

# ArtsMatters

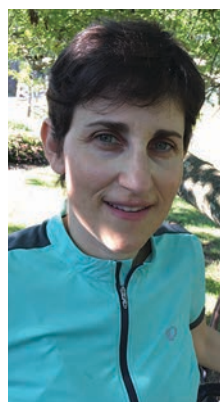
SHOWCASING THE ARTS IN THE MORRIS AREA



2019

## great conversations

"bringing the art of conversation to life"



Top Row, L-R: Maria Moats, PwC – US & Mexico Assurance Leader; Cary Renner, Allergan – VP Sales, US General Medicine; Cecilia McKenny, Quest Diagnostics – SVP & Chief HRO. Bottom Row, L-R: Jim Spanarkel, TV Basketball Analyst for CBS Sports *March Madness*; Acclaimed visual artist Bascove with her husband, visionary architect Michael Avramides; Robin Leichenko, PhD, Rutgers Professor/Chair, Geography Department and Co-Director of Rutgers Climate Institute; Don Parker, Hackensack Meridian Health Carrier Clinic/Behavioral Health Integrative Medicine – President; Laurie Albanese, celebrated novelist and author of *Stolen Beauty*.

Discover the many pleasures of live conversation at Morris Arts' 11th Anniversary of GREAT CONVERSATIONS, a unique evening of dinner and engaging dialogue with celebrated hosts from the arts, media, tech, sciences, healthcare, public service, sports, industry and more. Marking its 11th anniversary, this year's event is co-chaired by Morris Arts' board members Frank Vitolo and Stephen Aluotto. Mingle with host Conversationalists during the cocktail hour and then dine with such luminaries as a concert promoter for world famous musicians, a celebrated novelist, an acclaimed visual artist, a visionary architect, the prop designer for Broadway shows, an expert in climate adaptation/economic geography, a basketball commentator (and former pro player), or other similarly fascinating and accomplished individuals. Each dinner table will feature a host Conversationalist whose unique experiences, life story and achievements will catalyze intriguing conversations. Don't miss this truly memorable experience!

Morris Arts gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our corporate sponsors: **Encore:** Allergan; Bayer; Crum & Forster; Hackensack Meridian Health; MCM Wealth Management at Morgan Stanley; NJ Advance Media providing services for *NJ.com* & *The Star-Ledger*; NJTV; PwC; ROI-NJ; **Green Room:**

Delta Dental of New Jersey; **Ovation:** BASF; Finn Partners; Mondelēz International; Pfizer; Quest Diagnostics; **Applause:** The Avis Budget Charitable Foundation; Delta Dental of New Jersey; JWeber Creative; MetLife; Morristown Medical Center; **Star:** JLL; Kings Food Markets; NK Architects; Normandy Real Estate Partners; Riker Danzig; Sherman Wells Sylvester & Stamelman.

**Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this one-of-a-kind evening while supporting Morris Arts' valuable work in the community!**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019

**Time:** 6:00pm – Reception | 7:15pm – Dinner

**Place:** NEW LOCATION: The Birchwood Manor  
111 N. Jefferson Rd, Whippany, NJ 07981

**Tickets:** \$250, available online, at [www.morrisarts.org](http://www.morrisarts.org)

**Contact:** (973) 285-5115, x13 or [www.morrisarts.org](http://www.morrisarts.org)



## Morris Arts' Honors Ehlers and Coladarci Arts Scholarship Winners

On the evening of March 14, 2019, Morris Arts will introduce Dancer Leah Suskind, winner of the Elaine Ehlers Arts Scholarship (\$5,000), soprano Sophia Grace Donelan, winner of the Eugenie Coladarci Arts Scholarship (\$1,500), and Honorable Mention, bassoonist Matt Wisotsky, at the opening reception for the new exhibit in the Gallery at 14 Maple.

This year's Ehlers Scholarship winner, dancer **Leah Suskind**, a graduating senior at the Morris County School of Technology/Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, will pursue a Bachelors of Fine Arts as a Dance Major at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts next fall. A Finalist Winner for the National Dance Education Organization Artistic Merit, Leadership, and Academic Achievement Award, a three-time winner at the Teen Arts Festival (County College of Morris) and winner of numerous scholarships, overall awards and judges' awards for competition dance, Leah received scholarships from Rutgers Pre-College Dance Conservatory, Ballet Forté, and the New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble. Additionally, she has pursued training at the highly competitive Summer Intensives / Programs at Juilliard, NYU Tisch Summer High School Dance Program, Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company, RIOULT, the Rockettes, Bailar Al Sol Dance Festival, West Side Dance Center, NextStep Dance Company and has performed at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Recognized for her mastery of multiple dance genres and for her "creativity and technical skill," Leah impressed the panel with her original dance, *Illuminate*, which she choreographed in response to an anti-Semitic hate crime against one of her brothers. It was deeply moving, technically demanding, artistically mature and exquisitely executed. One recommender summed up the panel's assessment, stating, "As a dance professional for over 30 years, there have only been a few students whom I would highly recommend for seeking a dance career and Leah is one of them."



