Introducing Our New President

JoEllen Mackenzie succeeds Martha McCormick as President of the Friends of Forbes Library. The transition took place during the Friends Annual meeting on April 3. JoEllen had been serving as a member of the Friends board for the past four years. She also volunteers on the Coolidge Standing Committee.

JoEllen is a lifelong resident of Northampton and was an avid library user as a youngster. She recalls pouring over the captivating watercolor illustrations in The Wild Ponies of Chincoteague in the Children’s Room.

As a teen JoEllen relied on the Forbes for reading material and research for school assignments. Mr. Greenberg, she recalls, was helpful, kind, and stern when needed as he dealt with the numbers of students who would flock to the library with friends and siblings after dismissal from Hawley Jr. High. As a student at Northampton High School and then at Smith College, JoEllen found herself returning again and again to Forbes for books, for reading, for research.

(Continued on page 2)
Library Giving
Donations Doubled, Thanks to the Friends

Thank you to everyone who made a gift to Forbes Library on April 10 for Library Giving Day. This year, the April 10 celebration of library philanthropy replaced Valley Gives Day, which is not slated to occur in 2019.

137 people gave a total of $15,445, which includes a $6,500 match from Friends of Forbes Library. We would not have been able to offer up this fantastic matching grant without the contributions of Friends members like you.

The money raised will go to provide support for the Library’s programming budget. Last year, adult programs had attendance of 9,700, and kids and teens had more than 4,500. Thank you for showing your library love on Library Giving Day!

The Presidential Book Club

Alexander Hamilton is still the toast of Broadway, but what's Thomas Jefferson's side of the story? The Presidential Book Club of the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library & Museum will explore that question when it discusses "Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power" by Jon Meacham. The club will meet to discuss the book on Monday, June 24th at 7:30 PM in the museum, which is located on the second floor of Forbes Library. Copies of the book, as well as audiobook versions, are available at Forbes Library. We will learn about how his philosophical battle with Hamilton continues to resonate today. We will see how Jefferson wielded pragmatic power to set the nation’s democratic course, but how his high ideals were not applied to the fight against slavery.

Every book club meeting is free and open to the public. Participants are encouraged to read as much of the featured book as they can, but anyone is welcome to attend and take part in the book club discussion. Meetings take place every other month.

Calling all Gardeners

Do you know of a garden, yours or someone else’s, that you would like to see on the next Garden Tour? The garden must be located in Northampton, Florence or Leeds.

Please contact the committee by sending the following information by email to:

jody.kabloom@gmail.com

Your Name
Contact info - email, or phone #
Gardener’s Name (If different)
Garden Address
Gardener’s Name
Gardener’s Address
Gardener’s Phone #
Gardener’s email address
Tell us what is interesting or different about this garden.

Save the Date

WINE TASTING

The FRIENDS of FORBES’ Annual Fall Wine Tasting Fundraiser at the library:

Friday, September 27th from 6pm-8pm

It is always a very festive event, with an enticing variety of wines, irresistible appetizers, music, flowers, exceptional raffle prizes, and a silent auction. Tickets will be on sale beginning in the latter part of July. Come and join the fun!

(New President continued from page 1)

When asked to name her favorite book after decades of ardent reading there was no hesitation before the answer, To Kill a Mockingbird.

In her role as President of the Friends, JoEllen will continue to help raise money, seek ways for the organization to support the library, and identify additional volunteers for the ever changing board.
**Women of Forbes**

**By Richard Szlozek**

Each month during the year-long celebration of its 125th anniversary, Forbes library focuses on a different aspect of its storied history. A recent display featured the role that women have played in Forbes success story. There was a large array of photographs spread around the second floor which depicted women employees dating from 1894 to the present. The month-long celebration was culminated with a talk by Julie Bartlett Nelson as part of the on-going Cookies with the Curator program which takes place the third Thursday of each month.

For the past fifteen years Ms. Bartlett Nelson has doubled as the library’s archivist and curator of the Coolidge Presidential Museum. She began her presentation with a series of photos of some of the original Forbes librarians. It was noted by the audience how pleasant and smiling they looked, not at all like stereotypical librarians who are pictured as scowling and demanding silence. The demeanor of the first employees was in harmony with the philosophy of the library’s first director, Charles Cutter, that Forbes should be a welcoming place to be enjoyed by the entire community. The spirit of that desire has never waned.

The principal part of Bartlett Nelson’s talk centered on four women, Gertrude Smith, Anna Gertrude Brewster and sisters, Julia and Rosa Watson. Gertrude Smith (1906-1993) was born in Chicago and came to Northampton to teach. She worked at the former Mary Burnham School for Girls and was a professor of music at Smith College. She resided on Green Street and was an avid patron of Forbes. She initiated the volunteer program and started the Friends of Forbes Library organization of which she was an original board member. In 1982 she was honored by receiving the first annual Trustee’s Award.

Anna Gertrude Brewster was a member of a well-known Northampton family. She became the first woman trustee of the library in 1957 when she won election to that board. Her memory is memorialized at Forbes by the popular children’s room which is named after her.

Julia and Rosa Watson gave a large bequest to the library in 1966 in memory of their brother, Arthur Watson, who was a former trustee. The grant of $160,000 created the Watson Building Fund and the sisters are now honored by establishment of the Watson Meeting Room on the mezzanine level of the building.

Although the display and talk examined the history of women at Forbes, it must be noted that women still play a significant role at the library. In addition to Ms. Bartlett Nelson, the library is presently led by Lisa Downing who has been director since 2017. Her assistant is Molly Moss. Downing succeeded Janet Moulding who had been in charge from 2004-16. The research librarian is the redoubtable Elise Feely, who was recently honored for her fifty years of library work.

