



The Art of Building Restoration

art for the ACADEMY

The Academy hosts a New Year fundraiser

The new roof is on, windows are being installed and ancient white paint is being stripped from the outer walls: The Spencertown Academy is on its way to complete restoration.

As of this writing, only about \$150,000 more is needed to reach the goal for the building and maintenance endowment fund. To help get us there, Academy members Lauren Wilkinson, Stephen Dietemann and Gerald Seligman are organizing a special New Year art show fundraiser.



Art for the Academy

“The Academy’s gallery shows are an intrinsic component of our yearly programming and provide a valuable resource for artists in our region to exhibit their work in a beautiful space,” says Gerald. Artists from throughout the region have donated prized works across a wide range of media, which will be on display at the Academy from Saturday, January 11, through Sunday, February 2. The works will be for sale at reduced prices and 100 percent of the proceeds will go to help the Academy reach its fiscal goals.

In addition, the Academy will host a gala opening reception on January 11. Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served and the \$25 admission can be credited toward any art purchases.

An all-star roster of 50+ creative talents

Participating artists include Stephanie Anderson, Karen Andrews, Fern Apfel, Carl Berg, Amy Bergeron, Arlene Boehm, Jim Brearton, William Bullard, Jennifer Clark, Norma Cohen, Pamela Dalton, Mary Anne Davis, Jeff DeLisle, Stephen Dietemann, Elizabeth DiPalma, Diane Fader, Alan Finger, Leslie Gabosh, Gail Giles, Karen Halverson, Marta Jaremko, Marybeth Ketz, Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, Barbara Lax Kranz, Ellen Lynch, John MacGruer, Alice McGowan, Jane McWhorter, Jason McWhorter, Liz Nealon, Moira O’Grady, Clarke Olsen, Marilyn Orner, Rick Patterson, Andrew Pellettieri, Valerie Richmond, Mary Ellen Riell, Julia Rothenberg, Lynn Rothenberg, Liz Sample, Joel Schiller, Jody Lynn Schoenfeld, Gerald Seligman, Laura Shore, Cecelia Sinclair, Diane Smook, Amelia Toelke, Marianne Van Lent, Marlene Vidibor, Betsy Wallin and Mike Zdeb.

The show will remain open on weekends through February 2. After the opening reception, admission is free.

what's coming up

art for the ACADEMY

Building Campaign fundraiser
January 11-February 2

Opening reception:
Saturday, January 11, 4-6pm
Tickets: \$25



Annual Winter Revels Party and Dinners

Support the Academy while enjoying a festive evening of great food and friends.
Saturday, January 25



MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY The Nields

An evening of folk-pop
Saturday, January 18, 8pm
Tickets: \$25/\$20 members/\$10 students

Tracy Grammer

Contemporary folk
Saturday, February 22, 8pm
Tickets: \$25/\$20 members/\$10 students

Embe Esti

Intercontinental fusion
with jazz trumpeter Rob Fisch
Saturday, March 21, 8pm
Tickets: \$25/\$20 members/\$10 students

conversations with neighbors

Empowering Women and Girls Worldwide

An Afternoon of Film and Discussion
Sunday, February 9, 2pm
Tickets: \$20/Members 20% off
Under 18 years free



THE GALLERY

Annual Members Art Show

Works in multiple media
by Academy member artists
April 25 - May 17
Opening reception:
Saturday, April 25, 4-6pm



Building for Our Future The tens are history. Bring on the twenties!

We're almost there.

Just another \$150,000, and we'll have reached our \$600,000 funding goal for the long-needed top-to-bottom makeover and ongoing maintenance of the Spencertown Academy. Much of the most important work, including replacement of the roof and windows, is completed, and painting is underway, with upgrades on the surrounding grounds and walkways to come.

To help get us over that last funding hurdle, more than 50 highly accomplished artists from throughout the region have generously donated original works for display and sale at the Academy from January 11 through February 2. At a gala opening reception on January 11, you'll have an opportunity to purchase works at discounted fees, with all proceeds benefiting the building endowment fund.

