Tired of winter? Come to ‘Springtime in Paris’ for Barn Studio of Art annual celebration benefit

As winter in Cumberland County trudges relentlessly on, residents long for spring. Fine anywhere, but what is the ultimate? Springtime in Paris, of course!

That’s what Millville’s Barn Studio of Art, a 52-year tradition in the community, wants you to visualize for its annual “celebration and benefit” on Saturday, March 22, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Centerton Country Club. It will be all things French, with possible guest appearances by Marcel Marceau, Maurice Chevalier and Coco Chanel, says Carole Mankin, Managing Director of the Barn Studio.

The event will feature cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, carving stations and desserts, cash bar, a silent art auction and music by DJ David Andrews.

Paris theme explained

Why the Paris theme? Ms. Mankin explains that one of the Studio’s instructors, Ruth Formica, has been traveling and studying in Paris the last few years. “Her enthusiasm for Paris has been infused into her artwork and the classes,” she says. “Also, we had a new student from Paris join the Barn family, which contributed to our excitement and love for Paris. It has often been said that the Barn gardens and pond are reminiscent of Giverny. The theme just worked so well this year. Paris, art, artists, music.....we hope to create an ambiance that is fun and relaxing.”

Art work for the auction, including paintings, pastels, pottery, and glass, was donated by local artists, who represent “some of the region’s best and brightest talents,” says Ms. Mankin. All have an affiliation with the Studio or Pat Witt, Studio founder.

Tickets are $75 per person with tables of eight or ten available. Reservations may be made by calling 856-825-5028, visiting the web site, Barnstudio.org, or mailing requests to Barn Studio of Art, P.O. Box 29, Millville, NJ 08332.

Barn Studio focus

The primary focus at the Studio is teaching fine arts. Fall, winter, spring and summer sessions are conducted, offering a variety of classes.

Pat Witt founded The Barn in 1962. In 2007 it acquired a non-profit status. An Executive and an Advisory Board, all volunteers, was established to transition The Barn from a single teaching structure (Pat Witt) to many instructors. Most of the instructors studied with Pat at the Barn Studio and now are back teaching at The Barn.

The Studio also partners with organizations which represent children that have little or no exposure to art. “In essence, we have assumed the role of community art ambassadors to an underserved segment of the population,” says (Continued on page 2)
VRDC to present ‘Carnival of Dance’

Marking its 35th season of bringing dance and culture to Cumberland County, the VRDC (Vineland Regional Dance Company), will present its annual Spring Gala, “Carnival of Dance,” on Sunday, March 16, at 3 p.m. at the Cumberland County College Guaracini Fine and Performing Arts Center.

This year’s Spring Concert event will feature numerous ballets, some new, and some from the VRDC repertoire. The VRDC will have its Regional Dance America Adjudication for the Northeast Region during this performance. Adjudicator Jon Cristofori will evaluate the company and choose ballets that will be performed at the RDA/NE Festival in Harrisburg, Pa., in May.

Kimberly Chapman, Artistic Director of the VRDC, Juilliard graduate, and former professional dancer with the Eliot Feld Ballet Company, has created a new work for this year’s Gala entitled “Amalgamation.” Ms. Chapman has also produced two other ballets, “Two Scottish Dances” and “Vivaldi.” In addition, Ms. Chapman has re-set a powerful work of choreography by the late Jonathan Phelps entitled “Waiting for Trains.” VRDC Ballet Mistress, Kelly Millar, has set a new work, “Metamorphosis.” This contemporary pointe piece features seven females and four males from the VRDC with music by Bethurum. Ms. Millar is a former VRDC soloist and current Director of the Delaware Dance Festival.

Tickets are available by calling (856) 691-6059, or by visiting the VRDC’s website at www.VRDC.org. Tickets are $35 for Front Orchestra and Front Mezzanine; $25 for Back Orchestra and Back Mezzanine. Tickets for senior citizens, students, and groups of 10 or more are $20 with seating in Back Orchestra and Back Mezzanine only.

Barn Studio celebrates Paris in March benefit

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Ms. Mankin. Funding for the Community Outreach Program has been provided in part by the N.J. State Council on the Arts / Department of State, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission.

Instructors at the Barn Studio

Founder Pat Witt studied at the Philadelphia Museum of Art at age 10, later going on to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and Glassboro State College. She has had many one-woman shows and has been part of group shows at the Museum of Art, Philadelphia Art Alliance and in Paris.

Nancy Witt Mulick grew up in the Studio. She holds a Master’s degree in Education from the University of Vermont and a Masters of Fine Art from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth.

Kandice Fields Pierce, a recent graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, majored in printmaking and minored in painting.

Kara Macon-Rehm is an elementary school art teacher in Vineland. She studied and apprenticed with Pat Witt and is pursuing a master’s degree.

Matthew Daniels teaches art at Millville Senior High School. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts from the Tyler School of Art, Temple University.

Ruth Formica is a recent graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. She is a “plein air” painter and concentrates on landscapes and flower studies.

Bill Ternay is a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Art. He is an illustrator for advertising, children’s books and courtroom scenes. He taught at the University of the Arts and chaired the Illustration Department at Moore College of Art in Philadelphia.