

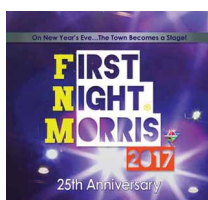
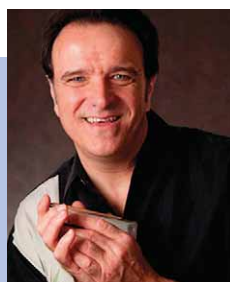
# ArtsMatters

SHOWCASING THE ARTS IN THE MORRIS AREA



2016-2017

## First Night® Morris County celebrates its 25th Anniversary – bigger and better than ever!



December 31, 2016 marks the 25th Anniversary of New Jersey's biggest and brightest First Night, a New Year's Eve family-friendly, alcohol-free celebration of the arts – with nearly 200 artists, over 85 events in 26+ venues – representing dance, theatre, music, world cultures, visual arts and children's events. For the last quarter century, Morris Arts has served as

First Night Morris' 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, Ringling Brothers, 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, one can experience everything from real Broadway stars to a comedy dog circus!

On the **Rock/Pop** front, **Brian LaBlanc's** multi-artist tribute band (which opened for Grammy winners such as *Blind Boys of Alabama*), features dazzlingly authentic performances of Billy Joel, Neil Diamond, Johnny Cash, John Lennon, and more! Making big sounds with tiny instruments, the ukulele rock band **Cousin Earth** not only offers Rock, but also Fusion, Ragtime, Funk, Bluegrass, Hip-Hop and even Electronica.

For **Blues/Bluegrass and Modern Country**, First Night is the place. Groove with the "real deal" in Blues, R&B (and funk) as Yankee Stadium organist

**Ed Alstrom's Quartet** features **Rob Paparozzi**, the Grammy-nominated vocalist/harmonica virtuoso from the original *Blues Brothers Band* and *Blood Sweat & Tears*. Another solid pro, jazz singer **Maggie Worsdale** pays homage to the earthy, innovative Nashville sound of legendary **Patsy Cline** and, if you prefer traditional Nashville-style bluegrass, check out the tight, soulful harmonies and serious fiddle/guitar and mandolin chops of the **Feinberg Brothers** – with champion banjo master **Terry McGill**. If the modern country/folk sound of Alison Krauss and James Taylor is your taste, don't miss the haunting, clear, pure voice of rising talent, **Frances Catherine Ihling**.

Experience **Jazz** magic with the amazing **Frank Vignola Trio**. One of the top jazz guitarists in the world, the extraordinary Vignola (who performed with Wynton Marsalis, Madonna, Ringo Starr, Bucky Pizzarelli, etc.) and **Vinny Raniolo** join forces this year with a fellow Les Paul colleague, the irresistible Aussie vocalist/bassist, **Nicki Parrott** (who has performed with Paul McCartney and Tommy Emmanuel, among others). **Mauricio de Souza's** band, **BossaBrasil®**, adds a touch of smooth, Brazilian-tinted jazz and, First Night would not be complete without our own sizzling jazz pianist, **Rio Clemente** (the "Bishop of Jazz") whose inventive and sparkling improvisations astonish and inspire all.

(Continued on page 2)

Top Row L-R: Brian LaBlanc and his multi artist tribute band; ukelele rock group, Cousin Earth; Blues harmonica virtuoso/vocalist Rob Paparozzi; Jazz bassist/vocalist Nicki Parrott performing with jazz guitar greats Frank Vignola and Vinny Raniolo. Bottom Row L-R: NJ Festival Orchestra conductor Shuang Guo Wroe; Dennis Kobray as Bach; Eco Del Sur; Comedian Keith Alberstadt; and Comedienne Erin Jackson. Inset: Button for First Night® Morris 2017.

