

Free Public Library of Monroe Township

Out and About

A Community Newsletter

September 2023

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

Fall Arts & Crafts Festival

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Fall is, at long last, in the air (and hopefully, the humidity is OUT of it). You and your family can celebrate it at the Monroe Township Fall Arts & Crafts Festival on Saturday, Sept. 16th, from 11 AM to 3 PM on the grounds of the Pfeiffer Community Center. (Rain date will be the following Saturday, the 23rd.)

The event is free to the public and all ages are welcome. The day's activities will feature food trucks, kids' activities such as bounce houses, a petting zoo, and face painting, and, of course, over 80 local artisans and crafters with wares for sale.

If you are interested in being a vendor, you may contact the Pfeiffer Center at 856-728-9841.

You and your family can ring in the fall with the rest of our wonderful community!



Autumn Lake Wine Mixer

Special Points of Interest:

- *Spilt Milk Ice Cream Parlor Opens*
- *Great Events in Glassboro Town Square*
- *Sondheim's Assassins at Philadelphia's Arden Theatre*
- *Hercule Poirot returns to the screen*
- *Novels that give a new spin on Shakespeare*

If you'd like to welcome autumn with some of our area's best vintages, you're bound to enjoy Autumn Lake Winery's annual Wine Mixer on Saturday, Sept. 9th from 12 PM to 5 PM.



Tickets are \$20 in advance (price increases if you pay at the gate). Children under 12 are free, but must be accompanied by an adult. Your ticket includes admittance to the live music, food trucks and craft vendors with their creations for sale, as well as a souvenir glass and one free five-ounce glass pour of your choice. Best of all, there are also helicopter rides (for \$40-\$44 extra)!

Autumn Lake Winery is located at 870 W. Malaga Road. For tickets, visit www.eventbrite.com and search for the event name. Enjoy a beautiful day at one of Williamstown's nicest settings!

Events in Glassboro Town Square

Glassboro Town Square will be hosting three fun events this September, all free and open to the public.

On the evening of Friday, Sept. 1st from 5 PM to 9 PM, there's the annual Car Show and Food Truck Festival, featuring vintage cars, live music, a DJ, and local craft beer.



The annual St. Anthony's Italian Heritage Festival takes place on Saturday, Sept. 9th from 2 PM to 10 PM. The festival includes carnival games, live entertainment, cultural exhibits, a home-made wine competition, a beer garden, and Italian food of all kinds.

Finally, on Saturday the 23rd from 12 PM to 5 PM, the town square will host the annual Glassboro Craft Beer Festival. The area's best craft breweries (including our own Cross Keys and 13th Child) will have their brews for sale, as well as live music, food trucks and vendors. Tickets are \$60 for general admission, \$10 for non-drinkers, and \$70 for VIP admission which brings some extra perks. For more info or to order tickets, visit www.glassborobeerfest.com.



More information on these events can be found at facebook.com/GlassboroTownSquare/events.

Lori Poisker Memorial Craft Fair in Pitman

Uptown Pitman will be holding its twice-yearly Lori Poisker Memorial Craft fair on Saturday, Sept. 16th, from 9 AM to 3 PM. (Rain date: Saturday, Sept. 17th.)

The festival is free to the public and takes place along Broadway in Pitman. It will include food trucks of all kinds, as well as over 300 local arts and craft vendors...everything from custom art and photography to specialty foods to jewelry, scents, and soaps.

There will be shuttle service from the Sony Parking Lot on Woodbury Road. If you're interested in becoming a vendor, email craftshows@uptownpitman.com.

For more information, visit Uptown Pitman's Facebook page.



Spilt Milk Ice Cream Parlor Opens in Washington Township

There's a new ice cream joint in our area...Spilt Milk Ice Cream Parlor has opened on Fries Mill Road in Washington Township (in the same strip mall as Angelo's Pizza, across from Verchio's Produce).



This wonderful new place offers some of Richman Ice Cream's greatest flavors (seriously, try the cinnamon bun ice cream) as well as some original creations from owners Brian and Francesca, like Waffle Tree sundaes with fresh store-made waffles. The vibe is terrific too...reminiscent of the kind of ice cream parlors you'd see around the mid-twentieth century, with pastels and modern chairs and a small bar area. Brian and Francesca have also installed a small kitchen, where, come fall, they'll start creating their own fresh-baked treats to sell.

Satisfy your sweet tooth with this new addition to Gloucester County's dessert choices!

(For more info, call 856-610-6455.)

