



# FORBES library

NORTHAMPTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Garden Tour

### Introducing Our New President



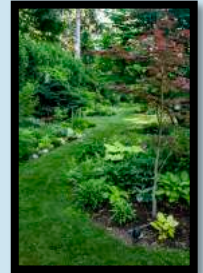
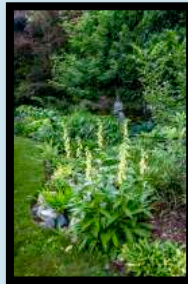
JoEllen Mackenzie succeeds Martha McCormick as President of the Friends of Forbes Library. The transition took place during the Friends Annual meeting on April 3. JoEllen had been serving as a member of the

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)



**Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**

**10am-3pm  
Rain or Shine**

Six exceptional home gardens as well as a set of demonstration plots highlighting pollinator habitat gardening are featured on this year's 26th Annual Northampton Garden Tour. The tour raises funds for the **Friends of Forbes Library, Inc.** to sponsor programming, events and projects at Northampton's historic public library. In addition to raising these funds, 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 peddler. Tickets provide driving directions to this self-guided tour. At each garden there are descriptions of the plantings and volunteer guides on hand to answer questions.

**TOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE \$15**, available at Cooper's Corner, State Street Fruit Store, Hadley Garden Center, Bay State Perennial Farm (Whately), and Forbes Library.

On June 8th, **TOUR DAY**, tickets are **\$20** and available **ONLY** at Forbes Library.

The Northampton Garden Tour also offers a raffle – Win organic compost, gift certificates, garden supplies, a landscape consultation, and more! View baskets and buy raffle tickets (2/\$5, 5/\$10 or 12/\$20) near gardens #6 & 7 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 you will want to take home (preview on-line).

**All proceeds benefit the Friends of Forbes Library, Inc. to support library programs, events, and projects that could not otherwise be funded.**

For details: [www.forbeslibrary.org](http://www.forbeslibrary.org) or on FaceBook

Questions? Contact: Deena at 413-320-2804 or Jody at [jody.kabloom@gmail.com](mailto:jody.kabloom@gmail.com)

## 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.

*Area residents interested in the learning more about the new Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library & Museum Standing Committee are encouraged to contact Julie Bartlett Nelson at [jbartlett@forbeslibrary.org](mailto:jbartlett@forbeslibrary.org) or 413-587-1014.*

(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.

## 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](mailto: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 27<sup>th</sup> 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!

# Women of Forbes

By Richard Szlozek

Each month during the year-long celebration of its 125<sup>th</sup> 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.



Cyanotype Image of early

Forbes Staff, ca. 1895-1905

---



---

## Summer Music at the Library

### Zikina: East African Folk

Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> 7 pm On the Lawn

Rain Date July 24<sup>th</sup>



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

July 10<sup>th</sup> 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.



Asst. Director Molly Moss  
And a patron draw the winners

## 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.

# Forbes Library: A Place for Everyone from Day One

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!

FORBES library  
**125** WORKING for the COMMON GOOD Since 1894

<https://forbeslibrary.org/store>

## 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.



# Hosmer Gallery

## June

**Paul Redstone** Photographs

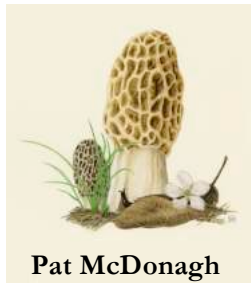
**Pat McDonagh** Botanical portraits

**Ken Kipen** Photographs

**H.E. Robbins** Wildflower photographs, handcolored prints



**Paul Redstone**



**Pat McDonagh**



**Ken Kipen**

## July

**Amherst Plein Air Society**

1890s-era photos, **Elbridge Kingsley**, broadsides



**Amherst Plein Air**



**H.E. Robbins**



**Katherine McClelland**

## August

**Tamar Shadur** Tapestries

**Katherine McClelland** Felted wool images

**Amy Putnam** Quilts

Large format posters and prints, maps



**Tamar Shadur**



**Amy Putnam**



**NHS Student photography**

## September

**Meadow Arts Programs** Children's art

**NHS Technology Department** Student photography

**Northampton schools** class photos, **Smith Voke**

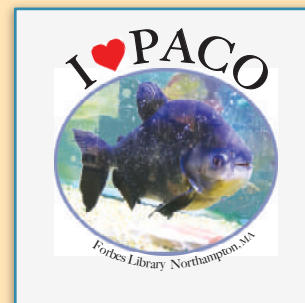
## October

**Northampton Arts Council** Biennial Juried Exhibition

## November

**Hilltown 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**.