

FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

One for the Books

The Academy holds its annual celebration of books and reading

Fact, fiction, science, food, war, peace...and more: Whatever your interests, you'll find a lot to your liking at the 14th Festival of Books, scheduled, as always, for Labor Day weekend.

This yearly rite of late summer will feature an exciting roster of author readings and signings, panel discussions and children's programs. And, of course, book lovers of all ages will have the chance to hunt for treasures among more than 10,000 new and gently-used books, as well as CDs, DVDs and vinyl LPs, all at bargain prices. In the first-floor gallery you'll find a hand-picked selection of specialty items, including limited editions, out-of-print books, and new books donated by leading publishers. And kids will have their own room where they can browse and curl up with their favorite books.

The book sale is open to the public on Saturday, August 31, 10am to 5pm; Sunday, September 1, 10am to 4pm; and Monday, September 2 (bargain day), 10am to 2pm. Admission is free. Teachers with ID receive a 20% discount on their purchases (except in Special Books Room).

A wide array of books and authors

"We are really excited about this year's line-up of superb authors and a wonderfully diverse range of presentations," says Jill Kalotay, who, with fellow Academy Board member David Highfill, heads the Festival of Books committee.

The program begins on Friday, August 30 with a special Members Preview [see box] and continues through the holiday weekend. Featured authors include Ruth Reichl, Boris Fishman, Jenna Blum, Daphne Kalotay, David Yaffe, Steve Katz, Grace Talusan, and Crystal Hana Kim.

At the Children's Program on Saturday morning, kids can visit and pose for photos with Froggy, the enduringly popular character in the children's book series by Jonathan London. Children will hear funny stories about the silly amphibian, create a related craft, and browse in the Children's Book Room, which will be open throughout the Festival.

Formula for a Festival: Hard work + generous support

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.

"None of this would be possible without the generosity of our individual underwriters, book donors, and the nearly one hundred people who volunteer their time and talents to help make the Festival of Books a success," says David Highfill. "We are so grateful for their support."



what's coming up

FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

Labor Day Weekend
August 31-September 2
Members Only Preview:
Friday, August 30, 2-8pm

THE GALLERY

In the Moment

Annual Regional Juried Art Show
October 5-27

Opening reception: Saturday, October 5,
4-6pm

MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY

Amy Ryan Band

An evening of blues & rock
Saturday, November 9, 8:00pm

Tickets: \$25/\$20 members/\$10 students

MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY

Kids Need Music

Benefit concert

Details to come

Sunday, November 11, 1pm

Tickets at spencertownacademy.org

MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY

Geoff Muldaur

Folk/blues/folk-rock

Saturday, December 14, 8pm

Tickets: \$25/\$20 members/\$10 students

spencertownacademy.org/events

Membership Has Its Advantages!

Spencertown Academy members will have shopping privileges, an early look at the books during the Member's Preview on Friday, August 30 from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Admission is free for members and \$10 for members' guests. Memberships will be available at the door. Refreshments will be served during the evening hours.



A Season for Bike Rides, Baseball...and Beach Reads

Late summer is a season in itself

If you've been feeling sunlight-deprived these late summer days, it's not your imagination. A quick Google search indicates that sunset comes nearly an hour earlier than it did at the end of June.

The days are getting shorter. And there's not much we can do about it.

That said, there's still plenty of summer left, plenty of time for biking, baseball and reading on the beach.

At the Spencertown Academy, late summer officially begins with the Festival of Books. Over the years, the Festival has grown into one of the area's most eagerly awaited events, a magnet for book lovers of all ages and a joy-filled celebration of all things literary.

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 our dedicated corps of volunteers—volunteers who enjoy being surrounded by books, working with neighbors, meeting new friends and supporting the Academy.

