

FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

Spencertown Is for Book Lovers

The Academy gears up for the Festival of Books

If there's a book you've been meaning to read, or a subject you've been wanting to learn more about, chances are you'll find what you're looking for and more at the Spencertown Academy's 12th annual Festival of Books on Labor Day weekend.



Book lovers of all ages will have a chance to hunt for treasures among more than 10,000 new and gently-used books, as well as CDs, DVDs and audio cassettes, all at sub-bargain basement prices. A first-floor gallery features a handpicked selection of specialty books, limited editions, out-of-print books, and new books donated by leading national publishers.

All books are carefully categorized and displayed for easy browsing; the stock is replenished continuously throughout the sale. As always, prices will start out low and be stepped down each day throughout the weekend. It's a terrific way to stock up on a lot of great reading for not a lot of money!

Friday-night whites and reds

The Festival begins with the Members' Preview Party at the Academy on Friday evening, September 1, where you can chat with fellow bibliophiles over a glass of wine and get an early start on browsing and buying. The program continues through the holiday weekend with a varied schedule of author readings, signings, discussions and surprises.

This year's lineup of participating writers and poets includes Jonathan Gould (*Otis Redding: An Unfinished Life*), Wesley Brown (*Dance of the Infidels*), Rebecca Morgan Frank (*The Spokes of Venus*), Sulome Anderson (*The Hostage's Daughter: A Story of Family, Madness and the Middle East*), Michael Lemonick (*The Perpetual Now: A Story of Amnesia, Memory and Love*), Greg Mitchell (*The Tunnels*), Louie Cronin (*Everyone Loves You Back*), Elinor Lipman (*On Turpentine Lane*) and Patricia Park (*Re Jane*).

"We are very grateful to the authors who are giving so generously of their time to appear at the Festival," says Board member Jill Kalotay, who, with fellow Board member David Highfill, heads the Festival of Books committee. CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



what's coming up

FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

Labor Day Weekend (September 2-4)
Members Preview Party:
Friday, September 1, 6-8pm

 **MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY**

The Wizard of Words: E.Y. "Yip" Harburg

Cabaret performance by
Maureen Kelley Stewart
Saturday, September 16, 7:30pm
Tickets: \$20

 **THE GALLERY**

Inspiration & Influences

Annual Regional Juried Art Show
October 7-22
Opening reception:
Saturday, October 7, 4-6pm

 **MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY**

Music that Dances

Performance by pianist Uel Wade and
violinist Mitsuko Suzuki
Saturday, October 21, 7:30pm
Tickets: \$20 (free for 18 and under)

 **THE GALLERY**

The Winners Show

Multimedia exhibit by
Amelia Toelke and Linda Horn, first-prize
winners from the last two Juried Shows
October 28-November 12
Opening reception:
Saturday, October 28, 4-6pm

**HANDMADE
HOLIDAY**

Just in time for the holiday
gift-giving season!
November 24-26 & December 2-3
Watch for details

spencertownacademy.org/events

Ways to get involved

As always, the Festival of Book is only possible with the generous and active help of Academy volunteers. If you'd like to help out, either before or during the Festival, please contact Ann Vartarian at annmvartarian@gmail.com. For complete details and program schedule, or to make donations, become a sponsor or become a member of the Academy, please visit us at spencertownacademy.org.



Endings and Beginnings

A time to look forward



The 12th annual Festival of Books begins in just a few weeks, and I can't wait. But I also know that the Festival, always scheduled for the Labor Day weekend, marks what many view as the end of summer. While there is still time for picnics, golf and hikes in the woods, there's no

arguing with the calendar: Come September, we'll have entered the final third of the year.

But this year, September will also be a time of new beginnings for the Academy. It's hardly a secret that the years have taken a heavy and visible toll on the Academy's physical condition. The good news is that, not long after we wrap up this year's Festival of Books, the first phase of a long-needed restoration of our 1847 home will commence.

