



FORBES library

NORTHAMPTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

Coming Events

January 11

Celebration of Local Novelists

Jacqueline Sheehan – author of
The Center of the World

M.B. Caschetta – author of
Pretend I'm Your Friend

Jendi Reiter – author of
Two Natures

Zane Kotker – author of
Goodnight, Ladies

February 1

Literature and Poetry of Brazil

**Pamela Petro and
Marguerite Harrison** –
artists/writers of
In Two Voices series

Malcolm McNee – author
of *The Environmental Imaginary
in Brazilian Poetry and Art*

Ellen Doré Watson –
translator of *Ex-Voto*
by Adélia Prado

(Continued on page 2)



Wine Tasting 2016






On a wet, windy Friday evening at the end of September, Forbes Library was alight and alive with conversation, music, and the sound of clinking glasses for the Sixth Annual Wine Tasting benefit organized by the Friends of Forbes. White tablecloths and dozens of floral bouquets scattered about the rooms added to the festive, elegant atmosphere. With a live jazz combo on the mezzanine, hundreds of guests mingled and chatted while sampling the extraordinary variety of food and wine. Nineteen guests were the lucky winners of gift cards from area restaurants and bottles of wine that were raffled off. Major sponsors, in addition to the Friends of Forbes Library, were Liquors 44, Whalen Insurance, PeoplesBank and Northampton Rentals. All net proceeds go to benefit Forbes Library.



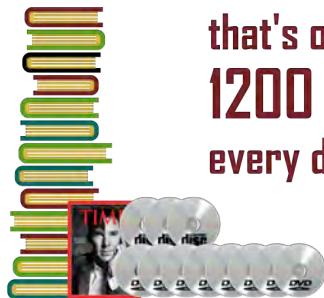
Each Day at Forbes Library (A Forbes Library Snapshot)

 **820** people **visit** the library, and **108** attend library programs

 **108** of them use the library's **computers**  **60** of them use the library's **wifi**

   some of them **volunteer** (21 volunteer hours each day)  they ask **192** questions which are **answered** by library staff 

together they **borrow**
680 books
40 e-books
38 magazines,
348 DVDs
 and **142** CDs



that's over **1200** items every day 

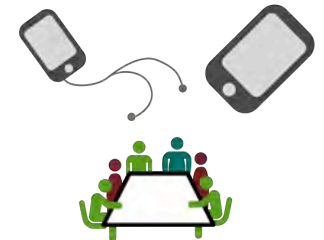
Forbes Library has:

 **16261** registered borrowers

 **366,345** items books, magazines, newspapers, CDs, DVDs, e-books, museum passes, ukuleles, and more



174,052 digital titles including e-books and downloadable audio



three **meeting rooms** used over **1685** times in the last year

statistics from FY 2016

Coming Events (continued)

March 1

Identity, Nature, and the Environment

Lauret Savoy – author of *Trace*

Mistinguette Smith – executive director of *The Black Land Project*

Naila Moreira – Forbes Library writer in residence

New Service at Forbes

Get a Document Notarized

Library staff members who have been appointed as notaries public by the Secretary of the Commonwealth are available to perform brief notarial services, free of charge, during most library hours. To confirm that a notary public will be available when you visit the library, please call (413) 587-1012. The library provides notary service free of charge, but donations are appreciated.

Our notaries are not attorneys and have no authority to give advice on immigration or other legal matters.

Forbes Receives Access Award

Forbes Library received a 2016 Paul Winske Access Award from Stavros in recognition of the improvements the library has made to accessibility for people with disabilities. In 2015 Forbes installed a new elevator to provide safe and reliable access into the building. The library was also commended for providing accessible formats such as large print and Braille materials, audio books and videos with audio adaptations. The Friends of Forbes contributed funds for these materials. In the Stavros Access Awards program Forbes is praised, "Just as exciting are the many new assistive technology devices and software applications: magnifying glasses along with a desktop magnifier and screen magnification software, screen reader software, and listening systems at service desks. The folks at Forbes have gone all out!"



Children's Room Mural

For years, children's librarian Jude McGowan wanted to make the stairway down to the children's department from the lobby more welcoming and inviting to youngsters. Last February she asked friend Jarrett Krosoczka if he would consider donating time to paint a cheerful mural on the stairway. Jarrett, a local children's book author and artist, accepted the challenge but said it would have to wait until 2017, after he fulfilled some other artistic and personal commitments. However, when he heard that Jude was going to retire in the fall of 2016 he stepped up and made a goal of completing the mural by the time she left the job she has held for 28 years. According to Jude, he was painting until her last day of work in October.

On November 5th a grand ribbon cutting ceremony was held in the lobby at the top of the staircase. Jarrett read one of his books, *Ollie the Purple Elephant*, to dozens of children and adult revelers. Then he cut the ribbon inviting everyone to follow him down the steps, asking children to participate in the mural project by painting a flower on the spacious lawn in front of the artist's replication of the Forbes at the bottom of the stairs. Cookies, grapes, crackers and books were part of the celebration. Jarrett graciously autographed books that families purchased from The Broadside Bookshop.

