

Free Public Library of Monroe Township

Out and About

A Community Newsletter

February 2023

Your guide to what's going on in Williamstown and the surrounding area!

Comedy Night Fundraiser for Sunrise Rotary

Inside this issue:

- Chili Run in Pitman 2
- Open Mic Night 2
- Sweetest Night 2
- Drag Queen Quizzo 3
- Cookie Class 3
- Spiritual Night Bazaar 3
- What's Onstage 4
- What's Onscreen 5
- What's To Read 6

The Williamstown Sunrise Rotary is hosting a comedy night fundraiser at The Estate at Monroe on Friday, Feb. 17th.

The doors will open at 7 PM and the show itself starts at 8:30 PM. Vince Valentine, a Philadelphia-based comedian, is our master of ceremonies, and nationally famous comedian Tracy Locke is our headliner. Tracy has appeared to sold-out crowds at Radio City Music Hall and on ABC and Fox. She'll be joined by Buddy Harris, who got into comedy as a favor for his small daughter, and Matthew Kresz, an up-and-coming Delaware Valley comedian.



Tickets are \$55 for an individual and \$380 for a group of eight (a full table). The price includes a buffet dinner, soft drinks, and a door prize.

The Estates at Monroe is located at 1351 N. Black Horse Pike. For more info or to order tickets, call 856-318-2585 or email wsrrotary@gmail.com.

Valentine Events at Blue Cork Winery

Special Points of Interest:

- *Pitman's Chili Run is back*
- **FABULOUS!!! Drag Queen Quizzo Night**
- *"Wilkommen, bienvenue, welcome..." to Cabaret in Had-donfield*
- *Next chapter in the Marvel Cinematic Universe*
- *Love is in the air...and on the page*

Blue Cork Winery, on Blue Bell Road in Williamstown, has some great events going on for Valentine's Day.

During the weekends of Feb. 10th and Feb. 17th, Blue Cork will hold its Wine and Chocolate Trail Weekends, featuring specialty drinks like hot chocolate wine and homemade chocolates. Seating is first-come, first-served. There will also be some vendors selling their wares.



For a more formal event for you and your special someone, there's the Wine, Dine, and Be Mine dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 15th at 6 PM. For \$50 per person, you can enjoy a catered meal from Angelo's in Williamstown (your choice from a pre-fixed menu of entrees and desserts) along with your pick of a glass of Blue Cork's finest wines. You must reserve by 2/12.

For more information or to make reservations, visit Blue Cork's Facebook page or call 856-885-2545.

Chili Run in Pitman

Just because it's winter doesn't mean it's too cold for a charity run. The Good Day for a Run Foundation is holding its annual Chili Run on Saturday, Feb. 11th, at 10 AM.

There's a \$40 entrance fee per person. You'll gather at Carolina Blue Smokehouse and Taproom at 692 Lambs Road in Pitman. You can sign up as an individual or as part of a team—there will be awards for both. After a two-mile run (for which you'll also get a short-sleeved shirt—you can upgrade to long-sleeved for \$5 extra), the awards will be presented and you'll finish up back at Carolina Blue, where each participant will get a free cup of chili (vegetarian options available) and a beer. You'll also get the option of purchasing a souvenir chili bowl for \$8. The after-party at Carolina Blue will also feature live music, contests and more...and with our Birds playing in the Super Bowl the very next day, it's sure to become a pep rally!

Proceeds will benefit the HEADstrong Foundation, which helps families affected by cancer. For more info or to sign up, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Pitman/TheChiliRunFebruary>. Hopefully, it won't be too "chilly" for a run (sorry).



Open Mic Night at Brew x Bread

Got some talent (music, comedy, poetry) that you'd like to show off? Brew X Bread, Mullica Hill's newest coffeehouse and café, will be holding its first Open Mic Night on Thursday, Feb. 16th, from 6 PM to 8 PM in its upstairs dining lounge.



There's a \$10 cover charge. All talent is welcome, but spots for acts are limited, as is seating (it's a rather small space). There are also refreshments for sale...wine (by the bottle), coffee and other hot drinks, and various light bites and snacks.

To reserve seating or to sign up as an act, email contact@brewxbread.com or call 856-766-5022.

Come and enjoy the first of a new tradition at one of Gloucester County's best new venues!

Sweetest Night in Pitman

Whether you go with that special someone, or a group of pals, you're sure to enjoy a night of sweet treats in the run-up to Valentine's Day. Pitman is having its annual Sweetest Night on Saturday, Feb. 11th, from 3 PM to 7 PM.

