

Spencertown ♥ Books!

11th annual Festival of Books is just around the corner



If reading's your thing, you won't want to miss the 11th annual Festival of Books at the Spencertown Academy this Labor Day weekend.

This much-anticipated celebration of all things literary offers book lovers of all ages a chance to do some serious browsing and buying, with more than 10,000 new and gently-used books, as well as CDs and DVDs, for sale at outrageously low prices.

The Festival begins with the Members' Preview Party at the Academy on Friday evening, September 2, and continues through the holiday weekend with a varied schedule of author readings, panel discussions and surprises. At the Children's Program on Saturday morning, kids can pose for a free souvenir photo with Pete the Cat (Alice Tassinari). There will also be book-related art projects as well as Storybook Corner readings for the youngest readers.

Once again, the Cookbook Café will be open all day Saturday and Sunday, serving healthful, delicious snacks and beverages.

Star-studded cast

This year's lineup of participating poets, novelists and nonfiction authors features a number of local luminaries, including Elizabeth Brundage (All Things Cease to Appear), Mark Wunderlich (The Earth Avails: Poems), Will Swift (The Roosevelts and the Royals) and Ruth Reichl, (My Kitchen Year). There will also be readings and discussions by Michelle Hoover (Bottomland); Courtney Maum (I'm Having So Much Fun Here Without You); Steve Yarbrough (The Realm of Last Chances); Russell Shorto (Amsterdam; The Island at the Center of the World); Christopher Breiseth (A Promise to All Generations), and David Pietrusza (1932: The Rise of Hitler and FDR, Two Tales of Politics, Betrayal and Unlikely Destiny).

On Saturday, starting at 11:30 a.m., prizes will be presented to the winners of this year's Teens' Short Story and Poetry contest. Academy board member David Highfill (who shares co-chair duties with Jill Kalotay) and award-winning author Daphne Kalotay (Russian Winter and Sight Reading) have selected the Short Story winners; poet Mark Wunderlich has selected the Poetry winners.

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what's coming up

FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

Labor Day Weekend
Members Preview Party:
Friday, September 2, 6:00-8:00pm

intersection AUSTERLITZ

Spencertown Academy,
Millay at Steepletop
and Old Austerlitz

Costume and Culture: Designs for Life
Saturday, September 17, 9:00am-4:30pm



100 Years of Cole Porter

Concert featuring
Lincoln Mayorga, Sheri Bauer-Mayorga
and Friends
Benefit for Kids Need Music
Sunday, September 25, 2:00pm



THE GALLERY

Translations in Oil

Paintings by Scott Thomas Balfe

WhatAmILookingAt?

New Photographic Works
by Jane Mcwhorter
September 24-October 9
Opening reception:
Saturday, September 24, 4:00-6:00pm



Jazz at the Academy

Performance by The Quartet
Saturday, October 1, 8:00pm



THE GALLERY

2016 Regional Juried Gallery Show

October 15-November 13
Opening reception:
Saturday, October 15, 4:00-6:00pm



Classical Music at the Academy

Works by Mozart, Schubert, Schumann
Saturday, November 5, 7:30pm

Bookends It's been a great summer at the Academy—and it's not quite over



It's hard to believe—and perhaps harder to accept—that we're closing in on summer's end. According to Google, fall will arrive at approximately 10:21 am on September 22. The trees will still be in full leaf—mostly—and we'll no doubt be graced by days that are mild enough for swimming, barbecues and cut-offs. But there is no mistaking that early morning chill in the air that hints at the days to come. We've all been there.

That said, I for one am not quite ready to close the books on summer. This summer in particular has been a rewarding, productive and enjoyable one for the Academy, bookended by our Hidden Gardens Tour and our upcoming Festival of Books. Each year, it seems, both events, each well into their second decade, keep getting better and better.

Once again it bears noting that these events and, indeed, all of the outstanding programs and activities on the Academy's calendar—are planned, created and executed entirely by volunteers. Without their vision, commitment and hard work, events like Hidden Gardens and the Festival of Books simply wouldn't be possible.

These events are great fun—but also a vital source of funding for the Academy. Absent an endowment, we must raise 100% of our operating expenses each year from the proceeds—and from the generosity of our members and friends.

So, my heartfelt thanks for your ongoing support. I look forward to seeing you at the Festival of Books this Labor Day weekend—and extend my warmest wishes for a great fall.

