Get Involved!
A note from volunteer coordinator Ann Vartanian

There are many ways to be involved. Visit us online at spencertownacademy.org—or email us at volunteer@spencertownacademy.org

the rewards of volunteering

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intersection Austerlitz

Cloudy Weather, Sunny Smiles CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Kim Thomas’s workshop showed participants “how easy it is to go out in their own yards and gardens and snap what they need to create great bouquets.”

Working in concert, the three cultural centers have a tremendous amount to offer, Madaline adds. “We’re excited about how well our first Intersection Austerlitz turned out—and already working on ideas for next year.”

Fur. Fin. Feathers.

The Spencertown Academy will host “Fur. Fin. Feathers.”—a juried art show with an animal theme. The dates: October 31 through November 22.

First and Second prize winners will be awarded one-person shows in 2016 in the Academy’s large and small galleries, respectively. A portion of the sale proceeds will be donated to “Out of the Pits,” a pit bull rescue and education non-profit organisation.

The deadline for entries is September 12. Guideline details are available at spencertownacademy.org/gallery/juried_show. Please email any questions to art@spencertownacademy.org.

Food, art, science, history…and more: Whatever your interests, you’ll find a lot to your liking at the 10th Festival of Books, which begins with a preview party at the Spencertown Academy on Friday evening, September 4, and continues through the holiday weekend.

This much-anticipated end-of-summer event will feature a full and exciting schedule of in-person author readings, panel discussions and children’s programs. And, with more than 10,000 new and gently-used books, as well as CDs and DVDs, the Festival offers book lovers of all ages a chance to do some serious browsing and buying.

As always, there will be nourishment for the body as well as the brain: Delicious baked goods and chili, created and prepared by volunteers, board members and friends of the Academy will be available for lunch at the Cookbook Café.

Not for Grown-Ups Only

Children’s programs are a big part of the Festival

Corduroy, the world’s most famous teddy bear, will be on hand at the 10th Festival of Books in the company of his best friend, college student Zach Paunes, who has been bringing celebrated protagonists such as Curious George, Llama Llama and Life Crocodile to the Festival for the past few years. “Corduroy and I are looking forward to meeting the children at the Storybook Corner this year,” Zach says.

“The Children’s Program is set for Saturday morning, September 5, from 10 to 11 A.M. “This Festival is all about making as much as you can for adults,” says volunteer Susan Grybas, who has again put together a great program. “We’ve planned a number of art activities for children. They can make their own books, bookmarks and large paper cutout stick puppets of Corduroy.” There will also be readings of some of Corduroy’s adventures by Academy volunteers and photo-ops with Corduroy. Refreshments will be served.

The Festival of Books is also supporting the Chatham Central High School Literary and Arts Magazine,半岛 which celebrates students’ artwork, poetry, short stories and photographs. Students notes this and last year’s editions will be available for purchase.

Volunteers are needed for the Preview Party on Friday evening, September 4, 6-8 p.m.; for the Cookbook Café; and the Storybook Corner this year,” Zach says.

“We’re tremendously excited about this year’s lineup of authors,” says board member David Highfill, who, with Jill Kalotay, shares co-chair duties for the Festival.

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Don’t miss the Festival of Books, Vol. 10

Celebrating all things literary

Over the past decade, the annual Festival of Books has grown into one of the Spencertown Academy’s most highly anticipated events, drawing book lovers of all ages from far and near. More than the area’s best and biggest book sale, it is a true celebration of all things literary, featuring children’s programming, readings and book signings by nationally renowned authors.

No less important, the Festival of Books is a perfect example of how the Spencertown Academy brings community together through the arts in all its forms. Hundreds of hours go into planning and producing this event and it’s all done by volunteers—volunteers who enjoy being surrounded by books, working with neighbors and meeting new friends who help keep this community treasure, our beautiful building alive and vital. This year we are fortunate to have the talents of volunteer Jill Kulahey and past co-chair and board member David Highfill heading up the event. Of course, the Festival of Books, Hidden Gardens, Revels, our gallery shows and all the other outstanding events on the Spencertown Academy calendar simply wouldn’t happen without a dedicated corps of volunteers—and all it takes is one person stepping up to make a big difference. Even if you can spare just an hour or two here and there please consider becoming a committee member or volunteer. If you have the time, we have the need.

And remember to mark your calendars for the Festival of Books Labor Day weekend.

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The Spencertown Academy’s Hidden Gardens tour gave garden enthusiasts an inside view of historical gardens tucked away in private residences in Kinderhook and Chatham this past June 20. The theme this year was “Artful Landscapes: Ornamental and Edible Gardens,” with the tour tracing a path through five spectacular gardens, including an intimate English Style garden and a minimalist deer-resistant garden set against panoramic views of the Catskills. The tour was co-chaired by Vivian Wachberger and Madaline Sparks.

There was also a stop at Katich Farm in Kinderhook, a Northeast Organic Farm Association-certified organic farm and home to the Sylvia Center, which inspires children and families to make healthy eating choices through farm-based learning experiences.