I can't think of a more perfect way to both begin a new year and cap an extraordinarily productive decade. In the years variously nicknamed "the tens" and the "twenty-tens," we have successfully moved to an all-volunteer footing, slashed operating costs, built our annual signature fundraisers into major regionwide events and dramatically revitalized and expanded our art and music offerings.

None of this would have been possible without the commit-

ment and hard work of our volunteers. They're the ones who plan, create and execute all of the extraordinary programs and activities on the Academy's calendar. Nor would our volunteers have had the resources to achieve as much as they did without the support of Academy members and friends. As we move into a new year that promises to be even more packed with great programming, it will be your donations that sustain and strengthen the Academy.

On a sad note, we recently lost one of our very own. Ann Vartanian, fellow board member and friend, died suddenly over Thanksgiving weekend. If you're one of our many volunteers, you've no doubt had the pleasure of meeting and working with Ann, who served as our volunteer coordinator for the past several years. Her bright and welcoming personality was a perfect fit for the role, and, like everything she did, she put her heart and soul into it. Ann was opinionated, funny, smart and caring. She loved the Spencertown Academy and was one of our biggest supporters. Ann will be remembered at "A Celebration of Life" service at the Academy on March 28.

Meanwhile, my warmest wishes to you and those you love for a healthy, happy and peaceful 2020.

Nick Van Alstine

in the gallery

It's Show Time—Almost! Members' Art Show opens April 25

Think Spring: The Academy's fifth annual Members' Art Show opens April 25.

"Since its debut in 2016, this popular annual show has marked the start of our Gallery season and grows larger each year," says Curatorial Committee chairperson Leslie Gabosh. "We are pleased to invite our many artist members to share their passion with the community. Their creative energy is amazing."

As always, the show is non-juried, fee-free, and open to all

member artists from beginners to experienced professionals. Most works will be available for sale.

Current Academy Members as of March 1, 2020, are welcome to submit work in any medium, including oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, collages, mixed media, photography and sculpture. Please visit www.spencertownacademy.org for submission guidelines and details.

The Members' Art Show will be on view Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26, May 2-3, 9-10 and 16-17, from 1-5 pm. The opening reception is set for April 25, 4-6 pm.

pitching in

Name Your Job! Volunteer at the Academy—any way you like

One of the best things about volunteering at the Spencertown Academy is the variety of ways you can get involved, from helping out at events, gallery shows and behind the scenes, to brainstorming new program ideas. Whatever your interests and skills, chances are there's a job with your name on it. And the hours are great!

Anyone who has volunteered at the Academy will tell you that

it's a great way to connect with friends and neighbors and, most of all, fun. And, of course, there's the satisfaction that comes from knowing you're having a positive impact on your community.

We warmly welcome your ideas, your enthusiasm and your company. So let us hear from you! To volunteer or to learn more, email us at volunteer@spencertownacademy.org, visit our website at spencertownacademy.org, or call 518 392-3693.

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.





Finally—A Cure for Winter!

Revels is just around the corner

It's a proven fact: No matter what the thermometer says, the Academy's annual Revels fundraiser always makes winter feel at least 10 degrees warmer. This season, Revels will celebrate the Chinese New Year, and takes place on Saturday, January 25, 2020—so save the date!

Now in its fourth decade, this beloved midwinter event is an opportunity to come in from the cold, enjoy a great dinner, meet new friends and support the Academy. As always, the festive evening will begin with a gala cocktail reception at the Academy. Then it's off to one of the many elegant



dinner parties hosted by friends of 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.

Tickets are available now at spencertownacademy.org. Meanwhile, if you would like to volunteer to host a dinner or have questions about the event, please contact the Academy at info@spencertownacademy.org or 518-392-369

Music at the Academy

The Hits Keep Coming

Roots & Shoots 2020

The Academy will be alive with the sound of folk, rock, jazz, country, ska, pop and more in 2020.

