



# FORBES library

NORTHAMPTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Summertime



## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Northampton Garden Saturday, June 11th



Last year's Northampton Garden Tour was the most successful ever, raising over \$15,000 for the **Friends of Forbes Library**. This year's tour, featuring 6 diverse home gardens, will take place on Saturday, June 11 from 10 AM to 4 PM, rain or shine. Gardeners will appreciate the variety of landscape styles, plantings, and different approaches to garden design. Non-gardeners will be delighted by the beautiful gardens and perhaps inspired to start planting themselves. The self-guided tour spans 15 miles and can be navigated by car or bicycle. Tickets come with driving directions. At each garden visitors will find descriptions of the plantings, volunteer guides to answer questions, as well as live music at 2 of the sites and a plein air painter, Alexandra Sprague, at Garden 4. Light refreshments and water will be provided.

There will also be a **raffle** featuring an attractive garden bench, a hand-crafted quilt, organic compost, gift

certificates, garden supplies, a landscape consultation, and more.



**Tour tickets** are available for purchase for \$20 each (\$25 on the day of the event) at Forbes Library, Cooper's Corner, State Street Fruit Store, Bay State Perennial Farm, Gardener's Supply Company/Hadley, Wanczyk Nursery, or online at [www.forbeslibrary.org/friends](http://www.forbeslibrary.org/friends).

**Raffle tickets** (2 tickets/\$5, 5/\$10, or 12/\$20) may be purchased at the library before the day of the tour, and at one of the gardens on the day of the tour. The raffle winners will be announced at the end of the day; you need not be present to win.

## Community Grant Award from Florence Bank

Florence Bank's 20th Annual Customers' Choice Community Grants Awards ceremony took place on May 19 at the Look Park Garden House. Each year this program allows Florence Bank customers to vote for their favorite local non-profit organization to win a grant. In 2021 approximately 7,000 votes were cast for \$100,000 in grants to 45 local non-profits. **The Friends of Forbes Library** received \$3,539.39, which will go directly to supporting the library. Voting for the 2022 awards is already underway, and since each vote last year represented \$24 dollars, your vote for this year's award will be most appreciated!

## New Mug Designs

Northampton High students Jacob Boudreau, Emmett Blanchett, and Arlo Green, have designed 3 new mugs for Forbes! The mugs can be purchased online through the Forbes Library Store.

<https://forbeslibrary.org/store/>



## Save the Date

The Friends of Forbes Library is hosting an **Artisans Fair**   
**Sunday, October 2, 2022**

*We are looking for Craftspeople and Artists*

The Fair will be held Rain or Shine on the grounds of Forbes Library, Northampton from 10am-3pm

The fee of \$50 will go directly to support Forbes Library

This is a juried show. We are looking for a wide range of unique items. Anything book related would be great, children's items, pottery, glass, jewelry, fabric art, prints, wood-working, soaps, photography, etc.



All items must be handcrafted by the seller  
*No commercial vendors*

**Applications will be Available starting on June 15th**

Please contact [friends@forbeslibrary.org](mailto:friends@forbeslibrary.org) for an application or with any questions.

## BIPOC ART

Last year, Forbes Library established a fund to acquire artwork by local and regional BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) artists. The fund was the result of a \$10,000 anonymous donation given with the express intent of supporting the library in its desire to diversify its permanent art collection. The Trustees approved and doubled the fund, and formed a committee to begin the process of identifying potential artists and acquiring art works.

After months of searching, outreach and consideration, the committee has selected works by several western Massachusetts-based artists. Some are currently being framed and made ready for hanging in public areas of the library building. In the Children's department, you'll soon be able to see "I'll race you up that hill", an original drawing by author and illustrator Mike Curato for his book *Little Elliot, Fall Friends*. Its landscape of gently rolling hills is reminiscent of our region. Children's author and illustrator Grace Lin will be represented by fireworks and dragons in "Pop!" a gouache painting for her *Bringing in the New Year*, and an archival print from *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*.



