

# ArtsMatters

SHOWCASING THE ARTS IN THE MORRIS AREA



2014-2015



## 23rd First Night<sup>®</sup> overflows with top talents

Clockwise from top left: Conductor Leon Hyman with the New Jersey Festival Orchestra; Harmonium Choral Society; The Frank Vignola Duo (Vinny Raniolo, Frank Vignola); Bucky Pizzarelli (photo by John Marelli); Redhawk Native American dancer; Music From China Duo – Sun Li on *pipa* and Wang Gouwei on *erhu*; Chinese Theatreworks hand puppets; Illusionist Anthony Salazar and assistant.

December 31st will mark the 23rd year for New Jersey's biggest and brightest New Year's Eve family-friendly, alcohol-free celebration of the arts – with over 200 artists, 90 events in 24+ venues – representing dance, theatre, music, world cultures, visual arts and children's events. For all 23 years, Morris Arts has served as First Night's artistic programmer, securing topflight talents who attract thousands of people from throughout the state and beyond. Once again, nearly 2/3 of the program features new artists (or artists returning after several years), many of whom have performed at top venues (the White House, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Madison Square Garden), won international recognition, performed on national radio/TV, in major films and/or collaborated with superstars of performing arts. On that night, for a remarkably affordable price (\$17.50-\$25!), one can experience everything from classic rock 'n roll to Tuvan-style Throat Singing!

On the jazz/rock front, you can hear note-perfect classic 60's rock from The Beatles to the Beach Boys with **The British Invasion Tribute** band (which opened for Ringo Starr) or the new country rock with the **Tequila Rose Band**. Of course, you don't want to miss jazz guitar legends (the fabulous **Frank Vignola & Vinny Raniolo**, with their special guest **Bucky Pizzarelli**), not to mention our own sizzling jazz pianist, **Rio Clemente**, the "Bishop of Jazz."

On the blues, bluegrass and blends front, be sure to catch **Matuto's** unique Louisiana bluegrass/Brazilian mix, groove with the gutsy **Cobra Brothers** (classic blues) and hot picking, rockin' honk-tonk, roots, country and Western swing of the **Silk City/Reckon So Mashup** with ace fiddler **Kenny Kosek** (who's played with Willie Nelson, James Taylor and others).

Select ensembles such as **Harmonium, The NJ Festival Orchestra, Solid Brass Lite**, along with soloists like organist **Gordon Turk**, marimba master **Greg Giannascoli**, and award-winning piano virtuoso **Svetlana Smolina** will provide outstanding classical music at this year's First Night.

Do world cultures intrigue you? **Sample Chinese Theatre Works'** hand puppet show, learn tribal dances from around the country with **Redhawk Native American** dancers, or take an aural tour of China with **Music from China's** exotic *erhu* (fiddle) and *pipa* (lute) performances. The **Shubanjali** dancers, in jeweled costumes, will perform classical and folk dances of India, while fiery songstress **Michela Musolino** will share passionate songs of Sicily and South Italy. If you love Eastern European, Balkan and Klezmer music, don't miss the amazing music of **The**

(continued on page 3)





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## 5th Annual Pumpkin Illumination brings record crowds and "Light Mask Parade"



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Nearly 1,000 people joined Morris Arts at the Vail Mansion for our 5th annual Pumpkin Illumination. With great weather, people shared their pumpkin carving talents, participated in art making activities and in Morristown's first lighted mask parade, showcasing the inspired mask creations of artist Dan Fenelon. Madison's Arts and Culture Alliance (with support from Morris Arts) also hosted a Pumpkin Illumination event on Friday October 24th - at the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts.

This year's event featured two school residencies (Madison, Morristown) led by artist Dan Fenelon. As part of their work with him, students helped to decorate his intricately designed masks which were then used in the light parade at the events.

Here are some photos from Pumpkin Illumination in Morristown on Sunday, October 26, 2014:

- 1.) Overview of event; 2.) Masks by Dan Fenelon; 3.) Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle; 4.) the Budd and Donnell families;
- 5.) another view of the Light/ Mask Parade; 6.) Who says history is dull? Pat Sanftner & colleague ham it up; 7.) Morristown Mayor Tim Dougherty with Morris Arts' Kadie Dempsey (Director of Arts in Community) and Tom Werder (Executive Director);
- 8.) Pirate Ship and 'Despicable Me' pumpkins and their carvers; 9.) A ghostly pumpkin; 10.) Flaming Skull pumpkin;
- 11.) Pumpkin spirited baby; 12.) Family fun.

Visit [www.morrisarts](http://www.morrisarts) for more photos and links to additional coverage in the media.

