



# Forbes Library

## NORTHAMPTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Annual Garden Tour

Friends of Forbes Library INC.

## Northampton Garden Tour 2021



**Saturday July 17**  
10 am to 3 pm

TOUR WILL BE HELD  
RAIN OR SHINE

Local covid prevention protocols  
will be observed

Tour tickets are available  
starting mid-June  
at  
**Forbes Library**  
**Cooper's Corner**  
**State Street Fruit Store**  
**Bay State Perennial Farm**  
**Gardener's Supply at**  
**Hadley Garden Center**  
**Online at Forbes Library:**  
[www.ForbesLibrary.org/Garden](http://www.ForbesLibrary.org/Garden)

\$15 in advance, \$20 day of tour

All proceeds go to Forbes Library  
for books, equipment & programs.



Our 27th Annual Northampton Garden Tour is happening with a summer floral palette! Seven exceptional home gardens are featured this year. In addition to raising funds for programming, events and projects at Northampton's historic public library, our goal is to inspire and educate interested gardeners with a variety of appealing landscape styles, collections of garden plantings, and approaches to garden design. Join us along a scenic 10 mile route by car or a pleasant bicycle ride for the recreational pedaler.

**TICKETS INCLUDE:** A brochure with descriptions of gardens and driving directions for this self-guided tour. Stick-on ticket badge to be worn as you visit gardens.

**AT THE GARDENS:** At each garden there are descriptions of plantings and volunteer garden guides to answer questions. Enjoy listening to musicians, seeing a plein air painter in action, and the opportunity to participate in our **RAFFLE**.

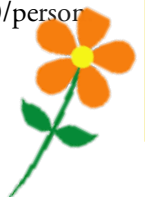
**ADVANCE TICKET SALES** are from mid-June - July 15.

In-person pay and pick up at Forbes Library, Cooper's Corner, State Street Fruit Store, Bay State Perennial Farm (Whately) and Gardener's Supply at Hadley Garden Center. Cost: \$15/person.

**On-line ticket purchase/reservation** through the website [ForbesLibrary.org/Garden](http://ForbesLibrary.org/Garden). Then pick up your pre-paid \$15 tickets at Forbes Library ONLY on tour day, July 17<sup>th</sup> between 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**DAY OF THE TOUR TICKETS:** Tickets may be purchased only at Forbes Library, while supply lasts. Cost: \$20/person

**RAFFLE:** The Northampton Garden Tour also offers a raffle (continued on page 2)



## Garden Tour Raffle

The Northampton Garden Tour also offers a raffle – Win a beautiful garden bench, a Jana Ugone lamp, organic compost, gift certificates, garden supplies, a landscape consultation, and more! Purchase raffle tickets at Forbes Library beginning June 15 (2 tickets/\$5, 5/\$10 or 12/\$20) AND at one of the gardens on the day of the tour. Raffle drawing will take place at the end of the tour. Whether you are a gardener or garden admirer, there is bound to be a basket of goodies for you.



**Raffle Donors:** Andrew’s Greenhouse in Amherst; Bear Path Farm; Cornucopia Natural Wellness Market; Gardener’s Supply at Hadley Garden Center; Hilltown Tree and Garden; Maya Machin Pottery; Alex Sprague; Thorne’s Marketplace; TreeCycle; Jana Ugone; and Warner Tree Services.



## Thank Our Loyal Supporters With Your Patronage



**Silver Lily Sponsors:** C.L. Frank & Co, a Division of Bartlett Tree Experts; Curran and Keegan Financial; and Wanczyk Nursery.  
**Bronze Daisy Sponsors:** Bay State Perennial Farm; The Community Builders; Conway School of Landscape design; Cotton Tree Service, Inc; Finck & Perras Insurance ; Goggins Real Estate; The Murphys Realtors, Inc.; RiseLine Wealth Planning; River Valley Co-op; Sunwood Builders; Valley Home Improvement; Webber and Grinnell Insurance; Western Mass Heating, Cooling and Plumbing; and Wright Builders.

