Tracey Nguyen Mang and JoAnh Pitts
Preserving a Legacy of Hope, Survival and Resilience
Hello, Montclair Neighbors!

I hope everyone is having a fabulous summer!

While enjoying the sunny skies and warm weather, the summer season is an ideal time to prepare your house for sale or get your affairs in order for an upcoming purchase. I can help guide you throughout the summer at a stress-free, laid back pace so you won’t miss a single weekend down the shore.

The fall real estate season will be here sooner than you think!

"I can't say enough glowing things about our realtor Julie. We used her when we bought our first home and also to sell our home. She made what could be a very stressful process smooth and seamless. She was very informative and answered all of our endless questions. We really appreciated her timely replies and punctuality with everything. Her vibrant personality and positive vibe made her a pleasure to work with. Julie is extremely knowledgable in what she does. I would highly recommend her to anyone looking to buy or sell a home!!!!" - J.L.

Julie Kemps-Rowley
REALTOR®, West of Hudson Realty Group
(c) 973.220.3530
(o) 973.337.6035
Dear Residents,

Fifteen years ago, a new form of acoustic entertainment burst onto the digital media scene in the form of podcasts thanks to MTV VJ, Adam Curry and software developer, Dave Winer, who reportedly developed the concept. Since then podcasts have become a popular digital diversion. And whether you listen on a morning jog in the park or passing the time on a DeCamp bus while stuck in Route 3 traffic, these days there’s certainly no shortage of programs to choose from.

If you’re a fan of podcasts, you’ve probably heard of Serial, 2 Dope Queens, or maybe Gimlet Media’s StartUp, but if you’re looking for something new, there are several captivating audio concoctions created and hosted by fellow Montclair locals on various topics ranging from small business (Podclair) to parenting (The Longest Shortest Time) and jazz (Jazz Night in America with Christian McBride).

This month we’ll introduce you to Tracey Nguyen Mang and her family. Tracey has spent the last couple of years documenting the heartbreaking and inspiring stories of her family’s escape from Vietnam after the fall of Saigon in her podcast, Vietnamese Boat People. Perhaps their harrowing tales - and those of many others whose stories she’s continuing to preserve - will diminish the frustration of sitting at a standstill in the Lincoln Tunnel and help us all view our everyday struggles in a whole new light.

All the Best,

Candice Horowitz Content Coordinator

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Montclair Homes Sold Last 30 Days

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What’s New at MPL this Summer
CONTRIBUTED BY MOLLY HONE

EXCITING TIMES ARE ahead at MPL! We’re thrilled to announce new (and returning) community outreach initiatives that we hope our patrons will enjoy. Read on for all the details.

■ Summer Lunch Program
Calling all kids, teens, parents, and caregivers! Look for this summer’s free healthy lunch program at the Montclair Public Library.

Our free lunch program, now in its third year, runs Mondays through Fridays, noon-2 p.m.

Your MPL librarians will be serving up nutritious brown bag lunches* from Toni’s Kitchen in the Main Library’s Isabel Rose Café beginning Monday, July 1 until Friday, August 30. (Lunch will not be served on Thursday, July 4, due to the library being closed in observance of Independence Day.)

Any child aged 17 and under is eligible to receive a free lunch daily, while supplies last. We do not have any additional requirements and we welcome all children who walk through our doors to participate in this program.

MPL is very grateful to Toni’s Kitchen and the Partners for Health Foundation for their continued generous support which has made the Summer Lunch Program possible for the third year in a row.

*Please note that we are unable to accommodate special diets and food allergies.

For more information on the program, contact the Youth Services Department at 973-744-0500, extension 2236 or youthservices@montclair.bccls.org.

■ Fade to Books ’19: Free Haircuts for Young Readers
Evidence shows that when children don’t read over the summer break, their aptitude for learning can decline during the fall. Fight the summer slide and look good doing it!

From June 1 - September 8 participating Montclair barbers and stylists are graciously offering to cut children’s hair (ages 12 and under) for free when they read a book out loud during their haircuts as part of the second annual Fade to Books program. Participants will also have the opportunity to enter Montclair Public Library’s weekly drawings for select prizes.

Call any of these Montclair barber shops for their Fade to Books ’19 schedules and read a book during your haircut. (Dates and times vary, please call ahead.)

