

Hidden Gardens ²⁰¹⁶



Grounds and Gardens of Earthly Delights

The 12th Annual Hidden Gardens Tour is set for Saturday, June 18. This year's theme: Village and Country Gardens.

Participants in the self-guided tour will take in four gardens in Spencertown, two in Kinderhook and one in Austerlitz—the restored grounds and gardens of 20th century American poet Edna St. Vincent Millay at Steepletop. In Kinderhook, tour-goers will enjoy sweeping views of the Catskills and Berkshires from Galloway Hill and Windy Hill Farm. In Spencertown, visitors will have access to several “smaller” properties hidden behind houses and privacy fences.

Party time

As always, the tour highlights a weekend of garden-themed activities at the Academy, beginning Friday evening, June 17, with the annual Twilight in the Garden Party. This year's event will take place at Falling Waters, the home of Denise and John Dunne in Spencertown. CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

what's coming up

THE GALLERY

From the Garden: Still Life

Works in oil, pastel and watercolor by eight regional artists
Through June 19

Spoken Word

Poetry Reading: “What This Country Needs”

Bernie Kukoff reads from his new book
Saturday, June 4, 4-6pm. Free

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Village and Country Gardens

Saturday June 18
Lecture & breakfast: 8:30-10am
Garden Market: 9am-3pm
Self-guided tour: 10am-4pm

THE GALLERY

Capturing Color: Contemporary Pastels

Works by five area pastelists in the purest form of artist color.
June 25-July 17
Opening reception: June 25, 4-6pm

THE GALLERY

Mysterious & Unexpected: The Merger of Art and Science

Multi-media works by six artists from the Capital Region and the Berkshires
July 23-August 14
Opening reception: July 23, 4-6pm

FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

September 2-5
Preview party: Friday, September 2, 6-8pm
Join us for our 11th annual Labor Day weekend celebration of books & reading.

spencertownacademy.org/events

support the Academy!



Membership Has Its Privileges Join today!



As the weather turns warm, the pace of activity at the Spencertown Academy is heating up. “It’s a great time to be a member—or to become one if you’re not already,” says Academy president Nick Van Alstine.

Over the past several months, volunteers and committees have worked hard to expand the Academy’s roster of events, concerts, and exhibits, as well as plan much-needed building upgrades and repairs. No less significantly, they have also clarified and enriched the Academy’s membership program.

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It's Springtime at the Academy And our programming is blossoming



Spring has sprung and with it the 44th season of programming activities and events at the Academy. Our outstanding lineup this season includes concerts, gallery shows, a poetry reading and our much-loved feature event, Hidden Gardens. A bit further down the road, there are the Festival of Books, Intersection Austerlitz, and an array of post-summer events to look forward to.

We're especially excited about bringing music programming back to the Academy stage, thanks to the vision and drive of music committee volunteers Rob Fisch and Craig Bender. Our members have been asking for it and we were listening. Our first two concerts of the year—Intentional Jazz in February and a Klezmer East performance on May 7—played to great reviews and capacity audiences. Next up: an October 1 folk concert featuring Greg Greenway.

Our Hidden Gardens weekend, which defines the start of summer in Spencertown and environs, is just around the corner.

It begins with our Twilight in the Garden party on Friday, June 17, followed on Saturday, of course, by the Garden Tour, related programs at the Academy and our Garden Market on the Green.

As most of you know, the Academy has no staff, which means that every event is the work of volunteers, from initial planning through execution. Moreover, a large part of their effort is in the service of preserving and maintaining our beloved historic building. This year, thanks to your support, we have undertaken a vital electrical system upgrade which is expected to be completed this fall. And we are in the process of getting estimates for replacing our aging and leaking roof and cornice. Addressing these infrastructural problems is of urgent importance. I'll keep you posted on our progress throughout the coming months.

As always, thank you for continued support. I look forward to seeing you this spring and summer at the Academy.

Nick Van Alstine

2016 concert program



All that Jazz, Klezmer, Folk & Classical Music is back at the Academy!

Sub-zero temperatures failed to chill the enthusiasm of music lovers who crowded into the Academy on Saturday night, February 13, for a performance by the sextet Intentional Jazz. Milder conditions prevailed on May 7, when clarinetist Paul Green and Klezmer East performed before an equally large and appreciative audience. Two more concerts will be produced this year by Academy volunteers.

Live music has returned to the Academy!

Spearheading the effort are Columbia County residents Rob Fisch and Craig Bender. "For the first program, we pulled out all the stops to help everybody shake off cabin fever and make the winter seem a bit warmer," says Rob.

Respinning the classics

Intentional Jazz, featuring Rob (trumpet), Aaron Dean (sax), Dave Pickard (trombone), David Bartley (piano), Dave Christopolis (bass), and Steve Collins (drums), is known for bringing a fresh return to the rich tradition of jazz from the Blue Note era. At the

Academy, the ensemble put a fresh spin on classics by Miles Davis, John Coltrane and others.

In its Academy debut, Klezmer East looked to recreate the emotionally charged atmosphere vibe of klezmer, mixing traditional favorites with more contemporary Jewish tunes and classics from the Yiddish Theatre. "I've been involved with klezmer music, the folk music of the Jewish people of Eastern and Central Europe, since I was a boy," says the group's founder, Paul Green. "I remember listening to it at bar mitzvahs and weddings and was always moved by its deeply emotive qualities."

Folk and classical too

Looking ahead, folksinger/songwriter/poet Greg Greenway will perform at the Academy on Saturday, October 1. A classical

concert—performers, program and date to be announced—will round out the year in November.

General admission tickets (\$20/\$10 students) to each concert may be purchased online in advance or at the door.



the academy

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

festival of books

Time to Clear Those Shelves!

