

# SPENCERTOWN ACADEMY THE NEWSLETTER

spencertownacademy.org

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

## Music at the Academy



### LOVE IS IN THE AIR

#### Lovestruck Balladeers Perform at the Academy



The Lovestruck Balladeers will perform a program of old-time jazz, swing, country, waltzes, ragtime and more at the Academy on Friday, May 31 at 8pm.

"The Lovestruck Balladeers are incredible musicians with an eclectic repertoire," says Wayne Greene, member of the Academy Music Committee. "It's going to be

a fun night of toe-tapping music that will keep you smiling."

Born out of New York's vibrant classic jazz and traditional music scene, the Lovestruck Balladeers formed during a series of recording sessions for Jalopy Records' 2018 release, *Estrellas de Radio*. Since their debut at the Brooklyn Folk Festival that year, the versatile quintet has made a name for itself as a compelling new act highlighting musical excellence, fresh arrangements, original songs and a tightly crafted stage show. Together or on their own paths, this stellar band of traveling musicians has traversed the country and the globe, carrying traditional styles into modern times.

The concert is part of the Academy's **Roots & Shoots** series, which showcases artists who reach back to earlier traditions in music for inspiration while incorporating more recent forms and influences. Tickets (\$25 public, \$20 Academy members) may be purchased at the door or in advance at [spencertownacademy.org](http://spencertownacademy.org)



## Hidden Gardens Hits 'Pause'



### PUT ON YOUR DANCIN' SHOES!

#### Twilight BBQ Dance Party kicks off summer



For the first time in 19 years, the annual Hidden Gardens Tour and Market is taking a break. But garden lovers don't despair—the Academy's signature kickoff to summer will be back in full bloom next spring and definitely worth the wait!

But one event that's not going away is our annual Twilight shindig. So grab your

dancin' shoes and get ready for the Academy's Twilight BBQ Dance Party. You'll enjoy a fabulous evening of tasty BBQ and music from the Silver Arrow Band, one of the area's hottest party bands. Enjoy festive beverages from Roaring 20s Brewery, hors d'oeuvres, a buffet BBQ dinner by Momma Lo's and delicious desserts. A silent auction will feature many enticing items including an array of gorgeous tabletop and glassware.

The Twilight BBQ Dance Party takes place on Saturday, June 29, 5-9pm on the grounds of the Austerlitz Historical Society. Ticket prices start at \$175 and a Just Drinks/ Dessert/ Dance ticket is \$75. Reservations are available on the website.

## what's coming up



### Lovestruck Balladeers

Friday, May 31, 8pm



### Spring Affair

Contemporary Art of the Hudson Valley

June 1-30

Reception: Saturday, June 1, 4-6pm



### Conversations with Neighbors

Medical Cannabis:

Weeding Out Fact from Fiction

Sunday, June 9, 3pm



### The Tempest

Performed by The Rooted Voyageurs

Friday, June 21, 7pm

Spencertown Park



### Twilight BBQ Dance Party

Saturday, June 29, 5-9pm

On the grounds of the Austerlitz Historical Society



### Drawn to Precision: in Monochrome

July 6-August 4

Reception: Saturday, July 6, 4-6pm



### Festival of Books

August 30-September 2

The Academy's 19th annual

Labor Day weekend bookfest

Watch for details this summer!



### All Write, Columbia

4-day non-fiction writing conference

Thursday-Sunday, November 7-10

[spencertownacademy.org/events](http://spencertownacademy.org/events)

## PABLO SHINE

Latin Jazz Band



SATURDAY, JUNE 15 - 8pm



## THE JOYS OF SUMMER Let the fun begin!

Hidden Gardens has been our unofficial kickoff to summer for nearly two decades. While we're taking a breather this year, we wouldn't dream of letting summer arrive unannounced. On June 29, we'll welcome the season in style with a Twilight BBQ Dance Party on the grounds of the Austerlitz Historical Society. Check out our article on page 1.

Summer is always a joy at the Academy, with a full calendar of music, gallery shows, workshops and children's programs—all of it the work of our volunteers. And that's where you come in.

Whatever you'd like to do—help out at an event, serve as a gallery attendant, join a committee or develop an idea of your own, there's a job with your name on it. However much—or little—time you can spend, your involvement means everything.

As a volunteer at the Academy, you'll have an opportunity to connect with your neighbors and make new friends while joining in work that benefits and supports a worthy mission. It's deeply rewarding—and great fun.