This year's Coladarci Scholarship winner is soprano **Sophia Grace Donelan**, a graduating senior at Villa Walsh Academy. She hopes to pursue a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at a conservatory and, eventually, to become a professional opera singer. Sophia qualified for the 2018 summer Boston University's Tanglewood Institute Young Artists Vocal Program where she studied voice, music theory, music history, diction, movement/bodywork and art song recitals, sang the role of Frasquita in the "Card Trio" from *Carmen*, soloed in the *West Side Story* Medley, sang for the Master Class with Mezzo Kelly O'Connor and performed with the BSO Chorus under John Williams. A National Semi-Finalist in the High School Division/Classical Singer Music Vocal Competition, she was also a National Finalist in the New York Lyric Opera Vocal Competition (High School Division). Called "truly exceptional" and described as having a "beautiful instrument, musical intelligence and emotional fortitude," Sophia is far more advanced and well trained than most singers her age. Impressed by her refined and skilled performance of challenging repertoire in three languages, panelists noted her beautiful tone quality, accurate intonation, clear diction, breath control, well-shaped phrasing, wide dynamic range as well as her understanding of and ability to expressively convey the meaning of the texts she sang.



Bassoonist, award-winning composer and multi-instrumentalist **Matt Wisotsky**, a graduating senior at West Morris Mendham High School, received Honorable Mention. The judges were unanimous in their choices. Congratulations to all!

From Top: 2019 winners: Dancer Leah Suskind, Ehlers Arts Scholarship winner; Soprano, Sophia Grace Donelan, Coladarci Arts Scholarship winner; Bassoonist Matt Wisotsky, Honorable Mention.

## Arts in Education Showcase | May 7, 2019

On May 7, 2019 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 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, theatre, 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. As the date approaches, please visit [www.morrisarts.org](http://www.morrisarts.org) for a complete list of performances for the showcase day and contact Barbara Reuther at [breuther@morrisarts.org](mailto:breuther@morrisarts.org) for additional information.

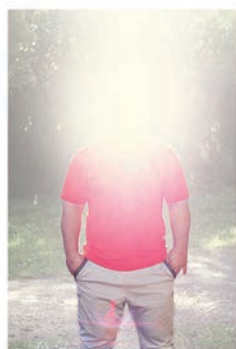
The Showcase is being sponsored by:  
The New Jersey Automobile Club  
Foundation for Safety & Education



Clockwise from Top Left: The Number Drummer; Sonnet Man; 123 Andres; Shakespeare LIVE – Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey.



# On March 14, 2019, Morris Arts' Gallery at 14 Maple opens *seeing the unseen*



Ahmed, originally from a country in Africa, in Jersey City, New Jersey on August 9, 2017. "Ahmed" was a pale-changer who was arrested and tortured after being accused of anti-government actions; his name has been changed and his identity obscured due to fear of retribution by the government. He was held in the US Marshall Detention Center for 5 months and 22 days.

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1.) Patricia Cazorla and Nancy Saleme's charcoal pencil, ink marker, liquid silver leaf and acrylic on wood, *The Garden of Opportunities, little boy*; 2.) Ed Kashi's portrait of *Ahmed*, an African torture victim and US detainee before being granted asylum; 3.) Nyugen Smith mixed media and collage on paper, *Bundlehouse: Like oil + water*; 4.) Nyugen Smith's *Bundlehouse/Borderlines No.6 (emembe)*; 5.) Tian Hui's oil on board, *I Can See Nothing*; 6.) Wendel White's pigment inkjet on paper, *Woman's Hood NJ WKKK, Southern New Jersey Cultural Organization, Cape May, NJ*; 7.) Jeffrey Campbell's digital composite/found photography, *Here Be Dragons*; 8.) Angeles Cossio, Styrofoam, coffee cups sculpture, *Conglomerate*; 9.) Detail from Hanna von Goeler's multimedia work, *Hung Out to Dry: From Riches to Rags and Rags to Riches*; 10.) Grace Graupe-Pillard's oil, *Dadaab Camp/Kenya*.

On Thursday, March 14, from 6-8pm, Morris Arts will host a free opening reception for the Gallery at 14 Maple's twenty first exhibit entitled **seeing the unseen**. The Exhibition Committee of Morris Arts and guest curator Greg Leshé selected works created by ten outstanding artists (painting, mixed media, photography, sculpture, collage, and digital art) for display at the Gallery, a distinctive space located on the 3rd floor of the LEED certified "green" building at 14 Maple Ave., Morristown.