## Beyond our Walls Building Engagement Through Digital Programming

In March 2021 it was announced that Forbes had received a \$4,999 Digital Capacity Grant from Mass Humanities. This grant will enable the library to acquire the technology to film and live-stream humanities programming in the Coolidge Museum on social media and local Public Access Television. The technology requested would make it possible for Forbes to broadcast and post all desired events and produce a high-resolution and dynamic product suitable for engaging new audiences online.

Before the pandemic, the library, with the tremendous support of the **Friends**, offered several in-person programs each week. The Covid-19 pandemic forced all of Forbes Library’s free public programming online. While the experience of not allowing the public into our programming spaces has been heartbreaking, we quickly discovered that digital programming was reaching audiences in numbers and scope that would have been impossible with traditional in-person programming. We want to continue to engage new audiences beyond the narrow demographics that often attend our in-building events. Some of the audience we hope to reach cannot attend in-library events for accessibility, scheduling, or geographic reasons.

The library eagerly awaits the safe return of the public and in-person programming to our building, but we do not want to lose the audience and engagement we have gained during the pandemic, and we are always striving to expand our reach. We recognize that, even when we reopen, there will be a significant segment of our community who will still feel hesitant to attend in-person programming, and a much larger audience we have yet to reach whom we want to appeal to with free, engaging and dynamic humanities events. This grant will enable us to purchase and install equipment, train staff this summer, and kick off our new online programming with live events this fall.

# The History of Forbes

If you haven't seen Stan Sherer's documentary about the history of Forbes Library, do it now. You're missing a real treat! Stan uses images from the Library's collection to illustrate the construction and architecture of the building, as well as photos of the staff from many years past until today. He recorded interviews with Director Lisa Downing, and made good use of the knowledge and expertise of Elise Bernier Feeley, Forbes's local history librarian. The result is an homage to Forbes Library and the staff who make it such a treasure, as well as a fascinating look at the building's-- and Northampton's-- history. Watch the film here:

<https://youtu.be/JyjqLDwOIHQ>.

Stan is a professional photographer, and became interested in video when he retired from UMass. He has made three other films—one about the water-powered elevator that used to take people to the upper floors of the Masonic Block, one about the ProBrush factory, and one about the dancer Pearl Primus. (You can see the films and Stan's photography on his website, [stansherer.com](http://stansherer.com).) The music accompanying the video about Forbes is beautiful. They are pieces selected by Stan for their reflective atmosphere or ability to convey the mood of a scene, featuring compositions by Philip Glass, Helen Lipscombe, Dmitri Shostakovich, and even a piece by Stan's father Louis Sherer, all performed by Stan himself on saxophone, and Marjorie Senechal on piano.

Stan intended to have more historical information and images in the film, but the pandemic interrupted his work. If we're lucky, perhaps he'll make a documentary about Northampton in the pandemic. I would most definitely look forward to that!

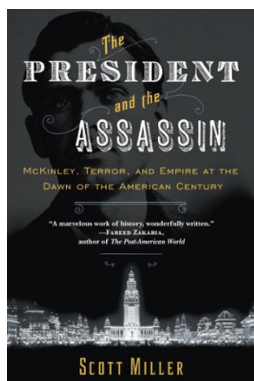
## Florence Bank Award to The Friends

If you are a Florence Bank customer, you can help the Friends of Forbes win an award next year. Be sure to vote before December 31st to make your vote count. Pick up a ballot at the library and drop it in the box there, or fill out the ballot while you do your banking. Online, visit [florencebank.com/vote](http://florencebank.com/vote) and type Friends of Forbes and Northampton in the organization and city fields. Enter your name and email, click the "count my vote" button and that's it.

Your vote will help us win another grant from Florence Bank. It's just that simple!