Murder Mystery Dinner at Maggiano's in Cherry Hill

The old-fashioned whodunit has never been more popular—and neither has the murder mystery dinner. You can have your fill of food and thrills at Maggiano's Murder Mystery Dinner on Friday, Sept. 22nd, at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant in the Cherry Hill Mall!

The doors to the event open at 6:30 PM and the murder mystery begins at 7:15, courtesy of Keith & Margo's Murder Mystery troupe. A homicide has taken place, and it's up to you and your fellow diners to observe the clues, filter out the red herrings, and do some ingenious detective work to figure out the culprit.

That's only half the fun, though...the other half is in Maggiano's great Italian food! Served family-style, it features Maggiano's renowned lasagna and rigatoni, as well as chicken parmesan and lemon & herb salmon. (Bring your appetite...Maggiano's doesn't skimp.) There will also be a cash bar.

Tickets are \$65 per person, or you can reserve a table for 8 for \$470. You can order tickets on eventbrite.com (do a search for the event). For more information, call Maggiano's Cherry Hill at 856-792-4470.

This fun event will be a great exercise for your brain...and a treat for your tummy!



Gloucester County Senior Picnic

You're never too old to rock...at least, that's what they're betting on at the annual Gloucester County Senior Picnic at Red Bank Battlefield on Tuesday, Sept. 19th!



The event takes place from 11 AM to 3 PM (rain date: Wednesday, Sept. 20th) and is open to all Gloucester County seniors 60 years and older.

The theme this year is rock music...you can come dressed up as your favorite rock band or rock musician. There will be food, music, entertainment and dance contests.

Tickets are \$2 and are available at the Division of Senior Services at 115 Budd Boulevard in West Deptford, or at any of the senior nutrition sites, such as the Pfeiffer Center.

For more information, call 856-384-6900 or email seniors@co.gloucester.nj.us.

Full Moon Intention Bracelet Workshop

If you'd like to nurture both your creative and spiritual sides, you can do both at the bracelet-making workshop taking place at the Venus Moon Crystal Warehouse on Friday, Sept. 29th at 7 PM.

Breathe by Josie, a spiritual shop, is sponsoring this workshop to honor the harvest moon. For a \$33 per-person fee, you'll get all the materials you need to make to make an intention bracelet. The event will also offer one-on-one psychic readings for an extra \$25 fee. You're welcome to bring your own snacks and drinks. The evening closes with a Reiki blessing.



The Venus Moon Crystal Warehouse is located at 234 Chestnut Street in Glendora. For more info and to order tickets (including the extra psychic reading if you wish), visit breathebyjosie.com.



All The World's A Stage...

“Whodunit?” That’s the question the board game *Clue*—and the 1985 movie based on it—have asked for decades. Now, you’ll be able to answer that question with the stage adaptation *Clue*, onstage at Williamstown’s Grand Theater from Sept. 14th-24th!



In 1954, six guests are invited to a remote New England mansion for unknown reasons. They’re each assigned a pseudonym based on a color: Mr. Green, Miss Scarlet, Colonel Mustard, etc. A seventh guest, known as Mr. Boddy, arrives, to the dismay of the six: each one of them has a secret that they cannot afford to have exposed, and Mr. Boddy has been blackmailing all of them. He hands each of them a weapon (a candlestick, a rope, a lead pipe) and suggests that they murder the butler Wadsworth (“I buttle, sir.”), who has the key to their escape from the mansion. But when the lights go off and back on again...the dead body is Boddy’s! It turns out that Wadsworth is masterminding the whole affair...but who is the actual murderer? Like the movie, this adaptation has several different endings to choose from!

Tickets are \$20-\$30, depending on age. To order, visit roadcompany.com. Whether it was Colonel Mustard in the study with the candlestick or Professor Plum in the dining room with the revolver...you’re in for a great time!

“I would like (*you would, would you?*) if I may (*you may!*) to take you (*where?*) on a strange journey...” Rocky Horror fans, rejoice...the original stage version *The Rocky Horror Show* is onstage at the Burlington County Footlighters in Cinnaminson from Sept. 15th-30th!

The inspiration for the cult film classic, this stage show was where it all began. Newly engaged Brad Majors (*A—E!!!*) and Janet Weiss (*SLUT!!!*) get a flat tire on a rainy night and seek refuge in a castle—where they discover a strange celebration going on, presided over by the bisexual Dr. Frank-N-Furter. Frank has chosen tonight to bring his creation and would-be sex slave, the muscular Rocky Horror, to life. As Frank seduces the straight-laced couple, and Rocky spurns Frank for Janet, the situation gets even more complicated when the treachery of Frank’s servants comes into play. It all goes down with the accompaniment of one of theatre’s best rock-and-roll scores—which includes the hit song “The Time Warp”!



