



# FORBES library

NORTHAMPTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join the Friends  
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## *Moving Memories Lab*



Forbes staff members from left Dylan Gaffney, Callie Siehl, Heather Diaz and David Newland from Northampton Open Media at the Oral History Crash Course offered by the University of Massachusetts Memories Lab

Forbes Library was awarded the Accelerating Promising Practices for Small and Rural Libraries grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop the Moving Memories Lab, which will allow community members to record and preserve their stories, photos and other memories.

In the first year of the grant funding, we will focus on staff training, building technical expertise and institutional capacity for the library and our community partners as we add new digitization equipment to the library's collection for internal and public use. In the second year of the grant, we will bring our enriched digitization tools and expertise to our community, hosting programming on preserving personal documents, creating oral history recordings, and other topics supported by our newly added equipment.

The Moving Memories Lab represents Forbes Library's commitment to curating a local history collection that reflects the complexity of our community, increasing access and understanding of digitization technology, and collaborating with our partner organizations to strengthen and sustain local history work in the Pioneer Valley.

## Treasured Trustee

On October 24<sup>th</sup> Russ Carrier, Chairman of the library's Board of Trustees, was honored at a surprise party. Having just completed the monthly meeting of the board, Russ was called into the library's reading room to be celebrated as the longest serving board member in the library's history, having joined the board in January 1982. As of October, he had served 37 years and 9 months on the job, surpassing Mr. Haynes H. Chilson, who served from May 1898 to December 1935, 37 years, 7 months. Library Director Lisa Downing spoke to Russ's unwavering dedication to the library, outlining some of his many accomplishments. Mayor David Narkewicz was among other speakers.

To mark this milestone the library is planting a Valley Forge Elm on the green at the rear of the parking lot, accompanied by a bronze plaque honoring Russ.



From left: Trustees Marjorie Hess and Katy Wight, and Elaine Reall, Chairman Russ Carrier and Trustee Joe Twarog

# Wine Tasting



On a typically lovely evening at the end of September the doors of the library opened wide to welcome guests to the Friends of Forbes's ninth annual Wine Tasting fundraiser. The crowd was in high spirits, the library decorated with flowers from Garden Tour committee members, live music in the air, and an

irresistible variety of food and wine to please all palates. Thanks to so many generous donors, the event also featured a raffle of gift cards from some of the valley's most popular restaurants, and a silent auction of items ranging from objets d'art and crafts to a game of golf and a massage. The Friends are very grateful to all our sponsors and donors for helping us produce this very successful and enjoyable fundraiser.



## THANK YOU

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- Wohl Family Dentistry

## Free Money for the Friends of Forbes

Are you a Florence Bank customer? You can help the Friends of Forbes win a Customer's Choice Community Grant from Florence Bank with a simple vote by

**December 31<sup>st</sup> !**

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! Go to the Florence Bank Customer's Choice page 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 a grant from Florence Bank. It's just that simple!



**Thank you for your vote!**



# It's All About the Process...Art!

Have you seen the term “process art” popping up in discussions about activities for kids, and even adults? Are you curious about what it might mean? Fittingly enough, curiosity is the whole point!

Process art refers to a type of creative art-making that's centered on the journey, rather than the end result. Children's librarians have long worked to incorporate artistic elements into events for kids and teens, and process art is a natural fit for library programming. Over the past several decades, libraries have evolved into spaces that preserve play, movement, and creativity for kids, teens, and adults alike, and process art nurtures that open-ended expression. In fact, libraries fulfill a special need when they support those creative impulses in preschool-aged children, since school environments don't always have the flexibility to provide many opportunities for free, unstructured play.

About a year and a half ago, the Children's and YA Department began offering Preschool Storytime Explorers, a program that combines storytime and process art. We've had so much fun delving into art at a different angle. For example, recent projects have included painting with toy cars and marbles, or leaving play dirt out with an open invitation to plant flowers, or create a whole new world. At first, it was

intimidating to set up materials and discuss ideas without step-by-step instructions, or examples of a finished product, but we soon realized that many amazing results were coming out of the space that we'd left open for experimentation. Taking away rigid expectations meant that kids (and adults) could play! What a concept! Rather than looking around at each other's work, comparing theirs to others, and fretting over whether they were doing things “right,” kids were joyfully experimenting with the materials, trying things out and laughing about it with their caregivers. This philosophy, which at first seemed unstructured and scary, was actually exciting and fulfilling. During every storytime, we almost always learn something new, and get to witness children create something wonderfully individual and unexpected.

Three to five year olds and their caregivers are welcome to join us at Preschool Storytime Explorers, on Tuesdays at 1:30, in the Community Room!



## T-Shirts



**Paco T-Shirts are  
Back in Stock !**

**Just in time for the  
Holidays  
Available December 1<sup>st</sup>**



## The Coolidge Committee's First Annual Meeting

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Standing Committee of the Coolidge Presidential Museum held its first annual public meeting in Forbes Library. There was a short committee business meeting which featured a report from William Scher, vice-president, that detailed the group's activities over the past year and their plans for the future. Russell Carrier, who doubles as an ex-officio member of the board and head of the nominating sub-committee, concluded the business portion by announcing the slate of officers for 2020. All the nominees were unanimously elected by the committee members in attendance. The officers for 2020 are president, J.R. Greene; vice-president, William Scher; and secretary, Lisa Downing.