Kayo’s Barber Shop, 224 Bloomfield Ave., 973-744-8178
Mahir’s Unisex Barber Shop, 320 Orange Rd., 973-744-2026
New Creations Barbershop and Salon, 164 Bloomfield Ave., 973-746-2193
January’s Barbershop, 55 N. Fullerton Ave., 973-783-1532

For more information on the program contact the Youth Services Department at 973-744-0500, extension 2236 or youthservices@montclair.bccls.org. To stay up to date on program details, visit montclairlibrary.org/fadetobooks or follow #MPLFade2Books on social media.

■ Introducing the MPL e-Tuk
Can’t get to the library to check out a book? Not to worry - we’re bringing the books to you this summer! Look for our electric tuk tuk (or e-Tuk) at various community events and locations throughout July, August, and beyond. We can’t wait to hit the road with our brand new bookmobile and connect with the community!

Thank you to the Montclair Public Library Foundation for their generous support in starting the e-Tuk outreach program.

■ Summer Reading
Ah, summer reading: an oldie, but a goodie! Wherever your summer takes you, whatever you like to read, keep track of your progress at montclairpubliclibrary.beanstack.org as part of our 2019 Summer Reading Program. Did we mention there are awesome prizes involved? And that all ages--kids, teens, and adults--can participate? Summer reading is for everyone, and we hope you’ll join in on the fun this season!

Visit montclairlibrary.org/summerreading for more information.

■ Expanded Hours at Bellevue Avenue Branch Library
Starting July 1, the Bellevue Avenue Branch will have extended hours on Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., and will be open on Saturdays from 2-6 p.m. all year round. Stop by to take advantage of our collections for all ages and pick up items you have reserved!

The Montclair Public Library is located at 50 South Fullerton Avenue (Main Library) and 185 Bellevue Avenue (Bellevue Avenue Branch Library). The Main Library is open Monday-Thursday 10am-8pm; Friday-Saturday 10am-6pm; Sunday 1-6pm. The Branch is open Monday and Thursday 10am-8pm; Tuesday-Saturday 2pm-6pm. Have questions about library services or programs? Call us at 973-744-0500, extension 2235, email reference@montclair.bccls.org, or open a chat at montclairlibrary.org.
IN THE SUMMER OF 2017, Tracey Nguyen Mang was on the cusp of entering her 40s. Within the four-decade span of her lifetime, she had reached several impressive educational and career milestones: multiple scholarships to Johnson and Wales University, an MBA from Thunderbird School of Global Management, and a lucrative career as an associate partner at a global management consulting firm. Tracey had worked hard for these accomplishments. Yet after 10 years in her role as a management consultant, she decided to essentially let it all go. “I was at the stage in my career where I needed to more actively start pursuing the executive path,” she explained. “And it got me questioning internally whether or not this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.”

As a consultant, Tracey spent much of her time discussing strategy with global executives, but as she started to consider a shift in her professional life, a variety of factors began to influence her own personal strategy. Among them was the increasingly unpredictable status of her parents’ health as well as their relationship with her children, 6-year-old, Reilly and 4-year-old, Ryan, who only had the chance to see their Vietnamese-born grandparents once or twice a year when they came up to visit from Virginia, or Florida, depending on the season. “It just felt like they were struggling to connect with the kids,” said Tracey, “and it really saddened me to see the cultural gap.”

This noted chasm was not surprising when you consider the stark contrast of Reilly and Ryan’s childhood growing up in Montclair compared to the struggles Tracey’s parents, Mary Lieu Nguyen and Frank Sanh Nguyen, and their seven children experienced as refugees after the Vietnamese war.

But how do you bridge a cultural gap that large between generations? As someone seeking a new career with more meaning and purpose, this question, among others, was the impetus for Tracey’s next endeavor. She began reading a range of books about the Vietnamese Boat People. “I thought, ‘Wow. There were hundreds of thousands of us,’” she said. “I began to dig a little further and I thought there must be a way for normal people like me, not famous, not a writer, who want to share their story as sort of a journey of self discovery, or to bring some sort of healing process to the families that lived through this, to make sure that the next generation has the history to listen to and be inspired by.” With that thought in mind, she began the Vietnamese Boat People podcast.

