

HANDMADE HOLIDAY



Let's go holiday shopping!

The holidays are around the corner—and that means Handmade Holiday: Craft as Gift Show is coming up even sooner! This beloved annual event will run Friday through Sunday, November 23, 24, and 25 and Saturday and Sunday, December 1 and 2, from 10 am to 4 pm each day. Admission is free

Holiday gift shoppers and art lovers will have an opportunity to “go local” at this high-quality sale, which features jewelry, handmade apparel, quilts, cutting boards, baskets, ceramics, tin sconces, paper crafts, birdhouses, soaps, holiday ornaments, and an array of delectable edibles. Participating artists and artisans come from near and far.



A “Giving Tree” takes root

“We’re especially excited about beginning a new Handmade Holiday tradition this year with the addition of a Giving Tree, which is covered with donated hats, mittens, scarves, and other items,” says Vivian Wachsberger, chair of the Handmade Holiday Committee. “Proceeds from the tree as well as any unsold items will be donated to a local women’s shelter.”



This year’s Handmade Holiday participants include Andrea Angerame, Amanda Bagnato, Martha Belardo, Brenda Bertin, Karen Boyd, Michael Boyer, Diane and Bill Brynda, Chocolate Springs, Frances Culley, Pamela Dalton, Alan Davidson, MaryAnne Davis, Marian Day, Bina Evans, Walter Fleming, Joyce Flower, Page Ginns, Lisa Goodman, Ulrike Grannis, Grant Press, Sarah Haze, Wendy Hollender, Betsy Howard, Chesley Huber, Dara Jensen, Marybeth Ketz, Fran and Kim Knapp, Agnes Larcenaire, Ben Lebel, Maya MacLaughlin, Bill Morency, Jan Moseman, Katie Nare, Clarke Olsen, Sherrie Petrie, Elizabeth Post, Tony Romeo, Al Schulze, Robin Sills, Alexis Silver, Grace Silvernale, Leni Singerman, Sumiko Takeda, Jeff Ulmer, Vivian Wachsberger, Fahari Wambura, Jackie Wilder, Betsy Winters-Russell, and Sandy Wooding.



“Our vendors this year are a varied mix of Homemade Holiday veterans and first-timers,” says Vivian. “Shoppers will find literally hundreds of unique and beautiful items at prices to suit every budget.”



what's coming up

HANDMADE HOLIDAY

Friday-Sunday, November 23-25 and December 1-2, 10am-4pm
Curated craft and gift show sale featuring items by 50+ local artisans and artists.
See article, this page.

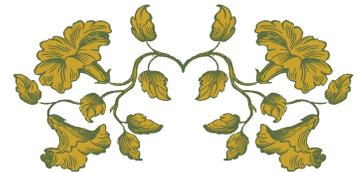
Revels

Saturday January 26, 2019
Annual Winter Revels party and dinners
Support the Academy while enjoying a festive evening of great food and friends.
Watch for details.



Hidden Gardens ²⁰¹⁹

Saturday, June 8: Garden lecture
Saturday, June 15: Self-guided tour and Garden Market on the Green. Watch for details.



spencertownacademy.org/events

The Nick Gala

A Man for All Seasons

The Academy fetes its beloved president



Nick Van Alstine, who has served as president of the Spencertown Academy over the last decade—and in several other key capacities for even longer—was honored at a dinner on Saturday, October 6.

The “Nick Gala,” held at the home of Jo-Anne and Richard Bilotti and catered by Dan Smith of John Andrews restaurant, was organized with a twofold purpose: to celebrate Nick’s accomplishments and continuing leadership on behalf of the Academy, and to raise funds for the ongoing restoration of the Academy building.

“As president, Nick has strategically thought through problems, mobilized tactical forces and done the actual work of fundraising and operations when needed,” says Nick Gala chair and Academy board member Jerry Croghan. “For the past 15 years, no job has been too big or too small for Nick—including guiding our successful transition to an all-volunteer organization.”

Attendees were given the opportunity to pledge donations to underwrite the cost of various structural elements in the Academy’s restoration, including windows, columns, fencing and pavers. To date, more than \$450,000 has been raised toward the project’s \$600,000 goal. Photographs on page 3



from the President's iPad

Full Circle It's that time of year again



They say that time speeds up as you get older. There may be something in that. It couldn't have been more than a month or two ago that 2017 was winding down and we were eagerly looking ahead to the holidays. Somehow, we blinked and summer was over. Now we're deep into fall and the year will turn before we know it. To quote Yogi Berra, it's déjà vu all over again.

What's amazing is that the faster the years go by, the more we pack into them at the Academy. Once again, our signature events—Hidden Gardens, Revels and Festival of Books drew big crowds and rave reviews. And turnouts for our concerts and gallery shows were huge and enthusiastic.

