

Festival of Books '23



Spencertown Books

The Academy's 18th annual celebration of books, reading and writing is here

Whatever your interests, you'll find a lot to your liking at the 18th annual Festival of Books, scheduled, as always, for Labor Day weekend.



This yearly rite of summer features an exciting roster of author readings and signings, discussions and children's programs. And, of course, book lovers of all ages will have the chance to hunt for treasures among more than 15,000 affordable, gently used books, CDs, DVDs, LPs and audio books, all at bargain prices. There's a Children's

Room for young readers, and a Special Book Room filled with first editions, out-of-print, collectible books and ephemera.

A busy schedule

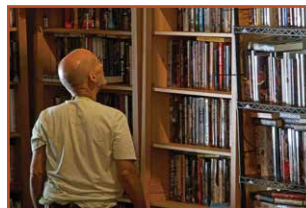
The Festival begins on Friday, September 1, 3 - 8pm with a special Members Only Preview. The book sale is open to the public on Saturday, September 2, 10am to 5pm; Sunday, September 3, 10am to 4pm; and Monday, September 4 (bargain day), 10am to 2pm. Admission is free. On Sunday, winners of the Academy's 2023 Young Writers' Contest will read from their winning fiction and nonfiction entries.

A wide array of books and authors

This year's Festival co-chairs are Carl Atkins, Wayne Greene and Jill Kalotay. Featured authors include Tamar Adler, Wesley Brown, Jonathan Darman, Eleanor Henderson, Julie Kabat, Daphne Kalotay, and Jane Roper. Authors' books will be available for purchase and signing. Healthy, delicious snacks and beverages will also be for sale throughout the weekend.

The children's program on Saturday, from 10:00-11:30am will feature a meet-and-greet with Lyle the Crocodile, lovable star of Bernard Waber's classic books. Kids will have an opportunity to have their pictures taken with Lyle, get crafty with art activities, and listen to the Lyle books read by storyteller Ann Gainer.

Volunteers have been hard at work all summer, receiving and sorting books, 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.



All Write, Columbia

Focus on Fiction The Academy holds its second writing conference



Now in its second year, All Write, Columbia is a four-day intensive writing conference focused on the craft and the business of writing fiction. Set for November 9-12, the conference is open to all levels of fiction writers, from beginners working on their first short stories to more advanced writers making progress on a novel. Workshops will be held at the Academy, and led by Donna Kaz, Pramila Venkateswaran and Melissa Holbrook Pierson. Guest panelists and authors will appear on Zoom. The opening night speaker is Jen Beagin, author of "Big Swiss."

Applicants must be at least 18 years old and enrollment is limited to 20 writers; the submission deadline is September 22. For details, visit spencertownacademy.org.

what's coming up

-  **Festival of Books**
September 1-4
The Academy's annual Labor Day weekend bookfest
-  **Laura Anglade Quartet**
Jazz Concert
Friday, September 22, 8pm
-  **Homes, Hamlets & Villages**
Regional Juried Fine Art Show
Featuring works by regional artists
September 30-October 29
Reception: September 30, 4-6pm
-  **Heather Maloney Concert**
Saturday, October 7, 8pm
-  **Conversation with Neighbors**
Climate Change: The Activists Among Us
Sunday, October 15, 2pm
-  **Heather Bruegl**
Still Here: A Survival Story of Indigenous People
Sunday, November 5, 2pm
-  **All Write, Columbia**
4-Day Fiction Writing Conference
November 9-12
-  **Pandora's Box**
How Guts, Guile and Greed Upended TV
Peter Biskind discusses his new book with David Nasaw
Sunday, November 19, 2pm
-  **Women in Blues II**
Robin O'Herin & Gina Coleman
Saturday, November 25, 8pm
-  **Concert to Benefit Operation Unite**
Anthony Bracewell, Julian Müller, Gili Melamed-Lev: works by Brahms, Beethoven and others
Sunday, December 2, 3pm

spencertownacademy.org/events





Rainy Weather, Sunny Smiles (Green) thumbs up for this year's Hidden Gardens



Torrential rains failed to dampen the spirits of garden enthusiasts at the 19th annual Hidden Gardens tour on June 24. The self-guided tour took in gardens in Austerlitz, Hillsdale and Copake, and featured a wide array of landscape styles and delights, including a 180-acre farm with a Japanese Tea House and Zen Garden.