Friend's President JoEllen MacKenzie accepts the \$5,000 award for 2020 from Florence Bank



**The Presidential Book Group** will meet on July 26 at 7:30 on Zoom to discuss The President and the Assassin: McKinley, Terror, and Empire at the Dawn of the American Century, by Scott Miller. The book club has been meeting monthly, with a few exceptions, to discuss a book about an American president, working its way through the presidencies chronologically. The next meeting, in September, will consider a book about Teddy Roosevelt. There are currently about 25 members of the club. If you are interested in attending the July or September meeting, you can email William Scher at [billscher@aol.com](mailto:billscher@aol.com) or Julie Bartlett Nelson at [jbartlett@forbeslibrary.org](mailto:jbartlett@forbeslibrary.org), and you will be put on a list to receive the zoom link for the meeting.

## Thank You, Florence Bank

For nearly two decades, the Florence Bank has asked their customers to vote for their favorite local non-profit organization to win a grant. Organizations must receive 50 votes or more, have a current non-profit certificate, or equivalent, and agree to spend the money locally. Since the program began, 1.3 million dollars in grants have been awarded to local non-profits, and, happily, supporters of the Friends of Forbes Library have qualified us for grants in past years. This year, at the 19th Annual Customers Choice Community Grants Awards ceremony held at Look Park, 30 local non-profit organizations received a total of \$100,000.00 in grants. The Friends of Forbes Library received \$5000.00, the maximum grant amount. We immediately voted to use this grant to purchase computers for the library's teen center that is currently under development. We are grateful to the Florence Bank for its incredible generosity and community engagement, and we are grateful to all of you who voted for the Friends of Forbes Library. Florence Bank customers can vote any time during the year 2021. At the awards ceremony, Florence President Kevin R. Day said that this year each vote was worth \$39.00! If you haven't voted yet, please consider filling out the ballot included in this mailing and voting for the Friends of Forbes. Should we receive a grant next year, we will spend the money wisely in support of adult or children's programming.

## Fund to Acquire BIPOC Artwork

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

The library has had an art collection since its founding, when benefactor Judge Forbes left part of his estate to the city for the establishment of a public library. In that will he specified, "It is my design to form a library of works of science and the arts in their broadest acceptation, of ancient and modern history, and of the literatures of our own and other nations..." The library's permanent art collection contains over 100 pieces, many of which are on permanent display in the library. "We want our community to feel seen and represented in the artwork on our wall. This initiative is a wonderful opportunity to expand the collection to include works by BIPOC artists from our region," said Russell Carrier, chair of the newly formed selection committee and President of the Trustees of Forbes Library. Carrier hopes that this fund will continue to increase through donations and allow the library to continue to diversify the collection into the future.

For more information about the fund and this initiative, reach out to the library director at [director@forbeslibrary.org](mailto:director@forbeslibrary.org) or 413-587-1016.

## Outside at the Library



If you have been to any of the library's outdoor programs, you've seen what a wonderful space that west lawn area is – a perfect location for a concert, a film, or a children's activity, but also an ideal spot for quiet reading or picnicking. There are both sunny and shady areas, and, since the boost of the library's outdoor wifi signal last year, fast internet speeds on all sides of the building and the parking lot. To allow more people to enjoy the space comfortably the library is purchasing more outdoor furniture, chairs and picnic tables, including ADA options. A perfect example of our library working for the common good.

# Summer Reading 2021: Tails & Tales

## June 19-August 15

Our Summer Reading program “Tails & Tales” celebrates animals this year, and we have lots of fun activity kits and performers lined up! Be sure to register for Summer Reading and all of our special events at <https://forbeslibrary.org/events/summer-reading-2021/> You can participate totally online using Beanstack or via a paper BINGO sheet that you can request on our Summer Reading page or in-person at the library. Each week from June 19 to August 15 we have a different animal-related theme and guest performer! We hope you'll join us for:



### June 19-25: Fish Week

Special performer: Tues., Jun. 22 at 10am: Sharks webinar by the Mystic Aquarium

### June 26-July 2-Amphibians Week

Special performer: Tues., Jun. 29 at 10am: Amphibian webinar by Riverside Reptiles

### July 3-9: Mammals Week

Special performer: Wed., Jul. 7 at 10am: “The Tale of the Tail of a Humpback Whale” virtual visit with the Whalemobile

### July 10-16: Invertebrates Week

Special performer: Tues., Jul. 13 at 4pm: Creepy Crawlies with The Joys of Nature

### July 17-23: Birds Week

Special performer: Fri., Jul. 23 at 10am: Wingmasters World of Owls video and live Q&A session

### July 24-30: Reptiles Week

Special performer: Wed., Jul. 28 at 10am: Virtual visit with reptiles from Forest Park Zoo on the Go. This program is made possible through CARES Act funding to Federal IMLS as administered by the MBLC.