Local dessert-makers and chocolatiers will partner with Pitman's wide array of great shops. You can shop around while sampling some yummy goodies (and don't worry about those calories, it's a special occasion). Once you've done that, you can enjoy dinner at one of Pitman's many restaurants along Broadway.

Get the most out of the vibe of one of Gloucester County's most charming towns!



Winter Wonderland Drag Quizzo

Want to enjoy a FABULOUS!!! night of trivia? Visit the Bellview Winery in Landisville on Thursday, Feb. 23rd for an evening of Drag Queen Quizzo!



The event begins at 7 PM, but the doors open at 6 PM. It will take place in Bellview's indoor veranda. Your hosts will be Ophelia Hotass and Jolina Jasmine, two of the Tri-State area's best drag queens.

Categories will include Music, Dirty Talk, Pop Culture, and plenty more. You'll play for mini-prizes each round, as well as the grand prize at the end of the evening. (No word on what they are...that would be telling.)

Of course, there will be plenty of Bellview's best vintages available for sale. Needless to say, this event is suitable for ages 21 and up, given the fact that wine is involved...and so is some rather salty language.

This event is sponsored by Drag Queen Entertainment. You can find out more by visiting Bellview's homepage at bellviewwinery.com. To order tickets, visit <https://www.dragqueenentertainment.com/events/dragquizzo022323>. There's a \$30 entry fee.

Enjoy a rollicking and racy night of entertainment—and test your knowledge!

Black History Cookie Class

Glassy Brown Cookies, a Burlington-based bakery, has a unique way to celebrate Black History Month. On Saturday, Feb. 4th, they'll be hosting a Black History Month cookie decorating class at the Cherry Hill Mall.

All ages are welcome. You can choose between three different one-hour slots: 11 AM, 12 PM, or 1 PM. You'll learn how to decorate a Black History Month-themed cookie (pictured at right) with royal icing. No experience is necessary...they'll walk you through each step.

There's a \$20 entrance fee—paid in advance and all sales are final. There are 20 slots available for each class. The fee includes a box to take your creations home in.

You can sign up for this event via Eventbrite.com.

This is a fun (and yummy!) way to celebrate a large part of American history!



Spiritual Night Bazaar from Creations by You

If you're interested in nurturing your spiritual side, visit the Spiritual Night Market and Bazaar sponsored by Creations by You on Friday, Feb. 10th, from 6:30 to 10:30 PM.



The event takes place at the Flying Buck Sportsman Club at 406 Angelow Road in Berlin. There'll be all kinds of spiritual and mystical items for sale, including angel cards and crystal jewelry, as well as massage therapy, psychic readings, basket raffles, and food and drink for sale.

This event has limited space and a \$10 non-refundable fee in advance, so if you're interested in going, call Creations by You at 856-777-5007.



All The World's A Stage...

From Feb. 14th to Feb. 26th, you can see the *first* musical about the Founding Fathers of America...*1776*, playing at Philadelphia's Forrest Theater.

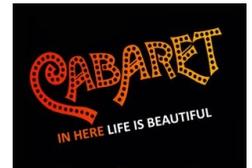
This touring company of Diane Paulus' reimagining of the show features an all-female or non-binary cast (in a show that was written with only two female roles). As the Second Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia, with fighting already raging between Britain and the colonies, John Adams is gung-ho for declaring independence from England. But many in Congress are reluctant to take the step for various reasons...especially the loyalist John Dickinson of Pennsylvania. It's up to Adams, Ben Franklin and Thomas Jefferson to do the political wheeling and dealing that's necessary to get a unanimous vote for independence...a process which leads to Jefferson writing a formal declaration. But when the Southern colonies object to a clause condemning slavery, Adams and his colleagues are forced to ask themselves what price they're willing to pay for independence for *all* Americans.

This Tony-award winning show (it beat out *Hair* for Best Musical of 1969!) brings history alive by showing the Founding Fathers, and their causes, as more complex than some accounts would have us believe. To order tickets, visit kimmelculturalcampus.org...and come enjoy this thrilling account of the defining moment of our history in the city where it all started!

"*Wilkommen, bienvenue, welcome...*" Haddonfield Plays and Players will be presenting Kander and Ebb's acclaimed musical *Cabaret* from Feb. 24th to March 11th.

Cliff Bradshaw, a would-be writer from America, arrives in Berlin at the end of 1929 in the hopes of finding creative inspiration. He finds it in the seedy Kit Kat Klub with its decadent, anything-goes atmosphere, personified in its Emcee. Soon he is involved with the Klub's headliner Sally Bowles—although Cliff's bisexuality and Sally's flightiness complicate the relationship. Even more troubling—the Nazi menace is growing, threatening to take over the country, and affecting people Cliff has come to care about. With unspeakable evil on his doorstep, and Sally's unexpected pregnancy thrown into the mix, will Cliff follow Sally's lead and shut his eyes to the situation? What are the dangers of thinking, "it can't happen here?"