The mural spotlights the beautiful diversity and architecture of the city, depicting happy children making their way by familiar Northampton buildings on their way to the library. And Krosoczka added another layer to the mural. Observers will find that in many of the building windows the artist inserted texts and artwork by authors and illustrators from the area, infusing some of the rich history of our community's local children's book creators into his design.

"I hope it will inspire readers for generations to come," a very proud and excited Jarrett said of the mural. As for Jude McGowan, she has now retired but leaves with a wish fulfilled and a legacy to the library she served and to the children of Northampton.

Join the Community Read

Orange is the New Black by Piper Kerman will be our 2017 community reading selection. Forbes Library will be joining the libraries in Holyoke, Easthampton, Southampton and Westhampton to present a series of discussions, lectures and film screenings during March and April. The kick-off event will be held at Forbes on Wednesday, December 7 at 7 PM with a forum on "Writing From and About Prison" featuring Lois Ahrens – creator of Real Cost of Prison Project and Real Cost of Prison Comix; Moana Rawlings – program director, Women's Treatment Program, Gandara Center; Kempis "Ghani" Songster – activist and poet (read by Michael Lewis); and Revan Schendler – journalist.

Orange is the New Black is written by a Smith alumna who served 13 months of a 15 month sentence for money laundering and drug trafficking. Her memoir is the inspiration for a popular Netflix series by the same title. The book will be the launching pad for exploring the criminal justice system in our country and specifically the experience of incarcerated women.

Forbes Library in collaboration with Historic Northampton will be hosting a traveling exhibit called "States of Incarceration" as part of this endeavor. Created by over 500 people in 17 states, this interactive, nationally traveling exhibit by the Humanities Action Lab explores the past, present, and future of incarceration, including experiences of incarceration here in western Massachusetts. The exhibit will be at Forbes from March 13-30 at Forbes Library with a satellite component at Historic Northampton (46 Bridge St).

Support for this program is provided in part by the Friends of Forbes Library with special support for the exhibit by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Welcome to our new Director

Lisa Downing Selected as the Future Leader of Forbes

The Forbes Library is pleased to announce the hiring of a new Director. At a public meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2016, the Trustees selected Lisa Downing, currently Assistant Director/ Patron Services Librarian at Forbes Library, as the new Director. Lisa accepted the position and will be starting on January 1, 2017.

Lisa will replace retiring director, Janet Moulding, who will be retiring at the end of December after seven years in her position. Lisa beat out three other finalists during the interview process, which was open to the public. The Friends of Forbes Library wish Janet well as she embarks on her next journey and look forward to working with Lisa as she leads the way continuing the excellent work that the Forbes Library does for the local community.

The Friends Welcome Two New Board Members



Jacquie Fraser

Jacquie Fraser has been a library patron wherever she has lived, making it a priority to register at the library each time she moved to a new town. She describes Forbes Library as her second home. She has worked in public health for many years and is currently teaching public health at the graduate level. Joining the board of the Friends of Forbes Library is an important new endeavor for her, and she is excited to work with us.



Nicole Sibley

Nicole Sibley started coming to Forbes almost 10 years ago and was immediately impressed by the wonderful staff, resources, and beautiful building. Having worked in higher education fund-raising for almost a decade, she is currently a reporting manager for the Amherst College Advancement Office. She is also in her final year of graduate study at Simmons College School of Library and Information Science and will receive her master's degree in May of 2017. She is honored and excited to join the board of the Friends of Forbes Library.

Painting Returns

The oil painting, *Orpheus and Eurydice*, which was damaged in the fire in 2014 has been restored and returned to its place on the first landing of the staircase. The Williamstown Conservation Center restored the painting to its original glory.



The painting is a classical landscape. It is unsigned and undated, in the style of the Franco/Italian School 18th Century. It was a gift of Julia and Rosa Watson in 1926.

Staff Changes

After 28 years at Forbes Library, Jude McGowan retired as Head of the Children's Department on October 7. Jude says she is looking forward to retirement and spending time with her new puppy.

The treasurer for the Board of Trustees, Scott Morin, also left in October. Scott, who worked for Smith College and The Clarke School, left to take the Controller position at Salem Academy and College in Winston-Salem, NC.

Searches for replacements for both Jude and Scott should wrap up before the end of the year.



Are you a Florence Bank customer?
 You can help Forbes win a Customer's Choice Community Grant from Florence Bank with a simple vote by December 31!

Florence Bank is donating \$100,000 to local non-profit organizations with their Annual Customers' Choice Community Grants Program, and you decide who gets the money! Be sure to vote before December 31st to make your vote count.

It's Easy !

You can go to the Florence Bank Customer's Choice web page and type Friends of Forbes and Northampton in the organization and city fields. Enter your name and email address, click the "count my vote" button and that's it! Your vote will help us win a grant from Florence Bank. It's just that simple!