Morris Arts gratefully acknowledges the generosity of sponsors:

**MetLife  
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## Morris Arts Awards Local Arts Grants for Funding Year 2015

Morris Arts is pleased to announce that 28 Morris County arts organizations received Local Arts Grants totaling \$52,500 for Funding Year 2015. These grants help support visual arts, theatre, instrumental and choral groups, museums, a drum and bugle corps, and broad-based community arts programming which, in turn, enable thousands of people throughout our county to experience the arts in a multitude of ways. Funding is made possible through the Local Arts Program of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

This year's awardees include: Art in the Atrium (Morristown); Arts! By the People (Morristown); Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey (Dover); Blackwell Street Center for the Arts, Inc. (Denville); Chatham Community Players (Chatham); Coro Lirico (Morristown); County College of Morris (Randolph); Dance Innovations Performance Foundation, Inc. (Chatham); Fairleigh Dickinson University's WAMFEST (Madison/Teaneck); Family Intervention Services, Inc. arts programming (Rockaway); First Night® Morris County (Morristown); Fusion Core Drum and Bugle Corp (Succasunna); Hanover Wind Symphony (Whippany); Harmonium Choral Society (Morristown); Lakeland Youth Symphony (Parsippany); Madison Arts and Culture Alliance, Inc. (Madison); Masterwork Chorus (Morristown); MidAtlantic Opera (Morristown); Morris Choral Society (Morristown); Morris County Arts Workshop (North Chester); Morris Music Men (Morristown); Arts programming at Morristown Neighborhood House (Morristown); Museum of Early Trades & Crafts (Madison); Music at Morristown United Methodist Church (Morristown); New Jersey Foundation for the Blind – The Arts at Diamond Spring program (Denville); Opera at Florham (Convent Station); Arts programming at St. Peters Episcopal Church (Morristown); and Womens Theater Company (Lake Hiawatha).

Additionally, Morris Arts will award several mini-grants for a total of \$900.

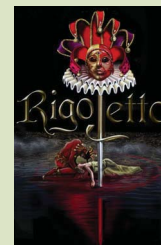
- 1.) MidAtlantic Opera's poster for their production of Verdi's *Rigoletto*; 2.) Galumph dance troupe scheduled to appear at this year's First Night Morris County; 3.) Arts! By the People project in the schools;
- 4.) The Masterwork Chorus; 5.) Hanover Wind Symphony horn section; 6.) Art in the Atrium Featured Artist James Denmark with his work, *Midnight Sessions*.



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# 23rd First Night® (continued from page one)

Kleztraphobix or channel the spirit of Bob Marley with **Random Test Reggae's** Caribbean vibe. And, what better way to welcome the new year than by dancing to the hot salsa rhythms of Colombia's **Armando Son Jimenez y Orquesta Sabor**.

Love history? **Martha Washington** will be holding forth on First Ladies while **Meet the Musicians** introduces composer "Johannes Brahms" who shares his life and music with the audience. Meet the Lord of Misrule and hear Renaissance 12th Night/ musical merrymaking on replica period instruments played by the costumed **Early Music Players of NJ**.

Fans of Dance (or physics students) should NOT miss the amazing dancers of **Galumph**, whose human "architecture" formations defy gravity and mix muscle with merriment. And, the whole family – even those with no experience – can enjoy the fun of **square dancing** under the guidance of expert caller Mary Moody.

Kids of all ages will delight in **Dinoman's Dinosaurs** (with lifesize inflatable dinosaurs!!), **Rizzo's live reptile show**, **illusionist Anthony Salazar's** comedy magic, **Mr. Fish's Phenomenal Physics** and the **Chinese Theatreworks'** hand puppet show. The early session for younger children includes hula hooping with **Whirled Revolution**, **Art 4 Kids** with fine artist Christine Wagner and **Building Kidz: Imagination LEGO! (building with LEGOS)** while **The Children's Fun Festival** promises its lively mix of magic, juggling, balloon animals, facepainting and an organ grinder!

Feeling adventurous? Hear **Throat (Overtone) singer Alex Glenfield** who has mastered the Tuvan Throat Singing style, and can sing more than one note simultaneously! It's like NOTHING you've ever heard!! Or, experience the "alien" music of **Kip Rosser** on the **theremin**, the only instrument played without being touched! Is she a marble statue or a person? Find out for yourself if you see Alissa Dirato, the **Living Statue**, at work.

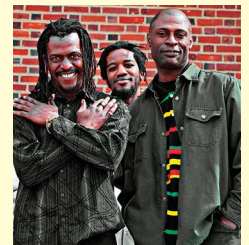
Banish winter blues and laugh your way into the New Year with **Comedian Jon Fisch** (hand-picked to open for Jerry Seinfeld and featured on *Late Night With David Letterman*) or giggle as the Piano Duo of **Nadia and Vladimir Zaitsev** perform music **From Bach to Rock** with all the zaniness and pianistic skill of the late great musical comic, Victor Borge. And then, there's that hardy street performer, **George Esparza**, whose *Flying Flea Circus* and *Wahoo Medicine Show* brings flim-flam to a new level. Three visual arts exhibits (displaying over 200 artworks) and two sets of fireworks top off that magical evening known as First Night® Morris County. To check out the full lineup of artists, visit [www.firstnightmorris.com](http://www.firstnightmorris.com).

