Upcoming Artist Training, Gatherings and Workshops:

Saturday, April 13, 2013:
This artist development workshop, presented by Morris Arts and co-sponsored by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts in collaboration with Drew University, is open to professional and aspiring artists of all ages and experience levels (including students). It will take place from 9:00am – 1pm at the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts at Drew University, 36 Madison Ave., Lancaster Rd., Madison. The schedule:
9:00 – Sign-In, Networking, Coffee
9:30 – Opening – Welcome Session
10:00 – Breakout Sessions
Theatre – Bonnie Monte – Artist/Actor, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey
Visual Arts – Arna Schulte – Visual Artist
Music – Dan Messel and Tall Stills Quarters of Hem
Mixed Media Animation – TBA
Dance Photography and Video – Nel Shelby Video
12:15 Keynote “Realizing Opportunities Through Collaboration”
12:15 – 2:15 Lunch
Registration online from March 4th through April 11th; Admission is $15 in advance, $20 day of event. Walk-in registration accepted if space is still available. Registration has no pre-requisite and is open to all ages and experience levels, including students, young professionals and aspiring artists.

Wednesday, April 24, 2013:
Local Arts Grant Writing Workshop for funding year 2014
Morris Arts will be hosting two identical sessions on April 24th at the Dodge Training Room, 3rd Floor, 14 Maple Ave., in Morristown to allow attendees to choose the time most convenient for their scheduled meetings. The session will take place from 9:11am and the evening session will take place from 4:30-6pm. These are free workshops, open to arts organizations and Morris County nonprofits with arts programming that wish to apply for Local Arts Grants from Morris Arts. Check www.morrisarts.org for online registration starting March 24, 2013.

Announcing our 40th Anniversary kickoff on January 24, 2013, Morris Arts heralded our new name, new strategic plan, new logo and new mission at a gathering of nearly 100 at its 14 Maple Avenue headquarters. Board President Alan Levitan and Executive Director Tom Werder shared some of the history of the organization which was formally incorporated on May 10, 1973. Established by the Junior League of Morris Arts’ Steering Committee to remedy the scarcity of arts organizations and cultural activities in the area, the Arts Council of the Morris Area received seed money from the Junior League of Morristown and from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts – to establish a new organization “which plans to promote all forms through service to cultural and artistic groups and individuals in the community.”

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A special Celebrate the Arts honors the past, present and future

On the evening of April 11th, 2013, at Novartis headquarters on Rt. 10 in Hanover, Morris Arts will hold its annual Celebrate the Arts event – marking its 40th anniversary and honoring those special individuals who established and nurtured the organization through the years. Among those to be honored are:

- Bill Keefauver, on behalf of his late wife Barbara, one of our founders who served as our first Executive Director and later as a board member until her death. Established in her memory, the Keefauver Endowment now funds an annual Artist Residency program in an underserved school.
- Carolyn Ward, who retired in 2006 after 15 years as Executive Director and who oversaw the transition from part-time/volunteer group to a full-time professional organization. She expanded programs, services and collaborations, helped launch First Night Hanover, secured state projects such as the SMART project, spearheaded the 9-11 Unity Quilt project, and consistently garnered state awards in recognition of the high quality and broad reach of Morris Arts’ work.
- Bonnie Gardner, an early Board member who transitioned to staff, served as a distinguished Director of Arts in Education. She initiated the still-flourishing Artist Residency Program, bringing outstanding teaching artists into the classroom for multi-day, in-depth, interdisciplinary arts projects. She also “discovered” (and was loved by) many of our leading teaching artists and was widely respected by educators for her work.
- David Clair, a long-serving Board member (1987-2011) and visual artist, has brought his executive experience (former President of Exxon Research & Engineering) and passion for the arts to Morris Arts, generously supporting innumerable initiatives, guiding budgetary decisions, volunteering extensively and personally training the volunteers and coordinating the daunting logistics for nearly thirty years of the annual Giraldas Music & Arts Festival.
- Dick Eger, a longstanding and current Board member (since 1990), served eight years as Board President, guiding the organization safely through challenging times. He established the Ehlers Arts Scholarship in memory of his late wife Elaine, serves as panelist in jurying/judging the Gallery at 14 Maple exhibits, and has given his time, financial support and expertise to champion and nurture Morris Arts. His wisdom and experience – as a senior financial advisor at Merrill Lynch, pianist, photographer, art collector, writer, cartoonist and former chief biochemist and administrator of Memorial Sloan Kettering – continue to benefit the organization.
- John Weber, a current Board member, is also an artist and musician. A skilled graphic designer, he is the Creative Director of JWbeber Creative who designed graphics and substantial program books for such events as Great Conversations and the Giraldas Music & Arts Festival, and, this year, designed the striking new Morris Morris Arts logo, launched as part of our 40th anniversary year.

