Looking for the Perfect Gift?

Collectible art is a perfect gift for 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 Morin at 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 our 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 that 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 a project that would add to the public realm in your community, take the initiative to connect with like-minded people and start the ball rolling.

Save the Dates:

• December 31, 2014: First Night Morris County
  24 venues in Morristown, 4:30pm-midnight www.firstnigh tmorris.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

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, supporting 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 ($7.50-$25), one can experience everything from classic rock ‘n roll to Tuvalu Threat Sailing!

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, the Frank Vignola Duo (Vinny Raniolo, Frank Vignola))...
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 parade, showcasing the inspired light 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 the intricately designed masks which were then used in the lighted parade at the events.

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

1.) Overview of event; 2.) Moko by Dan Fenelon; 3.) Sarawak Mutif Mikro Yurik Turtle; 4.) a picture of Dan Fenelon; 5.) another view of the Light Mask Parade; 6.) (Who says history is dull? Pat Sanftner & colleague ham it up.) 7.) Morristown Mayor Tim Macughey with Marion Arcy Radio Sympa; Director of Arts in Community and Tom Winter (Executive Director); 8.) People Stop and Desperate MIK pumpkins and their carvers; 9.) A ghostly pumpkin; 10.) Flooding Skull pumpkin; 11.) Pumevek spiritual, by (Family) Joe; 12.) Morristown Citizen.

Visit www.morrisarts.org for more photos and links to additional coverage in the media. Morris Arts gratefully acknowledges the generosity of sponsors: MetLife, Mondeléz and Living Statue, at work.

5th Annual Pumpkin Illumination brings record crowds and “Light Mask Parade”

23rd First Night (continued from page one)

Kleztraphobie 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 San Jimenez y Orquesta Sabor.

Love story? 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 15th 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 Dinosaurs (with 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 fire artist Christine Wagner and Building Kids: 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 Rasson on the Harmon, the only instrument played without being touched! Is she a marble statue or a person? Find out for yourself if you see Alissa Orato, the Living Statue, at work.

Banish winter blues and laugh your way into the New Year with Comedian Jon Fish (handpicked 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 film-fam 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. One inexpensive admission (before 12/22: $20/half, $17.50 for 4 or more; prices go up 12/22/12014) 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 or call (973) 455-0708.

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 $32,500 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 awards include: Art in the Atrium (Morristown); Arts By the People (Morristown); Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey (Cover); Blackwell Street Center for the Arts, Inc. (Denville); Chatham Community Players (Chatham); Coro Litico (Morristown); County College of Morris (Randolph); Dance Innovations Performance Foundation, Inc. (Chatham); Farleigh 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 (Passaic); Madison Arts and Culture Alliance, Inc. (Madison); Masterwork Chorus (Morristown); MidWitches 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 (Morristown); 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 Women’s Theater Company (Lake Hiawatha).

Additionally, Morris Arts will award several mini-grants for a total of $4,800.

13.) Matuto (blending Brazilian and bluegrass); 14.) Galumph dance troupe scheduled to appear at this year’s First Night Morris County; 2.) Art By The People project in the school; 4.) The Woodbridge Office; 5.) Hanover Wind Symphony; 6.) Art In The Atrium Project; Artist James Denmark with his work, Midnight Savannah.

15.) Shivalik Ghoshal on rabab; 16.) Classical comedy piano duo, Nadia and Vladimir Zaitsev; 17.) Indian Classical dancer, Suba Parmar of Shubanjali; 18.) Throat (overtone) singer Alex Glenfield.

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 Ettlinger, one of the last surviving “Monuments Men” from WWII, World/Olympic rowing champion, Paul Felt of Princeton’s Princeton University crew team; and ward-winning art-song 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!
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.

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Additionally, Morris Arts will award several mini-grants for a total of $1,475.

One inexpensive admission (before 12/22: $20; after 12/22: $25) promises an evening filled with all of these artists and more! For more information, the latest program updates, to volunteer or to purchase tickets, please visit the Morris Arts website at www.morrisarts.org or call (973) 455-0708.
Morris Arts thanks its generous funders:
The Avis Charitable Foundation; The Frank & Lydia Bergen Foundation; The Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation; Mondelez Global LLC; Normandy Real Estate Management; and the William E. Simon Foundation.

Join 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 other outstanding local and internationally known African American artists such as Janet Taylor Pickett, Lenny Campbell, Alphonso Adams, Dwight Carter, Will 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 artwork 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.

Morris Arts invites you to experience the Art in the Atrium, free of charge, 9am-5pm Monday-Friday. Hours for the 23rd annual exhibit and sale are from January 23, 2015 to March 13, 2015.

Art in the Atrium opens 23rd exhibit on January 23, 2015
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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 (under Programs). The Elaine Ehlers Arts Scholarship ($5,000) and the Eugenie Ecuadoro 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 art, and plan to pursue post-secondary studies at an accredited institution or acknowledged arts school or fine arts program.

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Clockwise from top left: Conductor Love hymns 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 and Junjie Guangwen on erhu; Chinese Theaterworks hand puppet, Blossom Anthony Salazar and assistant.

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Creative Placemaking in Morristown yields Meet Me In Morristown and more
Seeking to make communities more healthy and livable, planners, developers, engineers and municipal leaders are incorporating “creative placemaking” in their planning efforts. Building on that concept, Morris Arts collaborated with the Morristown Partnership that 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 vibrancy 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 ever had the feeling that you would like to see happen in your community, take the initiative to connect with like-minded people and start the ball rolling.