For 125 years Forbes has been a massive stone structure at the top of the hill on West Street. However, despite its formidable appearance, it is a welcoming place and it has definitely benefited over the years from the women’s touch.

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**Summer Music at the Library**

**Zikina: East African Folk**

Wednesday, July 19th 7 pm **On the Lawn**
Rain Date July 24th

**Klezamir:** traditional klezmer infused with a wide range of other styles

July 10th 7pm
A Universe of Stories

We’re just about ready to blast off into summer reading season! This summer’s theme is, “A Universe of Stories,” and babies, kids, teens, and adults alike are invited to join in a library-wide celebration of reading and learning that’s bound to be out of this world!

We’ll launch into orbit on Saturday, June 29th, with a Blastoff Party running from 10am to 1pm. Kids and teens can stop by Ground Control to sign up for Summer Reading, visit the Space Sounds Station to listen to records and make some extraterrestrial noise, and go on a writing adventure with Forbes Writer in Residence, Art Middleton. The day will also feature face painting, a professional hula hooper, an astrologer, a performance by the Ukulele Strum Group, and the opportunity to contribute to the Forbes Library 125th anniversary time capsule!

The rest of the summer will be full of fun, too! The Children’s and Young Adult Department will host a visit from a Sally Ride impersonator on July 12th, a Mad Science Comets and Asteroids Discovery Station on July 17th, and an alien cookie decorating workshop on July 22nd. Check out https://forbeslibrary.org/events/childrens-events/ to find out more, and to see our full schedule.

For adults, we’re continuing our tradition of awarding patrons with a free book of their choice for every book they read during summer reading. You can also win a book by participating in fun activities around the library, like coming to evening concerts, watching movies, and bringing friends to Forbes. This summer, enjoy stories, win prizes, and have fun!

Friends of Forbes Drawing

Congratulations to the three lucky winners of $50 gift cards to downtown Northampton

Marie Ebacher of Easthampton, Adam Blackburn of Northampton and Emily Beaudry of Chicopee

175 individuals entered the drawing and will be added to the Friends’ mailing list. 110 of those entrants were from Northampton, Florence or Leeds. The next largest contingents were from Easthampton and Holyoke. The rest came from 17 cities and towns in Massachusetts as far away as Lenox, Westfield and Greenfield. With a small investment of time and money, the drawing highlighted the Friends’ work, expanded our membership potential and demonstrated Forbes’ success at attracting users from a broad area.

Florence Bank’s Customers’ Choice Award

The Friends were awarded $4,894 in March from Florence Bank. We received this money because of your votes! We need your help again with this year’s award. Please enter your vote ASAP. Thank You.

Go to Florence Bank’s Customers’ Choice web page and type in Friends of Forbes and Northampton. Enter your name and email, then click “count my vote.” This is for Florence Bank Customers only.
Do you remember getting your first library card? Many adults tell us how vividly they recall signing their name on the back of their first card. In the Children’s Department we have the pleasure of signing kids up every day. It’s a special moment—an introduction to the library, which is really an introduction to the world! To celebrate, we recently started distributing Welcome Packets to parents and guardians of children ages 0-5 who sign up for a library card. Each Welcome Packet includes an illustrated rhyme book with 19 songs and fingerplays, a brochure for the Children’s & YA Department, a schedule of events, a list of early literacy tips, and a bookmark. We hope that these packets will encourage caregivers to view us as a place to nurture their child’s growth, learning, and curiosity.

One way we like to put our early literacy tips into action is through our weekly storytimes. We offer programs that are tailored for every age and stage of development: Baby Storytimes on Mondays at 11 am for ages 0-18 months; Toddler Times on Wednesdays at 11 am and Fridays at 10 am for ages 18-36 months; and Preschool Storytimes on Tuesdays at 1:30 pm for ages 3-5. On the second Friday of every month at 10 am, Toddler Time is replaced with a Montessori storytime at Forbes, led by a local educator who brings Montessori toys and reads stories. If you have a little one in your life, we hope you’ll join us for storytime, and also sign up your child for a card!

Afternoon Chamber Music with the Quark String Quartet

Saturday June 8, 2:00-3:30 PM in the Coolidge Museum at Forbes Library  FREE

Celebrate the approach of summertime with a relaxed afternoon of chamber music by the Quark Quartet! The Quarks are a group of local musicians who enjoy sharing both familiar, beloved string quartets and lesser-known music by under-represented composers. They will be performing the Beethoven Op. 74 "Harp" Quartet, the Germaine Tailleferre string quartet, and the "Danzas de Panama" of William Grant Still.

https://forbeslibrary.org/store
June

Paul Redstone  Photographs
Pat McDonagh  Botanical portraits
Ken Kipen  Photographs
H.E. Robbins  Wildflower photographs, handcolored prints

July

Amherst Plein Air Society
1890s-era photos, Elbridge Kingsley, broadsides

August

Tamar Shadur  Tapestries
Katherine McClelland  Felted wool images
Amy Putnam  Quilts
Large format posters and prints, maps

September

Meadow Arts Programs  Children’s art
NHS Technology Department  Student photography
Northampton schools  class photos, Smith Voke

October

Northampton Arts Council  Biennial Juried Exhibition

November

Hilltowner Plein Air Painters
Marla Shelasky and Steve Shelasky  Paintings and photographs

Paco T-Shirts!

Your summer wardrobe is not complete without an “I Love Paco” T-Shirt! Shirts are available in both Children’s ($15) and adult sizes ($18). Pick up yours in the Children’s Department. All proceeds go to the Friends of Forbes.