Scholarship Winners: Representing our future are these two talented high school seniors who have won the Elaine Ehlers Arts Scholarship and Eugenie Coladarci Arts Scholarship and will be introduced at Celebrate the Arts.

Please visit our website, www.morrisarts.org to register (registration is required) for this free event.

On May 8 & 9, at the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre (36 Madison Ave. at Lancaster Rd. in Madison – on the Drew University campus), Morris Arts will present its annual Arts in Education Showcase, in partnership with The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, featuring performing / teaching artists from throughout the United States. Cultural arts leaders, teachers, administrators and PTA members have the chance to preview programs in dance, music, visual arts, theater, storytelling and poetry, available for in-school performances and community gatherings. Additionally, Artist Residency programs, available for schools and community projects, will be highlighted. This event offers an excellent opportunity to not only preview multiple programs but also to meet the artists during the intermissions. Please visit www.morrisarts.org, as the date approaches, for a full list of performances for each day of the showcase and contact Barbara Reuther at breuther@morrisarts.org for additional information.

A Feast for the Eyes: Morris Arts exhibits abound

The Showcase is being sponsored by the New Jersey Automobile Club Foundation for Safety & Education

40th Anniversary brings new look, new plan

Over the years, Morris Arts expanded and solidified its role as an arts leader, providing programs and services to the community, arts organizations, schools and individual artists.

Now, in our 40th year, Morris Arts approaches the next step in our evolution as an organization, with a recently completed strategic plan, a newly refined mission statement of “engaging and building community through the arts,” a new logo and the streamlined name of “Morris Arts.” Our new strategic plan, carefully formulated with input from a wide variety of stakeholders, puts forth five strategic goals:

- Inspire artistic expression and creativity in schools, the workplace, public spaces, and communities.
- Connect artists, residents, businesses, and community organizations interested in making Morris County a more culturally rich, accessible and diverse community.
- Engage the community in meaningful opportunities to make and appreciate the arts.
- Advocate for the value and positive social and economic impact of the arts in Morris County.

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A new exhibit, Rites of Spring, pays tribute to the 100th Anniversary of Igor Stravinsky’s groundbreaking ballet score and the controversial 1913 Julliard Show in New York City – touted as the first International Exhibition of Modern Art. Both events caused an uproar with their iconoclastic innovations in musical composition, dance and visual arts. Morris Arts invited artists to submit work that similarly challenged conventional approaches in media, pushing traditional uses and processes while addressing themes of transformation, ritual and rebirth to herald the coming of spring. Guest curated by Jeanne Brascade, Director of the Walsh Gallery at Seton Hall University, the exhibit features 37 works by 38 artists. The exhibit runs through August 21, 2013. The public is invited to the opening reception on March 27th, from 6-8pm at the Gallery at 14 Maple, located on the 3rd floor of the LEO certified building at 14 Maple Ave., Montroystown.

The Atrium Gallery – located on Floors 2-5, County Administration & Records Building, 10 Court St., Morristown. Free and open to the public 8am-5pm Mondays-Fridays.

On March 15-17, the Blackwell Street Juried Student Show will be installed. Featuring the top 300+ student works, culled from nearly 700 submissions, this show is one of the highlights of the year, throwing a spotlight on some extraordinary young talents. SAVE THE DATE for its March 22nd opening reception, from 7-9pm, which is free and open to the public. During the reception there is free parking available in the garage below the building (enter on Sunbury Place). The exhibit will run through April 28, 2013.

Works from Rites of Spring, clockwise from top left: Kate Engelhardt’s Pearl & Lance Frozen Gemini’s Lily, Dominique Darnaccio’s Windo-Louche’s Laurens Curtis’ Brainflower; Anna Vranckx’s Pearls & Lace; Sharon Reed’s Harebringers of Spring.
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1.) The late Barbara Keefauver with her husband Bill; 2.) Carolyn Ward; 3.) David Clair; 4.) John Weber; 5.) Bonnie Gardner; 6.) Dick Eger.