And if you're a book lover, there are myriad ways you can be part of this year's Festival of Books, from sorting donated books to serving as a greeter or book room attendant during the Festival, which takes place, as always on Labor Day weekend.

But let's not rush the season. Summer lies ahead—so let's enjoy and savor every day of it. I look forward to seeing you soon—and often—at the Academy.

*Nick Van Alstine*

## conversations with Neighbors



### WEEDING OUT FACT FROM FICTION

A popular series examines the uses of medical cannabis

A leading advocate for the uses of medical marijuana will discuss the fascinating history of cannabis, his personal perspective about the plant, and the results he's seen for his patients and their families at the Academy on Sunday, June 9 at 3pm. The event is part of the Academy's Conversations with Neighbors series.

The speaker, Dr. Kenneth R. Weinberg, is the founder and chief medical officer of Cannabis Doctors of New York. "Dr. Weinberg has followed his own path, and heart, through his career, looking for solutions for his patients that embrace body and soul," says Lisa Bouchard Hoe, who co-chairs the series with Cindy Atkins. "With his study and use of cannabis as an alternative for Alzheimers and other maladies of aging, he is a groundbreaker."



Dr. Weinberg is a three-time Board-certified emergency medicine and medical marijuana physician. He has practiced emergency and urgent care medicine for over three decades and treated hundreds of patients with diseases across a spectrum of conditions. When New York State's Compassionate Care Act was passed in 2016, he founded Cannabis Doctors of New York.

The practice, which is based in New York City and upstate New York, certifies patients, educates the public, and advocates for the many benefits of medical marijuana.

While admission is free, advance reservations are requested via [spencertownacademy.org](http://spencertownacademy.org).

## In the Gallery



### SPRING AFFAIR A 10-person show opens June 1



What does it mean to be a contemporary artist working today? That's the question Tim Ebneith set out to explore as guest curator of the Academy gallery show, Spring Affair: Contemporary Art of the Hudson Valley.

"It was, an ambitious task," says Ebneith, a Kinderhook-based artist, illustrator, designer and art instructor. "So it proved challenging to limit the exhibition to a small group of artists. I am thrilled that all 10 artists agreed to participate and share their unique visions, which include

themes of identity, memory and remembrance, joy, nature and spirituality."

The artists in the show work in a variety of forms, styles and media and include Kim Bach, Mary Breneman, Peter Hoffman, Gretchen Kelly, Joe Mama-Nitzberg, Linda McNutt, Christine Mottau, Robin Rice, Marc Swanson and Anya Ulinich.

The show opens with a reception on Saturday, June 1, 4-6pm and continues through the month on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-5pm.

## the Academy

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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, membership, and volunteer opportunities or to subscribe to our e-blast list.

## Music at the Academy



### MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC At the Academy, the tunes keep coming

The Academy has resounded with the sound of music this year, with concerts in a wide array of genres and styles.



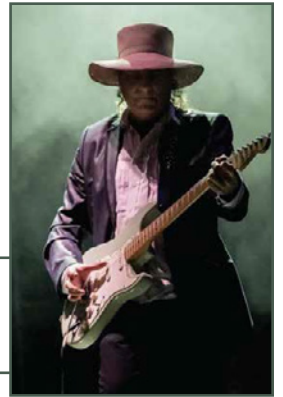
## Winterlude

In our first Classical Sunday of the year, pianist Bob Logan and cellist Julian Müller performed chamber works by Haydn, Bartok, Schumann, Beethoven and Paradis.

## GARY LUCAS



Next up was guitarist and Grammy-nominated songwriter, Gary Lucas, who performed a tour de force program of original songs, blues, covers of 30's Chinese pop, Wagner, Rolling Stones and electronic soundscapes in February.



In March, the Academy and Millay Arts joined forces to present "The Ninth Hour: A Beowulf for the Modern Age," a rock-noir musical reimagining of the epic poem, created and performed by Shayfer James and Kate Douglas.



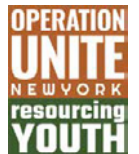
## JOHNNY IRION



Later in the month, folk-rocker Johnny Irion put his unique spin on a program of classics and originals, featuring folk, rock, roots and everything in between.



In April, a sold-out concert to benefit Hudson's Operation Unite featured Antony Bracewell (violin and viola), Gili Melamed-Lev (piano), and Julian Müller (cello) with works by Piazzolla, Saint Saëns, Bach, Arvo Pärt and Mendelssohn.