It happened organically as Tracey began recording her own family’s story. She started with her older sister, JoAnh, who also lives in Montclair with her husband, Jeffrey and their daughters, 9-year-old, Minah and 7-year-old, Emmah. “I was only six when we left but I remember everything,” JoAnh shared. “I think it’s amazing to think about how we grew up. Now we live in Montclair and we both have great jobs but when we were growing up in the U.S. we were on food stamps and we had very cramped living conditions. My parents often forgot my birthday because there were other priorities on their minds than remembering seven kids’ birthdays. We even have pictures where we’re celebrating my sister’s birthday, which is two months after mine, and you’ll see me sitting next to her while she’s smiling and eating cake and I’m crying because I knew they missed my birthday. So now I just make them extra special for my children.”

Tracey and JoAnh’s parents did whatever they could to make ends meet once they arrived in the U.S. Their father bagged groceries and their mother worked in factories and restaurants. “Our parents did a lot of odd and end jobs to earn a living even though they were very educated back in Vietnam,” recalled JoAnh. “Mom was also a live-in nanny for decades. We didn’t see her until the weekends.” This was a big change for a woman whose father was a Lieutenant Colonel in the French army, giving her the opportunity to go to boarding school, wear Western clothing and be exposed to things that weren’t common in Vietnam. “Both our parents spoke French,” said JoAnh. “They were wealthy and educated but after the Vietnam war everything was wiped out.”

In 1975, thirty days before the fall of Saigon, the city of Da Nang was bombed and the government in the south began an evacuation. “We were living in a big house in Da Nang,” JoAnh
explained. “My father was the Director of the French Academy. I was too young but our older brothers went to school there. In fact, it’s still there but it’s now a museum and our house is an information center of some sort. At the time the communists took it over to house government officials.”

JoAnh was born two days after Da Nang was invaded and the evacuation began. “They bombed the city and I was dropped on the floor,” she said, half jokingly. “That’s what I experienced. I didn’t experience the fine living.”

“She was still with my mom in the hospital when the evacuation started,” said Tracey. “My dad literally packed everybody in a car. Five kids and the nanny. He ran to the hospital and packed my mom and JoAnh into the car.” With only a suitcase filled with the family’s birth certificates and cash, their father drove to the airport intending to bribe their way onto an airplane and fly everyone south. “But he got there and it was bumper to bumper,” Tracey said. “Everyone was trying to evacuate.”

At the time, Tracey wasn’t born yet. She has no memory of leaving their homeland since she was only three in 1981 when their mother escaped with her and her two sisters. “My whole
life I’ve been wanting to document my parents’ stories,” Tracey explained. “I didn’t know what the story was about. I only knew bits and pieces of it from hearing it growing up but I certainly felt the pain that they had gone through. It was always this silent backdrop in our lives. You could just feel the loss they had been through even if they didn’t talk about it.”

When her parents agreed to be interviewed for the podcast, Tracey opened the door to her family’s past for the first time. Her father, who had never broached the topic with his children, told stories of poverty and people dying of diseases. “That’s why people started escaping,” explained Tracey, “because they thought anything is better than living in these conditions. During the evacuation of Da Nang, my dad was able to bribe a fisherman to take everyone to the closest barge. We left Da Nang to go further South in Vietnam because my parents thought if they were closer to Saigon, they would be safer. JoAnh was three days old. My mom had literally just given birth and was running to the coastline. The nanny was holding our older sister, Tu-Anh. She was two. And the boys were 14, 13, 10 and I think 8.”

Tracey’s father recalled a merchant ship that came to transport people from the barge and the thousands of people trying to push their way onto the ship. “People were falling in the ocean,” Tracey explained. “My dad pulled my brothers aside and gave them addresses of my aunts in Saigon and Nha Trang and said, ‘Don’t look back. Just go. Just get to that ship.’ Then he helped the nanny and Tu-Anh. But the only way to do it was to free up his hands so he threw away the briefcase with the birth certificates and the money. And when he looked back, mom and JoAnh were gone. He couldn’t find them anywhere.”

“I never knew what our dad went through until the podcast,” shared JoAnh. “It’s not something we talk about. To me, it’s painful to talk about because I still get emotional.” Much of their parents’ ordeal was experienced separately. Although they were eventually
reunited on the merchant ship, they all remained in Vietnam in harsh conditions until 1979 when their father took their oldest brother to the U.S., using whatever funds they had available.

