

ArtsMatters

SHOWCASING THE ARTS IN THE MORRIS AREA



2015-2016

First Night[®] Morris County: 24 Years of Top Talents on New Year's Eve



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1. Jazz Guitar virtuosi, Vinny Raniolo and Frank Vignola; 2. The Sweet Plantain Quartet; 3. Electro-acoustic oboe master Matt Sullivan; 4. Organist Gordon Turk; 5. James Langton Salutes Frank Sinatra; 6. Zydeco Revelators; 7. Mid-Atlantic Opera; 8. Spook Handy remembers Pete Seeger; 9. The Feinberg Brothers bluegrass band.

December 31, 2015 marks the 24th year for New Jersey's biggest and brightest New Year's Eve family-friendly, alcohol-free celebration of the arts – with nearly 200 artists, over 85 events in 24+ venues – representing dance, theatre, music, world cultures, visual arts and children's events. For all 24 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. More than half 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 classical chamber music to the Australian aboriginal *didgeridoo!*

On the jazz/rock front, audience favorite **The British Invasion Tribute** (which opened for Ringo Starr) performs note-perfect classic 60's rock while the **Zydeco Revelators** share the infectious Cajun rhythms from the Big Easy. Come and be awestruck by the sheer virtuosity of jazz guitar wizards, the fabulous **Frank Vignola & Vinny Raniolo**, and our own sizzling jazz pianist, **Rio Clemente** (the "Bishop of Jazz") or "cook" with the 1920s-30s hot jazz of **Dr. Dubious & the Agnostics**.

Do you like Sinatra, folk, bluegrass, blues or drum circles? Mark "Old Blue Eye's" Centennial with **James Langton's** period-perfect **Salute to Frank Sinatra** or remember folk singing legend **Pete Seeger** with **Spook Handy**. For classic bluegrass, fiddlin' and banjo pickin', catch the irresistible **Feinberg Brothers**, savor Paul Butterfield-style blues with **The Two Bobs Street Band** or feel the beat with Carol Peña in the **Gefyra Participatory Drum Circle**.

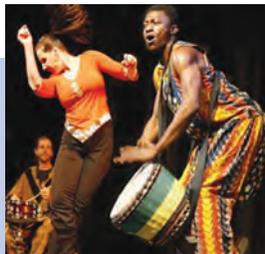
Can't decide between classical and popular music? No worry... you get both with the **Mid-Atlantic Opera Quartet's** program of **Broadway and Opera favorites** and with the astonishing, award-winning **Sweet Plantain Quartet** which combines Latin, Hip Hop, Blues, Jazz and classical music in one amazing, genre-bending program. **Electro-acoustic oboe master Matt Sullivan** will astonish your ears with tape loops and oboe as you've never heard it, while the costumed **Early Music Players** play music of the Early Americas on period instruments. You can meet **Chopin (Dennis Kobray)** or enjoy the artistry of select classical ensembles and soloists such as **Harmonium, The NJ Festival Orchestra, Solid Brass Lite**, organist **Gordon Turk**, and piano virtuoso **Laryssa Krupa** (with her chamber ensemble).

(continued on page 2)

First Night® Morris County (Continued from page 1)



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Row 1: 10. Dan Trueman plays Norwegian Hardanger Fiddle; 11. Fériba's West African Dance, Drumming and Tap; 12. Korean Traditional Dance of Choomnoori performing the Fan Dance; Row 2: 13. Slam in the Schools/The Mayhem Poets; 14. Galumpha dancers defy gravity; 15. A.J. Block of The Didge Project plays the *didgeridoo*; Row 3: 16. Illusionist Benjamin Lipman; 17. Robert Costello as Abraham Lincoln; 18. The Story Pirates; Row 4: 19. facepainting; 20. The Traveling Literary Theater's *Your Ghost Story*; 21. Keith Leaf, light up juggler; Row 5: 22. Janet Boltax's portrait of Arno Roland at the Atrium Gallery; 23. Snapology (LEGO) fun; 24. Whirled Revolution hula hooping; 25. Rizzo's Reptile Discovery.

First Night offers cultural experiences from around the world such as **Music from China's Youth Orchestra** (with traditional Chinese instruments), the haunting sounds of the **Norwegian Hardanger Fiddle** played by McCarthur "genius" **Dan Trueman** and the elemental, meditative drone of the **Didge Project's Australian aboriginal didgeridoo**. Experience the compelling rhythms and high energy movement of **Fériba's West African Dance, Drumming and Tap**, the infectious Latin salsa, merengue and tangos of **Daniel Herrera's DREAMS dancers** or the beautiful costumes and elegant choreography of the **Korean Traditional Dance of Choomnoori**.