The exhibit features works by a highly diverse and distinguished group of artists, many of whom have also had careers as curators, documentary photo journalists, and artists deeply concerned with plights of the less fortunate. The ten artists featured in this show include Jeffrey Campbell (Wanaque), Patricia Cazorla (New York), Angeles Cossio (Jersey City), Hanna von Goeler (Montclair), Grace Graupe-Pillard (Keyport), Tian Hui (South Orange), Ed Kashi (Montclair), Nancy Saleme (New York), Nyugen Smith (Jersey City), and Wendel White (Galloway). Each artist brings a unique perspective to the theme of **seeing the unseen**, depicting people and aspects of our world that often remain "invisible" in our society.

Guest Curator Greg Leshé adds the following insight about the exhibit: *Within the show's compass I regard the artwork as the beacon, the lighthouse,*

*the signaler-object of the unseen, transmitting a critical light, projecting warning rays while asserting and proclaiming what's out there that we can't or choose not to see. These forces and realities pose a danger to an individual, a community, an environment, an ethnic group, a nation – and, if ignored or left untended, will imperil some level of our collective humanity.*

Through these artists' eyes, we visualize the beauty and poignancy of migrant farm workers, people who survived extended detention, political imprisonment, or torture as well as the working poor, tangible emblems of racism and, ultimately, our shared humanity. It is at once an exhibit of great beauty and profound awareness – making the viewer mindful of the truly important and fundamental matters in our world.

Additionally, at the opening reception, the winners of the Ehlers and Coladarci Arts Scholarships (dancer Leah Suskind and soprano Sophia Grace Donelan, respectively) and an Honorable Mention (bassoonist Matt Wisotsky) will be introduced and recognized for their achievements.

Morris Arts gratefully acknowledges support for this exhibit from



*The exhibit is open to the public Monday-Friday from 10am to 4pm and by appointment, and will remain on display until August 21, 2019. Visit [www.morrisarts.org](http://www.morrisarts.org) or call (973) 285-5115 for additional information, including the exhibit catalogue which contains details and sale prices for all works. The Gallery at 14 Maple is a barrier-free facility. Individuals needing special accommodation should contact Tom Werder at (973) 285-5115, x 11 or [twerder@morrisarts.org](mailto:twerder@morrisarts.org).*

## MEET ME IN MORRISTOWN

### FRIENDS SHOPPING MUSIC ART FOOD



The Creative Placemaking initiative launched by Morris Arts in collaboration with the Morristown Partnership, will be returning starting May 30, 2019. Bringing the arts to the Morristown business district on the last Thursdays in May, June, July, and August, selected musicians and artists set up shop, showcase and sell their art or perform live throughout the town while various Morristown businesses operate sidewalk sales or demonstrations... an exciting grassroots experience!



Scenes from Meet Me in Morristown, 2018.

## To support Morris Arts: How to get involved . . .

- **Consider an in-kind gift.**

Now is a great time to share your technical or professional expertise or items that you think might be useful to Morris Arts.

- **Celebrate holidays and milestones with a tribute gift to Morris Arts.**

A donation to Morris Arts is the perfect gift to for a loved one committed to creativity.

- **Check to see whether your company has a matching gift program.**

Some companies will match the donations or value of volunteer time given by their employees.

- **Send us your e-mail address!**

We value sustainability and community – help us communicate with you more effectively as we all work to build a greener, more creative world. To sign up, visit [www.morrisarts.org](http://www.morrisarts.org).

**All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.**

For more information contact Gina Moran, Morris Arts' Director of Development, at [gmoran@morrisarts.org](mailto:gmoran@morrisarts.org) or (973) 285-5115, ext. 13.

### Morris Arts

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Editor: Dr. Lynn L. Siebert



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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 .

## Thanks

to our very generous recent funders (since our last newsletter) whose support makes our work possible: ExxonMobil Foundation; Lauren & Emily Failla Foundation, Inc.; Investors Foundation Inc.; F. M Kirby Foundation; Kiwanis Club of Randolph, Inc.; Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation; Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; William E. Simon Foundation; and Tasters Guild of New Jersey.

## SAVE THE DATES:

**March 14:** Gallery at 14 Maple, Opening for *seeing the unseen* exhibit, 6-8pm

**May 1:** Great Conversations, 6-9:30pm

**May 7:** Arts in Education Showcase, 9:00am-1:30pm

**May 30:** Meet Me in Morristown, 5-8pm

**June 23:** Giralda Music and Arts Festival, 4-7:00pm

**June 25:** Music Beyond Borders, 12:30-1:30pm