The guest of honor, historian David Pietrusza, was then introduced, and he delivered a well-received talk based on his book, "1920 – The Year of the Six Presidents". Pietrusza related a story about the nomination of Governor Coolidge. After he was informed of his nomination, Coolidge put down the phone and told his wife, Grace, "They want me to be vice-president". Grace reportedly asked, "You aren't going to accept, are you?" Coolidge's laconic reply was, "Expect I'll have to". Pietrusza told that story with a touch of humor that elicited laughter from the crowd. He graciously took questions from the audience after his talk and mingled with the crowd both before and after his presentation.

At the conclusion of the program a reception was held in the Hosmer Gallery that featured cookies based on a Grace Coolidge recipe and cheese that was produced in the same cheese factory once owned by John Coolidge.

In true Coolidge fashion, the first annual meeting was a quiet success that promises to become a winning tradition at Forbes.

## *Pollinator Plantings*



Forbes added pollinator friendly plants to the grounds with the help of some young gardeners from the library's Preschool Storytime Explorers and the Western MA Pollinator Networks. Heather Cupo of Plant Euphoria in collaboration with Owen Wormser from Local Harmony chose mostly native plants for the garden that will provide habitat and food for pollinators.

## Friends Join with UMass Campaign

The Friends of Forbes Library is a participant this year in the University of Massachusetts Amherst Community Campaign. The campaign targets UMass employees and retirees, who can donate to more than 400 organizations by payroll deduction. The co-chairs of this year's efforts are Prof. Barbara Krauthamer and Coach Greg Carvel of the UMass Men's Hockey Team. They hope to foster a community spirit of giving. The goal for this year is \$450,000 in contributions. Charities receive 91% of donations directed to it, while the Campaign Fiscal Administrator, the United Way of Hampshire County (UWHC) receives 9%.

The Friends had a table at the Campaign kickoff event in the University's Old Chapel on October 22 along with 40 other groups. Donors met and talked with representatives of the organizations and enjoyed free gelato and music and dance performances. The Friends' representative spoke with about 40 people about Forbes and what the library does for the community. We made new connections, and we expect new donors from this event. UMass Amherst employees and retirees can donate through UMACC by going to <https://www.umass.edu/umacc/> and signing up.



Coach Carvel and Barbara Krauthamer

## Library Windows Restored

All of the library's 150+ original windows have been restored, a process that began in May and is just wrapping up. The work involved removing the windows temporarily to be refurbished off site, followed by re-sealing them along with the empty air cavities behind the frames. All of the woodwork was restored and repainted.

The project was funded by a combination of capital funds from the City of Northampton and \$100,000 in Community Preservation Act funds with a total cost for the project of \$587,041. Jones Whitsett Architects oversaw the project and Renaissance Builders was the general contractor.

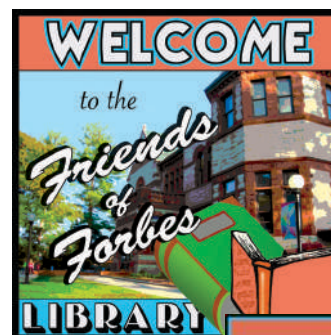
Exterior work on the library was started in 2005 as an ambitious plan to completely secure the building envelope. Two of the Forbes Library building's four elevations were cleaned, repaired, and repointed in city-funded projects completed in 2006. With a substantial investment of \$1,000,000 in Community Preservation Funds the two remaining elevations and the roof were repaired and rebuilt in 2009. Repairing the original windows will secure the building envelope and protect the invaluable collections inside, while preserving the historic character of this important building."

## Become a Friend

Help Support Forbes Library  
by becoming a member of the **Friends**  
Visit our website at [forbeslibrary.org/friends](http://forbeslibrary.org/friends)  
and use the PayPal button

or

pick up an envelope at the circulation desk



### Our Projects Include :

Programming for children, teens & adults

Technology upgrades

Support for the Book and Media Fund

Building repair and renovation



# Hosmer Gallery

## December 3-30

### Paintings

by Cin Kunz,  
Tisha Ferguson.  
Alice Thomas.



Alice Thomas



Tisha Ferguson.



Cin Kunz,

## January 8- February 4

### Photographs

Marty Espinola,  
**Metal sculptures**  
Jon Bander



Marty Espinola



Jon Bander

## February 7- March 5

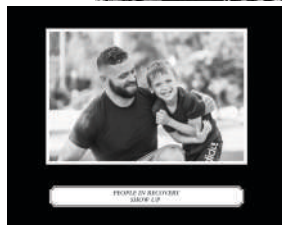
### Photographs

Jesse Merrick  
Kay Canavino  
**Project Redemption**  
**Photographs**  
L. Loisel / V. Patty

Jesse Merrick



Kay Canavino



L. Loisel / V. Patty

## March 9-April 3

**Paintings** Susan Valentine  
**Photographs** Christopher Curtis  
**Clay sculpture** Immer Mowry Cook



Immer Mowry Cook



Susan Valentine



Christopher Curtis

## April 6-May 4

**Paintings** Ben Hotchkiss  
**Embroidery** Bonnie Sennott  
**Drawings** Garrett Yahn



Ben Hotchkiss



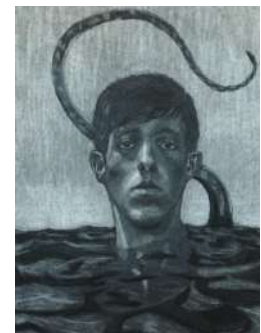
Bonnie Sennott



Garrett Yahn

## May 7-30

**Northampton High**  
**School Student Show.**



Paul Eriksen