Their mother was left to care for the remaining children. Over a period of three years, she found resourceful ways to acquire funds for the remainder of the family to afford an escape. “My mom was amazing,” said Tracey. “She was one of the main orchestrators of the escapes for a lot of people. After the war, the currency was changing all the time so people paid in ounces of gold to reserve a space on fishing boats. That’s how she earned gold to buy spots for all of us. She went to jail many times because she got caught. After my brothers left, the police were on to my mom so she went into hiding and left my sisters and me with different people for almost a year.”

Both sisters give credit to their mother for their successes. “I think where we are today is because we witnessed how she works hard regardless,” explained JoAnh. “Just the hustle and the struggle. We put ourselves through school and we studied hard just because we see where our mom is.”

As Tracey recalled, “Mom would always say ‘Don’t complain about what you don’t have. You should always use what you have.’” Eventually, their mother became an entrepreneur and owned many small businesses and their father went to night school to become a computer engineer. “They ended up doing well for themselves,” said Tracey. “So as I got older our financial struggles lessened.”

Today, Tracey has tapped into her own resourcefulness to develop her non-profit podcast which has grown to include the stories of other refugees. “Most of the people I’ve recorded have come from children introducing their parents to me, asking me to record their stories,” she said. “It’s evolved from just being me to a team of seven people. They’re all volunteers but they’re super devoted to our stories and mission. Two of the seven are my own nieces, the daughters of my older brothers. So it’s a true family initiative.”

“I hope when my children are old enough they will remember that life was not always like this for our family,” Tracey shared. “That they will learn to appreciate each other and what they have because their mom and their aunts and uncles had a lot of struggles and hardships and were able to overcome it to provide the life that my children have today.”

While Tracey’s children are too young, her husband, Jason, has become a big fan of the podcast. “He’s a big history person. So he listens to all the episodes as soon as they’re published. It’s really amazing, “ said Tracey. “She was one of the main orchestrators of an escape. “My mom was devoted to our stories and mission. Two of the seven people.

They’re all volunteers but they’re super devoted to our stories and mission. Two of the seven are my own nieces, the daughters of my older brothers. So it’s a true family initiative.”

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“It all comes back to family,” Tracey said, “and understanding your self-worth. That comes out in the stories. People can
Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at cweiner@bestversionmedia.com.

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make you feel badly and conditions around you can actually make you feel worthless but it’s your self-worth that can get you to a different place. It’s resiliency. Like my mom. I hope people can be inspired by that." Vietnamese Boat People is available on major podcast platforms and at www.vietnameseboatpeople.org.

Mark Scordato & Associates
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www.markscordato.com

**888-331-4540**
ANY OF US count our lucky stars that Mills Reservation — the wooded, Essex County-owned mountaintop park easily accessible to Montclair residents and just 12 miles west of one of the biggest cities in the world — was preserved for recreational use. Ever wonder how it came to be?

Mills Reservation began with a 118-acre donation from the Davella Mills Foundation to the Essex County Park Commission (ECPC) in 1954. Through additional land acquisitions in the 1960s, the reservation grew to the 157-acre Essex County Park we know today. It straddles the ridge between Montclair and Cedar Grove atop First Mountain, the easternmost of three ridges that comprise the Watchung Mountain chain. It runs from the Normal Avenue entrance in the north to the southern terminus on Old Quarry Road, accessible from Bradford Avenue.

By the early 17th century, English settlers, expanding west from their location in Newark, and Dutch settlers, moving beyond their lands in Bergen and Passaic counties, began to discover and settle lands along the slopes of First Mountain. Settlers in the vicinity of today’s Mills Reservation were primarily of Dutch descent. They had large farms, capitalizing on the streams and drainage afforded by the mountain slope. Maps from the early 1900s reveal plots owned by some of Upper Montclair’s and Cedar Grove’s founding Dutch farming families, including Speer (for whom Spertown, later Upper Montclair, was named), Jacobus, Van Reyper, and others.

The arrival of the trains that allowed easy, daily commuting from Montclair to Newark and New York City transformed the region.

Train service arrived to Grove and Elm streets in Montclair (then called West Bloomfield) in 1856. A second train line, with stations from Walnut Street to Normal Avenue (then called Fifth Avenue), began service in 1873; by this time the town had been renamed Montclair. The lure of an easy daily commute prompted many to build homes on the beautiful Montclair mountainside, prized for scenic views, fresh air, and a “healthful environment.” Train service spurred a building boom, with realtors referring to Montclair as “New York’s most charming suburb.” Montclair’s population exploded — growing from 5,100 residents in 1880 to 42,000 residents in 1930. Statisticians and planners predicted the population growth would continue.