# First Night® Morris County (Continued from page 1)



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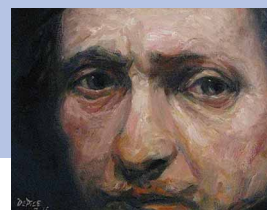
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1 & 2.) Shakespeare Theatre of NJ's comic actors Connor Carew and Patrick Toon. 3.) Mr. Hypno (Stephen Christopher) 4.) Illusionist Benjamin Lipman. 5.) Johnny Peers & the Muttville Comix. 6.) Storyteller Julie Pasqual. 7.) Alborada Spanish Dance Theater. 8.) The Nai Ni Chen Dance Company. 9.) Aztec dances performed by Mexico Beyond Mariachi. 10.) NJ Tap Ensemble Soloist Maurice Chestnut. 11.) Taikoza. 12.) Modern Country singer Frances Catherine Ihling. 13.) Art 4 Kids with Christine Wagner. 14.) Modern-day Troubadour, Lara Herscovitch. 15.) at the ATRIUM GALLERY, Doug DePice's oil, *Rembrandt*. 16.) and at ART UPSTAIRS, Medy Bozkurtian's *The Rolling Hills of Tuscany*.

Do you like the soaring, heart-stopping songs of **Broadway**? **A Night of Broadway Stars** brings the Great White Way to First Night, featuring *actual* Broadway stars singing unforgettable songs from Broadway productions such as *Phantom*, *Wicked*, *The Color Purple*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Cats*. Who could resist?

If **Folk Music** is your bag, be sure to catch the "pure musical poetry" of troubadour **Lara Herscovitch** who's appeared on the *Prairie Home Companion* with Garrison Keillor, or check out the witty and sly humor of the Folk Project's own **Mike Agranoff**. If your musical tastes are more **Eclectic**, break out your kazoo and washboard to jam with the **Philadelphia Jug Band** or feel the beat with Carol Peña in the **Gefyra Participatory Drum Circle**.

If you prefer **Classical Music**, First Night offers the artistry of the **New Jersey Festival Orchestra**, the piano virtuosity of **Laryssa Krupa** (with her trio), the grand brass of **Solid Brass Lite** and the polish and inventive programming of **Harmonium Choral Society**. Hear **Peter Saleh's** distinctive **Marimba & Percussion Ensemble** or travel back in time and meet Bach himself with Dennis Kobray's **Meet the Musicians**.

First Night also offers a generous sampling of **World Cultures** such as the renowned **Nai Ni Chen Dance Company**, blending traditional and contemporary Chinese dance or **Taikoza's** thundering, powerful drumming, folk dance and delicate *shakuhachi* flute music from Japan. With its pre-colonial instruments, colorful costumes, music and dance, **Mexico Beyond Mariachi** explores the long cultural history of Mexico while **Eco Del Sur** performs ancient and contemporary music from multiple Latin American regions on indigenous instruments. Dance along with the infectious Latin *salsa*, *merengue* and *tangos* of **Daniel Herrera's DREAMS dancers** or savor the rich musical blend, performed on *tabla*, *bansuri*, *mbira* and *kora*, of the global fusion ensemble, **Afrika Meets India**. A hot group with a cool name, the **Kleztraphobix** blends the traditional and contemporary with its mix of *klezmer*, Macedonian music and jazz and you can always channel your inner Bob Marley with the lilting, joyous Caribbean sound of that great shore band, **Random Test Reggae**.

Do you love **Theater/Comedy**? Laugh your way into the New Year with exceptional **Comedians Keith Alberstadt** (featured on late night shows with *David Letterman*, *Jimmy Fallon*, *Seth Meyers* and appearances on *SNL*), and **Erin Jackson** (seen on *Last Comic Standing*, *Ellen DeGeneres*, *Comedy Central* and *Standup in Stilettos*). Not to be outdone, the Bard also provides laughter as Connor Carew and Patrick Toon of the **Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey** present the Abbott & Costello classic skit, "Who's on First?" – but with an Elizabethan twist as **Who Doth Inhabit the Primary Position?!**

Laugh along with **Mr. Hypno's** comedy hypnotism which can make people lose the number 6 or have an urge to ballet dance. Ringling Brothers grad **Johnny Peers**

and the **Muttville Comix** (and 18 "rescue" dogs) combines the circus with slapstick humor. Picture a Bassett Hound on a skateboard! Dish the political dirt on first ladies with Maggie Worsdale's **First Ladies According to Martha Washington** and join the enchantment cast by **Storyteller extraordinaire, Julie Pasqual**. And check out street performer and flim-flam man, **George Esparza** who presents his suitcase **Flea Circus & Wahoo Medicine Show**.