Nick Van Alstine

Kids need music



Another Opening, Another Show

A fund-raising initiative restores music to Hudson schools

Internationally celebrated pianist-composer Lincoln Mayorga and vocalist-pianist Sheri Bauer-Mayorga will interpret a selection of Cole Porter's best-loved songs—and some lesser-known gems as well—at the Spencertown Academy on Sunday, September 25 at 2:00pm.

The concert is a fundraiser for Kids Need Music, a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that intermediate schools have musical instruments for their music program. Kids Need Music president Craig Bender explains: "Every year dozens of underprivileged school students in the Hudson City School District are unable to join their school band or orchestra for lack of money to purchase instruments. 100% of the proceeds from



ticket sales, along with any additional donations, go toward the purchase of instruments—and giving kids the gift of music. Donations of instruments are welcome as well."

Last year's Kids Need Music concert at the Academy, raised more than \$7,000. To date, 120 children are beneficiaries of the program.

At this year's concert—"100 Years of Cole Porter"—the Mayorgas will be joined by bassist Otto Gardner, vocalists Jean Leonard and Derek Stannard, and emcee Cheryl Symister-Masterson.

The event is co-sponsored by The Chatham Synagogue Netivot Torah and the Spencertown Academy. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased on the website at spencertownacademy.org

Intersection Austerlitz

Costume and Culture: Designs for Life Celebrating fashion and fabrics

"Intersection Austerlitz" will celebrate "Costume and Culture: Designs for Life" on Saturday, September 17. This exciting collaboration will feature activities and programs that draw on the creativity and resources of the Spencertown Academy, Millay at Steepletop and the Austerlitz Historical Society

The day-long program will focus on various aspects of fashion and fabrics with workshops, exhibits, presentations and tours. A few highlights:



Spencertown Academy-Chatham millinery designer Victoria DiNardo will demonstrate the step-by-step process of making a hat from raw materials to finished product and give a hands-on workshop making decorative hat trims...

Costume designer Sarah Conly will display a retrospective of millinery, sketches and photos from operas produced at the Tanglewood Festival... Elizabeth Walters will display a selection of the vintage feathers and trims sold on her website to milliners, designers and others. CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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.

Spencertown ♥ Books!

All in the details

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.

"Year after year, the Festival of Books proves to be so much fun that it's easy to forget it's a vital source of funding for the Spencertown Academy," says Jill Kalotay. Since it doesn't have an endowment, the Academy must raise 100% of its operating expenses through the Festival, membership and other signature events.



"We are especially grateful to the authors who give generously of their time to appear at the Festival," Jill adds. This year's event is funded in part by Poets & Writers with public funds from the

New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Ways to get involved

If you'd like to help out, either before or during the Festival, see the Volunteers box on the next page. For complete details and program schedule, or to make donations, become a sponsor or become a member of the Academy, please visit us on the web at spencertownacademy.org.

in the gallery

Pushing Out the Boundaries of Art

Winners of the 2015 Regional Juried Show are featured at the Academy



Landscape artist Scott Thomas Balfe and photographer Jane McWhorter couldn't be more different in style and medium, but their approach is surprisingly similar. As first- and second-place winners of the Spencertown Academy's 2015 Regional Juried Show, they'll be

exhibiting new work in an upcoming Academy gallery show, which will run from September 25 through October 9; an opening reception with the artists is set for September 24 from 4 to 6pm.

Hudson-based Scott Balfe's work, in the tradition of the Hudson River School, has been shown in many galleries. When painting in the field, he says, "I try to create something that is partly what I see and partly what I would like to see. In doing this, I'm creating

my own handwriting in oil paint."

Jane McWhorter has exhibited her photographs in several area galleries since 1974. "In today's digital world, I use the

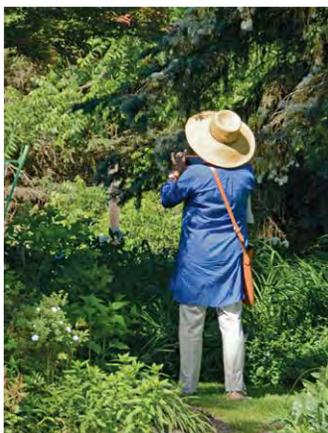


computer tool to take my photography into a more 'painterly' realm," says the Berkshires resident. "The actual shooting of the image is just a starting point. My intention is not to take a photograph but to make a photograph."