Do you love Theater, Dance and Comedy? Enjoy the poignant and hilarious poetry slam by the mesmerizing **Mayhem Poets** or tremble with terror at **Your Ghost Story** performed by the actors of **Traveling Literary Theater**. Spend quality time with **President Abraham Lincoln** (Robert Costello) or 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*), the Tom Lehrer-like musical satirist **John Forster** or the parody ensemble, **The Loose Canons**. And then, there's that hardy street performer, **George Esparza**, whose flea circus/medicine show brings flim-flam to a new level. Fans of Dance, humor and physics should NOT miss the amazing **Galumpha**, whose human "architecture" formations defy gravity and mix muscle with merriment – engaging the audience with feats of strength and hilarity. And, was that a marble statue in the Hyatt? Wait, it moved! Be sure to check out Alissa Dirato, the **Living Statue**, at work.

Kids of all ages will delight in **Benjamin Lipman's Comedy Cascade** which mixes illusions, magic and comedy. Few (including Jon Stewart and Conan O'Brien!) can resist **The Story Pirates'** irrepressible improvisations as they act out hilarious and often improbable stories written by real kids. **Keith Leaf** brings his amazing **light-up juggling** to a dark winter's night while perennial favorites, **Rizzo's Reptile Discovery** and **Mr. Fish** brighten the evening with live animals and amazing circus and magic stunts.

The early session for younger children (4:45-6:45pm) includes hula hooping with **Whirled Revolution**, **Art 4 Kids** with artist Christine Wagner and **Snapology** (LEGO®) fun. The early session also includes the **Music From China Youth Orchestra** (young people performing Chinese music on traditional instruments) and extends **The Children's Fun Festival** to the early session, featuring a lively mix of magic, juggling, balloons, facepainting, kazoos and an organ grinder!

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/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 or call (973) 455-0708.

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 novelist Susannah Marren, Combat Paper founder and pioneer in veteran initiatives David Keefe, as well as award-winning quilt artist Bisa Butler, among others. Be sure to mark **April 21, 2016** 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 2016



Morris Arts is pleased to announce that 24 Morris County arts organizations received Local Arts Grants totaling \$51,000 for Funding Year 2016. These grants help support visual arts, theatre, dance, instrumental and choral groups, museums, 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, Inc. (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 (Chatham); Drew University (Madison); Fairleigh Dickinson University – WAMFEST (Madison/Teaneck); First Night® Morris County (Morristown); Hanover Wind Symphony (Whippany); Harmonium Choral Society (Morristown); India Culture Foundation (Parsippany); Lakeland Youth Symphony (Parsippany); Masterwork Chorus (Morristown); MidAtlantic Opera (Morristown); Morris Choral Society (Morristown); Morris Music Men (Morristown); Morristown Neighborhood House (Morristown); Music at Morristown United Methodist Church (Morristown); Opera at Florham (Convent Station); St. Peters Episcopal Church (Morristown); and Zufall Health Center(Dover).

Additionally, Morris Arts will award mini-grants in the amount of \$2,000.

Clockwise from top left: The Four Old Parts, a quartet from Morris Music Men; MidAtlantic Opera; Fairleigh Dickinson's WAMFEST Words & Music festival publicity; The British Invasion Tribute, outstanding classic 60s rock group (scheduled to appear at December 2015 First Night); Art in the Atrium's 2015 featured artist, Bisa Butler with some of her art quilts.

6th Annual Pumpkin Illumination brings record crowds and "Luminary Parade"



A record crowd of nearly 1,200 people joined Morris Arts at the Vail Mansion for our 6th annual Pumpkin Illumination. With great weather, people shared their pumpkin carving talents, created new art, enjoyed the music by Dan Filipak's Dixieland style Jazz Band and marched in the luminary parade, which showcased the inspired mask creations of artist Dan Fenelon and students from Dan's Pumpkin Illumination residency at Morristown High. Masks were strung with lights for the luminary parade, after which the pumpkins were lit along the borders of the Vail Mansion reflecting pool. Boonton Arts (with coaching from Morris Arts) also hosted a Pumpkin Illumination event on October 29th at Grace Lord Park in Boonton.

Some photos from Pumpkin Illumination in Morristown on Sunday, October 25, 2015 are shown at right.

Visit www.morrisarts.org for more photos and links to additional coverage in the media.

Morris Arts gratefully acknowledges the generosity of sponsors:



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Inset top left – Owl pumpkin (photo courtesy of Jeff Sovelove); Row 1: 1. Overview of event; 2. creating art; 3. the Dan Filipak Dixieland Style Jazz Band (photo by Jeff Sovelove); Row 2: 4. donning masks for the luminary parade; 5. enjoying the lit pumpkins; 6. More Fenelon masks; Row 3: 7. lit up masks and ghostly child; 8. Morristown High drama club actors from school production of *A Christmas Carol*; 9. Morris Arts Executive Director Tom Werder with Development Director Gina Moran.

