday "Wreck The Halls" festival featuring more than 500 unique vendors over two days, food trucks, special guests and so much more. \$15 a day; \$10 after 1 p.m. on Sunday. trentonprfm.com/dec2023

Dec. 13, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Holiday Paper Quilling Workshop, Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton. Inspired by the beautiful paper decorations adorning Morven's Festival of Trees, join teaching artist and founder of Hummingbird Arts April Zay as she leads the class in creating unique festive designs and holiday cards. Your ticket includes access to the museum and the Festival of Trees from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Explore and gain inspiration for your paper quilling artwork prior to the class. The workshop will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the museum's Stockton Education Center. \$20

General Admission, \$10 Members, Registration Required, (609) 924.8144 / morven.org

Dec. 21, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Cook Talks: Holiday Cookie Decorating, Mercer County Library System - Lawrence Headquarters Branch, 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville. Join award-winning cookie decorator, Food Network competitor, and owner of Four Peas and a Dog, Leslie Marchio, as she shows us how to turn delicious treats into beautiful works of art. You will be guided in a fun, spirited exploration of icing techniques that will amaze your friends and family. This program is part of a special Holiday Entertaining series at the Lawrence Headquarters Branch of the MCLS. (609) 883-8292 / mcl.org

Howell Farm

Dec. 2, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Christmas on the Farm, Howell Living History Farm, 70 Woodens Ln, Hopewell Township. Santa is coming to Howell Farm... not in a sleigh, but on a steam tractor! Visit Howell Farm this Saturday for Christmas crafts, live music, farm animal visits, and an opportunity to stroll through a decorated historic farmhouse - before meeting Santa when he arrives at 12:30 p.m. (609)737-3299 / howell-farm.org

Performances

Dec. 7, 6 p.m. Fall Session Show; Trenton Circus Squad, 675 S. Clinton Ave (Next to the Roebling Market). Join us for an evening of circus magic and talent at our end-of-season performance! Come support these amazing young performers as they showcase the circus skills they've been working hard to master all season! It's a perfect date night for the whole family. (609) 984-8599 / trentoncircussquad.org

Theater

Kelsey Theatre
Dec. 9, 8 p.m. A Very Kelsey Christmas Cabaret, Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333 / kelsey.mccc.edu . \$22/20

Dec. 16, 8 p.m. White Christmas Sing-Along, Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd,

West Windsor, (609) 570-3333.
\$22/20

Jan. 5, 8 p.m.; Jan. 6, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.; Jan. 7, 2 p.m. Half Moon, Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333 / kelsey.mccc.edu. \$22/20

Jan. 19, 8 p.m.; Jan. 20, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.; Jan. 21, 2 p.m. Into the Woods, Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333 / kelsey.mccc.edu. \$26/24

Jan. 26 & Feb. 2, 8 p.m.; Jan. 27 & Feb. 3, 8 p.m.; Jan. 28 & Feb. 4, 2 p.m. All My Sons, Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333 / kelsey.mccc.edu. \$22/20

Feb. 9, 8 p.m.; Feb. 10 & 11, 2 p.m. Love Song for Miss Lydia, Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333 / kelsey.mccc.edu. \$22/20

Feb. 23 & 24, 8 p.m.; Feb. 25, 2 p.m. The Ladies of Rock, Kelsey Theatre, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, (609) 570-3333 / kelsey.mccc.edu. \$30

McCarter Theatre Center Dec. 1 - 3, Princeton Dance Festival, The McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, Berling Theater Venue, (609) 258-2787 / McCarter.org. \$12

Dec. 6 - 24, A Christmas Carol, The McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, Mattews Theater Venue, (609) 258-2787 / McCarter.org. \$35 - \$65

Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged), The McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, Berling Theater Venue, (609) 258-2787 / McCarter.org. \$25 - \$65

Dec. 16, 7 p.m., Choir! Choir! Choir! Presents "Un-Silent Night": An EPIC Holiday Sing-Along!, The McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, Berling Theater Venue, (609) 258-2787 / McCarter.org. \$25 - \$45

Jan. 20, 11 a.m. & 3 p.m., The

Laurie Berkner Band - The Greatest Hits Concert, The McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, Mattews Theater Venue, (609) 258-2787 / McCarter.org. \$18 - \$41

Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m., Blue Note Records 85th Anniversary Celebration, The McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, Mattews Theater Venue, (609) 258-2787 / McCarter.org. \$25 - \$65

Jan. 26, 8 p.m., Kaki King: Modern Yesterdays, The McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, Berling Theater Venue, (609) 258-2787 / McCarter.org. \$25 - \$45

Jan. 27, 8 p.m., Mark Morris Dance Group, The McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, Mattews Theater Venue, (609) 258-2787 / McCarter.org. \$25 - \$80

Feb. 2, 8 p.m., CelloGayageum: Lunar New Year Celebration, The McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, Berling Theater Venue, (609) 258-2787 / McCarter.org. \$25 - \$45

Feb. 3, 8 p.m., Sarah Jarosz: Polaroid Lovers Tour, The McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, Berling Theater Venue, (609) 258-2787 / McCarter.org.

Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m., Ayodele Casel: Chasing Magic, The McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, Mattews Theater Venue, (609) 258-2787 / McCarter.org. \$25 - \$65

Feb. 9, 8 p.m., American Patchwork Quartet, The McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, Mattews Theater Venue, (609) 258-2787 / McCarter.org. \$25 - \$55

Feb. 11, 1 p.m., National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, The McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, Mattews Theater Venue, (609) 258-2787 / McCarter.org. \$60 - \$90

Feb. 16, 8 p.m., The Legendary Ingramettes - The "First Family of Gospel", The McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton, Berling Theater Venue, (609) 258-2787 / McCarter.org. \$25 - \$45

Other

Dec. 8 & 9, 8 p.m.; Dec. 10, 2 p.m., Gaucho: A New Musical, Wallace Theater, Lewis Arts complex, 122 Alexander St, Princeton. In this new musical set in nineteenth-century Argentina, the gaucho community of San Antonio de Areco faces growing threats to its traditional way of life from large landowners' newest technology—barbed wire fencing. With horseback riding and storytelling buffeting under the pressure of progress, a young gaucho named Mateo struggles to break free from his family's dying way of life to become a writer. Free, but ticket required. (609) 258-1500 / lewiscenter@princeton.edu.

Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 9, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Staged reading of Christmastown, a new musical by Sydney Hwang '24, Donald G. Drapkin Studio, Lewis Arts complex, 122 Alexander St., Princeton. In the holly and jolly North Pole town of Christmastown, Mrs. Claus is in charge of making sure that Christmas operations run smoothly. Christmastown is a place where everything is perfect, and nobody ever wants to leave... until now. Mrs. Claus's daughter Clara starts to dream about moving to California, and Christmastown is thrown upside down. With music inspired by carols, jazz, pop, and more, Christmastown is about family, friends, love, and the true meaning of Christmas. Staged reading of this new musical with book, music, and lyrics by Princeton senior Sydney Hwang. Free, but ticket required. (609) 258-1500 / lewiscenter@princeton.edu.

Workshops/Groups

Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m. Let's Make Some Treble Adult Singing Class, Mercer County Library System - Robbinsville Branch, 42 Robbinsville-Allentown Rd. Come learn about proper vocal technique through a variety of vocal warm-ups, team building activities, and songs from the Justice Choir Songbook that highlight justice, equity and peace. No experience necessary! Presented by Rachel Siegel, owner of Acoustix Music Studio. Registration required. (609) 259-2150 / mcl.org

Dec. 9, 2 - 4:30 p.m. Poetry Reading Group, Mercer County Library System - West Windsor Branch, 333 North Post Rd,

Opportunities

Call for Artists

- Mercer County Cass Street Prison Mural Project (Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage) - **Deadline: December 8, callforentry.org**
- Manifesting Beloved Community (Art Against Racism and West Windsor Arts Council) - **Deadline: December 5, artagainstracism.org**
- Folk & Traditional Arts Project (FTAP) Grant Program (New Jersey State Council on the Arts) Notice of Intent to Apply Deadline: December 6, 12 p.m. (609) 292-4495 / kim.nguyen@sos.nj.gov

Princeton Junction. Come read, share, and discuss the best in classic and contemporary poetry! We look at four pages of poetry by a celebrated poet, then read each poem aloud and discuss it as a group. Poems are provided to everyone who attends. The goal is to learn about and appreciate poetry in a way that brings great poems to life. Heartily welcoming new members! (609) 799-0462 / mcl.org