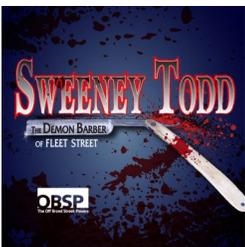
A word of caution—even in its tamest productions, *Cabaret* deals with Nazism, issues of sexual orientation, and abortion. (And productions modeled after Sam Mendes' revival are ANYTHING but tame.) Tickets are \$30. To order or to find out more information, visit haddonfieldplayers.com.



"*Attend the tale...*" The Levoy Theatre in Millville presents Stephen Sondheim's masterpiece *Sweeney Todd* from Feb. 10th-19th.

The legend of the murderous barber who gave very close shaves has existed for centuries. Sondheim's version (based on a 1973 play by Christopher Bond) re-imagined the Demon Barber as a man driven mad by injustice. Sweeney Todd was once Benjamin Barker, a barber wrongly convicted by a judge who lusted after the barber's wife. After escaping from exile in Australia, he returns to London to find his wife dead and his daughter in the judge's clutches. Vowing revenge on the judge and the society that made the injustice possible, he teams up with Mrs. Lovett, owner of the meat-pie shop below his barber shop, who has eyes for Sweeney herself...and her own ingenious way of disposing of the bodies...When the young sailor who rescued Sweeney falls for his daughter Johanna—and falls afoul of the lecherous judge who wants to marry her—events build up to a shocking conclusion.

To order tickets or to find out more information, visit levoy.net...and enjoy one of musical theatre's most delightfully macabre shows.



What's New Onscreen!

Scott Lang, aka Ant-Man, has come a long way and dealt with a lot since he was introduced to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. But in *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania*, debuting Feb. 17th, he must face his most mind-boggling challenge yet.

Scott (the always-charming Paul Rudd) is now a well-known celebrity following his role in defeating Thanos. His relationship with Hope Van Dyne (Evangeline Lilly) is going well. But his daughter Cassie (Kathryn Newton) has been having trouble dealing with the loss of her father for five years during the Snap. She figures out a way she can get that time back...by tapping into the Quantum Realm, the world that exists at the mega-microscopic level and warps time, space, and reality. But something goes wrong and Scott, Hope, Cassie, and Hope's parents Hank and Janet Pym (Michael Douglas, Michelle Pfeiffer) are trapped in the Quantum Realm. While there, they find out what Janet had to do to survive there for thirty years. With some help from Lord Kylar (Bill Murray), a resident of the Realm who was Janet's ally, they must face off against Kang the Conqueror (Jonathan Majors), last seen in the series *Loki*, who needs Pym Particles to activate his time-traveling ship. Now, Scott and his allies must thwart Kang's designs on time and space...and Scott may have a bigger price to pay than he ever imagined.



This rollicking adventure paves the way for Phase Five of the MCU. (Now if we can only have Luis recapping the events of the last few movies...)

For almost eighty years, Raymond Chandler's tough sleuth Philip Marlowe has intrigued film noir buffs. Now, Liam Neeson (in his 100th film!) portrays the gumshoe in *Marlowe*, premiering Feb. 15th.



Based on the 2014 non-Chandler novel *The Black-Eyed Blonde*, this movie takes place in 1939 Los Angeles. Marlowe, a hard-boiled, hard-drinking private eye, is hired by glamorous heiress Clare Cavendish (Diane Kruger). Clare's lover Nico Peterson, a second-tier Hollywood actor, has disappeared and she wants the sleuth to find out what happened. Marlowe finds evidence that Nico was murdered at an elite Hollywood club run by bigshot Floyd Hanson (Danny Huston)...but soon discovers that there may be more to the murder than meets the eye. Somehow, gangster Lou Hendricks (Alan Cumming) is in the mix, as is Clare's mother Dorothy Quincannon (Jessica Lange), a former movie star. As Marlowe gets deeper into the family's secrets and betrayals, it may just be that the sleuth is in over his head. Can he survive the toughest case of his life?

With many talented actors (especially Liam, who seems tailor-made for the role of Philip Marlowe) and cinematography that calls to mind classic cinema, this is the perfect movie to return one of cinema's greatest detectives to the screen.

The three Bronte sisters were among the best authors of the nineteenth century, with Emily Bronte's novel *Wuthering Heights*, a story of twisted love and dark obsession, the best-known work of all. The biopic *Emily*, premiering Feb. 17th, gives us a fictionalized account of how Emily may have come to write her only novel.