It's all part of the Roots & Shoots concert series, which continues with a performance by the nationally acclaimed folk-pop duo The Nields on Saturday, January 18 at 8pm. Now into their third decade as musical partners, sisters Nerissa and Katryna have released 17 albums and performed with The Band, James Taylor, Dan Zanes, 10,000 Maniacs, and the Indigo Girls.

Next up is contemporary folk artist Tracy Grammer, who performs on Saturday, February 22 at 8pm. Celebrated for her pure voice, deft instrumental work and incantatory storytelling Tracy has recorded and performed with Joan Baez and Mary Chapin Carpenter, headlined several of the nation's top folk festivals, and enjoyed 12 consecutive years as one of folk radio's 50 top-played artists.



On Saturday, March 21 at 8pm, Embe Esti will perform with special guest jazz trumpeter Rob Fisch. Renowned as the New York Capital Region's premier intercontinental fusion band, Embe Esti mixes Afrobeat, North African, and other global traditions with rock, funk and blues. Their songs combine message-based lyrics with the raw improvisation of jazz and polished writing and performances.

The rest of the Academy's music calendar for 2020 shows no sign of let-up, with performances by Jim Kweskin, founder of the legendary 1960s Jim Kweskin Jug Band, in April; singer-songwriter-pianist-guitarist-accordionist Rachele Garniez in May; and folk-rock band The Kennedys, in June. Watch for details.

Tickets to Roots & Shoots concerts (\$25 public, \$20 Academy members, \$10 students) may be purchased at the door or in advance at spencertownacademy.org.



Events 2020

Empowering Women and Girls

A popular series examines the transformative impact of education

Leaders from three local nonprofit organizations will discuss "Empowering Women & Girls, Locally & Globally" in the next installment of the Academy's Conversations with Neighbors series. The event takes place on Sunday, February 9, 2-4pm.

The program will include a showing of "Brave Girl Rising," a short film about a Somali girl in a Kenyan refugee camp, created by the organization Girl Rising in partnership with the International Rescue Committee, HP, Amplifier and Citi.

"We want to get people talking about the reality for refugee girls all over the globe, the barriers they face in securing basic human rights and the truly transformative power of education for girls living as refugees," says Christina Lowery, CEO of Girl Rising. She will be joined on the panel by Tina Dipper, Director



of Hudson-based Perfect Ten, an organization that focuses on supporting local girls and fosters self-dedication, self-love, and self-confidence; and Carolyn Wheeler, founder and executive of Sisters for Peace in Great Barrington, a giving foundation that works to empower women and girls locally and around the world through education, training and community development.

Conversations with Neighbors is an occasional series designed to spark neighbor-to-neighbor conversations and celebrate the richness and diversity of the Columbia County community. General admission is \$20, \$15 for members, and 18 and under free. All proceeds will be donated to the three non-profit organizations participating in this event. Tickets are available at spencertownacademy.org (advance purchase recommended).



building community through the arts

Festival of Books 2019

A Weekend of Readers, Writers and No-Alarm Chili

14th Festival of Books Draws Huge Crowds and Rave Reviews



Notwithstanding rumors to the contrary, reading is definitely not dead. The proof: The huge turnout at the Academy's 14th annual Festival of Books this past Labor Day Weekend.

The varied schedule of events ranged from author presentations to activities for children, as well as ample servings of the Academy's signature To-Die-For, No-Alarm Vegetarian Chili— and, of course, the best and biggest book sale in the region.

Reaching out to readers

"Our author presentations this year were supported by a



generous grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, ensuring a stellar line-up and enthusiastic audiences," says Jill Kalotay, who co-chaired the Festival with David Highfill.

"People seemed to really enjoy themselves—at both the events and the book sale—and that is vital to our mission of getting folks in the door to support the Academy while having a great time."

Stay tuned for updates about Festival of Books 2020 in the new year. "And, of course, if you'd like to be involved," says Jill, "please let us know."