A success in every way

Since its inception in 2005, the annual Hidden Gardens event has been an important fundfeasurer for the Academy. “This year’s Hidden Gardens was a success in every way,” Madaline says. “Special thanks go to the volunteers who put so much time and effort into making this great event happen, and to our neighbors in and around Chatham and Kinderhook who graciously opened their homes and gardens to us.”

Each year the fundraiser is heralded by a garden-themed gallery show, “Concrete & Clay: Works Inspired by the Garden” featured a varied mix of decorative and useful works in stoneware, porcelain, clay and concrete by eight regional artists. And as always, the weekend festivities began on Friday evening with the Twilight in the Garden party, hosted this year by Maureen Killabay and Bruce Pinkernell at their historic 1912 home in Chatham. More than 100 partygoers were treated to a delicious buffet accompanied by an assortment of wines donated by Flammkuchen Food Truck.

On a raw and drizzly Saturday in June, participants in a “Backyard Bouquet” workshop left the Spencertown Academy with sunny and beautiful floral arrangements they’d designed and created. The workshop was one of several events taking place as part of Intersection Austerlitz, a first-of-its-kind collaboration between the Academy, Milly at Steepletop and the Austerlitz Historical Society. Funded in part by a grant from the Berkshire-Taconic Community Foundation, Intersection Austerlitz was designed to build on the combined resources and creativity of the three neighboring cultural centers. The theme of this year’s offering was “A Celebration of Herbs in the Gallery, Garden and Kitchen,” the program at the Spencertown Academy included the Backyard Bouquet workshop lead by floral designer Kim Thomas of Flower Blossom Farm in Ghent, as well as a garden-themed no social comment.” B. Docktor has long been fascinated with the connection between her photographs and what we end up remembering. “Photography has always been part of my life,” she says. “I’ve always cared about making pictures that were not only beautiful in form and content but mattered in some way.” Spaces & Moments will run from September 26 through October 18. Opening reception: Saturday, September 26, 4-6 pm at the Gallery.

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Festival of Books 2015

Curl Up with 10,000 Good Books

“There are some bona fide stars on the program—and more than a few who I think will be tomorrow’s stars.”

Participating authors include Simon Winchester (The Professor and the Madman, Krakatoa), who will be interviewed by Alan Chartock; Ruth Reichl (Delicious!); Luke Barr (Providence, 1970; M.F.K. Fisher, Julia Child, James Beard and the Reinvention of American Taste); Joanne Boggino (Rock Angel), Wesly Brown (Tragic Magik), Jamie Cat Callan (Forever Chic), The Writer’s Toolbox); Tali Camar (Hotel Moscow); Ann Hood (An Italian Wife); Daphne Kalotay (Russian Winter, Sight Reading), who will moderate a discussion between Alex Kendrick (Avenue of Spies) and David Gilham (City of Women); Jonathan Mingle (Fire and Ice); Sonia Pilcer (The Last Hotel); and James Scott (The Kept).

Winners of this year’s Teens Short Story Contest, selected by acclaimed young adult author Lauren Oliver (Vanishing Girls), will read from their work on Saturday, 11:45-12:30. Photos will be presented by author Jamie Cat Callan.

It’s all in the details

Volunteers have been hard at work since early July, sorting and pricing books, ordering supplies, recruiting speakers, and attending to the myriad planning details that go into such a complex undertaking. If you’d like to pitch in, either before or during the Festival, see the Volunteers box on the next page.

See spencertownacademy.org/events/Festival of Books for complete details and program schedule. And in the week before the Festival, tune into interviews with several Festival authors on WAMC, including Simon Winchester, in conversation with Alan Chartock. Check WAMC.org for exact air date and time.

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The Academy to the Garden party, hosted this year by Maureen Killackey and Bruce Pirkemal at their Historic 1912 home in Chatham. More than 100 partygoers were treated to a delicious buffet accompanied by an assortment of wines donated by Michael’s Wine and Spirits.

At the Saturday morning presentation preceding the tour, the featured speaker, author-landscape designer Ellen Ecker Ogden, offered a lively short course on “the art of growing food” and the pleasures of creating and maintaining a kitchen garden.

The Garden Market on the Green offered a wide range of unusual and unexpected garden-related items, including plants, vintage furniture and ornaments, garden tools, artwork and books from more than 20 vendors. Shoppers could quench their hunger pangs in style with the Bouvier pizza offered at the Black Forest Flammekeuchen Food Truck.

Next year’s Hidden Gardens is set for June 18.
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INTERSECTION AUSTERLITZ

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October 31-November 22

BROWSER HEAVEN: Book lovers study the offerings at the 2014 Festival of Books.

This much-anticipated end-of-summer event will feature a full and exciting schedule of in-person author readings, panel discussions and children’s programs. And, with more than 10,000 new and gently-used books, as well as CDs and DVDs, the Festival offers book lovers of all ages a chance to do some serious browsing and buying.

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