In 1931, the Episcopal Diocese of Newark purchased nearly 40 acres of land in what is now Mills Reservation, planning to build a cathedral to serve the diocese’s increasingly suburban worshipers. Ultimately, they dedicated the existing, historic Trinity Church in Newark as their cathedral and sold their land holdings on the mountaintop to the Davella Mills Foundation in 1952.

Davella Mills acquired lots from multiple landowners in 1952.
and donated 118 acres to the ECPC in 1954. The Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects developed the park design seeking community input: should it be formally landscaped (such as the Olmsted-designed Brookdale and Anderson parks) or left as a natural woodland? Although the final design was indeed the naturalized setting we enjoy today, preliminary designs included a range of options that included camp and picnic sites, comfort stations, scenic overlooks, ball fields, playgrounds, stables, and multiple large parking areas to accommodate over 300 cars.

**About the Mills**

David and Ella Mills arrived in Montclair in the early 1900s. These philanthropists’ fortune grew when David invented a spark plug and sold it to General Motors. During their lifetimes, they donated funds to meet the building needs of several non-profits, religious, and educational institutions in Montclair and Cedar Grove. After Ella Mills died in 1931, half of the couple’s fortune was used to create the Davella Mills Foundation and the remainder was bequeathed to it upon David Mills’ death in 1944. By design, the fund was liquidated by 1955, having given away $10 million in 24 U.S. cities and 12 foreign countries.

Part 2 of this article will appear next month, covering the quarry, geology, and other elements of Mills Reservation.
HERE ARE TWO CHARMING French Norman style houses right next to each other on South Mountain Ave. They are similar and one couldn't be blamed for thinking that they are a "Mother/Daughter" pair, especially because one is smaller and sits behind the other. There may have been some of that thinking behind their construction, but the two were never owned by the same person. The larger house was built about 1878 by John T. and Imogene Weeks. Their three grown daughters lived in the house after the parents passed away. They were all active in Montclair civic affairs, but today's article isn't about them. It's about the smaller house. The daughters took on boarders after their parents died. It was assumed that they built the smaller house to accommodate more boarders. That isn't the case. Neither was the smaller house ever the carriage house. Older Montclair maps clearly indicate that the Weeks family carriage house was on the other side of the main house.
The smaller house, the subject of this month’s article, was built in late 1932, or early 1933 by Frank W. and Irene Becket, on the property that had once been part of the main lot. Frank was born in Montreal in 1879. His father was a businessman but loved music. His father sang, played the piano and played the flute. Frank became an investment banker and always held on to his father’s love of music. Frank joined the firm of N.W. Harris on William Street in New York City and stayed with the firm after it became Harris Forbes & Co. He became an accomplished pianist. He also composed. Several of his compositions were published by the Hamilton S. Gordon Company. In his early twenties, he started noticing that his hearing wasn’t so keen. One day he answered the phone and couldn’t hear on one side at all. Technically he had become 75% deaf. He despaired for some time but discovered a device developed by the Alexander Graham Bell Laboratory, which was founded by the inventor of the telephone and continued in the founder’s tradition. Alexander had been a teacher of the deaf. The lab developed a relatively small receiver that could be placed behind a deaf person’s ear. It transmitted vibrations to the inner ear through bones in the head. The vibrations were produced by a microphone and a small amplifier. Frank claimed that he could hear his compositions on the piano better with this device than when he had normal hearing. His story made the front page of the Montclair Times on November 29, 1935.

Irene (MacKay) Becket was also born in Canada. Her family moved to New York State. She and Frank married in Steuben, NY in 1917. She was a teacher and on the Board of Trustees of the Brookside School from 1929-1949. The Brookside School is now the Brookside campus of MKA. It is somewhat ironic that their daughter, Anne, went to Stoneleigh College in New Hampshire since the founder and president of the college-owned the big house next door after the Weeks moved out. Once again that is a story for another time. The Becketts moved to 91 South Mountain Ave. in 1941 and stayed there for a couple of years. They moved back into this month’s featured house in 1945. They stayed there until approximately 1949 when the Van Horn family bought it. Paul E. Van Horn and Eleanor Lanctot were both born in Monroe County, NY in 1908. They married and moved to Springfield, Massachusetts; then to Rochester. They moved to Montclair around 1949 and chose to live in our featured house. Eleanor passed away later that year. Paul remarried. Paul and his new bride, Marion (Spruance Smith) Vanhorn lived at our featured house for a few years. They moved to Undercliff Rd. They had two sons: Paul E. Jr. and Peter. Paul Jr. became an orthopedic surgeon. Peter became a jeweler. Paul Sr. was in insurance. He ended his career as the chairman of the American Life Insurance Co. of NY.

