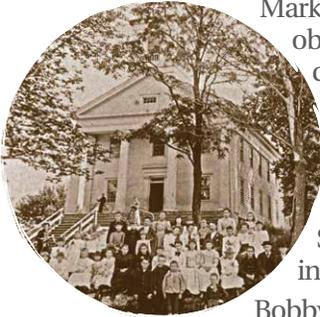


## 175 & 50!

The Academy celebrates a double anniversary



Mark your calendars: The Spencertown Academy will observe two major anniversaries with a day of celebratory events on July 9.

It was in 1847—175 years ago—that the Academy was built as a teacher training institute, later to become a public school. And it was 50 years ago, after the school had closed its doors, that the Spencertown Academy arts organization came into being.

Bobby Sweet Band (see story, page 4); continuous showings of the 25-minute documentary, *Spencertown Academy: Keeping Our History Alive*, produced and directed by Monk Schane-Lydon; guided tours of the newly restored building and grounds; and a Spencertown history center in Town Hall, curated by Austerlitz Town Historian Tom Moreland.



Festivities run from 10am to 4pm; food vendors, including the Spencertown Fire Department, will set up in the town park and offer a varied menu of tasty comestibles. [Watch your email for more details](#)

TIMOTHY WOODBRIDGE



## Thank You, NYSCA!

Academy receives a \$49,500 grant from the New York State Council on the Arts

The timing couldn't be better. As the Spencertown Academy gets ready to celebrate two major anniversaries, the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) announced a \$49,500 grant—part of a New York State funding effort to support the recovery of the nonprofit arts and culture sector.

### Supporting artists in every field

“The NYSCA grant is targeted at supporting artists of all types,” says Academy president Nick Van Alstine. “We are excited by projects we are currently developing that will do just that.”

The Academy's new projects include partnerships with related nonprofit arts groups, such as Kids Need Music, which raises funds to purchase instruments for use by underprivileged students so that they can participate in their school music programs. Also, as an outreach to professional writers, a five-day writers' conference is being planned for the Fall.

### Reaching out to underrepresented communities

“We are excited to be in the position to offer scholarships for the conference, providing access for all,” says Nick. “We plan specific outreach to encourage young people and people from underrepresented communities to apply.”

“The arts have long been a critical sector in our economy, and as we continue to rebuild a stronger New York, it's essential we do all we can help this industry thrive once again,” says Governor Hochul.

## what's coming up

### THE GALLERY Spring Mix

Works by three artists  
April 23-May 15  
Reception: Saturday, April 23, 4-6pm

### The Prince

Author Dinitia Smith discusses her new novel with Ruth Reichl  
Saturday, April 30, 2pm

### Hidden Gardens

#### Twilight in the Garden Party

Saturday, June 4, 5-7pm  
Austerlitz Historical Society

#### Artful Landscapes

Saturday, June 11  
Market on the Green: 9am-3pm  
Self-guided tour: 10am-4pm

#### Garden Lecture

Saturday, June 18, 11am  
Tovah Martin

### THE GALLERY

#### Flowers. Fields. Forests. Abstracted

Annual Spring Show  
May 21-June 26  
Reception: Saturday, May 21, 4-6pm

### MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY

#### The Lucky Five

At the Spencertown Pavilion  
Saturday, May 28, 7pm

### MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY

#### Jay Ungar & Molly Mason

At the Spencertown Pavilion  
Saturday, June 18, 7pm

### THE GALLERY

#### Seventh Annual Members Show

Works by Academy member artists  
July 9-August 7  
Reception: Sunday, July 10, 3-5pm

### FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

September 2-5  
The Academy's Annual Labor Day  
Weekend Bookfest



from the President's iPad

## A Very Busy Year at the Academy

Concerts, gallery shows, kids' programming – and much, much more

Spencertown Academy is back. That's not to suggest that it ever left, of course. But as we look ahead to what we hope will be the final act of the pandemic, we can take pleasure – again – in the rich array of in-person events and programs for which the Academy has always been known.

