

Forbes Library

Northampton's Public Library

Artisans Fair

On Sunday, October 1, under warm sunny skies, 44 vendors displayed their enticing hand-made creations at the second Friends of Forbes Artisans Fair. Pottery, jewelry, fabric bowls, ceramics, tie-dye, birdhouses and more tempted a steady stream of visitors. Each vendor also contributed a small item for a raffle. And a Special Raffle featured a fall food basket from Atlas Farm, gift certificates from Northampton Bicycle, original framed monoprints, a cozy alpaca throw and a stunning Janna Ugone lamp. The Holyoke Hummus Truck, Masa Mexicano and Crooked Stick Pops provided delicious eats to hungry fair goers and volunteers.

The Friends of Forbes thank our sponsors, artisans, food vendors and attendees for making our second fundraiser even more successful. Look for info about next year's fair on social media and the Forbes/Friends website.



Eight local businesses generously sponsored the event.

Gold level

PeoplesBank
West Branch Capital

Silver level

Doherty Wallace Pillsbury & Murphy
Whalen's Insurance

Bronze level

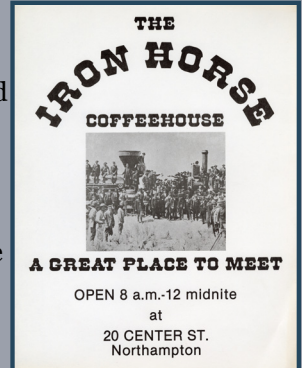
Attorney Laura Arbeitman,
Berkshire Design Group,
Cedar Chest
Connecticut Valley Oral Surgery Associates.
Northampton Rental Center

Iron Horse Coffee House & Music Hall Archives

Forbes Library is excited to announce the donation of the Iron Horse Coffee House & Music Hall Archives by Jordi Herold to the library's local history collection – preserving the history of the iconic venue and restaurant which stood at the heart of Northampton's 'cultural renaissance', and has been a music lovers paradise since its opening in 1979. By fortuitous timing, his donation coincides with the recent purchase of the Iron Horse by the Parlor Room, and a planned reopening in Spring 2024.

The Iron Horse Collection contains a range of materials collected by Jordi Herold over the course of 25+ years, covering the club's founding, the musicians, authors, and public figures who appeared there, and Herold's history booking concerts locally and throughout the region. It features extensive artist files on performers, as well as posters, photographs, menus, recordings, calendars, artwork, scrapbooks, correspondence, recipes, and business records.

Dlyan Gaffney, Forbes Library Local History Specialist, said, "The donation ensures music fans, researchers, and the public access to the invaluable historical materials for generations to come, and places documents from the nightclub alongside account books and business records in the archives dating back to the 1600s, and a growing collection of materials related to the arts and music scene in Western Massachusetts in the last 50 years. Our deepest thanks to Jordi Herold and his family for making this donation a reality and for preserving the history of the venue for the community. Funding provided by the Friends of Forbes has made it possible for the library to hire an experienced music archivist to arrange and describe the collection, and create a detailed finding aid to help the public discover the many treasures within."



Freedom for Support and Civility

On September 30 this year, library-loving adults, teens, and families dotted the Forbes lawn celebrating "Let Freedom Read," as part of a statewide read-in in support of open access to information and ideas.



The American Library Association reported that 2022 saw the highest number of attempted book bans in 20 years, nearly double the figures of 2021. In Massachusetts, attempts have quadrupled. ALA expects the 2023 numbers to be even higher, based on reports so far this year.

Forbes Library has endorsed the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' Joint Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Censorship <https://mblic.state.ma.us/censorship-freedom/joint-statement.php>, which affirms the efforts of libraries and library staff "to ensure free, equal, and open access to information, guaranteed to everyone regardless of age or citizenship status, under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution."

As of this writing, Massachusetts lawmakers are considering legislation to protect libraries in the state from book banning attempts.

The Trustees of Forbes Library and the standing committee of the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum have also endorsed a joint statement on the importance of civility in political discourse <https://www.bushcenter.org/publicationsreaffirming-americans-commitment-to-a-more-perfect-union>.

The statement was released by the George W. Bush Presidential Center and co-signed by the centers and foundations of thirteen presidents, representing both Democrats and Republicans - a historic first. It reads, in part, "As a diverse nation of people with different backgrounds and beliefs, democracy holds us together. We are a country rooted in the rule of law, where the protection of the rights of all people is paramount. At the same time, we live among our fellow citizens, underscoring the importance of compassion, tolerance, pluralism, and respect for others."