Art in the Atrium opens 24th exhibit on January 28, 2016

Join *Art in the Atrium, Inc.* as it celebrates its 24th annual exhibit and sale of African-American art which runs from January 29, 2016 to March 17, 2016 at the Atrium Gallery. The free opening reception, on Friday, January 29, from 6-9:30 pm, includes music, food, and works by featured artist, Alonzo Adams, as well as art by other outstanding local and internationally known African American artists. With over 25 years as a professional award-winning artist, Adams holds a BFA from Rutgers, an MFA from University of Pennsylvania and had additional training at the Ducret School of the Arts and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. One of the first African American artists to become an Absolut Artist, Adams was featured in the Black Romance exhibit at the Studio Museum of Harlem and three of his original oils were auctioned at Sotheby's, with phenomenal response. He was also one of the first inductees into the Rutgers African American Alumnae Association Hall of Fame.

The Atrium Gallery, managed by Morris Arts, is located on floors 2-5 of the Morris County Administration & Records Building, 10 Court Street, Morristown. The Gallery is open Mondays-Fridays, 8:30-4:30pm.



Clockwise: Alonzo Adams, the 2016 Art in the Atrium's Featured Artist; Adams' watercolor, Study for "The Battle;" Adams' oils, *Improv* and *Biggest Fan*.

SAVE THE DATES:

- **December 10, 2015: Local Arts Grantee Gathering,** 5:30-7pm at 3rd Floor, 14 Maple Ave., Morristown
- **December 31, 2015: First Night Morris County,** 24 venues in Morristown, 4:45pm-midnight www.firstnightmorris.com
- **January 29, 2016: Opening Reception for Art in the Atrium, African American Art Exhibit and Sale,** 6-9:30pm, Atrium Gallery at floors 2-5, County Administration & Records Building, 10 Court Street, Morristown
- **March 30, 2016: Celebrate the Arts,** 5-8pm, Morris Museum, Morristown, NJ
- **April 21, 2016: Great Conversations Gala,** 5-10pm, Madison Hotel, Morristown, NJ

Ehlers and Coladarci Arts Scholarship Applications Available in December

Due by **5pm on Friday, January 22, 2016**, applications will be available in early December at the guidance offices of Morris County high schools and online at the Morris Arts website, <http://goo.gl/GqidYf> or 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: 2015 Scholarship recipients: Percussionist Reed Puleo (Ehlers) and Dancer Tori Hey (Coladarci)



THANKS to our very generous recent funders whose support makes our work possible: The Frank & Lydia Bergen Foundation; Lauren & Emily Failla Foundation Inc.; investors Bank; Kiwanis Club of Randolph, Inc.; MetLife Foundation; Mondelēz Global LLC; Hackensack University Medical Center; Quest Diagnostics.

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 or at (973) 285-5115, x13.

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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,

like us on , and follow us on .



Three Morris artists create ornaments for New Jersey Christmas Tree at President's Park, Washington, DC

The National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks, announced that artists Cristina Mendoza, Susan Faiola and Dan Fenelon were chosen to create New Jersey's ornaments for the 2015 *America Celebrates: Ornaments from Across the USA* display at President's Park (White House) in Washington, DC. Mendoza, Faiola and Fenelon join local artists from each U.S. state, territory and the District of Columbia in designing ornaments inspired by America's national parks and their programs, paying tribute to the upcoming National Park Service Centennial in 2016. The ornament display also honors the holiday season and celebrates the National Christmas Tree Lighting – now in its 93rd year – which is a national event presented the National Park Foundation and the National Park Service.

Cristina Mendoza, a graduate of the Art Mentoring program at Morristown High taught by Fenelon and Faiola (sponsored by Morris Arts and the Lauren and Elizabeth Failla Foundation), is now a junior art major in college and was thrilled to work with her former mentors, Faiola and Fenelon. Mendoza works with handmade paper and used a series of drawings to highlight Morristown's history along with New Jersey's densely wooded scenery while creating the ornaments. Artist Susan Faiola created ornaments featuring decoupage images of birds and animals native to New Jersey combined with layers of Americana inside each globe. Each ornament features the name of a New Jersey National Park. Artist Dan Fenelon also drew his inspiration from the National Parks in New Jersey and painted the ornaments in his signature style, incorporating vivid colors and multi-cultural icons to reflect the rich diversity of New Jersey's population.

"I am excited to be a part of the America Celebrates display because it is a new way for me to represent New Jersey in a creative way," said Mendoza who joins her former mentors, Faiola and Fenelon, professional artists who instructed the after school Art Mentoring program at Morristown High (sponsored by Morris Arts and the Lauren and Elizabeth Failla Foundation). A graduate of that program, Mendoza now is a junior, pursuing her art at College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown, NJ.

"Art can be an incredible way for people to connect with national parks and we're thrilled to carry on the time honored tradition of debuting ornaments from all over the country," said Will Shafroth, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation.

Right: Artist Cristina Mendoza with two of her ornaments; Inset at top left: the other ornaments.