Dec. 28, 2 p.m. Adult Fiction Book Club: The Reckless Oath We Made, Mercer County Library System - Twin Rivers Branch, 276 Abbington Drive, East Windsor. The Reckless Oath We Made by Bryn Greenwood: "Zee has a long list of worries: never-ending bills; her beautiful, gullible sister; her five-year-old nephew; her housebound mother; and her drug-dealing boss. Zee may not be a princess, but Gentry is an actual knight, complete with sword, armor, and a code of honor. Two years ago, the voices he hears called him to be Zee's champion. He's barely spoken to her since, but he has kept watch, ready to come to her aid. When an abduction tears Zee's family apart, she turns to the last person she ever imagined—Gentry—and sets in motion a chain of events that will not only change both of their lives, but bind them to one another forever."Registration Required, (609) 443-1880 / mcl.org

Film screening to raise AIDS and disability awareness

On the anniversary of Day With(out) Art, a day when cultural organizations raise awareness of HIV and AIDS, remember people who have died, and inspire positive action, the Princeton Garden Theatre and Princeton University Art Museum invite you to a screening of *Everyone I Know Is Sick*. This program of six videos was commissioned by Visual AIDS to generate connections between HIV and other forms of illness and disability. The screening will be introduced by Art Museum Director James Steward.

This free screening will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. and will be open to the public. Inspired by a statement from Cyrée Jarelle Johnson in the book *Black Futures*, edited by Jenna Wortham and Kimberly Drew, *Everyone I Know Is Sick* examines how our society excludes disabled and sick people by upholding a false dichotomy of health and sickness. Inviting us to understand disability as a common experience rather than an exception to the norm, the program highlights a range of



Image from Hiura Fernandes and Lili Nascimento's video 'That Child with AIDS', which tells the story of Brazilian advocate and artist Lili Nascimento, who was born with HIV in 1990. This video is one of six to be showcased.

experiences spanning with multiple ongoing HIV, COVID-19, mental pandemics. health, and aging. The For more information commissioned artists about this screening, call foreground the knowledge Princeton Garden Theatre and expertise of disabled at (609) 279-1999 or visit and sick people in a princetonorgandentheatre. world still grappling org

A Place in Time: The Carver Center

The Carver Center, located at 40 Fowler Street in Trenton, has served as a meeting place for a variety of social and community organizations since its construction. The Sunlight Elks Lodge, a Black fraternal organization, met in a house at this location as early as 1913. A decade later, they built an auditorium at the rear of the site, and in 1927, they began construction of the main building. Both the auditorium and the main building were designed by prominent Trenton architect J. Osborne Hunt. The property, named after George Washington Carver, the African-American agricultural

scientist and inventor, was given to the Trenton YMCA in 1944 to replace its Community Branch, which had been established for Black residents in 1938 on Spring Street. The Carver Center was a social center for the community from the time of its construction, hosting nationally known performers like Cab Calloway, Ella Fitzgerald, and Fats Walker, and also served as a meeting place for organizations including the State Conference of the NAACP and the New Jersey Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. The latter organization, founded in Trenton in 1915, purchased the property in 1975. In 1981, the two-story,



The Carver Center, 1956

colonial revival-style brick building was renamed The Carver Youth and Family Center. And just a few years ago, in 2021, the city purchased the property. As of July 7, 2022, the Carver Center holds a spot on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by the United States Department of Interior. A plaque establishing its importance to Mercer County's history remains outside the building's front entrance. (Source: Trenton Historical Society).



**The Mercer County
Cultural & Heritage Commission**

640 South Broad Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08650

This newsletter is available in large print. To request a copy, please call (609) 989-6418.

Please refer to individual organizations for ADA accommodations.

To have your events listed in our newsletter and online calendar, please write or email the following information: type of event, sponsor, location with street address and municipality, fees, phone number for public inquiries, a phone number for the staff to contact for questions, a website and/or email address, funding credit and ADA compliance. Please mail to: Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage, Box 8068, 640 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08650, or email to: c&hnewsletter@mercercounty.org. If you feel your event merits a longer story, please write, email or call (609) 989-6418.

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