Overrun with books? The Academy will gladly take them

Each September, the Academy's Festival of Books offers a chance to do some serious browsing and buying. But you may want to clear some space on your shelves for your new purchases.

The Academy can help by accepting donations of books and media starting after July 4. "We'll email details and post them on our website closer to the date," says volunteer Wayne Greene. "But we can accept CDs, DVDs and LPs immediately." Contact Wayne at 917-374-8711.

Thanks, but no thanks

Hard- and soft-cover books in all subjects in good condition are

welcome, "but we can't sell books with cracked spines or loose, torn, or yellowed pages, as well as items that are soiled, mildewed or heavily highlighted or written in," Wayne says. The Academy will also pass on textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, pre-2015 travel guides, uncorrected proofs or galleys, library books, VHS tapes and audio cassettes.

If you're donating items that you consider special—such as autographed or rare books—treat them with care. "Keep them separate and consider wrapping them in plastic sleeves," Wayne advises. "Labeling them with post-it notes also helps."



write now!

Teens' Short Story & Poetry Contest: Chapter 2

Memo to teenagers: Do you love to write?

The Academy's second annual writing contest is open to teenagers in grades 9 through 12, residing or attending school in Berkshire and Columbia Counties.

The top three winners in each category will receive cash prizes (\$100, \$75 and \$50) and be invited to read their work at the annual Festival of Books over Labor Day weekend.

"The aim of our Festival of Books is to engage and entertain book lovers from throughout the area," says David Highfill who, with Jill Kalotay, is co-chair of the Festival. "We think this contest is a perfect way to

accomplish that and to nurture the region's next generation of literary talent."



Stories and poems can be on any theme or subject, but only entries that have not been accepted for publication or previously won a prize will be considered. Entries should be sent to story@spencertownacademy.org. Submission deadline is July 15.

For guidelines and formatting specs, visit

spencertownacademy.org/events/teen-writing-contest.

2015 Contest Winners: Ruby Lamond, Samantha Reagan, Pearl Elsbach

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Grounds and Gardens of Earthly Delights

On Saturday morning, early-ish risers will want to be at the Academy for a presentation by featured speaker Adam Wheeler entitled, "I like it, I love it and the deer don't eat it!" Adam, who is Propagation and Plant Development Manager of Broken Arrow Nursery in Hamden, CT, will discuss a diverse assortment of plants, including native varieties and some exotics, that show strong resistance to deer browse. This event is sponsored by Ward's Nursery in Great Barrington. His lecture is set for 9am, but come early and enjoy a continental breakfast beginning at 8:30.

To market, to market

On Saturday, gardening enthusiasts will want to leave time for

a leisurely visit to the Garden Market on the Green to shop for plants and accessories for the garden from more than 20 vendors. In addition, the Market will offer a free demonstration

Hidden Gardens

on "Planting and Caring for a Potted Succulent Garden" by garden designer Heather Grimes of Pondsider Nursery, and a "Hummingbird-Friendly Planter Workshop" offered by Zema's

Nursery at 2pm. (Cost \$65; materials will be provided. Space is limited, so please reserve at spencertownacademy.org)

Tickets for the Hidden Gardens tour are available online at spencertownacademy.org in advance, at the Academy from 8:30am to 2pm on the day of the tour, and from 9am to 2pm at the Market on the Green.

in the gallery

Fall Juried Art Show Is Set for October 15

The Spencertown Academy will host a regional juried art show from October 15 through November 13.

Submissions will be accepted from residents of Columbia, Rensselaer, Albany, Ulster, Dutchess and Greene Counties in New York, Litchfield in Connecticut, and Berkshire in Massachusetts. The First Place winner will be awarded participation in a two-person show in 2017.

The entry deadline is August 8. Submission guidelines and entry fees are available at spencertownacademy.org/gallery/juried_show.

**CALL TO
ARTISTS**



building community through the arts

support the Academy! CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Membership Has Its Privileges **Join today!**

Four ways to join

The Academy offers four annual membership levels—Student (\$20), Individual (\$45), Couple (\$80) and Household (\$100). All members receive discounted tickets to Academy-produced programs, the opportunity to participate in an annual members-only art exhibit, and a complimentary coffee and baked good at the Festival of Books.

The enhancements are spelled out in a new membership brochure. It will be sent to current, previous and non-members, with a card describing each membership level, a schedule of

upcoming events and a membership form.

A double benefit

“Thanks to the support of volunteers, members and donors, the Spencertown Academy has been a cherished social and cultural resource for our community for nearly 45 years,” says Nick. “Being a member lets you take full advantage of all the Academy has to offer—and makes it possible to keep all these great programs coming.” Details on the new membership levels and benefits are also available at spencertownacademy.org.

the rewards of volunteering



The Academy Needs You! **You can make a difference**

As we begin our fourth year as an all-volunteer organization, it is gratifying to report that the Academy is continuing to thrive and vibrant with energy and activity. In 2015, our signature events broke all records for participation and fundraising.

In addition, our volunteers are initiating exciting new activities such as the return of music programming to the Academy. Our jazz and klezmer concerts played to enthusiastic audiences; folk and classical will be featured in our remaining two concerts this year.

Our 2016 calendar is growing as work on our signature fundraising events as well as the development of new

programs has already begun. This is an exciting time for the Academy and our community—but as you know, our programs are only possible with your enthusiastic support and the work of our volunteers.

The Academy belongs to all of us. Please consider how you would like to become more involved. What would you like to do? Help out at an event or program? Join a committee? Develop an idea of your own? Let us hear from you. Your involvement means everything!

For information on upcoming opportunities, email Ann Vartanian at volunteer@spencertownacademy.org.