If you’d like to see more images of Montclair homes, they are featured in the book, Stately Homes of Montclair, which can be found at Montclair Booksellers, several local libraries and the Stately Homes of Montclair Facebook page.

There are two charming French Norman style houses right next to each other on South Mountain Avenue.

“Hey Montclair...If you try Garden State Honda, you’re going to buy from Garden State Honda!”

Independence Day Savings All Month Long!
MON., JULY 1
Auditions for The Receptionist
@ Studio Playhouse
14 Alvin Place, Montclair NJ 07043
“The Receptionist” By Adam Bock.
Directed by: Michael Smith-Gallo.
At the start of a typical day in the Northeast Office, Beverly deals effortlessly with ringing phones and her colleague’s romantic troubles. But the appearance of a charming rep from the Central Office disrupts the friendly routine. As the true nature of the company’s business becomes apparent, The Receptionist is The Office meets Black Mirror and raises disquieting, provocative questions about the consequences of complicity with evil. Rehearsals to begin in late July.
Time: 7:30
Cost: Free
https://studioplayhouse.org/auditions-the-receptionist/

TUES., JULY 2
Family Concert: “Polka Dot”
Ron Albanese (Age 4-11)
@Montclair Public Library Auditorium
50 South Fullerton Ave.
Family entertainer “Polka Dot” Ron Albanese performs his “Super Silly Sing-a-long” music and comedy show – interactive live songs, with skits and bits in between! Summer reading club readers can dance and laugh along just in time for Independence Day!
Time: 2pm – 3pm
Cost: Free
www.montclairlibrary.org

WED., JULY 3, 17, 24 AND 31
Gardenside Meditation
@Van Vleck House & Gardens
21 Van Vleck St.
Join contemporary spiritual teacher and author Ramananda John E. Welshons for a wonderful series of summertime evening meditation classes in the beautiful living room of Van Vleck House. Participants will learn and practice different forms of mindfulness meditation in each session, including walking meditation (weather permitting). Open to beginners and experienced practitioners, these gatherings offer an opportunity to experience deep inner peace while practicing with a highly experienced meditation teacher. Register online at vanvleck.org, email education@vanvleck.org or call 973-744-4752 ext. 3.
Time: 7 - 9pm
Cost: $25 per class/$20 per class for Members/$85 for the series of 4 classes/$70 for Members vanvleck.org

THURS., JULY 4
Fourth of July Parade,
Picnic, and Fireworks
@ Bloomfield & S. Fullerton Aves.
Montclair’s 69th annual Independence Day Parade promises a host of outstanding performances and live entertainment. The parade is followed by a fun Family Picnic in Edgemont Park and a spectacular fireworks display in the evening at Yogi Berra Stadium on the campus of Montclair State University.
Time: 11am - 10pm
Cost: Free

TUES., JULY 9
Share the Road:
Pedestrian Safety
@Montclair Public Library Auditorium
50 South Fullerton Ave.
Whether you bike and walk for fun, exercise or just to and from work each day – at one point or another we are all a pedestrian. New Jersey has 2x the national

The Cliffs at Eagle Rock is an award winning state of the art Assisted Living facility nestled on 6.5 acres in West Orange, New Jersey.

The Cliffs provides a superior environment of compassionate care for seniors who are in need of additional assistance with “the activities of everyday living” A.D.L.

Our residents benefit from a dedicated and attentive staff, stimulating activities, full time health and wellness professionals, and an extraordinary setting.
average for pedestrian fatalities and has been designated a focus state by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. This program is to help “Retrain the Brain” to think differently about pedestrian and road safety.
- Strategies for drivers to prevent crashes
- Educate drivers to look out for pedestrians
- Tips to share the road with all roadway users

Presented by: Jersey Drives and the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey, with funding from the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety.