*One inexpensive admission (before 12/22: \$20/ticket; \$17.50 for 4 or more; prices go up 12/22-12/31/14) covers all events at First Night®. Every venue is indoors and a free shuttle will take you to all locations. For more information, the latest program updates, to volunteer or to purchase tickets, please visit the First Night® Morris County website at [www.firstnightmorris.com](http://www.firstnightmorris.com) or call (973) 455-0708.*

1.) *Matuto* (blending Brazilian and bluegrass); 2.) Random Test Reggae; 3.) The British Invasion Tribute; 4.) "Living Statue," Alissa Dirato; 5.) Greg Giannascoli, marimba master; 6.) Michela Musolina, Sicilian songstress; 7.) Colombian salsa band, Armando Son Jimenez y Orquesta Sabor; 8.) Silk City/Reckon So Mashup with fiddler Kenny Kosek and vocalist Mary Olive Smith; 9.) Theremin master Kip Rosser; 10.) Indian Classical dancer, Suba Parmar of Shubanjali; 11.) The Early Music Players; 12.) Classical comedy piano duo, Nadia and Vladimir Zaitsev; 13.) Dinoman with lifesize (young) Brontosaurus; 14.) *Galumph* dancers; 15.) Svetlana Smolina, piano virtuoso; 16.) Comedian John Fisch; 17.) Shivalik Ghoshal on *tabla* performs with 18.) Throat (overtone) singer Alex Glenfield.



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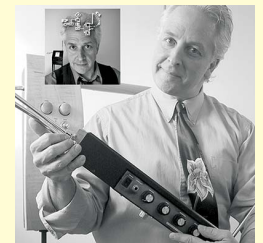
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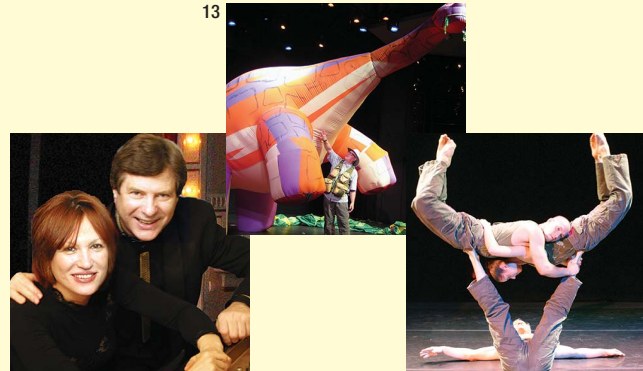
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*great* conversations  
"bringing the art of conversation to life"

Guests had so much fun talking with the accomplished and fascinating Host Conversationalists at last year's Great Conversations that no one wanted to leave! This year's distinguished hosts include Harry Ettinger, one of the last surviving "Monuments Men" from WWII, World/Olympic rowing champion, Paul Teti (also a Principal of Normandy Real Estate Partners and co-head of their leasing group), and world-renowned art song/opera composer, Lori Laitman, among others. Be sure to mark April 30, 2015 on your calendars now and reserve your place as soon as invitations arrive in January. Experience a one-of-a-kind evening while helping Morris Arts continue its valuable work in the community!



**THANKS** to our very generous recent funders whose support makes our work possible: The Avis Charitable Foundation; The Frank & Lydia Bergen Foundation; The Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation; Mondelēz Global LLC; Normandy Real Estate Management; and the William E. Simon Foundation.

## Looking for the Perfect Gift?

Celebrate the holidays and milestones with the gift that keeps giving all year long! A donation to Morris Arts is a perfect way to honor that special someone who values the joy that the Arts bring to children and families in our community. Colorful gift cards will be sent to your honoree, with a letter acknowledging your tax deductible contribution forwarded to you. Contact Gina Moran at [gmoran@morrisarts.org](mailto:gmoran@morrisarts.org) or at (973) 285-5115, x13.

## Morris Arts welcomes new Board Member, Frank Morales.

Sales Force Development Trainer, Coach & Mentor with Sandler Training, Professional Development Specialist, and Management Consultant, Frank Morales is the latest addition to Morris Arts' distinguished Board. With over twenty years of successful leadership in startup and territory expansion, Frank provides software solutions and consulting for both large and small companies, aiding in hiring, team building, and the cultivation of new skills. Previously, as the owner-operator of a software consulting firm for over 20 years, Frank helped automate over 400 companies and trained thousands of people throughout North America and Europe. He is also an adjunct instructor in Technology/Business Development at County College of Morris' Adult Education program. Morris Arts is delighted to welcome Frank to our board.