### July 31-August 6: Mythological Creatures Week

Special performer: Thurs., Aug. 5 at 11am: Pop Up Art School Teen virtual Dragon Eye art activity with take-home kits

### August 7-13: Make-Your-Own-Creature Week

Special performer: Thurs., Aug. 12 at 3pm: Pop Up Art School Kids’ virtual hybrid animal sculpture activity with take-home kits

**A big thank you to the Friends of Forbes Library for sponsoring many of these special events!**

All summer long, we'll also have 50 take-home art activity kits available based on each week's theme, with supplies and instructions for making a fun art project. The kits will be available for ages 0-5, 6-12 and teens. We are very grateful to the Northampton Lions Club for paying for the supplies for many of our activity kits.

**We look forward to reading, playing, and learning all about animals with you this summer!**

## In this Together: A Virtual Exhibit on Planetary and Human Health A Call for Artists and Writers

The Hosmer Gallery at Forbes Library invites artists and writers to submit work for an online exhibition highlighting the interconnectedness of planetary and human health.

As we emerge slowly from the Covid-19 pandemic, we reflect on how it has changed us, the environment we live in, and our outlook. While our societies and our world are still in the midst of enormous changes, how do we feel about our role? How has the past year impacted how we relate to the environment and to each other? Have our priorities changed?

We envision a range of creative work that engages with any of these issues and how they intersect:

- The pandemic: personal or global or societal points of view
- The climate crisis
- Sustainability
- Health of the biosphere
- Environmental justice
- Health equity

We invite all visual arts media that can be displayed on our website: photos of 2D and 3D work, digital design, and short video (up to 5 minutes).

We also invite poetry and brief prose pieces or excerpts (up to 500 words) that fit the theme.

Residents of Western Massachusetts and Five College students are eligible to submit work for consideration. There is a limit of 5 submissions per person. Forbes Library Arts & Music staff will select individual pieces to be included. For visual art, include a brief artist's statement to be displayed with the work.

We value diversity and inclusivity in our gallery exhibitions and BIPOC artists, LGBTQIA artists and women artists are strongly encouraged to apply.

**Entry form** Submission deadline: June 26, 2021 at 5 PM

Virtual Exhibit dates: July 5 – September 5, 2021

**permalink**

Each year the Trustees of Forbes Library acknowledge a community member or two who have given exceptional volunteer service to the library. On Saturday, May 22, a ceremony took place to honor the 2020 and 2021 recipients of the Gertrude P. Smith Trustees Award. Although the 2020 ceremony was cancelled due to the Covid shutdown, this year a scaled down ceremony was held in the reading room of the library, much to the delight of the friends and families of the recipients present.

## Trustees Award 2020 and 2021



Left to right: Trustee Russ Carrier, Trustee Marjorie Hess, Atty. Elaine Reall, Trustee Katy Wight, Martha McCormick and Trustee Emily Prabhaker

Atty. Elaine Reall was honored for her service as the library's legal counsel- as a longtime library supporter and more recently as a library trustee, when she shepherded the library through negotiations with the city to establish the precise legal relationship between Forbes and the city.

Martha McCormick, a lifelong patron of the library, was honored for her service on the board of directors of the Friends of Forbes Library. Martha joined the board in 2007 and served as its president from 2012 to 2019. She continues to serve as a member of the board.

Dr. Melvin Hershkowitz, who gave the library a gift of \$50,000 in memory of his beloved daughter, was also an honoree. The Trustees of Forbes Library have established the Marie Hershkowitz Memorial Children's Book Fund in memory of his beloved daughter. He continues to add to that fund.