Time: 6:30pm – 7:45pm

Cost: Free
www.montclairlibrary.org

SUN., JULY 14
Walk. Talk. Taste Montclair History!
Location provided upon ticket purchase
Discover the food and stories that make Montclair unique on this 3-hour food tasting and historical walking tour of downtown Montclair. Sample foods from 6 to 8 Montclair restaurants. Space is limited. Are you a Montclair History Center member? Please type and select your name in the “Constituent” field when you register to receive the member discount.
Time: 2 - 5pm
Cost: $45/person; $40 for Montclair History Center members
www.montclairhistory.org

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TUES., JULY 16
My Mother is an Astronaut: A Traveling Lantern Theatre Show (Ages 4-11)
@Montclair Public Library Auditorium
50 South Fullerton Ave.
Aquarius’ mom is an astronaut and she can’t wait to go to NASA for “Take your child to work day.” She meets scientists and engineers who show her everything about space travel and Aquarius soon dreams of incredible journeys through the cosmos!
Time: 2pm – 3pm
Cost: Free
www.montclairlibrary.org

TUES., JULY 16
Amazing Animal Adaptations
@Van Vleck House & Gardens
21 Van Vleck St.
Meet and greet live animals from Eyes of the Wild. Learn about their amazing adaptations which help them survive and thrive in the wild. Space is limited. Registration required. Register online at vanvleck.org, email education@vanvleck.org or call 973-744-4752 ext. 3.
Time: 7 – 8pm
Cost: Individuals: $15 per person or $35 per family/$10 per person or $25 per family for Members vanvleck.org

THURS., JULY 18
Meadowlands Discovery Sunset Eco-Cruise
@Laurel Hill County Park, Secaucus, NJ
Join Hackensack Riverkeeper for a guided exploration of the Sawmill Creek Wildlife management Area in the heart of the NJ Meadowlands - the “Everglades of the North”
Time: 6pm
Cost: $45
www.adultschool.org

SAT., JULY 20
Montclair Center BID presents: Montclair Center Stage Series: Outpost in the Burbs
@Center Stage Performances on Church Street
Enjoy the best in live, local music every Saturday on Church Street from May to September. Weather permitting. Performances include Richard Pierson, High Mileage and The Fabulous Flemtones. See website for details.
Time: 6pm
Cost: Free
montclaircenter.com/event/music-event/montclaircenterstage/

THURS., JULY 25
An Astronomy Adventure
@Montclair Public Library Auditorium
50 South Fullerton Ave.
Learn about the latest discoveries in our solar system and beyond! See breathtaking pictures of all the planets, including Pluto and the moons of Jupiter and Saturn. Get a real “feel” for our place in the universe. Discover what we have learned about planets around other stars and the search for another Earth. Also, a description of the next missions to explore space!
Time: 6pm
www.montclairlibrary.org

FRI., JULY 26
Outdoor Movie Screening: Gnomeo And Juliet
@ Montclair Public Library
Film begins at sundown. Come early and bring a picnic! In Stratford-Upon-Avon, birthplace of William Shakespeare, Miss Capulet and Mr. Montague feud over whose garden is the better. Garden gnomes that decorate each neighbor’s flower beds continue the rivalry when the humans aren’t looking, and gnomes from the Red Gardens don’t get along with those of the Blue Gardens. Then Gnomeo (James McAvoy), a Blue, and Juliet (Emily Blunt), a Red, fall in love, leaving many obstacles to overcome.
Time: 7pm
Cost: Free
https://montclairfilm.org/events/gnomeo-and-juliet/

SAT., JULY 27
Author Visit: Hugh Ryan: When Brooklyn Was Queer
@Montclair Public Library Auditorium
50 South Fullerton Ave.
Hugh Ryan will read from and discuss When Brooklyn Was Queer (St. Martin’s Press, 2019).
Time: 2pm – 3pm
www.montclairlibrary.org

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@Center Stage Performances on Church Street
Enjoy the best in live, local music every Saturday on Church Street from May to September. Weather permitting. Performances include Richard Pierson, High Mileage and The Fabulous Flemtones. See website for details.
Time: 6pm
Cost: Free
montclaircenter.com/event/music-event/montclaircenterstage/
Summer is finally here! And that means road trips and vacations and hot lazy summer afternoons spent by the pool. Of course, there’s plenty to do, but when you inevitably hear, “There’s NOTHING to do!” we’ve got the perfect boredom buster for your family. Anything recycled is always more appealing and makes us happy, so these simple journals are made using 2 items you probably have in your home already. We use manila mailing envelopes and bakery twine from our recent pastry purchase.