Grace Lin "Pop"



Mike Curato-Little Elliot, Fall Friends



# Brian Tabor to Retire after 49 yrs

Interviewing Brian Tabor, Circulation Supervisor, about his approaching retirement, a person can't help being struck by his love and enthusiasm for all things related to Forbes Library. When Brian joined the library staff in 1973, he was 16 years old, Nixon was president, and gas cost 39 cents per gallon. There was a phone booth in the library, the books in the children's room were arranged by grade, and patrons tended to whisper their requests. Over the last 49 years Brian has seen the library change with the times, finding new ways to meet the needs of the community it

serves. He has witnessed the impact of a series of renovations to the building itself. When an elevator was added to the Victorian building, it was a game changer for patrons as well as for staff conveying heavy materials from floor to floor. He remembers early efforts to reach patrons outside the library, including book stations and the Bookmobile, which went to local playgrounds to provide books for children. He has seen those early efforts become transformed into the current outreach delivery services to those physically unable to access the facility, as well as those in assisted living facilities and nursing homes.



"Photograph by Lionel Delevingne, Forbes Library Special Collections."

**"Brian's legacy at Forbes is remarkable. Through the years he has issued countless library cards and handled even more countless items, all with the utmost care. We are so grateful for his many years of dedication to the library and wish him a long and joyous retirement."**

-Lisa Downing, Library Director

Brian fondly remembers the many mentors who "spurred him on," including Eva Herrick in the art department and Angela Vincent, the arts and music librarian. Asked if he had a favorite spot in the library, he mentioned the rear of the art gallery where from the windows "the vista is magnificent," and the Hampshire Room on the second floor with its extensive resources in local history and genealogy. He greatly admires local history librarian Elise Bernier-Feeley's extensive knowledge and contributions to Forbes.

Brian will retire in late July. Those who cannot imagine not seeing him at the circulation desk will be happy to know that after a bit of rest and perhaps some travel, he

will still be a part of the Forbes family. Brian stated, "I am a native of Northampton, and Forbes is my hometown library." In the future he will continue to volunteer in the Coolidge Museum, possibly as a docent. He served on the Coolidge Museum Committee for 20 years and is now an emeritus member. He is also a past president of the Hampshire Genealogical Society, where he taught the basics of genealogical research, and he hopes to use those skills to help others with their own searches at Forbes. He will continue to share his knowledge and skills in the library he loves.

**Brian is retiring at the end of July. We are planning his retirement party for Tuesday, July 19 at 2 PM at the library, and the public is invited to attend.**





Ryan Murray



Ryan Murray



Marilyn Greco



Marilyn Greco



Jeff Wrench



Jeff Wrench

## Hosmer Gallery

### July 2022

**Springfield Photographic Society** : The Towns of Berkshire County

**Katherine McClelland** : Family history

### August 2022

**Ryan Murray** : Mixed media

**Jeff Wrench** : Paintings

**Yoni Glogower** : Fiber art

### September 2022

**Kimiko Donohoe** : Paintings

**Dale Rogers** : Paintings & Ceramics

**Maggie Hodges** : Paintings

### October 2022

**Marilyn Greco** : Watercolor Paintings

**Mary Messick** : Prints and Artist Books

**Laurel Park Association** : Historic Photographs

### November 2022

**Christopher Curtis** : Photographs

## Marjorie Hess Honored

The Trustees of Forbes Library awarded Marjorie Hess the 34th Gertrude P. Smith Trustees Award for her dedication and volunteer service to Forbes Library including serving on the board for 12 years. The award ceremony was held on Saturday, May 14th in the Coolidge Museum followed by a reception in the gallery.

During her tenure on the board, Marjorie was a tireless advocate for the library and served on several committees including chairing the Racial and Social Justice Committee and the Director Search Committee in 2017. "During her twelve years of service on the board, Marjorie approached every conversation and decision thoughtfully. We are a stronger library because of it. We will forever be grateful to her," said Lisa Downing, Library Director.

## Library Giving Day

This year's Library Giving Day was a record-breaking success! 181 library lovers gave a total of \$25,238 to support Forbes Library -- the largest number of donors and dollars for a Library Giving Day yet. This includes \$8,000 from the Friends of Forbes Library in matching funds and an additional \$2,595 match from a group of generous donors. The Friends are excited to have been a part of this fantastic day in which so many people showed their affection for Forbes and their willingness to support this wonderful community resource.