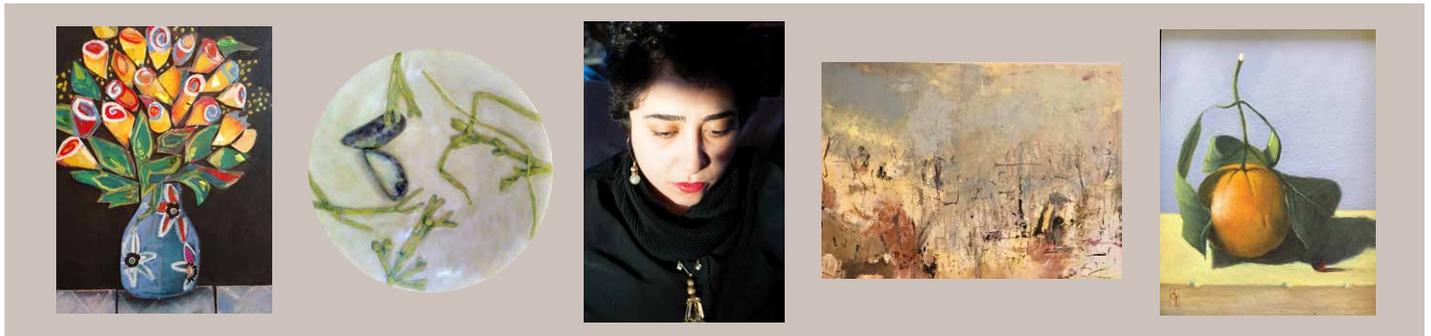
Like the Festival of Books, all of the outstanding events are made possible through the efforts of our volunteers. If you're thinking of joining them, we'd love to hear from you—even if you can spare just an hour or two here and there. If you have the time, we have the need.

Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you at the Festival of Books on Labor Day weekend. Let's make the most of late summer's special pleasures—and save time for at least one more great beach read.

Nick Van Alstine



Curator as Artist II Academy show features works by Gallery Committee volunteers



The Academy hosted its second biennial "Curator as Artist" show this summer, featuring collages, paintings, ceramics, and photographs by Academy curators Norma Cohen, Leslie Gabosh, Barbara Lax Kranz, Moira E. O'Grady and Lynn Rothenberg. The show was extremely successful, drawing large turnouts through-

out its run and generating many sales.

The curators, all accomplished artists in their own right, mount several shows a year, but are not eligible to participate in the shows they curate. The show is designed to recognize their talent and commitment and provide an opportunity for the community to get to know them and their work.

The Academy Welcomes Two New Board Members

Cindy Atkins and Gerald Seligman add talent and experience

The Spencertown Academy is happy to announce the addition of two new Board members. Both have been actively and extensively involved in Academy arts programs.

Cindy Atkins is a professional singer-musician who has performed in many venues in the U.S. and in Europe over the years. "The Academy is a wonderful place to meet neighbors, make friends, and partake in local music and art," she says.

"I'm delighted to have been asked to serve on the Board."

Gerald Seligman is Executive Director of the National Recording Preservation Foundation, and has spent his career in international music and culture. His photography has appeared in magazines, galleries and on album covers. "The Academy is a community arts center in the truest sense," says Gerald. "It's an honor to join the Board."



BOARD OF DIRECTORS			MEMBERSHIP	PLEASE VISIT
Nick Van Alstine, President	Cindy Atkins	Gerald Seligman	<p><i>Are you a current member of the Spencertown Academy?</i></p> <p>Visit our website to sign up or to renew your membership today!</p> <p><i>We thank you for your support.</i></p>	<p>spencertownacademy.org</p> <p>for information on programs, artsVOYAGE, membership, and volunteer opportunities or to subscribe to our e-blast list.</p>
Madaline Sparks, Vice President	Judith Choate	Ann Vartanian		
Jo-Anne Bilotti, Treasurer	David Highfill	Vivian Wachsberger		
Jill Kalotay, Secretary	Kelly Kynion			



A Magical Brew of Blues, Rock, Jazz and More

The Amy Ryan Band performs at the Academy

The Academy's popular Roots & Shoots series continues this fall with a performance by the Amy Ryan Band on Saturday, November 9 at 8pm.

Over the past five years, the Amy Ryan Band has gained an enthusiastic and growing following. In 2015, the group won Capital Region Blues Network's qualifying competition to represent the region at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis.

Witnessing Amy's solo performances at open mic sessions at the Peint O' Gwrw pub in Chatham in 2014, guitarist Richard Green saw an opportunity to join forces with a gutsy female singer with the potential to lead a great blues band. Melding Amy's



country-blues vocal magic and Richard's urban blues and rock sensibilities, the band is rounded out by bassist Steve Dietemann, drummer Al Bauman and keyboard player Ed Stein.