To order tickets (\$20), visit bfootlighters.com. The show will include audience part-i-c-i... (*SAY IT!!!*)...pation, so bring your best callbacks (and some rice and toilet paper)...and LET’S DO THE TIME WARP AGAIN!!!

No one is the villain of their own story...not even those who set out to kill the President of the United States. That’s the premise of Stephen Sondheim’s musical *Assassins*, onstage at Philadelphia’s Arden Theater from Sept. 21st-Oct. 15th.



The show presents the point of view of the nine people in American history who have killed, or attempted to kill, the President. From John Wilkes Booth, slayer of Abraham Lincoln, to disaffected workers Leon Czolgosz and Giuseppe Zangara, to Manson acolyte Squeaky Fromme, to unstable obsessives John Hinckley and Samuel Byck, each is frustrated with the country’s broken promises. Angry and resentful over an American Dream that is farther out of their reach than they were led to believe, they think that striking down the country’s leader is the only option they have left. Sondheim and scriptwriter John Weidman do not condone the actions of these nine men and women, but try to make the audience understand them and their motivations. The assassins interact with each other across time, connected by their actions and their motives. It all culminates in the one assassination that shocked—and changed—the country forever, that fateful day in November of 1963.

To order tickets, visit www.ardentheatre.org. Don’t miss this show that is shocking, frightening, and above all, thought-provoking...all thanks to one of the unquestioned masters of musical theatre.

What's New Onscreen!

Sir Kenneth Branagh has directed and starred in two stellar adaptations of well-known Hercule Poirot novels by Agatha Christie. With *A Haunting In Venice*, he adapts one of Dame Agatha's later, and lesser-known, novels, with an eerie supernatural twist.

Based loosely on the 1969 novel *Halloween Party*, the movie finds Poirot in the post-WWII years, living in peaceful retirement. On a visit to Venice, he runs into an old friend, mystery writer Ariadne Oliver (Tina Fey). Ariadne is curious over so-called psychic Joyce Reynolds (Michelle Yeoh)...she seems to be the real deal, against all Ariadne's experience with psychics. She invites Poirot to one of Joyce's séances, in hopes that he might be able to tell whether Joyce is faking it or not. The séance takes place at a palazzo in Venice that is said to be haunted. Despite his skepticism, Poirot is shaken by Joyce's apparent channeling of a guest's dead daughter...and by a murder that happens immediately afterward. As is par for the course, many of the guests had motives...but there are eerie occurrences within the walls of this mansion that cannot be explained. Now, the great detective and his little grey cells must unravel the truth behind the evening's events...even if it leads him to the unsettling conclusion that the supernatural world might, in fact, be involved...



This entry in the well-received series promises to be yet another compelling mystery, as interpreted by one of the best actors and directors of our time.

Leonardo da Vinci was a Renaissance man in the literal AND figurative sense of the term...an artist, inventor, and innovator. In the new movie *The Inventor*, premiering Sept. 15th, we get a look at his life...as a stop-motion animated musical!



In 1516 Rome, Leonardo (Stephen Fry) stands accused of heresy for his interest in human anatomy...it's considered an abomination for anyone who's not a doctor to "desecrate" human bodies. But when war breaks out with France, Pope Leo (Matt Berry) calls on Leonardo to come up with some inventions that will turn the tide. But Leonardo would rather end the fighting completely, and lights out for France, where he befriends King Francis' sister Marguerite (Daisy Ridley). A friendship springs up between the bold princess and the aging inventor, who, as he nears the end of his life, is pondering the ultimate question—the meaning of life itself. With the inspiration of his new friend, and no boundaries but his own imagination, Leonardo hopes to create his masterpiece—a "City of Ideas."

For anyone who loved the stop-motion specials of Rankin/Bass, this movie, already garnering good reviews, is a charming reminder of that old style...applied to the story of one of the greatest dreamers ever to have lived.

Seven years after we last saw the Portokalos clan, we catch up with them once again in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3*, in theaters Sept. 8th...and it's the biggest, fattest one yet!