This will be an ambitious undertaking—and, to be sure, an essential one if we are to save our priceless building. The work will start at the top, with the replacement of the roof and the reconstruction of the cornice, bell tower and chimney. Later, we'll move on to the restoration and repainting of the columns, siding and trim and the repair and improvement of the parking lot, driveway, fence and walkways to bring them all up to safety standards.

Needless to say, we can expect some temporary restrictions on our space as the work proceeds. But we are determined that the events and activities scheduled for the fall and winter, including concerts, gallery shows and Handmade Holiday, will take place as planned.

In the coming weeks, you'll be hearing more about both the construction and our related fundraising campaign. Meanwhile, let's continue to indulge in the special pleasures that late summer offers. Buildings may get old, but some things—like the Festival of Books—never do.

Enjoy!

Nick Van Alstine



Multimedia works

The Curator as Artist

"The Curator as Artist," a multimedia exhibit by the curators of the Spencertown Academy Gallery—Barbara Lax Kranz, Barbara Willner, Leslie Gabosh, Lynn Rothenberg and Norma Cohen—was recently featured at the Academy. "The show was an opportunity for the community to get to know our gallery curators, who are all volunteers and accomplished artists, through their work," says Academy Board Vice President Madaline Sparks.



LESLIE GABOSH



LYNN ROTHENBERG



NORMA COHEN



BARBARA WILLNER



BARBARA LAX KRANZ

the Academy

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MEMBERSHIP

Are you a current member of the Spencertown Academy?
Visit our website to sign up or to renew your membership today!
We thank you for your support.

PLEASE VISIT

spencertownacademy.org
for information on programs, artsVOYAGE, membership, and volunteer opportunities or to subscribe to our e-blast list.



A Celebratory Kickoff to Summer

(Green) thumbs up for this year's Hidden Gardens tour

Garden enthusiasts enjoyed an upfront view of some of Columbia County's most beautiful private gardens at the 13th annual Hidden Gardens tour on June 17.

The theme was "Celebrating the Art of the Garden," and the self-guided tour took in gardens in Spencertown, Austerlitz, Ghent and Hillsdale.

Highlights included the grounds and gardens of poet Edna St. Vincent Millay's home at Steepletop, a landscape designer's garden, an 18th-century home, and a country house with a parterre, pond, and extensive perennial and edible gardens. Vivian Wachsberger and Madaline Sparks again co-chaired the event.

Party time

As always, the weekend began on Friday with the Twilight in the Garden party, hosted by Denise and John Dunne at Falling

Waters, their beautiful home in Spencertown. Despite gray skies and an uncertain forecast, the weather cooperated and the turnout was large and enthusiastic.

Since 2005, Hidden Gardens has been a signature event on the Academy calendar as well as an important fundraiser; this year's event netted a very healthy 22.5% increase. "Hidden Gardens 2017 was a success in every way, with exceptionally beautiful gardens, large crowds, a vigorous Market on the Green, and a great turnout for Ron Kujawski's Saturday morning talk on vegetable gardening," Vivian says.

Adds Madaline, "Special thanks go to the volunteers who put so much time and effort into making this wonderful event happen, and to our neighbors who graciously opened their gardens to us."

Hidden Gardens



music at the Academy



We're Off to Hear the Wizard!

Cabaret performance celebrates the music of Yip Harburg

Award-winning cabaret singer Maureen Kelley Stewart, accompanied by acclaimed musical director Daryl Kojak, will present an evening of songs by legendary American lyricist E.Y. "Yip" Harburg on September 16 at 7:30pm.

Harburg may be best known for the songs he wrote, in collaboration with Harold Arlen, for the 1939 movie *The Wizard of Oz*. But "Over the Rainbow" is just one of many Harburg songs imprinted on the American musical psyche, including *It's "Only a Paper Moon"*, "April in Paris", "How Are Things in Glocca Morra", "Last Night When Were Young" and "That Old Devil Moon". Harburg's Depression-era classic, "Brother Can You Spare a Dime", as well as his most famous Broadway hit, *Finian's Rainbow*, reflect a lifelong commitment to battling social injustice, economic oppression and racial discrimination.