## Creative Placemaking in Morristown yields Meet Me In Morristown and more

Seeking to make communities more healthy and livable, planners, developers and municipal leaders are incorporating "creative placemaking" in their planning efforts. Building on that concept, Morris Arts collaborated with the Morristown Partnership this past summer to present our first *Meet Me in Morristown* event. Held on the last Thursdays of June, July, and August, *Meet Me in Morristown* brought artists, street performers, musicians and crafters to downtown Morristown. Restaurant and shop owners saw dramatic increases in their business on those evenings and Morristown's reputation as "the place to be" grew exponentially. Creative Placemaking initiatives such as *Meet Me in Morristown* simultaneously enhance an area's economic activity while increasing its vitality and attractiveness as a destination and providing opportunities for artists to become more widely known. While the term, "creative placemaking" may be new, its underlying concept is universal and longstanding. If you have an idea that you would like to see happen in your community, take the initiative to connect with like-minded people and start the ball rolling.



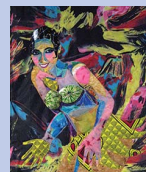
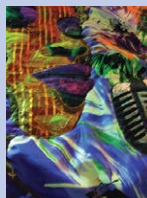
## Art in the Atrium opens 23rd exhibit on January 23, 2015

Join *Art in the Atrium*, Inc. as it celebrates its 23rd annual exhibit and sale of African-American art which runs from January 23, 2015 to March 13, 2015 at the Atrium Gallery. The free opening reception, on Friday, January 23rd from 6-9pm, includes music, food, and works by featured artist, Bisa Butler, as well as by other outstanding local and internationally known African American artists such as Janet Taylor Pickett, Leroy Campbell, Alonzo Adams, Dwight Carter, Viki Craig and Maceo Mitchell, among others. A highly trained artist, Butler holds a BFA and MFA, and was deeply influenced by artists such as Romare Bearden, Faith Ringgold, and Henry O. Tanner. Her artworks have been displayed at the Smithsonian Museum of American History, and at Walt Disney World's Epcot Center. Her powerfully conceived art quilts communicate emotion, heritage, tradition, and beauty.

*The Atrium Gallery, managed by Morris Arts, is located on floors 2-5 of the Morris County Administration & Records Building, 10 Court Street, Morristown. Free parking is provided during the reception in the garage below the building (accessible from Schuyler Place). The Gallery is open Mondays-Fridays, 8:30-4:30pm.*



Clockwise: 2015 Art in the Atrium featured artist, Bisa Butler with her art quilts: *Wild is the Wind*; *Angels will Sing for You*; *Paris is Burning for Josephine Baker*; *Chameleon*.



## Morris Arts

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The New Jersey State Council on the Arts has awarded *Morris Arts* a "Citation of Excellence" and designation as a "Major Service Organization" in recognition of the quality of its solid history of "service excellence, substantial activity and broad public service".

This newsletter is available in large print by calling (973) 285-5115, ext. 10.

Large Print

For a calendar listing of arts events in Morris County and for more information on Morris Arts' many programs and services, visit us at [www.morrisarts.org](http://www.morrisarts.org),

like us on ,

and follow us on .

## Ehlers and Coladarci Arts Scholarship Applications Available in December

Due by 5pm on Friday, January 16, 2015, applications will be available in early December at the guidance offices of Morris County high schools and online at the Morris Arts website, [www.morrisarts.org](http://www.morrisarts.org) (under Programs). The Elaine Ehlers Arts Scholarship (\$5,000) and the Eugenie Coladarci Arts Scholarship (\$1,500) are awarded each year to graduating high school seniors who must be Morris County residents, have demonstrated artistic excellence in dance, drama, music or visual arts and plan to pursue post-secondary studies at an accredited institution or acknowledged arts school or fine arts program.

L-R: Former Morris Arts Board Member Dick Eger with 2014 Ehlers Scholarship winner, percussionist Neil McNulty, and the 2014 Coladarci Arts Scholarship winner, Katherine Merwin, soprano.



## Save the Dates:

- **December 31, 2014: First Night Morris County**  
24 venues in Morristown, 4:45pm-midnight [www.firstnightmorris.com](http://www.firstnightmorris.com)
- **January 15, 2015: Local Arts Grantee Gathering,**  
5:30-7pm at 3rd Floor, 14 Maple Ave., Morristown
- **January 23, 2015: Opening Reception for Art in the Atrium, African American Art Exhibit and Sale,** 6-9pm, Atrium Gallery at floors 2-5, County Administration & Records Building, 10 Court Street, Morristown
- **March 25, 2015: Celebrate the Arts**  
5-7:30pm, Morris Museum, Morristown
- **April 30, 2015: Great Conversations Gala**  
5-10pm, Madison Hotel, Morristown