When it comes to **Dance**, First Nighters can savor the fancy footwork and dazzling routines of **New Jersey Tap Ensemble soloists Maurice Chestnut** (who danced with Savion Glover) and Morristown's own **Jeffrey Foote** or sample the swirling costumes and fiery flamenco dancers of the **Alborada Spanish Dance Theatre**. Love *salsa*, *tango* and *merengue*? Try your hand at Latin dance with **Daniel Herrera's DREAMS dancers**, and enjoy dances from Aztec times to the present day with **Mexico Beyond Mariachi**. The award-winning **Nai Ni Chen Dance Company** highlights ancient and contemporary Chinese Dance in all its power, elegance and grace.

Kids of all ages love **Illusionist Benjamin Lipman's Comedy Cascade** with its magic and humor as well as **Rizzo's Reptile Discovery** which shares the excitement and wonder of live reptiles (under the watchful eye of a seasoned animal handler). Perennial favorite and skilled circus performer, **Mr. Fish** will be back to amaze audiences with his **knife throwing and bullwhip** skills!

The early session for younger children (4:45-6:45pm) includes hula hooping with **Whirled Revolution**, art making activities with artist Christine Wagner's **Art 4 Kids** and the always popular **Fun with LEGOs®**. New to this year's early session is the highly acclaimed **Nai Ni Chen Dance Company**, whose dazzling costumes and inventive choreography showcase traditional and contemporary Chinese dance – and the **Creative Caravan's Tiny Book Workshop** where participants can create their own unique tiny books. Additionally, both early and regular sessions will feature the **Children's Fun Festival**, with a lively mix of clowns, magic, juggling, balloons, facepainting, kazooos and even an organ grinder!

Three visual arts exhibits (displaying over 300 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 12/21: \$20/ticket; \$17.50 for 4 or more; prices go up 12/22-12/31/16) 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.*



# Morris Arts' Gateway Totem unveiled: A Community's Heritage Carved in Stone

On November 17, 2016, nearly 200 people attended the official unveiling of Morris Arts' Gateway Totem Project at the Grow It Green's Early Street Community Garden, 17 Early Street, Morristown, NJ. It was a deeply meaningful and moving event since the Gateway Totem represents a strong, positive symbol of a community unified in celebrating diversity despite the divisiveness of modern times.

It IS "carved in stone." With the goal of honoring past, present and future immigrant communities and promoting cross-cultural understanding and acceptance, the Gateway Totem Project features two ten foot tall pillars of Indiana limestone, with 16 panels of iconic symbols evoking the multiple immigrant communities who have called the Speedwell area home over generations (Italian, Irish, Jewish, African-American, South and Central American, etc.). The panel designs are the result of multiple "community engagement" sessions designed "to ensure that the cultures of residents are properly represented in their public space," according to master stone carver Gabrielle Hiltl-Cohen. "The important thing is that they have a voice," she added, saying that she wants the park to be a place where residents can "connect to their cultural identity."

The sculpture, installed at the entry to Grow It Green's Early Street Community Garden, connects the garden entry with Morristown High School and with existing low income senior housing, new high-end condominiums and local ethnic businesses. It not only celebrates local cultures but also bridges historically disenfranchised communities with the permanence of carved stone. Master stone carver, Gabrielle Hiltl-Cohen, was chosen to create this work. The project was managed by Kadie Dempsey, Director of Creative Placemaking at Morris Arts.

Supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for the project titled "Our Heritage is Our Future," the Gateway Totem Project is also supported by Mill Creek Residential Trust LLC (as one of the first of Morristown's "Percent for Art" projects) and by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Artist studio space was generously donated by Drew University.

Morris Arts was among only 18 "Local Arts Agencies" nationwide receiving this NEA grant. "Morris Arts is thrilled to be in such select company," Morris Arts Executive Director Tom Werder said in a statement. "This grant constitutes national recognition for our public art initiatives to build community through the arts. We are extremely grateful to have NEA support for this project." Abby Gallo, Executive Director of *Grow It Green*, described the Gateway project as "a wonderful way to incorporate beautiful art into the garden and honor Morristown's history."