“After nearly two decades of Academy garden tours, I always fear we’ve exhausted the county inventory of inspiring landscapes to share with the community,” says Madaline Sparks, who co-chairs the event along with Vivian Wachsberger. “But

to my delight, every year we manage to discover new hidden horticultural gems to feature for everyone to enjoy.”

Since 2005, Hidden Gardens has been a signature event on the Academy calendar as well as an important fundraiser. “Despite the weather, this year’s tour was a great success, with exceptionally beautiful gardens, large crowds and a vigorous Market on the Green,” Vivian says. “We’re especially indebted to the volunteers who worked so tirelessly to make this wonderful event happen, and to our neighbors who graciously opened their gardens to us.”



Spoken word

Still Here: A Survival Story

Heather Bruegl reflects on the Indigenous People's experience



“Indigenous people have lived on the land that is the United States well before colonization,” says Heather Bruegl. “Through forced removal, land loss and boarding schools, they have survived and continue to pass down traditional knowledge.”

An Oneida Nation of Wisconsin citizen and first-line descendent Stockbridge Munsee, Heather will speak at the Academy on Sunday, November 5, 2–3:30.

Her presentation, titled Still Here: A Survival Story of Indigenous People, will focus on “the people who loved the land you now live upon... and how they survived and continue to work towards the betterment of their communities.”

A public historian, activist and independent consultant, Heather has worked with a wide array of museums and universities and is a frequent speaker on topics ranging from intergenerational racism and trauma to the fight for clean water in the Native community.

Admission is free. Please register at spencertownacademy.org

building community through the arts

in the gallery

Homes, Hamlets & Villages

The Academy's bi-annual regional art show pictures rural and small town life

The Academy's annual regional juried art show will open on September 30 and run through October 29. The theme is Homes, Hamlets & Villages: Style and Lifestyle in Small Towns and Rural Communities, with works in multiple media. Jurors Carrie Chen, a gallery owner (Great Barrington), Linden Scheff, co-director of Carrie Haddad Gallery (Hudson), and Nelena Soro, artist and instructor at the Berkshire Art Center, will select works from 135 artists who submitted work for consideration for this show.

Earlier this summer, Curator as Artist III featured collages, paintings, ceramics, and photographs by Academy gallery curators Barbara Lax Kranz, Leslie Gabosh, Norma Cohen, Lynn Rothenberg and Moira O'Grady.



BARBARA LAX KRANZ



LESLIE GABOSH



NORMA COHEN



LYNN ROTHENBERG



MOIRA O'GRADY

Music at the Academy

A New Spin on Vintage Jazz **The Laura Anglade Quartet Performs at the Academy**



Laura Anglade, joined by the Ben Rosenblum Trio, will perform vintage jazz from Broadway, the Great American Songbook and Tin Pan Alley, along with classic French chanson at the Academy on Friday, September 22 at 8pm.

"There will come a time when the Spencertown community will look back and say, 'We saw them first,'" says Gerald Seligman, member of the Academy's Music Committee. "Anglade and the Ben Rosenblum Trio are rising fast."

Anglade's voice is reminiscent of the great traditional vocal stylists of the 20th century, but is uniquely her own. The Toronto-based jazz vocalist has been charming audiences by bringing a fresh face to the

vintage sound of classic jazz numbers in both French and English. She leads an active international touring schedule and has performed at such prestigious venues as Olympia (Paris), Royal Festival Hall (London), Town Hall (New York City) and the Ace Theatre Hotel (Los Angeles).

New York City jazz pianist and accordionist Ben Rosenblum has been described as "mature beyond his years," (Sea of Tranquility), an "impressive talent" (All About Jazz), who "caresses [the music] with the reverence it merits. Tickets (\$30 public, \$25 Academy members) may be purchased at the door or in advance at spencertownacademy.org