When Emily (Emma Mackey) is on her deathbed, her sister Charlotte (Alexandra Dowling) asks her how she came to write *Wuthering Heights*. Emily remembers her days as a young adult, creating fictional worlds with her sisters and her wayward brother Branwell (Fionn Whitehead), whom she idolizes despite his self-destructive behavior. When her clergyman father hires curate William Weightman (Oliver Jackson-Cohen), sparks fly between the two. But Weightman may not be able to handle Emily's complexities, and Emily, in turn, is growing more distressed by Branwell's recklessness and conflict with the man she loves. Her tumultuous relationships with the two most important men in her life and the forbidding beauty of the Yorkshire moors all help to inspire one of the greatest works of the English language.



This intriguing "what-if", already receiving critical acclaim, should please fans of classic literature and one of its most fascinating creators.

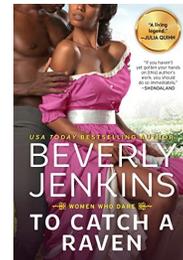


The Biblio-Files

Love is in the air this Valentine's Day...

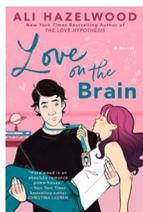
Beverly Jenkins is well-known for her historical romances featuring Black characters. In *To Catch A Raven*, her latest, she presents us with an unforgettable heroine with a talent for deception...and the hero who's a match for her in every way.

In 1878 Boston, Raven Moreau has made a life for herself as a con artist...maybe not an honest life, but one of the only ways she and her family could thrive after her grandmother was emancipated. But when the Pinkerton Detective Agency gets some evidence on her family, they use it to blackmail her into helping the government. They suspect that an ex-Confederate has made off with the Declaration of Independence, and that Raven is the perfect candidate to infiltrate his house, posing as a servant. The Pinkertons have also recruited Braxton Steele, who's in a similar position to Raven...his family's freedom is being threatened as well by the ruthless Pinkerton agent who recruited Raven. As the two pose as husband and wife, they get to know each other and romantic sparks fly...but can they survive the dangers of their mission and the threats to their families?



This charming and steamy romance is another example of Beverly Jenkins' talent for creating memorable characters that defy the odds against Black people after the Civil War.

Ali Hazelwood is a neuroscientist...who has a knack for writing romance novels featuring scientists. In *Love on the Brain*, her hero and heroine are stars in their chosen field, who find out that the heart's a lot more unpredictable than the brain...

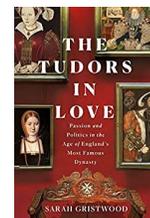


Bee Konigswasser is dying to make it in neuroengineering, and it seems her dream is coming true when she lands a job with NASA. But there's a snag...she's been assigned to partner with Levi Ward, with whom she clashed in grad school. As it turns out, that's not the only problem that arises in the lab, even if it is the icing on the cake. But as she works more with Levi, and finds him more supportive of her, she begins to soften towards him. After her ex-fiancé's infidelity and a childhood with very little stability, though, she's gun-shy. With some possibly dangerous intrigue going on in the lab, and Bee's fears warring with her desire for Levi, can she let her neurons fire the right way...and take a chance on love? After all, her idol Marie Curie had no trouble balancing the brain and the heart...

This wonderful romantic comedy is a perfect mixture of STEM and steam!

For some *non-fiction* about love, how about a chronicle of love as it happened in the most famous dynasty in English history? Sarah Gristwood's *The Tudors In Love* paints a picture of how the practice of courtly love shaped the reign of several different Tudor monarchs.

The idea of courtly love—the (male) lover putting the (female) beloved on a pedestal—shows up often in medieval literature, but many Tudors tried to put it into practice...especially Henry VIII. From his early courtship of Catherine of Aragon as “Sir Loyal Heart”, to his seven-year pursuit of Anne Boleyn, to his rejection of Anne of Cleves when his would-be romantic introduction to her made him look ridiculous in her eyes, Henry's M.O. was to approach life as a courtly romance. The same ideals also affected his daughter Mary I (whose marriage to Philip of Spain was conducted according to courtly love but lacked the real thing) and Mary Queen of Scots (who found that her husbands did not idealize her quite so much *after* marriage). But the woman's power in courtly love was an illusion once she stopped being an unattainable ideal and became a “mere” wife, as Anne Boleyn and Katherine Howard found out to their peril. In the end, Elizabeth I turned the myth of courtly love to her advantage as she played her suitors off against each other and played up her image as a goddess on earth for her subjects to worship...and even she could not conceal the fact that she was human after all in the end.



Fans of *The Tudors* and *The Other Boleyn Girl* should enjoy this account of how love made—and marred—the Tudor court.