1.) Master Stone Carver Gabrielle Hiltl-Cohen 2.) carved pillar 3.) Rich Murphy of Mill Creek Residential, LLC with carved pillar 4.) Morris Arts' Executive Director, Tom Werder 5.) Mary Eileen Fouratt from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts with Abby Gallo, Executive Director of Grow It Green, and Meghan Jambor, Dodge Foundation's Communications Manager 6.) Carolle Huber, VP and Co-Founder of Grow It Green 7.) Valerie and Bill Keefauver with Leslie Bensley, Executive Director of Morris County Tourism Bureau 8.) Morris Arts' Director of Creative Placemaking Kadie Dempsey 9.) carved pillar 10.) Mary Eileen Fouratt with Kadie Dempsey 11.) Kadie Dempsey and Tom Werder with Donor and Board member James Gillen and Board member Tara Skirzenski 12.) Morris Arts' Board member Frank Vitolo with donors Woody & Ruth Kerkeslager and Morris Arts Development Director Gina Moran 13.) Artist Hiltl-Cohen surrounded by her interns.

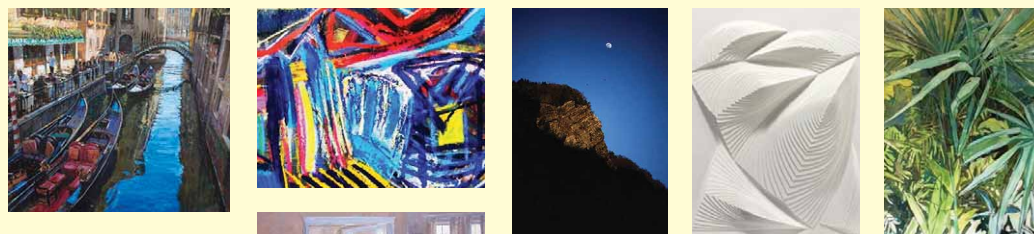
Additional photos and coverage by Kevin Coughlin, Editor of MorristownGreen.com can be found at <https://goo.gl/PYzuwk>.



## ATRIUM GALLERY opens its Winter 2017 Invitational Exhibit on January 26, 2017

Join Morris Arts for the January 26th opening reception (from 6-8:30pm) of the latest invitational exhibit at the Atrium Gallery, located on floors 2-5 of the Morris County Administration & Records Building, 10 Court Street, Morristown, NJ. Featuring the works of prominent New York/New

Jersey artists Pat Brentano, Todd L.W. Doney, Andrea Epstein, Adel Gorgy, Elizabeth Gregory Gruen, Charles Newman and Marsha Solomon along with artwork juried by the NJ Highlands Coalition's photographer, Dwight Hiscano, the exhibition will be on display through March 16th.



The Atrium Gallery, managed by Morris Arts' Dr. Lynn L. Siebert, is located on floors 2-5 of the Morris County Administration & Records Building, 10 Court Street, Morristown. The Gallery is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30pm and will be open from 7pm-midnight on December 31, 2016 as part of First Night Morristown.

Top Row L-R: Todd L. W. Doney's oil, *Venice #1*; Andrea Epstein's painting on paper, *Broken Wheels detail 3*; Dwight Hiscano's photo *Moonrise, Indian Head, Mount Tamany, Delaware Water Gap, Warren County, NJ*; Elizabeth Gregory Gruen's paper, *White Free Form Out*; Pat Brentano's *Florida Fauna*, acrylic on paper. Bottom Row L-R: Marsha Solomon's acrylic, *Calyx and Pink*; Charles Newman's oil, *Home*.

## great conversations

Guests had so much fun talking with the accomplished and fascinating Host Conversationists at last year's *Great Conversations* that no one wanted to leave! Be sure to mark **April 27, 2017** on your calendars now and reserve your place as soon as invitations arrive in January. Experience a one-of-a-kind evening with the many distinguished and highly accomplished host conversationalists 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 Frank & Lydia Bergen Foundation; Ralph M. Cestone Foundation; William E. Simon Foundation; investors Bank; Kiwanis Club of Randolph, Inc.; MetLife Foundation; and Mondelēz Global LLC.