OR

Stop by the Bank or the Library and fill out the Ballot there.

Thank you for your vote!

Hosmer Gallery

December 2016



Photographs by Paul Hetzel



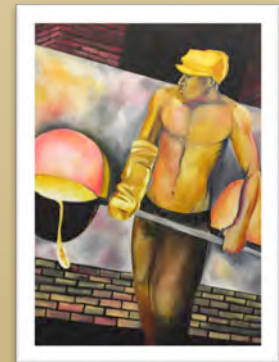
Paintings by David Skillicorn

January 2017

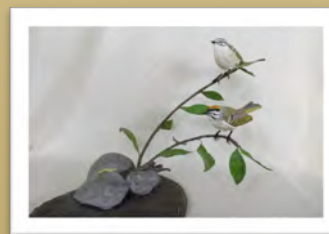
Oil Paintings



Miriam Wells



Patricia Dorr Parker



Bird sculptures

by Janice Doppler

February 2017

Northampton Senior Center Photography Group

Be a Friend of Forbes

Help Support Forbes Library by becoming a member today!
 Pick up an envelope on the circulation desk or use the PayPal button on our web page <http://forbeslibrary.org/friends/support/> to send in your membership for 2017.

New Banners for the Front of the Library

We will soon see new banners outside the library, displaying the many services available at Forbes.

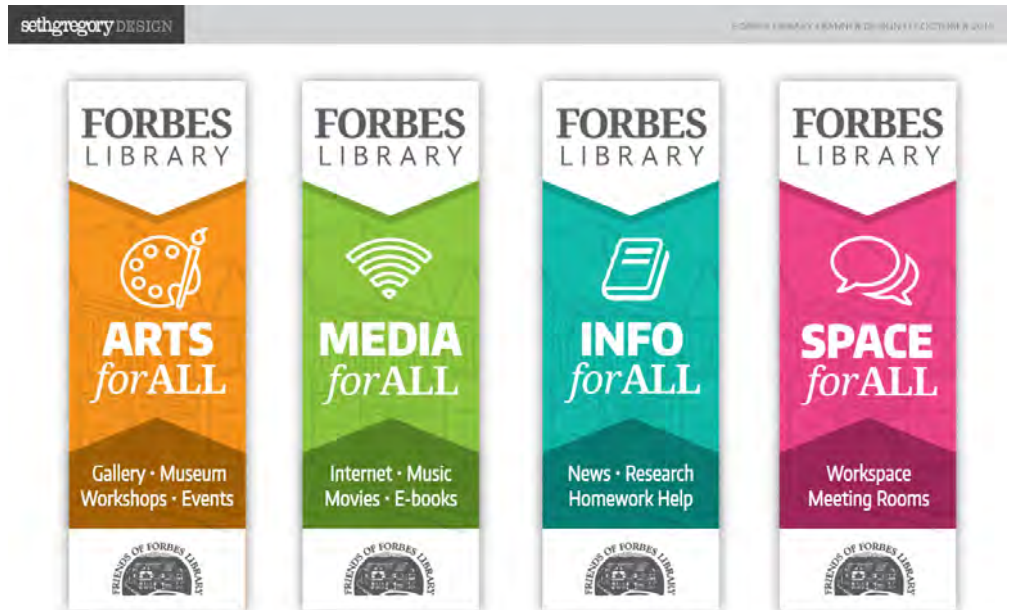
A few years ago, as new strategic plans were written, the decision was made that we needed to raise the Forbes Library public profile. At the time, the outside of the building had yet to be cleaned making the letters on the building hard to read. Many people when coming upon the library assumed it was part of Smith College or in any case not the public library in Northampton.

Inspired by Historic Northampton, the library decided it needed a campus-like setting. Pillars were installed near the road with the library name, the building exterior was cleaned making the carved letters in the stone of "Forbes Library" stand out, and banners to define the library better were hung. In old pictures, we can see that bunting was sometimes displayed on the building, but this was the first time banners were used on the grounds.

After a few years those banners had faded and seemed out of date. The designs were put out to bid. When the designers were asked to replace the current banners, they responded "what banners?" reflecting the less than optimal impact they had. The new design would need a feeling of "that was unexpected!" while enhancing the look of the building from the street and broadcasting the message to passersby that Forbes is here with many services.

One of the goals was to appeal to technologically savvy patrons and younger users, so icons similar to ones found on smart phones were used to visually depict the services the library provides. Since Forbes owns the design in multiple formats, they may be used in the future for bookmarks or brochures.

Seth Gregory's design was chosen and approved on Nov 10. Production and installation of the banners will begin soon.



Cookies with the Curator

The last cookies with the curator for this year will be December 15 at 2:00 with Faith Kaufmann giving a tour of the Forbes Library art collection.

On January 19 Elise Bernier-Feely will begin the 2017 series with “ The Autograph Book: the stories behind the autographs