An array of American musical icons

Harburg is one of many iconic American songwriters and singers



whose works Maureen Kelley Stewart has celebrated, including George & Ira Gershwin, Tom Jones & Harvey Schmidt, Richard Rodgers, Alan Jay Lerner & Frederick Loewe, and Bing Crosby. She is a frequent presence at Manhattan's best-known cabaret rooms, including Don't Tell Mama, Danny's Skylight Room, Judy's Chelsea, Helen's Hideaway, and the Laurie Beechman Theatre. She has also performed at the Mabel Mercer Foundation's Cabaret Conventions, New York's Town Hall and Guild Hall in East Hampton.

General admission tickets (\$20/\$10 for students) may be purchased in advance at spencertownacademy.org and at the door.

building community through the arts

Festival of Books '17 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



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At the Children's Program on Saturday morning, kids can visit with the Cat in the Hat and pose for a free souvenir

photo with this ever-popular Dr. Seuss favorite. For the youngest readers there will be book-related art projects as well as Story-book Corner readings. Also on Saturday, Hannah Berkel and Simon Bergquist, the winners of this year's Young Writers contest, will read from their work.

Once again, the Cookbook Café will be open all day Saturday and Sunday, serving healthful, delicious snacks and beverages, including our famous no-alarm vegetarian chili.

Labor of love

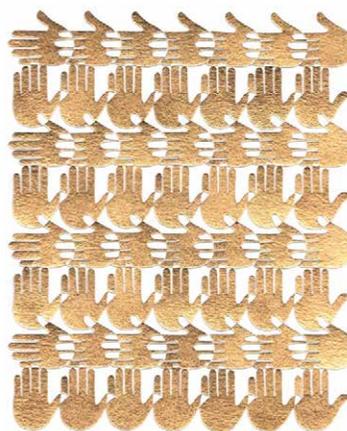
Volunteers have been hard at work all summer, receiving and sorting books, ordering supplies, recruiting speakers, and attending to the myriad planning details that go into such a complex undertaking. The support of sponsors, donors, Festival attendees and Academy members also figures crucially in the effort.

"The Festival of Books has gained such a large and enthusiastic following over the years that it's easy to forget it's a vital source of funding for the Spencertown Academy," says Jill. "The Academy doesn't have an endowment, which means we must raise 100% of our operating expenses each year through membership and our signature events—the Festival, Hidden Gardens, Revels and Handmade Holiday."

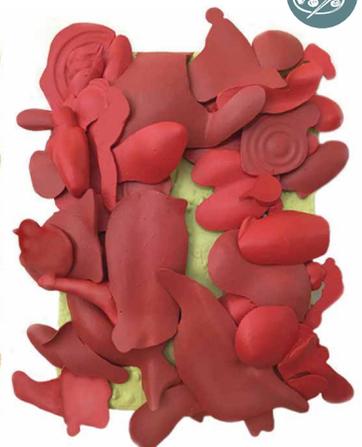
in the gallery

Winners Corner Multimedia show at the Academy

A gallery show featuring works by Amelia Toelke and Linda Horn will run from October 28 through November 12 at the Spencertown Academy. Amelia was the first-prize winner of the 2016 Regional Juried Show in October of last year. Linda took first place honors at the first annual Juried Photography Show this past June.



AMELIA TOELKE



LINDA HORN

Music that Dances



"To dance is utterly and deeply human," says conductor-arranger-pianist Uel Wade. "We humans seem compelled to do it, and the impulse has engendered some spirited and beautiful music." On Saturday, October 21 at 7:30 pm, Uel and violinist BKO Mitsuko Suzuki will interpret English clog, Polish polka, Spanish jota, Argentine tango and other dance forms as used by such composers as Tchaikovsky, Bacewicz and Fritz Kreisler. Tickets are \$20 (free admission for 18 and under) in advance or at the door.