The Library's Strategic Plan

Forbes Library, a beloved cornerstone of the Northampton community, is thrilled to announce the launch of its comprehensive Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2027. This visionary plan charts an exciting course for the library to better serve the community and elevate its offerings.

Key Highlights of the Forbes Library Strategic Plan:

Community Partnerships: Forbes Library aims to strengthen collaborations with local organizations, recognizing the vital role of partnerships in addressing challenges such as social isolation, affordability, and the digital divide—issues exacerbated by the recent pandemic.

Community Well-being: The library is committed to enhancing community well-being, improving access to resources, supporting the city's climate goals, upgrading facilities for better accessibility, and bolstering staff support.

Enhanced Offerings: Forbes Library plans to enrich its offerings with the addition of a stage on the lawn, a new teen space, and a diverse range of non-book items in the circulating collection. The library will also expand its local history collection, with a focus on preserving resources related to significant cultural and political movements of the last 50 years.

Promotion and Outreach: Recognizing the need to highlight its valuable resources, Forbes Library will intensify promotion efforts to ensure the community is aware of new and existing offerings.

This ambitious Strategic Plan represents a significant achievement for Forbes Library. It wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of Katy Wight, Vice President of the Trustees of Forbes Library who chaired the committee, committee members, the leadership of Lisa Downing and Molly Moss, library staff, and the unwavering support of the Northampton community. Forbes Library looks forward to a future enriched by these community focused initiatives, further strengthening its position as a cherished community resource.

For more information, please visit <https://forbeslibrary.org/info/strategic-plan-2025-2027/> or contact director@forbeslibrary.org.

Coolidge Corner



The Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum is offering a new book club. The inspiration for the club, *Herstory: Women in American History*, came from some of the members of the museum's Presidential Book Club who expressed a desire to read more about the context of historical figures and to hear from and about the women involved in the building of our nation. Selections will include biographies of women interspersed with texts on significant periods in American history so that book club members can place the women in context and gain a fuller understanding of their challenges and achievements.

The first book in the series will be *Good Wives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England 1650-1750* by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich. A date in early January is still to be determined. Meetings will be held on Zoom. Every book club meeting will be free and open to the public. Participants are encouraged to read as much of the book as they can, but anyone is welcome to attend and take part in the discussion.

Welcome Priya Charry !



Priya is the new Head of Adult Services and will fit right in with the current cadre of stellar librarians at Forbes. Adult Services is a new position that grew out of the Reference position.

Priya describes adult services as being all things related to adults. For instance, questions like 'how do I get an appointment with the DMV' and 'how do I get an email address' are addressed. Adult services goes beyond providing help for people to find sources in the library to helping people to access community knowledge and resources. Priya wants people to know that if they don't know where to get help, they can start with the library.

Priya comes with a strong background of experience. She completed a MSLIS at Simmons College (now Simmons University) in Boston in 2016. She then worked in part-time positions in the Boston public library system and at Harvard University. She subsequently received a fellowship from the American India Foundation; the purpose of the fellowship is to match candidates with fledgling non-profit agencies to assist with growth. Priya was in Hyderabad, a city in south-central India, for about 10 months working with youth with different disabilities, assisting the youth to find jobs. A side project was working with artists with disabilities to help gain gallery access. Following this fellowship, she worked in the Kitsap, Washington county library system as an adult services librarian for about 5 years. The Head of Adult Services at Forbes is the perfect next step!

Priya's experience is clearly valuable in preparing her for this position but it's her vision that is particularly impressive. She is working on ways to increase and enhance community partnerships like the Senior Center and people in subsidized housing neighborhoods. She asks, 'what can Forbes do to broaden access for people who typically don't visit the library'. She wants to identify the barriers that prevent people from coming to the library and find out what the community needs and wants that the library can provide. This will involve working with her colleagues within Forbes, as well as partnering with community organizations, to collaboratively develop new programs and services.

Priya grew up in Connecticut and is happy to be back in the northeast. She and her partner took 10 days to drive from Washington state, visiting friends and family along the way. Her partner, Vadim, has started a PhD in Public Health at UMass. He previously worked in refugee outreach in Washington. They are excited to be in the Northampton region and have spent time exploring the area and checking out local restaurants. In her spare time, Priya is a distance runner and cyclist and enjoys board games, reading, watching movies, and listening to music.