## Events at the Academy



### A WALK IN THE WOODS A writing workshop draws inspiration from nature

Summer is near—a perfect time for **Nature Writing: Poetry and Prose Workshop** with Donna Kaz on Saturday, June 15, 10am-3pm. Tuition is \$30 for Academy members and \$35 for non-members. Register at [spencertownacademy.org](http://spencertownacademy.org).

Participants will explore the unique landscape of summer and be guided through examples of how poets like Mary Oliver and Robert Frost have used their environment to inspire their writing styles. The class will take a stroll through a nearby Columbia Land Conservancy site and return to the Academy for lunch (BYO) and writing exercises.



"Nature is full of inspiration and can easily serve as a muse for writers," says Donna, director of the Academy's All Write, Columbia Writers Conference, activist, and author of "The Sweetgum Trilogy," a cycle of plays that explores the invisible thread between humans and the natural world. "Bring paper and pen and leave with a short journal entry, prose piece, or poem about how you connect to the landscape around you. No writing experience necessary—only a love of reading and writing about the beauty and wonder of nature."





### PERSPECTIVE: SIX ARTISTS

A gallery show depicts real and imagined environments

The Academy's recent gallery show, "Perspective: Six Artists," featured painting, photography and sculpture by Diahann Addison, Jeffrey All, Amy Cheng, Isabel Cotarelo, Takeyce Walte and Kenneth Young.

"Curating an art show can be a marvelous, magical adventure, if you let the process percolate slowly," says co-curator Norma Cohen. "You must take the time to look for art with no specific

theme. You must take chances, knowing that individual perspectives are an integral part of creativity."

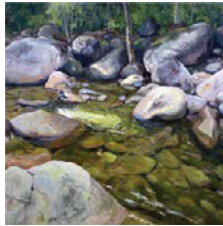
"The images and various types of media symbolize and depict real and imagined environments that sometimes reflect humor but also perseverance and sensitive issues of life," adds co-curator David Cudaback. "Each particular setting has been created from an artist's unique perspective."



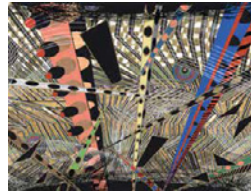
DIAHANN ADDISON



JEFFREY ALL



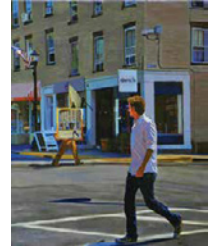
TAKEYCE WALTER



AMY CHENG



ISABEL COTARELO



KENNETH YOUNG

## Theater at the Academy



### SHAKESPEARE UNDER THE STARS

The Tempest comes to Spencertown

Shakespeare's enchanting tale of sea voyages, spirits and bad weather will be presented by The Rooted Voyageurs in Spencertown Park on Friday, June 21. Curtain time (metaphorically speaking) is 7pm.

The Rooted Voyageurs was founded in 2022 by Devante Owens (artistic director) and Zoe Wohlfeld (managing producer) with the belief that everyone



should have access to empathetic, joyful and entertaining stories. Their mission is to celebrate community through live performance. Company members are local to the Hudson Valley and admission is free.

The Rooted Voyageurs' no-frills production of The Tempest is abridged and will run 90 minutes. Bring your own seating and a picnic and enjoy the show!

## Festival of Books '24



### TOO MANY BOOKS, TOO LITTLE SPACE?

Donate your extras to the Festival of Books

The summer equinox is a few weeks away, but it's not too early to be looking ahead to the Academy's signature end-of-summer event—the 19th annual Festival of Books, which begins on Friday, August 30, and runs through Labor Day weekend.

As always, the Festival will feature an exciting roster of panel discussions, readings and children's programs. Participating authors Ruth Reichl, Andrew Leland, Martin Baron, Anna Shechtman, Stephen McCauley and Paul Muldoon.

The Festival offers a chance to do some serious browsing and buying. But if your shelves are already buckling under the weight of too many books, you can offload your extras to the Festival.



While gently used items are welcome, the Festival will pass on books that are damaged, soiled, damp, mildewed or heavily marked up as well as textbooks, magazines, pre-2023 travel guides, uncorrected proofs or galleys, library books and VHS tapes.

If you're donating higher-value items, such as autographed or rare books, keep them separate and consider wrapping them in plastic sleeves.

"Labeling them with post-it notes also helps," says co-chair Wayne Greene.

Donations will be accepted at the Academy starting July 13. Details will be emailed and posted on [spencertownacademy.org](https://spencertownacademy.org) closer to the date.