Easy step-by-step instructions: Grab a stack of 6x9 manila envelopes (use 5 or 6 for a nice thick journal that isn’t too bulky). Turn them on their sides and fold them in half. Crease that fold line so it’s nice and tight. Using the fold line as your guide/spine, use a single hole punch to make two holes - about an inch and a half from the top and the bottom of the envelope along your spine. Stack all six of the envelopes one on top of the other, switching the flap end from left to right with each layer. Use the bakery twine (you can also use string or yarn) to bind the envelopes together by feeding both ends of the string from the outside of the book in toward the center. The string ends should crisscross in the center and then loop out through each hole again. Tie a bow or knot for a flourish. (If you prefer not to see the tie, simply reverse the feed so that the knot ends up in the center of your book.) Occasionally we cut a piece of cardboard (cereal boxes are a great weight) to fit the unflapped half of the envelope and insert it before we tie the string, just to make it a little more sturdy.

Once the journal is constructed, the half with the flaps and closure becomes a pocket for storing notes, tickets, or memorabilia. The pages can be embellished with collages, stickers, drawing, writing, and even painting. You can turn these into field journals for nature walks, travel journals, diaries, or alphabet books for the littlest wanderers.

We’d love to hear how your summer journals turn out. Send us a photo of your family’s journals and we’ll post them on our Instagram account. Use the hash tags #montclairneighbors #thecreativitycaravan and #envelopejournals on social media.

Instagram: @montclairneighbors @thecreativitycaravan
Adventure is Just a Day Away!

BY JILLIAN ZARR

Are the weeks of summer stretching out before you? Check out these day trips that won’t break the bank or drain your gas tank.

GROUND FOR SCULPTURE
80 SCULPTORS WAY, HAMILTON TOWNSHIP
There are over 250 sculptures at Grounds for Sculpture, from artists such as Clement Meadmore, Anthony Caro, Beverly Pepper, George Segal, Magdalena Abakanowicz, and Isaac Witkin. Roam the grounds and get up close and personal with the sculptures. It’s a great place for art lovers and harried parents alike (the extensive grounds provide lots of room to run and play).
www.groundsforsculpture.org

SLEEPY HOLLOW/TARRYTOWN
TARRYTOWN, NY
You may know Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown from the classic story “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” featuring a certain headless horseman. The small New York villages embrace this creepy connection and feature cemetery tours and Gothic mansions. But they also feature shopping, historic sightseeing along the quaint Main Street, farmer’s markets and outdoor concerts all summer.
Visitsleepyhollow.com
www.tarrytowngov.com

ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK
ROUTE 35 SOUTH, SEASIDE PARK
Island Beach State Park has ten miles of beaches. Not only can you swim along the shore, but it’s also a great place for surf fishing. Fill your ‘gram with pictures of the stately Barneget Lighthouse in the background...or simply enjoy a beautiful day on the beach, device-free.
www.islandbeachnj.org

ALLAIRE STATE PARK
4265 ATLANTIC AVENUE, WALL TOWNSHIP
This state park which is just a short ride down the Garden State...
Parkway has history and nature lovers covered. Allaire Village, a recreation of a 19th century iron-making community, is available to tour. There is an old-fashioned steam train to ride on as well (great for kids!). The trails that line the village are perfect for hiking, bike-riding and horseback riding. And if you are a botanist-in-training, or just an enthusiast, more than 200 types of wildflowers, trees and shrubs dot the park. www.njparksandforests.org/parks/allaire.html www.allairevillage.org

BLACK RIVER AND WESTERN RAILROAD
245 JOHN RINGO RD, RINGOES
There’s more trains to be seen at the BR&W Railroad that runs between Flemington and Ringoes. A volunteer staff has been preserving classic railroad history and engines for over 50 years. Guests can ride the rails on various excursions, both short and long. There’s also a train museum featuring a model railroad. www.blackriverrailroad.com

BATSTO HISTORICAL VILLAGE
HAMMONTON ROAD, HAMMONTON
Ok, I’ll admit, I used to complain when my mom would take us to an educational village when I was a kid. But now I am all about seeing the old timey gristmills, general stores, barns and cottages of Batsto Village, which recreates life in the late 1700’s. And I’m ready to force a new generation of kids to spend an entire summer day learning about the past. It’s even located within Wharton State Forest, which features campsites and hiking opportunities. www.batstovillage.org

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