Hosmer Gallery Schedule

January 2024

Forbes Library staff art show--Various media

February 2024

Dora Dylanne Reyes & Don Carter
Birds & desserts

Lori Lynn Hoffer
Oil paintings

March 2024

Laurel Rogers
Paper/Book arts

Steve Levin
Copper collage

Lee Thomson
Topographical textiles

April 2024

Donna M Roy
Pastels

Amy Dawn Kotel
Watercolor/colored pencil

Arch MacInnes
Monotypes

May 2024

JFK Middle School
Student art exhibition

June 2024

Stan Sherer
Retrospective (photography)

NEW FACES ON THE FRIENDS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of the Friends is very happy to announce two new members, Elle Longpre and Suzy Campos. Elle came to us last spring, and we welcomed Suzy at the beginning of September. These are their stories:

A published author whose work experiments with book arts and technology, Elle Longpre (she/they) has a commitment to libraries that is personal as well as professional. Volunteering at their public library in high school, Elle has long esteemed the role that libraries play in community-building – as inclusive, truly democratic spaces. Elle worked for six years as Circulation Associate at Neilson Library (Smith), where she also served on the Campus Copyright Committee, and chaired the Libraries Staff Association. Elle earned their MFA and PhD in English and Creative Writing in Colorado while working in a bookstore, teaching as an adjunct and assistant professor, and tutoring in university writing centers. Throughout her higher ed and professional career Elle has continued volunteering and serving as a community grassroots organizer. She is currently working as an editorial assistant and grant writer at the journal *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*. They are absolutely thrilled to be working with the Friends.



Elle Longpre

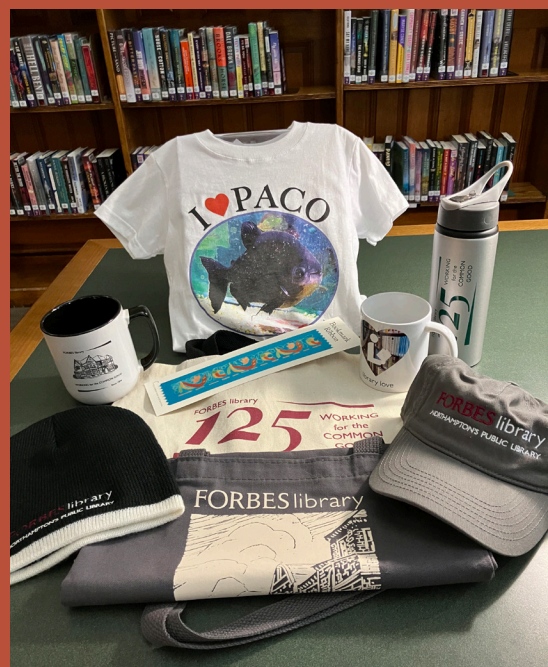
Suzy Campos

After earning a degree in Library Studies from the University of Michigan, Suzy Campos served in the Peace Corps at an academic library in Meknes, Morocco. Returning to the states she worked in the Chicago Public Library system and as a corporate librarian for several consulting firms. Now working in development at Amherst College, Suzy is thrilled to return to her public library roots by joining the Friends board. She is a volunteer and past president of the New England Development Research Association and an annual participant in Monte's March for the Food Bank. She also loves hiking, cold-plunging, skiing, trying to meditate regularly, and – of course! – reading. Currently enjoying *History of a Difficult Child* by Mihret Sibhat.

Welcome, Elle and Suzy!!

Shop at Forbes !

Looking for a holiday gift? Look no further than Forbes Library. We have mugs, tote bags, hats and more. And don't forget your Paco t-shirt! These come in sizes for children and adults. These items are available year-round and make great birthday and graduation gifts.



Library of Things

The Forbes **Library of Things** is growing! These items can be found in the Reference Room and are available to borrow for three weeks at a time. Here are some of the newest additions to the collection:

Fiber Arts:

- Skein winder/umbrella swift: A lightweight compact metal swift for reeling off lightweight yarns and winding most threads and yarns.
- Wool winder: Makes center-pull yarn balls up to 4oz.

Household Tools:

- Spirit Level: An instrument designed to indicate whether a surface is horizontal (level) or vertical (plumb).
- Toolkit: Contains scissors, hammer, measuring tape, multiple screwdrivers and bits, level, utility blade, pliers, and hex keys.

Games (containing all necessary equipment within a carrying case, plus instructions):

- Mexican Train Dominoes
- American Mahjong
- Disc Golf
- Pickleball

We also have a large collection of board games and puzzles, which you can find and check out in the Reference Room.

For musical instruments and related equipment, visit the Sibling collection in the Arts & Music Department. Many of these materials are entered in the catalog with the series [*Northampton Library of Things*](#).

***Do you have an idea for a Thing to add to our collection?
Share it with a staff member!***



Disc Golf



Toolkit

Scenes from the Artisans Fair