Toula (Nia Vardalos, who also directs) and Ian (John Corbett) have weathered plenty of ups and downs in the last few years, what with their daughter in Paris (Elena Kampouris) in college—and with the recent passing of Nia's beloved father Gus. Gus' last wish was for his family to visit his ancestral village in Greece, to reconnect with the relatives still there. While Toula tries to hunt down Gus' childhood best friends for the upcoming reunion, Paris deals with an unexpected encounter with a guy she'd dated a while back. The family gets into all sorts of unexpected adventures along the way, which, despite all the general craziness, only cements bonds among its members old and new, and also reinforces Toula's new position as head of the family. And who knows...perhaps one more Greek wedding is in the cards?



This delightful comedy promises to be as much of a reunion with our old friends the Portokalos family as the one it depicts!



The Biblio-Files

To read, or not to read? That is the question with these new novels that riff on Shakespeare! (The answer, of course...to read!)

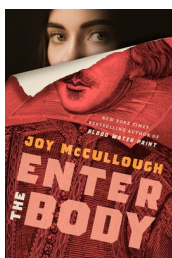
We all know Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* as the greatest love story of all time...but what if it was all a lie? That's the idea Natasha Solomons puts forth in *Fair Rosaline*.

Rosaline, you'll remember from the play, is Juliet's cousin, and the girl Romeo was infatuated with before he met Juliet. Here, she belongs to a poorer branch of the Capulet family, and is bound for a convent because her father cannot afford a dowry to marry her off. Rosaline, an intelligent girl who wants to control her own destiny, sneaks off in disguise to a ball at the house of the Montagues, her family's sworn enemies. There, she meets Romeo, son of the Montagues, an older man in his twenties. She falls head-over-heels in love with him, and he with her...or so she believes. Their clandestine romance is everything a young girl could wish for...until Romeo spies Juliet at the Capulets' ball, and dumps Rosaline on the spot. Rosaline's eyes are opened to Romeo's true nature...that of a heartless seducer of younger women. She vows to save her cousin from the same fate...but can she do so, and can she break free from the restrictions on her life to become her own person?



This engaging new novel makes a flesh-and-blood young woman out of a character Shakespeare never showed on-stage, in a far less tongue-in-cheek manner than the Hulu series *Rosaline* did.

Have you ever wondered if Shakespeare's heroines had an existence beyond the plays they feature in? Young adult author Joy McCullough has, and in her new novel *Enter The Body*, she explores the idea in a compelling manner.

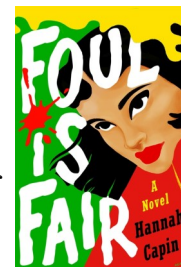


In a "trap room" beneath all the stages in the world, several Shakespearean tragic heroines, including Juliet, Ophelia, Cordelia (of *King Lear*), and Lavinia (of *Titus Andronicus*) gather—independent of the actresses who have played them on the stage above. They share their stories...the stories the Bard has given them to live out. Trouble is, they're a little tired of being remembered mainly for their tragic deaths. (After all, what do all those paintings of Ophelia depict? Her drowning!) So they begin to spin their own stories, imagining how their lives would play out if they'd had the agency to take even a modicum of control. In doing so, some of their stories still have an element of tragedy, and some are triumphant...but all of them play out on their own terms. And these heroines, whose voices once came from the Bard, find their own voices at last.

Written partially in verse and partially in script form, this inventive, witty novel offers us a look at what might have been for the heroines of Shakespeare's tragedies, if they had been allowed to direct their own destiny.

What if Shakespeare's ~~*Macbeth*~~ Scottish Play had taken place in a modern high school? Hannah Capin, whose *The Dead Queens Club* gave the same treatment to the wives of Henry VIII, now gives us a high school Lady Macbeth in *Foul Is Fair*.

Elle and her "coven" (her friends Mads, Summer, and Jenny) are the tough-as-nails queen bees of their school...until the night they crash the party of one of the boys from nearby St. Andrew's Prep, and Elle is drugged and assaulted. Elle and her friends know that the boys, with their wealthy and powerful parents, will escape justice if Elle reports them...so she takes matters into her own hands. Changing her appearance and going by her middle name of Jade, she transfers to St. Andrew's and takes her place among the popular girls...and seduces Mack, the best friend of Duncan, the "king" of the school and the leader of her rapists. Ruthlessly, she manipulates him into murdering any of the boys who was involved with the assault...but she didn't expect to start having feelings for the boy she only intended to use as a tool. The old saying just may end up being true...before you set out to take revenge, you must dig two graves...



Something VERY wicked this way comes in this dark and thrilling retelling that explores what happens if Lady Macbeth weren't driven by ambition...but by vengeance; not to gain power...but to take it back.