## Long time Board Member Retiring



Serena Smith, one of the longest serving members of the Board of the Friends of Forbes, is leaving the Board after serving for twelve years. Serena joined the Board in 2010 upon her retirement from Hampshire College, where she held the positions of research librarian and cataloger. Over her twelve years on the Board, Serena served as Vice President for ten of them, organized seven wine-tastings and assisted with Garden Tours. The wine tastings and Garden Tours alone are enough to fill any volunteer's time!

I asked Serena what her plans are for this second retirement. Her family and friends can now see more of her, and she is looking forward to spending time with them. She plays piano and hopes to play chamber music again with two friends from

Vermont, now that they feel safer about getting together. Aside from that, her background in Russian History has her following closely the situation in Ukraine. She may also take up her studies of Italian again.

Serena Said she doesn't have just one favorite book, but among her favorites is *The World of Yesterday* by Stefan Zweig, a memoir of living in Vienna during the final days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Serena has read it several times. Another favorite she mentioned are the novels of W.G. Sebald, especially *Vertigo* and *The Emigrants*. All are available at local college libraries

I asked the other members of the Board what questions they wanted me to ask Serena, and the immediate response was "How many people did Serena recruit to the Board?" Serena listed the names for me—Jacquie Fraser, Nicole Sibley, Bill Breitbart, Scott Monroe and Eli Porth—most of the current Board members! She also said that recruitment was easy; people love Forbes and are happy to support it. We may rely on Serena in the future for that particular contribution.

Best wishes, Serena, and we'll be seeing each other at future Forbes events!

### Maximize Your Giving

The Forbes Library is now offering a new and convenient way to make an impact. We are accepting monthly gifts. Maximize your giving to the library with a monthly payment through PayPal.

Setting up your gift is easy. Visit [forbeslibrary.org/giving](https://forbeslibrary.org/giving) and click on the donate button. On the PayPal donation page, just select the checkbox next to "Make this a monthly donation." The amount you enter will be paid to the Library each month. You can change your recurring donation any time in your PayPal account settings.

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**Up Close  
in the Garden**  
Botanical Photographs by Betsy Feick  
at the  
**Robert Floyd Gallery**  
JUNE 1-30, 2022

2 East Street at Route 10  
Southampton, MA

Gallery Hours: Tues, Sat, Sun 1-5pm, and by appointment  
413-529-2635

There will be receptions and gallery talks with the artist on June 5 & 19 at 3pm



# Summer Reading

Is right around the corner and we hope you'll join us on Saturday, June 25 from 10am-1pm for a **kickoff party** on the library lawn! This year's theme is "Read Beyond the Beaten Path" so we have lots of fun camp-related activities in store. Sign up for Summer Reading with our Camp Counselors, enjoy free tasty s'mores at our microwave "campfire" on the lawn, and make your own friendship bracelets!



**The kickoff Party will also feature:**



- 10:00-10:45 Flying High Dogs Performance
- 11:00-12:00 Ukulele Strum Group in Concert
- 11:00-1:00 Face Painting
- 11:00-1:00 Hula Hooping with Miss Magnificent

Also beginning June 25, stop by the library every Saturday to pick up a free activity kit with instructions and art supplies! We'll be giving away 50 activity kits each week, with projects specially tailored for ages 0-5, 6-11, and teens.

## We also have a fantastic lineup of performers, including:

- Wed, June 29 at 3 pm - Let's Go on a Bug Hunt with Hands on Nature
- Wed, July 6 at 11 am - Birds of Prey with Wingmasters
- Thurs, July 14 at 2 pm - Impromptu Magic for Camping with Ed the Wizard
- Tues, July 19 at 11 am - Kids' Concert on the Lawn with Mr. Liam
- Thurs, July 28 at 11 am - Learn & Play Campfire Songs on the Ukulele with Julie Stepanek
- Sat, Aug 6 at 3 pm - Tarot Party for Teens and Young Adults with Laura Campagna
- Sat, Aug 13 at 11 am - Magnificent Monster Circus with Cactus Head Puppets



**We can't wait to see you at**  
***Camp Read S'more*** (a.k.a. Forbes Library)