But if I were pressed to single out one highlight of the year, it would have to be the progress we made on the restoration of our historic 1847 building—perhaps most visibly, the new roof and reconstruction of the bell tower, cornice and chimney. The work will continue over the winter with the restoration of the windows. Next comes painting, which is scheduled for the spring.

Revels 2019

Come in from the Cold! Revels Is Winter at Its Warmest

As you haul out your sweaters, scarves and snow boots from storage, consider this: There is actually an upside to winter. It's called Revels—and it's set for Saturday, January 26, 2019.

The Academy's longest-running signature event, Revels is a great way to beat the winter blahs, enjoy a delicious dinner and support the Academy. And this year's Revels will offer something new: an escape to the tropics.

As always, the festive evening will begin at the Academy at 5:30pm. Guests will be treated to sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, including Caribbean specialties, and a selection of fine wines and cocktails (festooned with paper umbrellas, or course). Then it's off to one of the many elegant dinner parties hosted by friends of the Academy.

"Revels has been a fixture of our winter calendar for over 30

years, and it keeps getting better and better," says Academy board member and Revels co-chair Judith Choate. Adds co-chair Anita Fiorillo, "it's a wonderful way to meet new friends and catch up with old ones over a great meal and support the Academy,"

Revels is made possible by the generosity of many people, including friends of the Academy who open their homes, benefactors and patrons who underwrite the cost of the event, and committee members and volunteers whose creativity and hard work bring it all together.

If you would like to host a dinner or have any questions about the event, email the Academy at info@spencertownacademy.org or call 518.392.3693. Tickets will go on sale soon. Meanwhile, mark your calendar for January 26

Nick Van Alstine



the Academy

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Nick Van Alstine, President

Madaline Sparks, Vice President

Jo-Anne Bilotti, Treasurer

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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.

The Nick Gala



"Here's to You, Nick Van Alstine!"

Friends and members celebrate the Academy's amazing president



building community through the arts

Festival of Books: Postscript



Closing Out the Summer on a Literary Note

Readers of All Ages Throng Festival of Books 2018

Breaking news: Reading is alive and well! Just ask the booklovers of all ages who poured into the Academy over Labor Day weekend for the 13th annual Festival of Books.

As always, the Festival's wide-ranging schedule of events featured stellar author presentations, the best book sale around, and a range of activities for children.

"The audiences for all the events were consistently engaged and energetic, which is vital to our mission this year and every year—getting folks in the door and providing a fun experience," says board member David Highfill, who co-chaired the Festival with fellow board member Jill Kalotay.

While geared toward readers, the Festival is also a way to feature and support writers, providing a stage for authors and poets to read from and discuss their work, and for high school students to read their prizewinning short stories.

Labor of love

Planning and producing the Festival requires a huge investment of time and effort beginning months in advance and continuing through Labor Day weekend—all of it the work of volunteers who sort books, order supplies, recruit speakers, and ensure the smooth

running of a complex event with many moving parts.

The Festival is a major fund-raiser for the Academy, with book sales accounting for most of the weekend's proceeds. "While there are always books left unsold, there were substantially fewer this year," says Jill. "We were delighted to donate the 'leftovers' to the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition, which brings individuals and institutions together to work for racial and economic justice through community organizing." The NWBCCC subsequently launched a "Bronx People's Bookstore," stocked with the donated items and designed to raise awareness around the fact that many school and public libraries in the Bronx are seriously under-resourced.

"We are extremely grateful for our partnership with the Spencertown Academy," says NWBCCC executive director Sandra Lobo. "This has served as a great resource for our community and succeeded in getting books in the hands of people who otherwise would have had limited access to them."

Festival of Books 2019 is set to begin on Friday, August 30. Stay tuned for updates in the new year. "And if you'd like to help," says David, "please raise your hand."



the Academy needs you!

Please Pitch In! Volunteer at the Academy



Volunteer Appreciation Party

Far left: Anita Fiorillo, recipient of the Mary Zander Volunteer of the Year Award, with Nick Van Alstine and Madaline Sparks

Center: Gallery Committee Volunteers Lynn Rothenberg and Moira O'Grady sample the fare provided by Simon's Catering

Left: John Dunne and John Fiorillo raise a glass

If you've been thinking about being an Academy volunteer, this is a perfect time to turn your thoughts into action! Handmade Holiday is around the corner and there are several ways you can get involved—as a shopping attendant, cashier, wrapper or stock organizer.

Of course, there are many other volunteer opportunities throughout the year at Academy events and gallery shows. Volunteering is

rewarding, fun and a great way to connect with friends and neighbors. Plus there's the satisfaction that comes from knowing you're having a positive impact on your community.

So please pitch in! We warmly welcome your ideas, your enthusiasm and your company. For more information, visit spencertownacademy.org, or email Ann Vartanian at volunteer@spencertownacademy.org.