Thanks in large measure to a generous gift from the New York State Council on the Arts, the Academy is a busy place this year, with a full calendar of gallery shows, music (including three Kids Need Music benefit concerts), children's programming, workshops, cultural events and our signature fundraisers – notably Hidden Gardens and the Festival of Books.

There will also be some exciting firsts. In May, we'll hold the first of our outdoor Roots & Shoots concerts in the town park. Also in May, we'll dedicate the Blanche R. Grubin Auditorium,

in the gallery

### Spring MIX Cool shows for a warm season

As the weather turns balmy-ish, three new Gallery shows are planned for the Academy.

"Spring Mix," an invitational show curated by Lynn Rothenberg, will run from April 23 through May 15 and feature works by photographer William Bullard, landscape and still-life artist Tia Maggio, and painter and collage artist Gina Occhiogrosso. "I selected these three artists for their differences rather than their similarities," says Lynn. "Their diverse styles and use of different media will be



brought together in a show that truly dazzles." Kicking off this year's Hidden Gardens event, "Flowers. Fields. Forests. Abstracted" will feature works selected by Curatorial Committee members Norma Cohen, Barbara Lax Kranz, Leslie Gabosh and Lynn Rothenberg. The show will be open from May 23 through June 26.

The Seventh Annual Members Show will feature works from artists who are members of the Academy, and included sculpture, painting, photography, collage and digital art. Show dates: July 9 through August 7.

*Nick Van Alstine*



## Remembering Gunnel



Longtime Academy member, volunteer and dear friend Gunnel Reznikoff passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, October 10, 2021.

Known affectionately as a "Super Volunteer," Gunnel was a recipient of the Academy's Mary Zander Volunteer of the Year Award. One area in which she particularly enjoyed being active was as a gallery docent. It's no surprise that she loved being surrounded by art and

beauty as she was an accomplished textile artist and quilter in her own right.

In a recent artist's statement, she wrote, "I believe we can and need to re-create the world into harmony and balance. As I work colors, scraps, and textures into oneness, I heal and accept the disparate pieces of my life. My quilts are covers to dream wishes and hopes into reality for my awake life to express my vision."

Gunnel's warmth, friendship and infectious smile will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know her.



## 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](http://spencertownacademy.org)  
for information on programs, artsVOYAGE, membership, and volunteer opportunities or to subscribe to our e-blast list.



## See How Your Neighbors' Gardens Grow

A beloved tradition signals the start of summer

Hidden Gardens, the Academy's annual celebration of all things horticultural, will take place over the course of three consecutive weekends in June. The theme: Celebrating the Art of the Garden

With a varied and exciting schedule of events, this long-standing community tradition will once again provide a joyous kickoff to summer in Columbia County. Hidden Gardens is co-chaired by Spencertown Academy Board members Madaline Sparks and Vivian Wachsberger.



private gardens in Spencertown, Stuyvesant and environs. The Market on the Green will take place that day from 9am to 2:30pm at the Spencertown Village Green across the street from the Academy. Admission is free. Vendors will offer plants, home and garden furnishings, birdhouses, antiques, garden books, and more, with a percentage of all sales benefiting the Academy. In addition, the Academy's White Elephant Booth will offer bargains on select garden items. The Spencertown Volunteer Fire Company will offer breakfast and lunch options.



The festivities begin with the Twilight in the Garden Party on Saturday, June 4, from 5-7pm at the Austerlitz Historical Society. "There will be a variety of seating and gathering options—or feel free to bring picnic blankets and lawn chairs if you prefer to create your own," says Madaline. Guests will receive

pre-packed baskets filled with wrapped homemade and locally sourced snacks, along with tickets for festive beverages. Live music will be provided by Rob Fisch. Tickets are \$100.

The centerpiece of the Hidden Gardens program is the self-guided tour on Saturday, June 11, from 10am-4pm, featuring a variety of



The illustrated garden lecture, set for Saturday, June 18 at 11am, will feature Tovah Martin, a nationally known garden expert and author of numerous books on the subject. Admission is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. A selection of home-baked treats will be served.