Last year's Regional Show was juried by Carrie Haddad, of Carrie Haddad Gallery in Hudson. The 2016 Regional Show, which will run from October 15 through November 13, will be juried by Nicole Hayes, curator of The Gallery and Sculpture Fields at Art Omi in Ghent.



A Flourishing Start to Summer



This year's Hidden Gardens tour offered a rare view of four very special "Village and Country Gardens" –in Spencertown, Austerlitz and Kinderhook. Among the highlights of the early-summer event was a visit to the restored grounds and gardens of 20th century American poet Edna St. Vincent Millay at Steepletop. Vivian Wachsberger and Madaline Sparks again co-chaired the event.

As always, the weekend festivities began on Friday evening with the Twilight in the Garden party, hosted this year under cloudless

skies by Denise and John Dunne at their beautiful home in Spencertown. Attendance (not including the Dunnes' grazing sheep) was at record levels.

Hidden Gardens

Since 2005, the annual Hidden Gardens event has been an important fundraiser for the Academy. "This year's Hidden Gardens was spectacular, with beautiful gardens, large crowds, a vigorous Market on the Green, and a great turnout for Adam Wheeler's lecture on protecting your plants from deer," says Vivien.

Next year's Hidden Gardens tour is set for June 17.

building community through the arts

the music continues



Jazz at the Academy **The Quartet performs October 1**

The Spencertown Academy's 2016 concert season continues on October 1 with a performance by the renowned jazz group, The Quartet.

Individually, all four members of The Quartet—Tony Kieraldo (piano), Terence Murren (bass), Peter O'Brien (drums) and Stuart Quimby (flute)—have excelled as sidemen, playing in diverse styles and backing an amazing roster of musicians, from Jacques d'Amboise to the Duke Ellington Orchestra.

"These master players bring decades of musical experience to the stage – but now they're playing for each other," says Rob Fisch



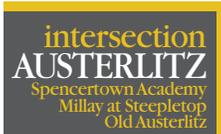
who, with Craig Bender, has spearheaded the return of music to the Academy this year. "Their combined history yields an enormous collective repertoire, allowing them to select compositions that span several decades of jazz history."

Looking ahead, Dan Shulman (piano), Kaori Washiyama (violin) and Nathaniel Parke (cello) will round out the Academy's 2016 concert season on Saturday, November 1 with a performance of works by Mozart, Schubert and Schumann. General admission tickets (\$20/\$10 for students) for each concert may be purchased in advance via <http://www.spencertownacademy.org> and will be available at the door.

Intersection Austerlitz

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Costume and Culture: Designs for Life **Celebrating fashion and fabrics**



Austerlitz Historical Society—Michelle Parrish, an educator, weaver, and spinner, will demonstrate flax processing... Fiber artist Jennifer Touchstone will conduct a family-friendly wet-wool felting workshop...

At Francis Culley's tie-dye scarf workshop, participants will transform a natural piece of fabric into a wearable piece of art.

Steepletop—British scholar Dr. Sarah Parker will give a presenta-

tion on poet Edna St. Vincent Millay's use of fashion and photography to forge an iconic celebrity image.

All three venues are located within minutes of one another and will stay open until 5pm. Advance reservations are required to receive a boxed lunch. Children under 12 participate for free and have the option to purchase a boxed lunch in advance.

Go to spencertownacademy.org for a detailed schedule and to register for your Passport.

pitching in



Your Involvement Means Everything **Volunteer at the Academy!**

These are exciting times for the Academy and our community. Music is back, our signature events are thriving, and our gallery shows are drawing increasing interest from artists and art lovers throughout the region.

All of it, of course, is the work of our volunteers. And that's where you come in.

The next big event at the Academy, the Festival of Books, takes place Labor Day weekend and there are still many ways you can play a role—as a greeter or book room attendant, for example, or by helping out in the food tent. We are also looking for gallery attendants and docents for our upcoming art shows throughout

the Fall. Whatever time you can contribute, from an occasional hour or two to a few days, will make a real difference.

As a volunteer at the Academy, you'll have an opportunity to connect with your neighbors and make new friends while joining in work that benefits and supports a worthy mission. It's deeply rewarding—and great fun.

Whether you volunteer at an event, host a dinner, join a committee, or develop an idea of your own, your involvement means everything. Let us hear from you.

Contact us at spencertownacademy.org/support/volunteer or 518-392-3693.