The Showcase is being sponsored by the New Jersey Automobile Foundation for Safety & Education

The 2013 Showcase is sponsored by

Morris Arts in Education Showcase
May 8 & 9, 2013

On May 8 & 9, at the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre (36 Madison Ave. at Lancaster Rd. in Madison – on the Drew University campus), Morris Arts will present its annual Arts in Education Showcase, in partnership with The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, featuring performing / teaching artists from throughout the United States. Cultural artists/leaders, teachers, administrators and PTA members have the chance to preview programs in dance, music, visual arts, theatre, storytelling and poetry, available for in-school performances and community gatherings. Additionally, Artist Residency programs, available for schools and community programs, will be highlighted. This event offers an excellent opportunity to not only preview multiple programs but also to meet the artists during the intermissions.

Please visit www.morrisarts.org, the site date appetizer, for a who’s who of featured performances for each day of the showcase and contact Barbara Reuther at breuther@morrisarts.org for additional information.

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- Inspire artistic expression and creativity in schools, the workplace, public spaces, and communities.
- Connect artists, residents, businesses, and community organizations interested in making Morris County a more culturally rich, accessible and diverse community.
- Engage the community in meaningful opportunities to make and appreciate the arts.
- advocate for the value and positive social and economic impact of the arts in Morris County.
- Steward mission-driven public and private investments to ensure long-term financial viability.

Our new name, Morris Arts, highlights our focus on the arts, the geographic area served, while streamlining it and making it more manageable and contemporary. The striking new logo, designed by John Weber, a Morris Arts Board member and Creative Director of JWeber Creative, adds an active, contemporary “feel,” perfectly tailored to the new name. The logo is “a piece of art in itself,” said Tom Werder, Morris Arts Executive Director. “Some people see a swirl of paint, some see piano keys. I look at it, and it’s like we’re looking down at a theater. For community folks, the circle represents the center of a community,” he said. “It means different things to different people, and we really like that.” JWeber Creative is also the designer for such signature Morris Arts events as Great Conversations and the Giralda Music & Arts Festival.

And so, with a sense of renewed mission and purpose, Morris Arts begins our journey towards the next 40 years!

A Feast for the Eyes: Morris Arts exhibits abound

The Gallery at 14 Maple:

The new exhibit, Rites of Spring, pays tribute to the 100th Anniversary of Igor Stravinsky’s groundbreaking ballet score and the controversial 1913 Armory Show in New York City — touted as the first International Exhibition of Modern Art. Both events caused an uproar with their iconoclastic innovations in musical composition, dance and visual arts. Morris Arts invited artists to submit work that similarly challenged conventional approaches in media, pushing traditional uses and processes while addressing themes of transformation, ritual and rebirth to herald the coming of spring. Guest curated by Jeanne Brasile, Director of the Walsh Gallery at Seton Hall University, the exhibit features 37 works by 36 artists. The exhibit runs through August 21, 2013. The public is invited to the opening reception on March 27th, from 6-8pm at the Gallery at 14 Maple, located on the 3rd floor of the LEO certified building at 14 Maple Ave., Morristown.

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The exhibit will run through April 26, 2013.

Works from Rites of Spring, culled from top up by: Kate Eggington’s Pearl & Lacey Speranza’s Guy; Dominique Duroseau’s Vanessa-Louise; Lauren Cartia; Brandanwork, Anna Wrzoski’s Fire Dance; Sharon Reed’s Handkerchiefs of Spring.

Art Around the Park returns, March 15, 2013 — 5-9pm

On March 15, Morristown’s free self-guided gallery walk will feature works on exhibit at the Gallery at 14 Maple (Rites of Spring exhibit), the Atrium Gallery (installation of Blackwell St. Juried Student Exhibit), the Simon Gallery, and such nondirectional spaces as the Eccles Grill, J&K Steakhouse, Sweet Lucy’s Bakery and Citibank, which include art curated by Harry Simon. The Hyatt Morristown’s Eccles Grill offers a prix fixe dinner for those who want to top off the evening of art with some camaraderie. Visit artaroundthepark.com for maps and details.
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Visual Arts – Anna Schueler – Visual Artist
Music – Dan Messel and Tall Stories of Hem
Mixed Media Animation – TBA
Poetry – Gretta Wilkinson – Dodge Poetry Festival Poet
Writing – David Noonan – Journalist, Novelist
Dance Photography and Video – Neil Shelby Video
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Information and ticket sales available online starting March 11, 2013, at www.morrisarts.org