Tickets for the tour are \$35 in advance, \$40 day of; package rates for multiple events are also available. For tickets and pricing information, visit [www.spencertownacademy.org](http://www.spencertownacademy.org). Day-of garden tour tickets and maps will be available from 9am-2pm at the Academy and at the Market on the Green.



## Music at the Academy

### Roots & Shoots Goes Outdoors Two great groups perform in the open air



The Academy's Roots & Shoots music series goes al fresco this Spring with two concerts at the Spencertown Town Pavilion.



The Lucky 5, who performed virtually at the Academy last April, will go live at the Pavilion on Saturday, May 28 at 7pm.

The Lucky 5 is a hard-swinging jazz band that blends swing and gypsy jazz to create a unique, foot-stomping blend of music. "They perform both original compositions and old jazz standards," says Mike Zdeb, a member of the Academy's Music Committee. "They are high energy and you can have your own private swing dance party, or just sit back and listen, although that could be hard given the band's talent and repertoire." All seasoned

touring musicians, the band members have performed, and recorded with artists such as Neko Case, Iris Dement, Bobby Previte, Del McCoury, and Jim Lauderdale.

Next up at the Pavilion are Jay Ungar & Molly Mason on Saturday, June 18 at 7pm. One of the most celebrated duos in American acoustic music, Jay and Molly achieved international acclaim in 1990 when their performance of Jay's composition Ashokan Farewell, became the musical hallmark of Ken Burns' The Civil War on PBS. Jay's fiddling brims with playfulness, drama, soulfulness and technical verve as he explores many musical styles and idioms. Molly's mastery and inventiveness on piano and guitar and her rich, expressive vocals are always spot-on.



Tickets to Roots & Shoots concerts (\$20 public, \$15 Academy members, \$10 students) may be purchased at the door or in advance at [spencertownacademy.org](http://spencertownacademy.org)

*building community through the arts*

## Book Talk



### High Society Revisited

Two celebrated authors discuss a modern homage to Henry James



Authors Dinitia Smith and Ruth Reichl will discuss Smith's new historical novel, *The Prince* at the Spencertown Academy. The event, set for Sunday, April 30 at 2pm, is a collaboration between the Academy and Chatham Bookstore.

Smith uses the modern equivalent of the high society setting of Henry James' *The Golden Bowl* to tell the story of a father and daughter and the prince who comes between them. The action takes place in part on Woodford Island, based on Gardiners Island off the coast of East Hampton, NY.

Smith is the award-winning author of five novels and numerous short stories. For 11 years, she was a reporter at the New York Times where she wrote on literary topics and intellectual trends. She is also an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, whose short film, *Passing Quietly Through*, was chosen for the New York Film Festival.

Spencertown resident Ruth Reichl was restaurant critic and food editor of the Los Angeles Times, restaurant critic of the New York Times, and the last editor-in-chief of *Gourmet Magazine*. She has written a novel, two cookbooks and five memoirs, including her most recent book, *Save Me the Plums*.

Books by both authors will be for sale and the authors will be available for signing after the conversation. Ticket holders will receive 10% off books purchased at the event.

This program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

## Anniversary Celebration

### Sweet Sounds

Music star Bobby Sweet brings his band to Spencertown



Berkshires native and sixth-generation musician Bobby Sweet will bring his band to the Spencertown ballfield on Saturday afternoon, July 9 for an outdoor concert to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Academy building. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and settle in for a rousing show.

Over the years, the nationally known singer-songwriter has performed with Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie, Vince Gill and Martin Sexton. And as a sought-after lead guitarist he has played shows opening for George Jones, Diamond Rio, Asleep at the Wheel, Willie Nelson, The Bellamy Brothers, Waylon Jennings and many others. Stylistically, Bobby says, his music resides somewhere between John Prine, Jackson Browne, Guy Clark, and a country-fied Bruce Springsteen. Admission is free. Rain date: Saturday, July 16.