## Morris Arts awards Local Arts Grants for funding year 2017



Clockwise from top right: Opera at Florham's Diana Damrau as Queen of the Night; The Folk Project's Mike Agranoff; Art in the Atrium's Jan. 2016 Featured Artist, Alonzo Adams; Nai Ni Chen Dance Company scheduled to appear at First Night December 31, 2016; Harmonium Choral Society.

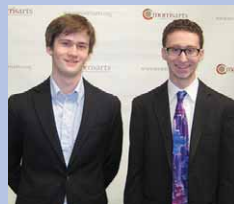
Morris Arts is pleased to announce that 25 Morris County arts organizations received Local Arts Grants totaling \$52,500 for Funding Year 2017. These grants help support visual arts, theatre, dance, instrumental and choral groups, museums, and broad-based community arts programming which, in turn, enable 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); (The) Blackwell Street Center for the Arts, Inc. (Denville); Chatham Community Players (Chatham); Coro Lirico (Morristown); County College of Morris Teen Arts Festival (Randolph); Dance Innovations Performance Foundation (Chatham); Drew University (Madison); Fairleigh Dickinson University – WAMFEST (Madison/Teaneck); First Night® Morris County (Morristown); Folk Project (Morristown); Hanover Wind Symphony (Whippany); Harmonium Choral Society (Morristown); Lakeland Youth Symphony (Parsippany); Masterwork Chorus (Morristown); Morris Choral Society (Morristown); Morris Music Men (Morristown); Morristown Neighborhood House (Morristown); Netcong Community Partnership (Netcong); New Jersey Jazz Society (Hackettstown); Opera at Florham (Convent Station); St. Peter's Episcopal Church (Morristown); Visions and Pathways (Bridgewater); Vision Loss Alliance of New Jersey (Denville). Additionally, Morris Arts will award mini-grants in the amount of \$2,000.

## SAVE THE DATES

- **December 31, 2016: First Night Morris County**, 85+ performances at 26+ venues in Morristown, 4:45pm-midnight, [www.firstnightmorris.com](http://www.firstnightmorris.com)
- **January 26, 2017: Opening Reception for the Atrium Gallery's Winter Invitational Exhibit**, 6-8:30pm, Atrium Gallery at floors 2-5, County Administration & Records Building, 10 Court Street, Morristown
- **April 27, 2017: Great Conversations Gala**, 5-10pm, Madison Hotel, Morristown, NJ

## Ehlers and Coladarci Arts Scholarship applications available in December



Due on **Friday, January 20, 2017 by 5pm**, 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](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: 2016 Scholarship recipients: Visual artist Tyler Harker (Coladarci) and Composer Zachary Catron (Ehlers).

## 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.

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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 .

## 7th Annual Pumpkin Illumination and "Luminary Parade"

Periodic torrential rains did not deter a hardy crowd of several hundred who joined Morris Arts at the Vail Mansion for our 7th annual Pumpkin Illumination. People came with carved pumpkins, donned one of the 50 or so inspired mask creations of artist Dan Fenelon (and his students) and, led by Dan Filipak's Dixieland style Jazz Band, marched in the luminary parade along with Morristown Mayor Tim Dougherty. There were also Pumpkin Illumination events (with coaching from Morris Arts) in Netcong and Madison. Boonton Arts had to cancel its Pumpkin Illumination due to the weather.

Here are some photos from Pumpkin Illumination in Morristown on Sunday, October 30, 2016:



Clockwise from top left: Overview of event; creating art; Morris Arts' Kadie Dempsey with Morristown Mayor Tim Dougherty; Artist Dan Fenelon with truck full of masks; Taylor and Cora of Mendham, embracing the Halloween spirit; Isabella and Emma wearing Dan's masks; Dan Fenelon's fabulous lighted masks. (photos by Bob Karp and Dr. Lynn Siebert)

Visit [www.morrisarts.org](http://www.morrisarts.org) and [www.morristowngreen.com](http://www.morristowngreen.com) at <http://goo.gl/nzArOW> for more photos and links to additional coverage in the media.

Morris Arts gratefully acknowledges the generosity of sponsors:

