

FREE

YOUR REGIONAL GUIDE TO ART, CULTURE, HERITAGE, TOURISM AND LITERACY.

# SHOWCASE!

VOL. 14, NO. 2 • MARCH 20, 2017

# NOW MAGAZINE



Artist Courtland Murray created this piece as a salute to a music genre and a birthday gift for his father with whom he shares a love for jazz. All rights reserved. For more on this artist see the story on page 15.

# The Philadelphia Flower Show is a Natural Wonder for *Showcase* Readers

BY GEORG SHEETS-- PHOTOS BY BILL SCHINTZ



York photographer Bill Schintz captured these photos for the readers of *ShowcaseNow*.



The entrance to the Flower Show is a bridge beflowered with tulips and other flowers.

“Welkom!” The plaque says as you enter. It is a perfect introduction to the Convention Center in Philadelphia for a spectacular show that is themed around the country of Holland. One would expect tulips at this show but tulips, as plentiful as mayflies in the lights of the Columbia-Wrightsville Bridge, were only one of the plants displayed in all their color and glory at this annual Show. There were red ones, orange ones, crimson ones and yellow ones. There were blue ones with tips of a contrasting color. Yes, there were thousands of tulips but, much, much more.

There were displays as emotional as the Anne Frank House and as lively and colorful as the white bikes that have become a Dutch treat for thousands of residents and visitors to this country. There were seminars where experts answered questions about urban beekeeping and there were plenty of booths where you could buy air plants, teddy bears, special patio pillows and even balsam vinegars.

The plaque goes on to set the stage for this mega hit just a hour by train from most places in our coverage area.

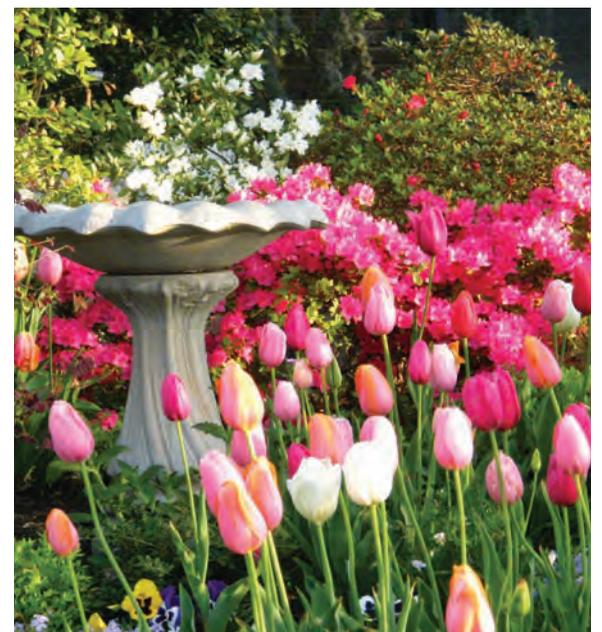
“A landscape of bridges, canals, windmills and water gardens in a sea of 30,000 tulips--with 6,000 more blooms suspended in a floral canopy--is presented in the Entrance Garden created by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for the 2017 PHS Flower

Show, ‘Holland Flowering the World.’ This show lives up to its promises and is certainly the finest and the biggest of the flower shows this side of the Mississippi.

After a brief, too brief for some of us, ride on the Amtrak train, and a really nice brunch at a Philadelphia restaurant on Rittenhouse Square, we made our way to the convention center by way of a 10-minute taxi ride. Within a half hour we were seeing what the PHS had in store for us this year. Outside the temperature was hovering around 25 degrees and it was snowing--snowing hard, snowing enthusiastically.

Inside, however, we couldn’t take our eyes off the displays that filled this giant hall, dazzled by the color and the magnificence of the season we knew was just around the corner--even in cold, brutal Pennsylvania!

Proceeds from this show support the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s neighborhood beautification programs, we learned. The show ran from Saturday, March 11 to Sunday, March 19. So, it’s too late to plan a trip this year, but next year you will want to plan ahead and make this a priority. Just visit the site, [phsonline.org](http://phsonline.org), [www.theflowershow.com](http://www.theflowershow.com), or or call 215-988-8899. **SN ■**



# Pennsylvania and the Underground Railroad: the Crooked Path to Freedom

The William C. Goodridge Freedom Center will present Lenwood Sloan to talk about the Pennsylvania Underground Railroad and what it was like for African Americans seeking freedom from slavery and persecution in 19th Century America.

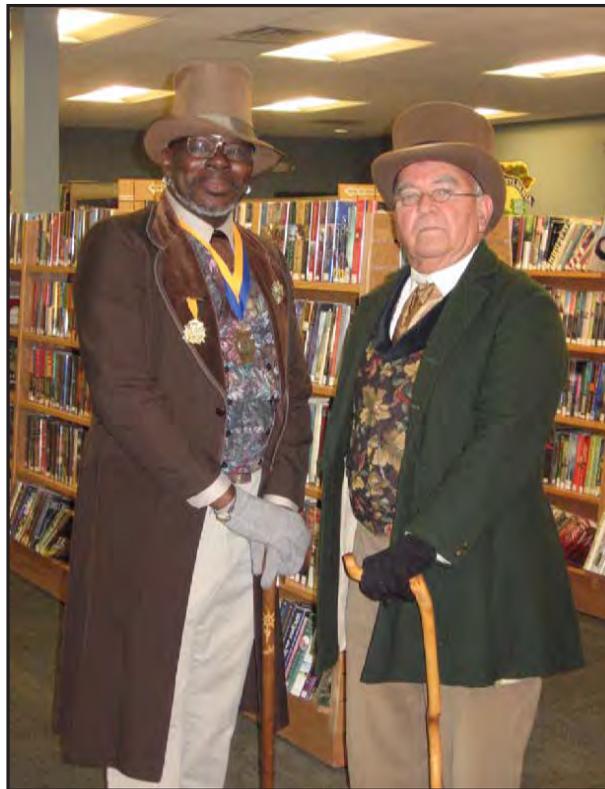
Sloan is a columnist for *ShowcaseNow* multi-media magazine and his presentations are generally sold out.

Sloan will first greet the public and conduct tours at the **Goodridge Freedom Center** located at 123 E. Philadelphia St. in York, between 4 and 6 p.m. on First Friday, April 7.

Following the tours, Mr. Sloan will guide groups across Philadelphia Street to the First Moravian Church, located at 39 N. Duke St., for his Underground Railroad presentation at 6 pm. The admission fee is \$5 and tickets can be purchased through the Goodridge Freedom Center Facebook page: Goodridge Freedom Center. For more information, and reservations those interested can contact Carol Kauffman at the Crispus Attucks Association, 717-848-3610, ext. 230.

Sloan, a living history interpreter is quick to tell you he is not a reenactor. "Reenactors," he states, "are people who live the life of the Civil War soldier or another historic personage and it is like they never died."

On the other hand, living history interpreters, he says, are actors portraying historic figures who realize they have not been on the scene for a long time and are "spirited back for a time". They can teach, find out what has happened and so forth, he confides.



Lenwood Sloan is photographed here by Karen Hostetter at his presentation at Red Land Library. Standing next to him is living history interpreter Terry Bluett who portrays another historic character.

Sloan will recreate history by appearing as the 19th Century African-American historic figure, T. Morris Chester, who served as a war correspondent, lawyer and soldier. After living in Liberia and Europe he settled in Louisiana where he practiced law, served as superintendent of schools and became president of a railroad company. After becoming ill, he returned to Harrisburg, where he died in the home of his mother on Chestnut Street.

Sloan currently works in Harrisburg and has served as a Pennsylvania Film Commissioner, Director of Cultural and Heritage Initiatives for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. His cultural and heritage portfolio include the development of interagency programs including the Pennsylvania Civil War Trails and the Pennsylvania "Quest for Freedom."

This event in April is part of the Goodridge Freedom Center's ongoing First Fridays program. For this event only, Carol Kauffman says, the Goodridge Freedom Center, part of the Network to Freedom Program coordinated by the National Park Service, will close at 6 pm to attend Mr. Sloan's presentation. The Freedom Center is open for special tours with a living history interpreter who portrays William C. Goodridge. For information on group visits, you may call Carol Kauffman at the Crispus Attucks Association, 717-848-3610, ext. 230. The Goodridge Center is open on each first Friday and on the 3rd Saturdays of the month, sometimes with special events such as this one. **SN ■**

## SOUP for SOUL Fundraiser for the Hungry in Chambersburg, Saturday, April 1



CASHS Student Brooke Stevens creates a bowl for the Soup to Soul Fundraiser on Saturday, April 1

In its mission to create art and to improve the lives of those community members in need, the Chambersburg Area Senior High Art Department will host its 6th Annual Soup for Soul Fundraiser at 3:30 pm on Saturday April 1, at Central Presbyterian Church, 40 Lincoln Way West, Chambersburg.

The fundraiser organized by CASHS art teachers Holly Strayer and Nicole Jacobs-Soper will benefit the Diaper Depot at Central this year.

Attendees will enjoy soups and stews from local chefs and leave with a beautiful, original piece of art. "Soup for Soul is a special event," Strayer explains. "People will also leave knowing that they have made a difference in the lives of people in their community. This year, 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the Diaper Depot at Central. The funds will assist the Depot in their mission of providing diapers for families in need."

Soup to Soul tickets are \$30 and include a dinner of soup and bread created by local chefs served in a handcrafted bowl created by local students and artisans. A silent auction of donated art items will be conducted throughout the evening. Goose Bros. cream and brownies will also be offered in small bowls (made by local schoolchildren) for an additional \$5 donation after dinner. For tickets or questions or would like tickets, call Nicole Jacobs-Soper at (717) 860-6773 or Holly Strayer at (717) 377-9891. **SN ■**

## Buster Williams Quartet Appearing in Camp Hill Concert, Sunday, April 2



**The Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz will present the legendary jazz bassist Buster Williams at the Pollock Center, 340 North 21st Street, Camp Hill**



Buster Williams is a prodigious artist whose playing knows no limits, according to jazz enthusiasts. Buster will bring his recording quartet from New York City to the Pollock Center in Camp Hill on Sunday, April 2. The group features pianist George Colligan, drummer Lenny White, and saxophonist Steve Wilson. Called "one of jazz's most valuable sidemen," Buster Williams has flourished through many periods of changing fashions in jazz. Best known since the 1980s for his solid, dark tone and highly refined technique on the acoustic bass, the jazz-rock generation knew him as the mobile anchor of Herbie Hancock's exploratory Mwandishi Sextet from 1969 to 1973. Tickets for the Sunday, April 2 concert are available from the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz website - [www.friendsofjazz.org](http://www.friendsofjazz.org) - or by phone at 717-540-1010 or at the door the day of the concert. Tickets for adults are \$25 and students are admitted for \$10. All seats are General Admission.

There is no food or drink available at the Pollock Center, concert planners noted, but free parking is available. **SN ■**

## Creative York Offers Shows and a "Save the Date" Announcement

 creative york



Two artlovers at a past Art in Residence pose for the camera.

### CYW Exhibit Opening Reception

**First Friday, April 7, 5-8 pm**

Don't miss the First Friday Opening Reception for "A Three Man Show - The Artistry of Mark, Zack & Cody Bluett" at Creative York West (118 W Philadelphia St) from 5-8pm. The exhibit features hand-crafted stringed instruments, landscape paintings, and funny, punny PreZoodents. The exhibit will run from April 3-8.

(Artists: Would you like to have an exhibit at Creative York West? Contact us! [info@creativeyork.org](mailto:info@creativeyork.org))

### Call For Works: YorkFest Juried Exhibit

**Deadline for Submissions: June 1, 2017**

Participation in the Juried Exhibition is open to all artists and crafts persons. Fine art and fine craft in all mediums are acceptable. Entries must be original and completed within the past two years.

We are honored to host this year's juror, John Pepper, an arts professional and educator. He is currently the Adult and College Programs Coordinator at Allentown Art Museum.

For details on how to submit, go to: <http://creativeyork.org/gallery/artists/>

### Save The Date!

### Art In Residence 20th Anniversary!

**Art In Residence 20th Anniversary!**

Creative York is currently planning our 20th annual Art In Residence fundraising gala, slated for April 29, and we have lots of surprises in store for you! This celebration includes fantastic food, wine, and music, along with spectacular works of art on display from local collectors. This one-night-only exhibition features seldom-seen, privately-owned artworks that are historical, contemporary, beautiful, whimsical, and sentimental - just like York itself. Traditionally, the event has been held at BonTon Headquarters in East York, but for this landmark year of the event, we are bringing it to downtown York to showcase our beautiful city along with the art! Stay tuned for more details about an Art In Residence event like never before!



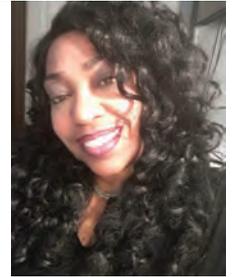
### Film Resources Division

The Film Resources Division of Kreative Lines LLC is an association of professionals who support film-making in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Our associates bring expertise in projects as diverse as commercial mainstream filmmaking ("Major League II," "The Distinguished Gentleman,") Broadcast Commercials (L'Oreal Hair Products, Air France,) documentaries ("Three Mile Island," "Stephen Foster,") and publishing (Simon and Schuster, Free Press, Alfred Knopf and Sons.)

**REGISTER AT: [www.kreativelinesllc.com](http://www.kreativelinesllc.com)**

# The Singer's Lounge: An Antidote to "There's Nothing to do in Harrisburg!"

BY MONICA BUTTS BAKER



Where can you go in Harrisburg and enjoy good music, good food and libations with a crowd that spans traditionalists to millennials?

A show stopping red dress that would make Johnny Gill croon, Hennessy smooth, liquid gold voices and R&B that took you to church were the highlights that kept the crowd engaged and enjoying the The Singer's Lounge first Anniversary celebration. This was in February when participants dressed up and showed off their stuff at the Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center (HMAC) to show love, support and celebrate the one year journey of the Singer's Lounge for a special anniversary event dubbed "An R&B Open Mic Experience."

Playing to a full house, with standing room only, local artists, backed by the Singer's Lounge house band, with background singers performed in grand style. Hosted by none other than Harrisburg's own Gina Johnson, Smallwood's Cousin/Aunt who dropped nuggets of notable local black history facts throughout the evening.

**FACT:** Airis Smallwood's grandmother, the late Joan Francis Potter Smallwood Giddens once sang with Ella Fitzgerald.

Recently, returning to Harrisburg from Charlotte, NC, where there is more than enough to do, I have personally been guilty of complaining about Harrisburg being boring. It's easy to complain about a problem but quite another to come up with a solution that can benefit everyone. Harrisburg's got talent and Airis Smallwood has taken her personal dream and shared it with her city by giving them a stage where they can "lift their voices." Birthed from a lack of local outlets to showcase her own talent along with her singing friends, Smallwood created the Singer's Lounge.

Her commitment to community coupled with her love of music and overcoming objections has brought her dream into fruition, all the while helping others realize their own dreams.

In a documentary with Wedo media Smallwood says "There's nothing basically for the soul singer to do in Harrisburg other than Karaoke and singing in church." She felt that every singer should have an opportunity to sing with a live band and not just on "tracks."

Singer Josh Selvy said " I always have an awesome time at Singer's Lounge. It's like having a giant family reunion. It's really the only time where I can perform in front of the people who have been viewing my artistic progress for a very long time. A lot of my influence comes from right in my hometown--folks who are provide great inspiration and motivation."

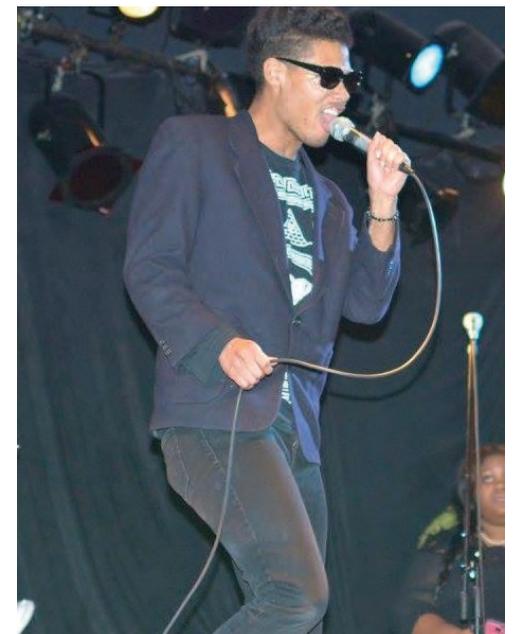
Harrisburg City Councilman, Cornelius Johnson, presented Smallwood with a proclamation honoring her for having the tenacity to bring her vision to life as well as creating a positive monthly event for all to enjoy.

Harrisburg native Norvella Logan described it perfectly, "It was an incredible experience. Not just the music which was authentic and spontaneous. But the atmosphere of old and new acquaintances coming together and in fellowship. It's just what Harrisburg needs."

So if ever it is said that there is nothing to do in Harrisburg, let's be crystal clear, that one Sunday of every month you can enjoy a fresh new theme and a plethora of talent at the Singer's Lounge, in the HMAC center, 1110 N 3rd St, Harrisburg. For more information contact Airis Smallwood on Facebook. **SN ■**



Airis Smallwood receiving proclamation from Councilman Johnson



Josh Selvy



Jennifer Smallwood, Airis Smallwood and Gina Johnson



Airis Smallwood

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Between Your Bookends



## Local Readers Share Their “Best Books”

BY SUZY HERSHEY

In the last issue of *ShowcaseNow*, several famous personages shared their thoughts on the books that influenced their lives. Here, then, are some more special books which have had an indelible impression on the lives of people in our community. Perhaps one of their suggestions could have a similar effect for you. Here in their own words are their special choices.

### First we hear from a political figure who has a health center named after her.

My beloved mother, Susie Byrnes writes, instilled the love of reading to me at an early age by taking me to Martin Memorial Library every week in the summers of my childhood. She also bought Readers’ Digest Condensed Books for her family which I devoured. I cherish every minute with a good book. It transformed me. Spiritually, I follow Mother Teresa’s *A Simple Path: the fruit of silence is Prayer, the fruit of prayer is FAITH, the fruit of faith is LOVE, the fruit of love is SERVICE, the fruit of service is PEACE. This simple path guides my life.*

Another favorite book is *The Power of One* by Bruce Courtenay. Set in South Africa in the late 1930s, it is a suspenseful story of schoolboy Peekay and his adventure and drama in the boxing ring. One of my favorite quotes given to Peekay from his boxing coach is, “First with the head and then with the heart. Believe in the power of one.”

**Susie Byrnes**

### Then we hear from another political figure.

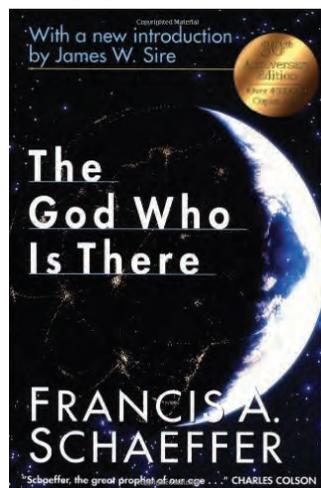


Part of my second year French class in High School, Henry Nixon writes, was reading *Le Petit Prince*. Written by French author Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, it describes the journey of a little boy/prince who has fallen to earth from his home on a tiny asteroid. This tale, which the author says is a book for children but written for adults, tells a series of stories about the crassness of materialism, the foibles of grown-ups and the strangeness of the adult world.

While I am not sure it changed my life, it has certainly affected my view of life, how I live my life, and what is important to me. Some folks that know me might say it has infected my views and made me into the optimistic curmudgeon who thoroughly enjoys his life and his world around him—much like the little boy living on a tiny asteroid.

**Henry Nixon**

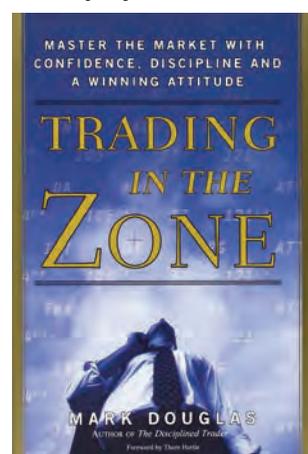
### Then we hear from a locally-famous newspaper editor:



Francis A. Schaeffer’s *The God Who is There*. Schaeffer was an American Christian pastor/thinker who settled in peaceful Switzerland in the turbulent 1980s. There, a parade of backpackers and seekers came to stay in “L’Abri”, where Schaeffer helped them sort through competing notions about God, science, history and a seemingly impersonal world. He helped them—and readers like me—see that God is more than an idea, but actually, a personal being who exists as Schaeffer puts it, “in space and time.”

**Jim McClure**

### Then we hear from the CEO of the York County Library System.



I started studying the financial markets in high school while working as a reference librarian at Martin Library. In the year 2000, I came across Mark Douglas’s book, *Trading in the Zone: Master the Markets with Confidence, Discipline and a Winning Attitude*. The book describes the necessary mental framework of trading properly and helped me me to understand the psychological challenges a trader must face. The book taught me how to think in probabilities when trading. I credit Mark’s book for helping me to become a successful trader. I now provide training, education and proprietary software products to over 2,500 traders around the world through my company, Global Grain Futures, which specializes in teaching

traders how to master the Corn, Wheat and Soybean markets. Moreover, Global Grain Futures, provides funding for my foundation, Global Read and Feed Children’s Foundation, which engages libraries across the country to join the fight against childhood hunger.

receiving a big assist from the County Library System in gathering the written word and audiobooks along the way. Many of those works are remarkable, but they tend to point to alienation, despair and impersonality. So I went back to a life-changing non-fiction book from my teens and early 20s,

**Robert Lambert**

### Next a well-known school teacher and a former writer for *ShowcaseNow* writes:

One of the books which has made a serious impact on my life is *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Freidan. Published in 1963, the book recognized that too many middle-class women seemed restless and dissatisfied and became known as the “problem that has no name”. This discussion of Feminism was an eye-opener to me. It was not a movement that bashed men but one that pushed women. It clearly pointed out that “getting out of the kitchen” was a worthy goal to encourage self-esteem and self-confidence.

My good friend, Mary Stephenson, the Women’s Editor of the Sunday News, was asked to gather a panel to discuss the book and issue on local television. She invited me to support Friedan’s theory that our male-dominated culture encouraged a systemic attempt to keep women from realizing their full potential. After working together on this event, she asked me to consider working for the Sunday News. This was my path to moving “out of the kitchen”. We have certainly come a long, long way since the 60s, or have we?

**Ruthe F. Craley**

Hopefully, these comments will give you some ideas of books you’d like to read. If you have any thoughts to share from your reading experience, the next issue of *ShowcaseNow*, distributed beginning on May 15, will continue this series and will have room for some more contributions from our readers. Please respond to [suzyhershey13@comcast.net](mailto:suzyhershey13@comcast.net) and see your thoughts in print. **SN** ■

## Planning Underway for the 20th Annual Women’s Show

The Rocky98.5/Froggy107.7/MediaOnePA Women’s Show is scheduled for Oct. 7 and 8 at the York Expo Center. Show coordinators are working hard to ensure that the 20th annual Women’s Show will be the most successful yet. The two-day weekend event focuses on women and their interests, and will feature shopping, exhibits, seminars, cooking demonstrations, fashion shows, prizes (no purchase necessary), performances and more. The show’s organizers are currently putting together an exceptional and diverse entertainment schedule for this year’s show.

“With thousands of attendees last year, the Women’s Show continues to be an amazing draw for women of all ages in our community,” said Sandy Angel, event coordinator. “We are thrilled with the continual growth of the show each year and are proud to be able to provide businesses with this unique opportunity to market their services and products directly to thousands of York County women. The Women’s Show remains a valuable marketing tool for businesses looking to market to area women and we look forward to planning for its 20th year.”

The Women’s Show headquarters can be reached at 717-637-3831 or online at [www.foreveryork.com](http://www.foreveryork.com). **SN** ■

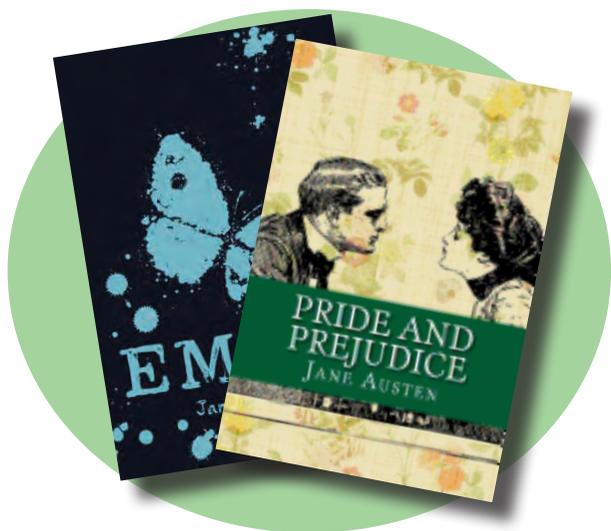
# Happy reading!

**We’d Like to Hear From You!** In this article, Suzy Hershey, the writer, asks you to send her a note about your favorite book or the book that changed your life. We’d like to hear from you on other issues, too. If you have a comment, a suggestion or a critique, please write, email, text or call us. Send your comments to *ShowcaseNow*, P.O. Box 2545, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Alternatively, simply send us an email at [ShowcaseNow@aol.com](mailto:ShowcaseNow@aol.com)—and feel good that you have helped us make this a better multi-media magazine. And we may use your comments if you don’t mind to illustrate just that point!

# A Novel Look at the World: Connecting With Jane Austen



BY GAIL TOMLINSON



These books from Jane Austen are now classics.

*"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." (Pride & Prejudice)*

Sometimes described as the most clever opening line of any novel, it was written by a young woman of 20 who lived in England at the end of the 18th century. Her six novels, one in continuous publication since it's printing in 1811, introduce us to characters Elizabeth Bennet, Captain Wentworth, Emma Woodhouse, Anne Elliot, and Mr. Darcy, among so many others.

Maybe you already know those names and can immediately call to mind quietly reading their particular stories. You might recall a scene from one of the countless traditional film or TV adaptations of her novels. Maybe you would be surprised that Cher from Clueless, Bollywood dancers or even zombies are employed in the retelling of Jane Austen's stories. If you regularly return to these stories or images, you might be a Janeite. I confess to you, having read Pride & Prejudice almost every year since I was 16, I already am.

At the heart of the fascination with Jane Austen are her six novels whose descriptions of England were a glimpse of home 100 years after her death for men in the trenches of World War I. Yet it is her clear, occasionally

biting truth about human nature that is relevant in all communities 200 years later. She is read in virtually every country, in every language on Earth. Jane Austen Societies can be found world-wide with more than 5,000 members in the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA) alone. Jane Austen groups, the Jane Austen Society of Lancaster County and Barton's Bibliophiles can be found locally as well.

In this 200th year since the death of Jane Austen opportunities abound for those needing a Jane Austen fix or for those seeking to understand why anyone would ever need one.

"My idea of good company is the company of clever, well-informed people who have a great deal of conversation; that is what I call good company. (Persuasion, 1818)" and good company is what you will find at all of the following events.

In April The Trust Performing Arts Center at 37 N. Market Street in Lancaster ([www.lancastertrust.com](http://www.lancastertrust.com)), a community venue of Lancaster Bible College, offers two opportunities to connect with Austen. On Saturday, April 8, Trust Theater will present *Jane Out Loud*, a scripted reading of "*Pride & Prejudice*" by acting students from the college. Performances are at 10 am and Noon. A free will offering will be taken.

On Tuesday, April 11 at 7:30 pm the Trust Conversation series will present *Jane Austen for Dummies, Ladies and Gentlemen*, a talk by Karen Swallow Prior, PhD.D. and Professor of English from Liberty University. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for veterans and 65 or older.

The Jane Austen Society of Lancaster County will hold a **Jane Austen Tea** on Saturday, May 20 from 1pm to 3 pm in the community room of the Lititz Public Library, 651 Kissel Hill Road, Lititz. Tickets are \$22 and can be purchased at the library. Society members will be in costume. Sweet and savory treats will be served and Austen-related items will be auctioned. Proceeds will benefit the library.

*"I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading! How much sooner one tires of anything than of a book! When I have a house of my own, I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library. (Pride & Prejudice, 1813).*



Jane Austen

We here in the Central Pennsylvania region have no reason to be miserable. There is not one library in the nine counties that will not have at least one of the Jane Austen novels or videos of TV and movie productions of the novels. In addition, the Lititz Public Library and the Hershey Public Library provide space for Janeites to meet on a regular basis.

The Jane Austen Society of Lancaster County meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Lititz Library. The group listens to lectures and watches films regarding Jane Austen, her life and times. A light tea is always served.

Members of JASNA often form reading groups to discuss Jane Austen's novels and other literature of her time period. One local reading group, Barton's Bibliophiles meets approximately every six weeks at the Hershey Public Library. You can contact [www.jasnaeastpa.org](http://www.jasnaeastpa.org) for information on a reading group near you.

And, just to make a point of Jane's relevance to you, the reader of *ShowcaseNow!*, just look through these pages and find something new to do.... *"Why not seize pleasure at once? How often is happiness destroyed by preparation, foolish preparation ! (Emma, 1811).* **SN ■**



A Tea for Janeites is seen here in progress.



A tea table set for the Janeites.

**We Want to Hear From You:** Have you been to one of the places spoken about in Ms. Tomlinson's article above? Do you have reminiscences that would add to our information. If so, we would love to hear about it—or anything you want to say about the articles in this multi-media magazine. Please write to email, text, Facebook, or us our editor and let us know what you think!



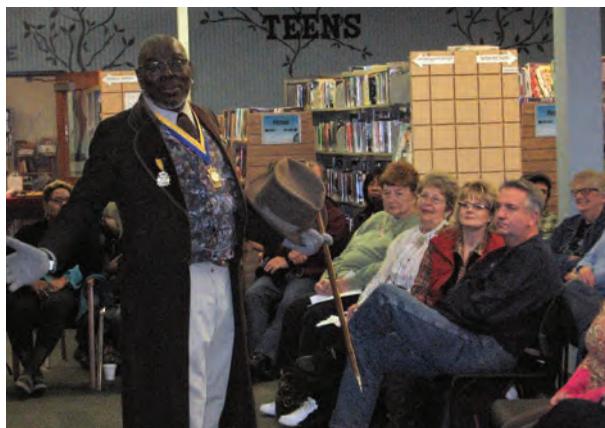
## Trailing the Underground Railroad in Upper York County

BY KAREN HOSTETTER

Interest in the Underground Railroad is woven into conversations at my library often. Each new book written on the topic gets checked out again and again. Volunteers talk about neighbors they knew whose ancestors had safe houses or were conductors, helping freedom seekers through the perilous routes to freedom. The Underground Railroad was illegal and dangerous since slave owners and bounty hunters travelled the same roads. And some Pennsylvanians were slave-owners even here in Etters, in Upper York County.

For a perspective on this topic, we spent an evening listening to Lenwood Sloan, in persona as Mr. T. Morris Chester, a successful journalist and businessman of color, who was born and died in Harrisburg but very much a citizen of the world. An imposing figure dressed in period attire, "Mr. Chester" told us that William Penn owned slaves. He did not own the strong and able young men and women who could survive cotton fields in the Deep South, but the more learned people who were sometimes older workers. They were called servants in the Penn household. But Penn, as well as others throughout the Colonies at the time, participated in the slave trade. This was certainly a dilemma for the Quakers who welcomed all faiths and all people to "Penn's Woods" -- a place to live in harmony.

"Think of our area as a wishbone with the Susquehanna River as a natural boundary to the East and the Appalachian Mountains to the West with the top pointing to Harrisburg," Chester said. Freedom seekers who came this way found safe houses as they traveled north, always following the North Star. But even with stations, and "safe-houses" it was a perilous journey. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 ordered federal officers to arrest suspected runaway slaves; it also threatened imprisonment to anyone aiding a runaway.



"Lenwood Sloan as T. Morris Chester is seen here at one of Red Land Library's most popular presentations."

Just as in earlier times, there was a mix of abolitionists, slave owners, and those who wanted to remain neutral all around here. Many of the businesses in this area had clients and friends in Baltimore and Quakers soon outlawed slavery and became active conductors on the Underground Railroad. We will discuss more of their role in another program.

To this day, we continue to be a mix of people who welcome and aid recent immigrants, Mr. Chester told us. But there are others who want to send Africans back even though they were born in this country and would not be suited at all to the old one. Also there are those who just want to be left alone.

My hope is that having these programs at the library will lead to more dialogue, understanding, and tolerance.

Thank you to Lenwood Sloan for the enjoyable presentation. I don't know who gets the accolades, him or his persona, Mr. T. Morris Chester. Both enlightened, as well as entertained, our library attendees enjoyed this presentation tremendously for over an hour-and-a-

half! Those of you in York City have another chance to see Mr. Sloan as he gives another presentation as T. Morris Chester on First Friday, April 7 at the Goodridge Freedom House.

### Readers' Celebration to be held on April 8

You read the book *Rose Under Fire* by Elizabeth Wein, now join the Readers' Celebration on Saturday, April 8 from Noon to 2 pm at the Reading Regional Airport, 2501 Bernville Road, Reading, 19605. All are welcome to join us for a delicious reception catered by Isaac's and a silent auction to benefit future One Book, One Community programs. We are most excited to share that author Elizabeth Wein will be there to meet, answer questions, and sign books. This event will be held at no charge but registration is requested. Please RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/readers-celebration>. Interested readers may wish to plan a trip to the nearby Mid-Atlantic Air Museum before or after our event to see World War II planes and artifacts up close. Fee for admission. Hours are 9:30 am to 4 pm. The last tour starts at 3 pm and there are no self-guided tours.

### A Sure Sign of Spring – Flea Markets

Getting ready to clean out closets, attics, and garages? It's that time of year and Red Land Community Library located in Etters, will have the place to bring your unwanted treasures. Call the library at 717-938-5599 or stop by anytime to rent a space for the annual Flea Market to be held on Saturday, April 29 from 8 am to 1 pm. Rain date is Sunday, April 30. There is also a bake sale, hot dogs, and drinks to hold over the busy thrift shoppers. This event has grown over the years to wrap around 3 sides of the library. Red Land Community Library is located in Newberry Commons Shopping Center, Take Route I-83, and get off exit 34N or exit 33S. Call 717-938-5599 with questions. **SN**

**About the Writer:** Karen Hostetter is the Branch Manager, Red Land Community Library, A York County Library System branch in the village of Etters.



Art by Dan Kepner

## (photo) synthesis: from wood to paper; an Art Show Comes to the Harrisburg Art Association

The Art Association of Harrisburg has invited four faculty members from Pennsylvania College of Art and Design's (PCA&D) photography department and three woodworkers from Mellow Minded Café to exhibit their work in a collaborative exhibition entitled, (photo)synthesis : from wood to paper, showing April 7 to May 4. An opening Reception, free to all, will be held on Saturday, April 8, from 5 - 8 pm. This diverse show merges the practices of fine art and craft, while synthesizing various mediums, as well as, display and instillation practices, according to Carrie Wissler-Thomas, president of the Association and Rachel O'Connor, curator.

The PCA&D Faculty who are showing include David Johanson, Sharon Koelblinger, Julie Staples and Eric Week.

The members of Mellow Minded Woodworkers showing in this exhibition include Jesse Jones, Dan Kepner and Ted Zinn.

The exhibition sponsor is Randolph Michener, and the reception host on Saturday, April 8, is Tom Robel. Music at the reception will be provided by John Catalano. For more information you can visit [WWW.ARTASSOCOFHBG.COM](http://WWW.ARTASSOCOFHBG.COM).



## York County Libraries

ANSWERS FOR LIVING. KNOWLEDGE FOR LIFE.

### Hanover Public Library Offering Programs to All Ages

If you hear the pitter patter of little feet, you might be in Guthrie Library-Hanover's Public Library this spring. Here is a children's program that is designed to entertain and educate young people:

**Wee Build Program** – On the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 7:30 pm and on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:15-11:15 am.

Guthrie Memorial Library received materials from The Office of Commonwealth Libraries to provide building materials for young children and their adults through the **Cruise Into Kindergarten** program. Playing is no idle pastime. In fact, research shows that play is shown to help children develop many skills. Come in the library and start building together, says longtime employee Julie Moul. For children ages 3 to 5 with their parent/guardian. No registration is required.

And here are some programs for adults, with visits by some of the best authors around and a lunch on May 13!

**March 21, 6:30 pm – Matthew Betley**, author of *Overwatch*, will be here to discuss his 2nd novel *Oath of Honor*. This is a follow up to his first book. Clive Cussler and Vince Flynn fans will enjoy this author. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

**March 28, 6:30 pm – Christina Kovac** will be here with her debut novel *Cutaway*. Her style has been compared to Paula Hawkins and Gillian Flynn. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

**April 11, 6:30 pm – Rachel J. Good** will be at Guthrie to talk about her latest book *Buried Secrets*. She grew up near Lancaster County, and has written more than 2200 articles and 20 books. Her newest book will be available for purchase and signing.

**May 13, 11 am to 1 pm – Guthrie's Day for Book Lovers – I'll See You in Paris** by Author Michelle Gable will be released this Spring. Join us for a luncheon and book talk with this author. Cost is \$25, which includes lunch and a copy of the new release. **Register at Guthrie Memorial Library, phone 717-632-5183**



### The Belmont Theatre Sets Auditions for "Sister Act"

The Belmont Theatre, York, will hold auditions for its new production, "Sister Act," directed by Rene Staub, on Monday, April 10 for 6 or 7 pm and Tuesday April 11 at 6 pm or 7 pm.

When calling actors should give their name and age and the date and time they want to schedule the audition. Among other talent the theater will be looking for strong vocalists aged 16 and up, and dancers. The entire cast should move well, according to those who are casting this show to be staged from June 16 to June 25.

Those interested can call the theater at **717-854-3894** or email [info@thebelmont.org](mailto:info@thebelmont.org) to schedule your audition. Callbacks have been scheduled for April 12.



### Third Annual TASTE OF JAZZ APRIL 30, 2017 CONCERT

FEATURING **Tito Puente Jr. and Shacara Rogers & Kayla Waters And More!**

**WHERE:** National Civil War Museum  
1 Lincoln Circle, Harrisburg, PA 17103

**WHEN:** Sunday, April 30, 2017

**TIME:** 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Self guided tours begin at 1:00 p.m.

**TICKETS:** \$65 (same day self-guided tour of museum, silent auction, delicious food and a cash bar, live entertainment)

**PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE:**  
<https://stpaulstoj2017.eventbrite.com>  
(Surcharge will be added)  
or contact us at 717-461-2036  
[TasteofJazzCentralPA@gmail.com](mailto:TasteofJazzCentralPA@gmail.com)

Sponsorships and table purchases with premium seating available.

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### SHOWCASE! NOW! MAGAZINE

VOL. 12, NO. 2 • MAY 4, 2016  
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# You Can Help Save the Arts

BY KAREN WIX

My faithful readers know I am an avid supporter of the Arts. I have seen firsthand how the Arts can impact states, cities and individuals in very important ways.

A city with a strong and vibrant Arts community gains prestige, local and national notoriety and more importantly, to some, money. By the Arts I include all of the Arts--music, drama, fine art and literature.

The people who attend local symphonies, visit art galleries, buy tickets to performances at the local theater are spending money--often in their own home town--instead of traveling to a big city to take advantage of things that are vital to a fulfilled life.

Tourists come to a city to see what "all the talk is about." When people attend or visit such venues they usually eat in local restaurants and shop in the stores near the theater, gallery or performing arts center.

The impact on children cannot be denied. It has been proven that kids introduced to the Arts do better in school and in life in general. A city must have the Arts available for children.

In this day and age and "The No Child Left Behind" law where teachers have to "teach to the test" and time is precious and money is in very short supply it would be impossible to expose the pupils to what the world of the Arts has to offer if such exposure were not readily available. Most of the com-



munities that are lucky enough to have ShowcaseNow for their reading pleasure do have vibrant Arts venues.

But wait a minute...that may not be true for very long. Our new President, in all his wisdom, has decided that he and his minions want to get rid of the National Endowment for the Arts. Really?

The National Endowment for the Arts was started in 1965 by none other than Lyndon Johnson--not in my mind the first person that would spring to mind when considering the importance of promoting the Arts. The NEA is "dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education."

Why many conservatives find this mission a problem is a mystery to me. This group has tried to get rid of the NEA since its inception. They often times cite a piece of art as being anti-religion. So what, I thought this country was based on the belief that we were all free to hold our own religious views and if one painting can make them feel they should "throw out the baby with the bathwater" such art must hit some raw nerves in the people that are so sensitive to another's take on their beliefs.

The grants of the NEA range from \$5,000. to over \$2,000,000. Sometimes these grants can make the difference between life and death to an organization.

The big arts centers will somehow make it through if the NEA is dissolved. They do have large endowment funds, but it will not be easy to maintain the high standards that have thrust them into the spotlight. It is the small grants that can mean the most. Ten thousand dollars to a small city orchestra, an aspiring author or a struggling painter can be the savior of a talent that would otherwise be abandoned. Bills have to be paid and one does have to eat, after all.

The yearly budget for the NEA is less than \$147,000,000--nothing in the grand scheme of things. The national budget is well over \$4,000,000,000,000. (that's trillion, girls and boys) The budget for the NEA is .025 of the national budget.

It is costing the U.S. tax payer over a million dollars a day to protect the president's wife and son in New York City so that the son can finish the school year at his old school. Such accommodation to a ten year old is ridiculous.

It will end up costing as much as the NEA budget. Does something seem out of whack here?

Please, you can act on this now. Let your representatives know how you feel about this issue. We do still have a say in how our tax dollars are spent. And what could be a better way than to educate? And what better way is there to stimulate and excite our citizens. **SN ■**

## Martin Library Honors Michael E. Kochenour at May 27 Event



York native, Michael E. Kochenour will be the spring Honoree at Martin Library with an event planned for the Quiet Reading Room and a catered Reception in the Bill Simpson Room on Sunday, May 27. All are invited to the free event which has honored one or two people a year since 1995.

Kochenour, according to Robert Lambert, CEO of the York County Library System and a member of the Honors Committee, said Kochenour is the Founder and Chairman of the Board of York Traditions Bank. He has 45 years of banking experience and is a vital player in the welfare of the community. He serves on many important boards in the York community including the American Red Cross-York Adams Chapter where he is its Past Board Chair. He is Past Board Chair of the Byrnes Health Education Center; Board member, Executive Committee, and Chair of the Governance Committee of the Appell Center for the Performing Arts (formerly the Strand-Capitol); Board member and Treasurer of the York County Bar Association Foundation; Vice Chair for the York Health Foundation Board; Chair of the Leadership Cabinet for the York College Community Opportunity Scholarship Program; Past Chair of the Heart & Stroke Ball for the American Heart and American Stroke Association; and Past Board Chair of the United Way of York County. He is an active Rotarian and serves as

a mentor for Leadership York. Moreover, he is a friend to Martin Library, Lambert continued, and the entire York County Library System. The event runs from 2 to 4 p.m. and a key element of this Honors program is to establish a Perpetual Fund in the Honoree's name that will purchase books and other library materials, all plated with the Honored Person's name.

Anyone who would like to contribute to this fund, may send a contribution to the

**The Michael E. Kochenour Honors Fund**  
 % Martin Library  
 159 E. Market Street  
 York, PA 17401

Or they can visit the library's webpage and make an online gift designated for this Fund at [www.yorklibraries.org](http://www.yorklibraries.org). Dr. Luther Sowers is chair of the committee comprised of Robert Cox, Brenda Elby, Donna Pullo, Lynne Danyo, Don Dellinger Jr., Mike Baker Frankenberg, Lori Rene Weyant, Robert Lambert and Georg Sheets. The event is planned with the help of Laura O'Grady, Fran Keller and Joe Kirkenir of the library staff. Reservations and information is available by calling Sheets, the Library's Planned Gifts Officer, at 717-849-6966. **SN ■**

Please verify all dates and times since schedules frequently change.

NOTE: we have changed our process for accepting datebook listings. You must now go to our website: [www.showcasenow.net](http://www.showcasenow.net) press the datebook entry button and complete the form. We are no longer able to accept listings at [datebook@showcasenow.net](mailto:datebook@showcasenow.net). Edited by Kelly Summerford

## March 20 -26, 2017

**The Spitfire Grill**  
Oyster Mill Playhouse  
Camp Hill  
[www.oystermill.com](http://www.oystermill.com)

## March 20 - 26, 2017

**Don't Drink the Water**  
Capitol Theatre | Chambersburg  
717-263-3900 | [www.cctonline.org](http://www.cctonline.org)

## March 20 - April 2, 2017

**In The Heights**  
Fulton Theatre | Lancaster  
717-397-7425 | [www.thefulton.org](http://www.thefulton.org)

## March 25 - April 9, 2017

**Scholastics and Lancaster County Young Artists Exhibits**  
Demuth Museum and Lancaster Museum of Art | Lancaster  
717-299-9940  
[www.demuth.org](http://www.demuth.org)

## March 25 - April 10, 2017

**Death Trap**  
Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg  
Mechanicsburg  
717-766-0535 | [www.ltmonline.net](http://www.ltmonline.net)

## March 26, 2017

**Murder at Mount Hope Mansion**  
Manheim Community Library  
Manheim  
717-665-6700

## March 31, 2017

**Golden Dragon Acrobats**  
Majestic Theatre | Gettysburg  
717-337-8200 | [gettysburgmajestic.org](http://gettysburgmajestic.org)

## March 31 - April 1, 2017

**Nexgen Youth Arts Conference**  
The Red Lion Hotel | Harrisburg  
717-695-9466  
[nexusconference.org](http://nexusconference.org)

## April 6 - 8, 2017

**Anything Goes**  
**Perry County Council on the Arts**  
Landis House | Newport  
717-567-7023  
[www.perrycountyarts.org](http://www.perrycountyarts.org)

## April 7, 2017

**First Fridays - Art & Refreshments**  
King's Courtyard Artists' Collective  
York  
717-968-1938  
[homestaging@bethfowler.com](mailto:homestaging@bethfowler.com)

**Photo Synthesis: From wood to paper**  
Harrisburg Art Association | Harrisburg  
[www.artassocofhbg.com](http://www.artassocofhbg.com)

## April 7 - May 7, 2017

**Uncanny Valley**  
Open Stage of Harrisburg | Harrisburg  
717-232-6736  
[www.openstagehbg.com](http://www.openstagehbg.com)

## April 11, 2017

**Jane Austen for Dummies, Ladies and Gents**  
Trust Conversation Series  
Trust Performing Arts Center | Lancaster  
[www.lancastertrust.com](http://www.lancastertrust.com)

## April 15, 2017

**Popovich Comedy Pet Theatre**  
Hershey Theatre | Hershey  
[www.Hersheyentertainment.com](http://www.Hersheyentertainment.com)

**The Rapture**  
King Center Forum Auditorium  
Harrisburg  
717-599-8566  
[Therapturemusical.eventbrite.com](http://Therapturemusical.eventbrite.com)

## April 19 - May 11, 2017

**Wonderful Wizard Of Oz**  
Popcorn Hat Players  
Gamut Theatre | Harrisburg  
717-238-4111 | [www.Gamuttheatre.org](http://www.Gamuttheatre.org)

## April 21 - May 7, 2017

**Superior Donates**  
Oyster Mill Playhouse | Camp Hill  
[www.oystermill.com](http://www.oystermill.com)

## April 25, 2017

**Brian Wilson**  
Hershey Theatre | Hershey  
[www.Hersheyentertainment.com](http://www.Hersheyentertainment.com)

## April 26, 2017

**Neil Degrasse Tyson**  
Hershey Theatre | Hershey  
[www.Hersheyentertainment.com](http://www.Hersheyentertainment.com)

## April 27, 2017

**17 Annual Spring Author Luncheon**  
Adriana Trigiani-Guest Speaker  
Lancaster County Library | Lancaster  
717-354-8016

## April 28 - 30, May 4-7, 2017

**Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf**  
The Belmont Theatre Studio | York  
717-854-5715 | [www.thebelmont.org](http://www.thebelmont.org)

## April 28 — 30, May 4-7, 2017

**Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf**  
The Belmont Theatre Studio | York  
717-854-5715 | [www.thebelmont.org](http://www.thebelmont.org)

## April 28 - 30, 2017

**River Dance**  
Hershey Theatre | Hershey  
[www.Hersheyentertainment.com](http://www.Hersheyentertainment.com)

## April 29, 2017

**Wetlands Festival**  
Dauphin County Parks and Recreation  
Wildwood Park | Harrisburg  
717-221-0292  
[www.wildwoodlake.org](http://www.wildwoodlake.org)

## April 29 - May 20, 2017

**James in the Giant Peach**  
Fulton Theatre | Lancaster  
717-397-7425 | [www.thefulton.org](http://www.thefulton.org)

## April 30, 2017

**Taste Of Jazz Concert**  
National Civil War Museum | Harrisburg  
717-461-2036  
[tastofjazzcentralpa@gmail.com](mailto:tastofjazzcentralpa@gmail.com)

**The Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Concert - A Tribute To Ella Fitzgerald**  
Capitol Theatre | Chambersburg  
717-263-0202

## May 7, 2017

**Garden Faire**  
Dauphin County Parks and Recreation  
Fort Hunter Park | Harrisburg  
717-599-5188 x2117  
[www.forthunter.org](http://www.forthunter.org)

## May 11-13, 2017

**Barstools**  
The Belmont Theatre  
Main Stage | York  
717-854-5715  
[www.thebelmont.org](http://www.thebelmont.org)

## May 12, 13, 14, 2017

**Not the run of the Mill Stage Reading**  
Oyster Mill Playhouse | Camp Hill  
[www.oystermill.com](http://www.oystermill.com)

## May 12 -13, 2017

**The Gaither Vocal Band**  
American Music Theatre | Lancaster  
717-397-7700  
[Amtshows.com](http://Amtshows.com)

## May 13, 2017

**Guthries Day For Book Lover**  
Guthries Memorial Library | Hanover  
717-632-5183

## May 13 - 29, 2017

**Kitchen Witches**  
Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg  
Mechanicsburg  
717-766-0535  
[www.ltmonline.net](http://www.ltmonline.net)

## May 16 - June 4, 2017

**4000 Days**  
Fulton Theatre | Lancaster  
717-397-7425  
[www.thefulton.org](http://www.thefulton.org)

## May 20, 2017

**Jane Austen Tea**  
Lititz Public Library | Lancaster

## June 2 - 18, 2017

**Social Security**  
Oyster Mill Playhouse | Camp Hill  
[www.oystermill.com](http://www.oystermill.com)

## June 2 - 25, 2017

**Ah, Wilderness!**  
Open Stage of Harrisburg | Harrisburg  
717-232-6736  
[www.openstagehbg.com](http://www.openstagehbg.com)

## June 6 - July 23, 2017

**Newsies**  
Fulton Theatre | Lancaster  
717-397-7425  
[www.thefulton.org](http://www.thefulton.org)

## June 10, 2017

**42 Arts & Craft Fair**  
Middletown Area Historical Society  
Middletown  
717-574-6716

## June 16 - 25, 2017

**Sister Act**  
Belmont Theatre | York  
717-854-3894  
[info@thebelmont.org](mailto:info@thebelmont.org)

## June 17 - July 22, 2017

**Big the Musical**  
Fulton Theatre | Lancaster  
717-397-7425  
[www.thefulton.org](http://www.thefulton.org)

## July 7, 2017

**First Fridays - Art & Refreshments**  
King's Courtyard Artists' Collective  
York  
717-968-1938  
[homestaging@bethfowler.com](mailto:homestaging@bethfowler.com)

## July 7 - 23, 2017

**Hollywood Arms**  
Oyster Mill Playhouse | Camp Hill  
[www.oystermill.com](http://www.oystermill.com)

## July 8 - 23, 2017

**The Last Five Years**  
Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg  
Mechanicsburg  
717-766-0535  
[www.ltmonline.net](http://www.ltmonline.net)

## July 12 - August 19, 2017

**The Ugly Duckling**  
Popcorn Hat Players  
Gamut Theatre | Harrisburg  
717-238-4111  
[www.Gamuttheatre.org](http://www.Gamuttheatre.org)

## July 14

**The Texas Tenors**  
American Music Theatre | Lancaster  
717-397-7700 | [Amtshows.com](http://Amtshows.com)

## July 19 - 23, 2017

**Motown The Musical**  
Hershey Theatre | Hershey  
[www.Hersheyentertainment.com](http://www.Hersheyentertainment.com)

## July 27, 2017

**Music Theatre Workshop 2017 Showcase**  
Open Stage of Harrisburg | Harrisburg  
717-232-6736

## August 6, 2017

**Sonny Turner**  
American Music Theatre | Lancaster  
717-397-7700  
[Amtshows.com](http://Amtshows.com)

## August 11 - 27, 2017

**Taking Leaves**  
Oyster Mill Playhouse | Camp Hill  
[www.oystermill.com](http://www.oystermill.com)

## September 22 - October 8, 2017

**Dirty Rotten Scoundrels**  
Oyster Mill Playhouse | Camp Hill  
[www.oystermill.com](http://www.oystermill.com)

## November 3 - 19, 2017

**Jeeves Intervenes**  
Oyster Mill Playhouse | Camp Hill  
[www.oystermill.com](http://www.oystermill.com)

## November 4, 2017

**Zombie Art Walk**  
Lebanon Valley Council on the Arts  
Lebanon  
[Lebanonartscouncil.org](http://Lebanonartscouncil.org)

# York Ready To Swing Into Spring at the Valencia Ballroom Nearing a Full Restoration



This old postcard shows the Valencia Ballroom interior during a time when the old days and good times seemed to be lost in time. The program planned for April 22 and 23 will rejuvenate the place into a 2017 venue for listening to big bands and dancing for people of all ages.

As America commemorates the 75th anniversary of its participation in World War II, Downtown York comes alive on Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23, with the sounds and scenes that gave swing and sway to millions, and it happens in a gala weekend, according to Terrence "Dutchy" Downs.

The music which galvanized a country will resonate in one of America's last remaining dance halls, the iconic Valencia Ballroom. "The Big Swing Thing" features York's own Unforgettable Big Band -- converging with five other bands in the restored Valencia Ballroom on North George Street.

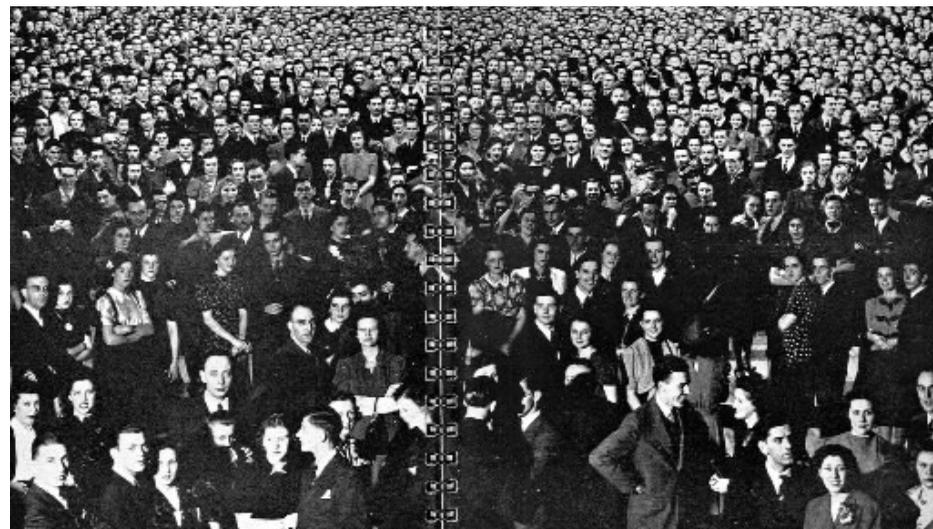
America was "In The War Effort" and York was a significant component to the military and industrial culture. Tom McLaughlin, band leader of the Unforgettable Big Band welcomes five other swing groups of renown -- the Reisterstown Jazz Ensemble, Inc., the M&J Big Band, the Gettysburg Big Band, the Glass City Swing Band, and the Powerhouse Big Band. Various vocalists will appear with these groups, along with the York Social Dance Studio. The Hub City Lindy Hop will provide dancing through the day and into the night. Guests are

encouraged to dress the part!

York's Downtown renaissance is forging a new sense of cultural diversity, and as the famed 1934 Valencia Ballroom is nearing a full restoration through the efforts of Kinsley Properties, this gem gleams again to bring the atmosphere which makes the site one of two in Pennsylvania -- and one of six remaining in the United States utilized for their original purpose: band and dance halls built expressly for entertainment of this genre. The setting is outstanding, including the restoration which includes replacement of over 1,600 lamp units throughout the edifice.

The Valencia Ballroom was established by York's Tassia Family, and brought top-notch acts to town. People lined up on North George Street to hear Frank Sinatra when he appeared there. Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller appeared at The Valencia -- and it is said that Miller perfected his sound as he played the York stage.

Stepping under the stainless steel entry marquee onto the terrazzo deco floor glides one into the Moorish toned hall, with a maple dance floor of amazing proportion, restored to its original



This photo, taken from a souvenir book, shows a Big Band on stage in the early days of the Valencia with a near capacity crowd. The April 22 and 23 event described in the article here is aimed at the nostalgia this scene creates in the minds of older Yorkers and the curiosity of the younger set who have only heard of these days.

splendor, along with 14 murals and other details providing a visual treat. The York County History Center also is providing "the Spirit of the York Plan" with exhibits and displays during this special weekend.

The event encompasses the weekend, Downs reported. Sunday includes a tour of The Valencia and segments of Downtown York, and a presentation on how "The York Plan" made a country march to the War Effort. The Big Band music provided a brief interlude to the War,

forgetting their troubles and enjoying music of incomparable style. To learn more about "The Big Swing Thing", happening the weekend of April 22 and 23, check out the site <https://unforgettablebigband.yapsody.com/event/index/56052/the-big-swing-thing> for details, including York lodging deals and other packages. Also, opportunities for sponsorships can be found at this site. Hard copy physical tickets are available at York Social Dance Studio (973) 767-4528. **SN** ■

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[wallen@dcls.org](mailto:wallen@dcls.org)



# “The Rapture” It’s a Family Affair; Making a Joyful Noise

BY LENWOOD O. SLOAN, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



The Scott White Family, of Steelton, Dauphin County, are getting ready to stage the original production, “The Rapture” on April 15 at the Forum in Harrisburg.



Another view of the Scott White Family.

Recently, I had the pleasure of experiencing the elements of a living legend—four dynamic women, all members of the area’s renowned Scott White Family Crusade. They included Jacqueline Maxie, her granddaughter Payton Williams, cousin Nanette Swanson, and niece Joy Hymon. You may ask as I did, “Who are the Crusade and what makes them a legend?”

The effervescent foursome was thrilled to both enlighten me and convert me to a fan of the family!

Jackie Maxie began. “When I came home from college after my first year away, I was a real party spirit who wanted to dance whenever I was out in public,” she said grooving a bit in her chair.

“A lady came up one day and said, ‘Ain’t you one of them Scott White girls? Now, you KNOW you ain’t supposed to be acting like that!’”

Payton chuckled, shook her head and said, “Being a Scott White girl sometimes puts you in kind of ‘a box of community expectation’.”

“When you’re a Scott White family member, everybody immediately assumes that you really know how to sing,” Joy added. “Now, we don’t mean just carry a tune or blend in either.

We mean *SING*,” Nanette expanded, adding an ebonic twist to the word.

Jackie chimed in adding, “Rev. Scott White and Mary Hope were patriarch and matriarch. They had 16 children and all of them had children and their children had children—lots of them.”

They immediately started the family roll call of “begats” using every available digit amongst the five of us and we still ran out of fingers before naming all offspring who share the spirit and talent of their line.

“Many were highly motivated ministers too,” Jackie passionately concluded, turning to her family members. “Why, think of the powerful oratory of Billy, David, Johnny, Scott, or Ricky, just to name a few.” To which the quartet gave up a round of “amen”

The four ladies paused to reflect on the memory of Mrs. Aldine Green. A pioneer in youth programs throughout the region, Mrs. Green was an anchor and founding member of The Scott White Evangelistic Crusade. Locals from throughout the region will also remember her on the Christian TV program named Maranatha.

One day Mrs. Green called her circle together to announce “Children, we are going to have a Memorial Day

parade.” She quickly organized as many neighborhood groups as she could to establish marching units for the initial event. “Back then, everybody had their own drill teams, step teams, and marching groups,” Joy recalled

The assembly marched from the far end of Steelton to Harrisburg’s William Day Cemetery, where they held a commemorative ceremony. “We sang all the way,” laughing Nanette lovingly recalled. Mrs. Green organized the Steelton Memorial Day Parade for the next 25 years

I asked how the family sustained their bountiful talent when members have dispersed across the country.

They told me of their annual anniversary gathering that is always held on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving. “People come from all over the country: Texas, Arkansas, Virginia, Atlanta,” young Payton added with obvious pride. “This year marks the 64th anniversary gathering.”

Joy quickly added “But we are all uniquely different and that’s really the essential ingredient that is the hallmark of our collective excellence.”

Jackie elaborated. “One day, I was driving around, and spied the Capitol Dinner Theater. Pulling over, I went in and tried to convince co-director Sharon Hillegas to produce our family’s play, *The Rapture*.”

“Girl, you have hutzpah! I like your style,” Hillegas declared. “Why don’t you audition for us?” Since this family flies in formation, in a flash, Jackie and her family found themselves participating in two Capitol Theater works that provided new levels of professional development for all.

“The first, *Big River*, was a real challenge from opening night to last curtain,” Jackie recalled, shaking her head. “The N -word so heavily spiced the script that it caught in our throats. And, oh my goodness, all those happy slaves... Why, it just went against the grain of who we are.”

“The second play, *The Bloody 8th* was an incredible contrast and a real learning experience about our own culture,” Nanette included.

Perhaps their greatest collaboration with Capitol Dinner Theater was during the national tours of *Bee Hive*. Jackie reminisced “We were provided travel, lodging, meals, and all transportation. There were press conferences, dinners and receptions at every junction. We didn’t have to worry about a thing. We were learning and living large; full of spirit and treated like stars.” (Because they were!)

Nanette Swanson is an accomplished lead and background vocalist whose 4 children and 8 grandchildren add their talents to the Scott White phenomena. In addition to *Bloody 8th*, she appeared in *The Wiz* for a Capital Dinner Theater’s

production.

In 2011, Nanette won the Mrs. Pennsylvania – Senior America Pageant and represented Pennsylvania in the national competition in Atlanta. She took third place and is still a vital, vibrant and active member in the pageant’s Pennsylvania court.

Area audiences will be able to see the talented family this spring in *The Rapture* presented Saturday, April 15, 2017 at 7p.m. by the King Center at The Forum, in Harrisburg, Pa. (for ticket information, visit [therapturemusical.eventbrite.com](http://therapturemusical.eventbrite.com) or call (717) 599-8566)

The work was originally penned by Grandma Green, more than 18 years ago. In fact, young Payton was originally cast as a baby.

Jackie filled in more details. “Long ago, when Grandma got sick, they used some pretty strong experimental drugs that did great damage to her body. They told her that she would never walk again.”

In fact, Mrs. Green was the first person to receive a lower bowel transplant and the oldest living survivor of that groundbreaking procedure. *The Rapture* is really her story.

Years later, while Jackie was updating the story, Joy was hit by a truck. Jackie rewrote the play to include Joy’s calamity, crutches and all. “I mean the accident actually reflected Grandma’s struggle, right?”

Recently, Joy woke up with the urgent flash that she had to revive the play again. “It’s really a continuing discovery of the resilience of our family.”

“As for my part in the play,” adds Payton, “the girl that I am IS the girl that I am. But my grandmother, Jackie, is a director’s dream, who can interpret any part or make the most creative production elements out of literally anything.”

As my interview came to an end, I asked the group what was next on their creative agenda.

“God!” Joy exclaimed looking to the heavens. “What IS next?” We discussed her passion for teaching theater and performing arts to young girls. She tries to bring out the God-given talent in each by using the resources of the area’s theater community and augmenting their experiences through viewing movies and reading scripts.

“But I dream of taking my Harrisburg girls to a Broadway musical where they can truly be immersed in the transformational power of the arts.”

Perhaps *SHOWCASE NOW* readers will reach out to her at (717) 805-7227 and help her dream come true.

“Meanwhile, we just keep moving forward,” Jackie concludes. “So you know you can listen for us in the sounds and spirit of the future!”

And that, my friends, will be a joyful noise! **SN ■**

**About the Writer:** Lenwood Sloan is the “go to” man in Harrisburg. He has worked in film, teaching and many areas of show business. He is the authority on animated democracy, living history interpreters, New Orleans, Irish Blacks, tourism in Pennsylvania, and in many other areas. Lenwood appears as 19th Century figure, T. Morris Chester, as a living history interpreter. He was a charismatic guest at the Red Land Library recently and will appear at the Goodridge Freedom House in York in April.

## The NexGen Youth Arts Conference Set for March 31 and April 1 in Harrisburg

The NexGen Youth Arts Conference will convene Friday, March 31 and run through the next day, Saturday, April 1 from 9 AM to 4 PM. The Red Lion Hotel, 4751 Lindle Road, in Harrisburg will be the place to be for this conference, according to Wendell Murray, CEO of Barak, Inc. an arts organization in Harrisburg sponsoring this event.

The NexGen Youth Arts Conference encourages students, parents, and educators to explore career paths in arts-based areas such as multimedia and digital design, film-making, photography, fashion, and technology. NexGen offers access to expert knowledge about arts-based career development through discussions and presentations led by experts in the fields.

Friday's session is in partnership with the Capital Region Partnership for Career Development as a part of their Access Arts program. School Counselors and representatives from districts in Dauphin, Perry and Cumberland Counties will be bringing students from the region.

Rock Lititz, Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, and the Philly U are just a few of the entities who will be on hand Friday.

Saturday's session is open to the public and will be packed with fun, excitement, and career education. Channel 27, an ABC affiliate, will send Valerie Pritchett to welcome special guest star Megan Piphus on Saturday. Piphus is a musical ventriloquist who has graced the stages of America's Got Talent, The Oprah Winfrey Show, and The Tonight show with Jay Leno.

Dancer/Choreographer Aubrey Lynch is returning this year to conduct two dance workshops Saturday hosted by The Capital School for the Arts Charter School in Strawberry Square in Harrisburg at 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Aubrey is a former principal dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and one of the choreographers for The Lion King.

The NexGen Conference is changing the paradigm of the word "art" by causing people to look at the concept of art and art-based careers in a much more global fashion. Too often career fairs overlook the relevancy of the artistic and creative student within their presentations because of a lack of exposure to the diversity of arts-based fields of study, the volunteers and staff who stage this conference, believe. The NexGen Youth Arts Conference bridges this gap by helping students, parents, and educators develop and reinforce creative vision. For information and tickets call (717) 695-9466 or visit [nexgenconference.org](http://nexgenconference.org). **SN ■**

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## Harrisburg Man Seeking to Document Stories of the City's Veterans



Bryan Wade speaking at Penn State University

Bryan Wade, a native of Harrisburg, is seeking veterans to interview as well as funding for a project that will tell the unique stories of Harrisburg's veterans from World War II through Korea, the Cuban Missile Crisis and Vietnam.

Known to many as the host of the show, "Worlds Apart," broadcast all over the nation to a potential audience of 25 million, Wade has vast experience in the video and interview worlds that will make this project a success, said Kelly Summerford, publisher of ShowcaseNow. Wade's project, which he has dubbed, "Keystones," has many supporters, but, to get the project off and running Wade needs about \$10,000.

Bryan Wade is a native of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and is a 1975 graduate of Harrisburg High School He is also a graduate of York College of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. He has seventeen years of television, radio and documentary experience. His credits include: twelve years producing the television series "Worlds Apart," for which he created over 600 half-hour programs; fifteen nationwide college tours, which included tours to Stanford University, Morehouse College School of Medicine, Drexel University, and several campuses within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

His project, Keystones, will cover the years, 1943 through 1975. Wade's most recent public service venture is his historic oral history project which explores the lives of African American servicemen and women that were either born or resided in the greater Harrisburg area.

"African Americans have an illustrious United States military history" Wade states, "which often times has not been properly and accurately portrayed. Their service spans from early colonial history up to the present. African Americans have always responded to the call of duty. However, they were not often treated as equals with their white military counterparts. In spite of these discriminatory practices, they continued to serve with distinction and honor abroad and at home."

"From Crispus Attucks at Bunker Hill," Wade reports in his studied and deliberate fashion, "to Doris Miller at Pearl Harbor, to Steelton's own Emmet Norris who was a member of the Montford Point Marines at Iwo Jima. The list of Harrisburg's contributions to America's military involvement does not end here. A deeper look reveals other African Americans who served with distinction such as Stanley Lawson who was a member aboard the USS Forrestal CV-59 during the Cuban Missile Blockade Crisis in October of 1962. In 1969 Mr. Lawson ran for Harrisburg City Council and became Harrisburg's first African Amer-

ican City Councilman. This documentary will also include vignettes of Mr. David Waters' and his two sons David, Jr. and Melvin. David Sr. participated during World War II. His two sons served during the Vietnam Conflict. Additionally, their cousin Mr. Ron Waters, was stationed in Europe during the Korean Conflict and became a prominent jazz musician and educator in the greater Harrisburg region."

Wade's Advisory Committee consists of Ms. Derra Brown and Ms. Barbara Barksdale. Narrators for this project are Barksdale, Kaaba Brunson and Joseph Robinson The cost for this project is estimated at \$10,000. A 501(c)3 tax exemption will

be available for any contributions provided for this documentary. To ensure the success of this documentary, we are seeking financial and/or in-kind contributions from various community entities, in the amounts ranging between \$500 - \$1,000. Wade will receive no compensation for his involvement in this documentary. He is quick to point out. And he thanks all individuals who find it in their power to help and assures them the project will be aired in a manner they can take pride in, "If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me through email, [therightword360@gmail.com](mailto:therightword360@gmail.com)" he states, or phone me at 717-601-9314. **SN ■**

# On the Cover: A Happy Birthday Gift from a Special Son to a Special Father

BY KELLY SUMMERFORD



Courtland Murray, Photo by Melissa Armintor

*ShowcaseNow Magazine* first mentioned Courtland Murray in 2012 when he agreed to showcase some of his art at the Celebration of Art Reception, sponsored by our multi-media magazine and a shopkeeper in midtown Harrisburg. Later, in 2013 we were present when Courtland received a Spectrum Award presented by JumpStreet Artists Development Organization in Harrisburg.

During that event we learned Courtland was moving to Houston, Texas to start a new beginning and further his art. Well he has done just that!

While looking at a heartfelt post on the social media outlet, Facebook, recently, I noticed that Courtland had included a picture of a painting he did for his father who is a noted Arts Organization executive. In the post, Wendell Murray, Courtland's father, was thanking his son for the birthday gift of that original painting.

The painting appealed to me and was so special I contacted the older Murray for his word on his son. He shared his son's telephone number and I asked if *ShowcaseNow* could get permission to use it on our cover. He welcomed us to contact his son, and ask for the permission.

I called the number and Courtland soon called me back. He shared his enthusiasm for the artwork and told me he was beginning to love jazz just as his father loved it, among all the other music he loved and shared with his father while growing up. So, Courtland said, this was a meeting of the minds that really meant something to his father and he was glad he was brought up on this genre, the great American export called jazz.

Furthermore, Courtland told me that we could use the painting, but he was clear that it was not for sale. He even asked if we could point this out in anything we said about it, so, Courtland can be sure that we are editors, publishers and fans of our word!

In a private conversation with the artist's father I saluted him in producing such a talented and polite young person and in another conversation with Courtland I asked him what he was doing now. Courtland said that, as he told us three years ago in Harrisburg, he is "expanding his brand." He is taking his art further into the entertainment industry. He told me he was doing body painting, a medium not so familiar in this area of the country but very avant garde in the Houston area. He is currently employed at ABC Bodyart and enjoys his work tremendously.

He also said that he is in the process of investing in his home studio because the big state of Texas and beyond is recognizing his talents.

Our conversation was enjoyable and over the last three years I have enjoyed seeing his art grow with more maturity, more passion. I am sure the work of Courtland Murray will continue to grow and am happy that *ShowcaseNow Magazine* includes this young, talented individual as part of our family! From time to time we will feature his art and continue to report on his whereabouts and continuing growth.

Those who wish to see a small feature we did on Courtland that includes some samples of his work can go to the ShowcaseNow website where all issues are archived. Click on past issues and then see the article in Issue 8, 9. For more information about Courtland Murray contact him through Facebook or email him at: [courtland.murray@gmail.com](mailto:courtland.murray@gmail.com). **SN** ■

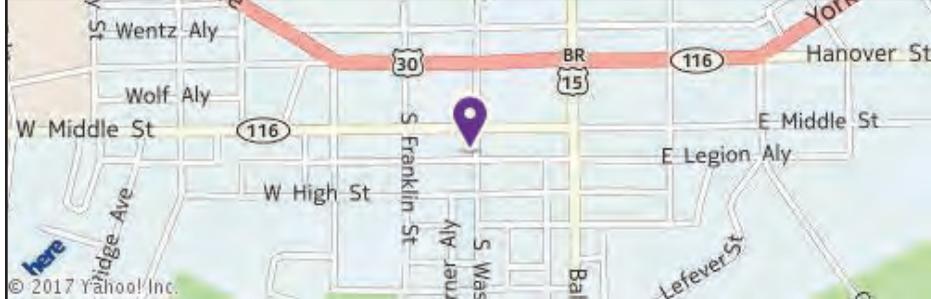
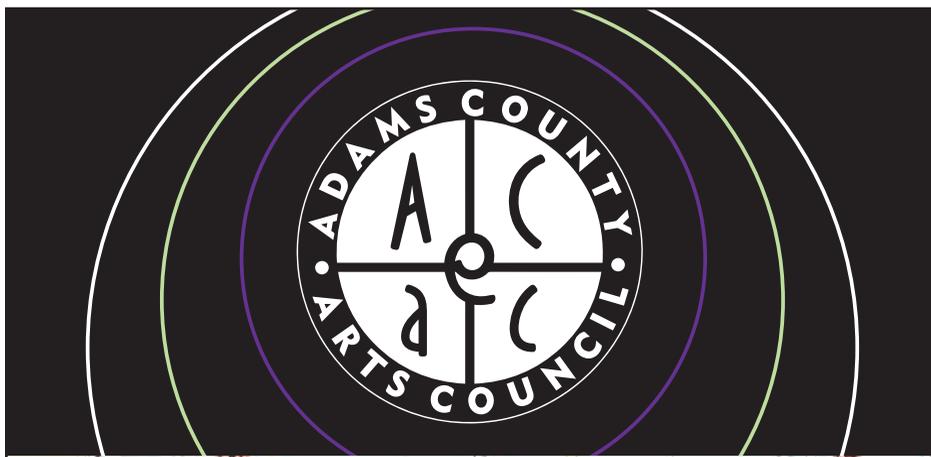
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**On the Internet 24/7 at Showcasenow.net**

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**Founder** M. Susan Breen  
2003

**Editor-in-Chief** David C. Frost Jr.  
2008-2014

**Publisher** Kelly D. Summerford  
Kelly@ShowcaseNow.net  
Phone 717-889-0057

**Managing Editor** Georg R. Sheets  
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Phone 717-889-0057

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**Distribution Aide**  
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Joseph Cervenak, Karen Hostetter, Louis McKinney,  
Georg Sheets, Adam B. Torres,  
Raphael Toro, George Anthony and others

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Please email your responses to [showcasenow@aol.com](mailto:showcasenow@aol.com) or call us at 717-889-0057.

**SHOWCASE!**  
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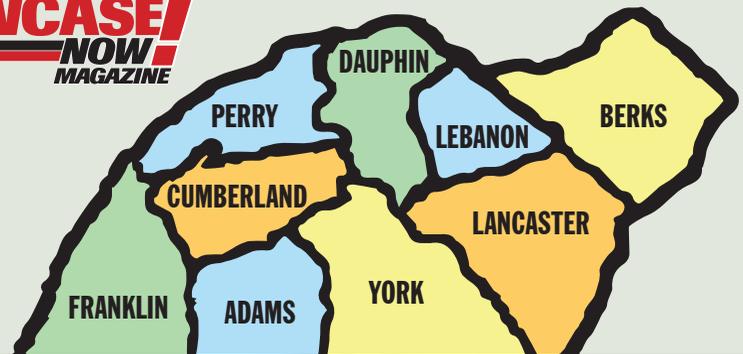
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**CROSSING RIVERS IN NINE COUNTIES FOR ART, CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

This map shows the coverage area of this paper, in hard copy and online, and invites everyone to take in all the things to "go, see and do!" More than two million people share cultural, geographical and historical ties in this region and everyone agrees, it's the best place in the world to live, work and play!

**WORD FROM THE PUBLISHER**

**What Kind of People Read ShowcaseNow?**

In my journeys around the nine counties of Pennsylvania we cover with this multimedia publication, I am often asked, "What kind of people read your publication?"

It's always surprising to me to learn that our email count goes up each time we print a publication and sometimes it goes up within an area, say Reading, or Gettysburg, when we do an article focused on that region, town, city or attraction. Gone are the days we can fit everything that arrives in our email into the paper and then translate it to the Internet so others can read it there!

The response I give them usually depends on who is asking. But that is short-sighted, indeed.

In one sense all the people who read the **One Book, One Community** selection each year are our own best audience. That program puts us into almost 100 public libraries, automatically. We have crafted a partnership that allows us to do an insert each year with all the programming for that program (sometimes in nine counties, but usually in six or seven) and there is a good reason for getting into libraries! This annual issue always has a photograph of Anne Shannon who is the key spokesperson for the OBOC program and anyone who watches Channel 8 knows about the spots she airs each year, supporting the selection of the year!

We have a distribution arm then that drops off hundreds of papers, let's say, to a warehouse venue in Lancaster County. From there we know our paper will go to, let's say 23 public libraries within 24 hours. That is, because of the wonderful distribution that libraries do. Through time, we have, our distributors and our writers have visited a

ll the nine counties and have added pick up locations to our general route. This creates a wonderful partnership that we have with like-minded individuals who are curious, savvy and sometimes, not so easy to please!

But let me save that slice of our story for another edition!

In addition to literacy--the lifeblood of libraries, we cover the arts, culture, heritage and tourism for our region. That's why our masthead proclaims we are "Your Guide to Arts, Culture, Heritage and Tourism in 9 counties."

Eventually, we must ask, what kind of people go to and use libraries? There is a myth going around that libraries are obsolete. Well, the joke is on those people who try to spread this myth! Every library I know of is working hard to remain relevant. The drive to be the Library of the Future is Alive and Well. Libraries provide computer access to those who don't have it at home or where they work. They are truly centers of the community where one can go and get a good book, have a shared experience, read his email, type her resume and apply for a job, all in a quick visit--or in a slow, methodical, lasting visit: something we are aware of as time goes on.

Publisher

**DON'T MISS OUR NEXT ISSUE. MAY 15, 2017**

**DEADLINES FOR ADVERTISING, AND EDITORIAL MATERIALS ARE TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE DATE OF PUBLICATION**

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ShowcaseNow! attempts to reflect the diversity of its coverage area and cultural competency in its coverage of our region. The publication is dedicated to freedom of speech guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America.

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Printed in the USA.