Their repertoire includes band adaptations of Amy's self-penned solo tunes, newly minted originals and select covers.

In its inaugural year, the Roots & Shoots series has featured an array of artists blending earlier musical traditions and contemporary forms and influences. Next up: vocalist-composer Geoff Muldaur, who will perform at the Academy on Saturday, December 14.

General admission tickets for Roots & Shoots concerts (\$25 public, \$20 Academy members, \$10 students) may be purchased in advance via spencertownacademy.org.

Hidden Gardens 2019



A Peek Behind the Hedges

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



The Academy's 2019 Hidden Gardens tour provided an inside view of five horticultural gems tucked away on the grounds of area homes. The June 20 event was co-chaired by Vivian Wachsberger and Madaline Sparks.

The gardens—four in Old Chatham and one in Spencertown—were all different, and included a sustainable native meadow, kitchen gardens, English and Italian-style courtyard gardens, ponds, pools, patios, and a cloistered rose garden. "Apart from the opportunity to experience these magical spots first-hand, visitors came away with plenty of great ideas," says Madaline. Guest lecturer Jenny Elliot of Tiny Hearts Farm in Copake, offered tips on flower farming and how to incorporate flowering

plants for cutting in home gardens.

In the midst of an unusually wet spring, the weekend was blessed with beautiful weather for the festive Twilight in the Garden Party, the garden tour and the Market on the Green. Proceeds from the event help fund the Academy's general operating costs and arts programming.

"Special thanks go to the volunteers who put so much time and effort making this wonderful event happen," says Vivian. "They served on committees, acted as docents at the host gardens, planned the party, set up the market and handled all the tasks, large and small, necessary that go into producing a successful community event like this."

building community through the arts

Kids Need Music

Instruments of Learning

A fund-raising concert brings music to Hudson schools

Acclaimed soprano Kathleen O'Mara and pianist Chris Reynolds will perform art songs, arias and popular songs at the Academy on Sunday, November 23 at 3pm.

The concert is a fundraiser for Kids Need Music, a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that underprivileged schools have musical instruments for their music program. Kids Need Music president Craig Bender explains: "Sixty-eight percent of the children in the Hudson City School District are classified as underprivileged and can't afford to rent or purchase their own instruments. All proceeds from ticket sales, along with any additional donations, go toward the purchase of instruments. Kids Need Music has donated over

300 instruments to the Hudson schools. That's 300 more children playing music!"

Currently pursuing a Masters in Music at Juilliard, Kathleen O'Mara has performed in such operas as The Magic Flute, The Marriage of Figaro, The Turn of the Screw and Don Giovanni.

Chris Reynolds' performances have been hailed by Opera News as "exquisite," and played with "jaw-dropping virtuosity." A doctoral candidate at Juilliard, he has performed recently at Carnegie Hall and Tanglewood. Chris is a two-time winner of the Juilliard Vocal Arts Honors Recital Auditions, leading to recitals in Alice Tully Hall.

Tickets, priced at \$25, are available at spencertownacademy.org



Building update

172 Years Young

The Academy's physical makeover nears completion

The physical restoration of the Spencertown Academy is in its final stages.

The roof, chimney, bell tower and cornice have been replaced, and all work on the windows should be completed imminently. Painting of the historic 1847 building is scheduled to begin in the fall.

"We're now in the home stretch but still need to raise an additional \$150,000 to meet our goal," says Academy president Nick Van Alstine. "Once that happens we'll be able to bring the walkways fully up to code, replace the fence, and create a maintenance endowment to protect our investment—for our community and for generations to come."



Pitching in

The Academy Needs You!

Reap the rewards of volunteering

These are exciting times for the Spencertown Academy and our community. Our concerts and signature events are thriving, and our gallery shows are drawing great interest from artists and art lovers throughout the region. At the center of it all is the active and enthusiastic participation of our volunteers.

One of the best things about volunteering at the Academy is the variety of ways you can get involved. Would you like to

volunteer at an event? Serve on a committee? Brainstorm new program concepts—or develop one of your own? Whatever your interests and preferences, there's a job at the Academy with your name on it.

Volunteering provides a uniquely satisfying way to get to know neighbors and give back to the community while having fun in the process.

Contact us at us volunteer@spencertownacademy.org.

