



FORBES library

NORTHAMPTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join the Friends

Garden Tour Postponed until June 2021



Thank You and best wishes to all our volunteers, sponsors, raffle donors, gardeners, supporters and tour attendees.
Stay safe and healthy.

Please consider making a donation to support of Forbes Library and their services

Sadly, the Friends of Forbes Annual Northampton Garden Tour Committee has postponed this year's fundraiser to next June due to the constraints of Covid19Virus prevention. We are looking forward to sharing these special gardens next year –they offer a unique blend of small urban spaces, permaculture strategies, natural habitats and larger scenic gardens. Next year, we will also raffle the fabulous quilt designed and pieced by Julie Zuckman and custom machine quilted by Doryne Pederzani-Dineen.

We appreciate the support of our 2020 tour sponsors:

Silver/Lily - C.L. Frank & Co. A Division of Bartlett Tree Experts

Bronze/Daisy - Baystate Perennial Farm, Cotton Tree Service, Inc., Goggins Real Estate, Greenfield/Northampton Cooperative Bank, Greenfield Savings Bank, Finck & Perras Insurance, The Murphys Realtors, Inc., Ostberg & Associates, RiseLine Wealth Planning, River Valley Market, The Conway School of Landscape Design, Valley Home Improvement, Webber & Grinnell Insurance, and Wright Builders.

And thanks to our raffle donors and ticket outlets: Andrew's Greenhouse in Amherst, Bear Path Farm, Cooper's Corner, Cornucopia Natural Wellness Market, Betsy Feick Photography, Gardener's Supply Company at Hadley Garden Center, Hilltown Tree and Garden, Alexandra Sprague, State Street Fruit Store, Thorne's Market Place, and Webster's Fish Hook. May the summer provide many occasions to garden and read. **Hope to see you next year! The Friends of Forbes Library Garden Tour Committee:** Julie Abramson, Phyllis Cove, Kendra Dahlquist, Ginnie Duryee, Betsy Feick, Lyn Heady, Christopher Hurn, Sherry McKenney, JoEllen MacKenzie, Susan Rogers, Jody Rosenbloom, Deena Sarvet, and Betty Schlerman.

Interveiw with Doreen LaFond, longtime Forbes Patron



How long have you been a patron of Forbes? A little over 80 years. I'm 85 and a half and I believe I was 4 or 5 when my mother started taking me to Forbes.

What is your earliest memory of Forbes? I developed a love of the library and my love for reading because my mother read to us every night at bedtime and I would choose whatever I wanted in that children's department and that was a wonderful thing and it *is* a wonderful thing. The children's room at that time was up on the second floor.

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The Right to Vote: Past, Present, Future

This series of programs is going virtual! The first will take place in June via Zoom; the date will be announced soon!

On this 100th anniversary of the year U.S. women gained the right to vote, Forbes Library is presenting a series of scholar-led public discussions about voting in America. Forbes Library received support for the event series through "The Vote: A Statewide Conversation About Voting Rights," a special initiative of Mass Humanities that includes organizations around the state.

The Right to Vote: Past, Present, Future is a series of four events, each starting with a presentation by a panel of speakers, followed by open group discussion.

Women's Suffrage The first event in the series will engage with the women's suffrage movement, from 1848-1920. We'll explore aspects of the history of the movement that led to the 19th amendment, such as alliances across race and class, and attitudes toward immigrants.

Four speakers will present historical context and guide discussion:

- Kathleen Banks Nutter, PhD, independent scholar, teacher and author in Women's History
- Stephen Kenney, PhD, director of the Commonwealth Museum
- Freddie Kay, founder of Suffrage100MA
- Elizabeth Sharpe, Co-Executive Director of Historic Northampton

Additional events in the series will be scheduled later this year:

The Civil Rights Movement

Current Barriers to Voting

The Youth Vote

All events are free and open to the public. Details can be found at <https://forbeslibrary.org/right-to-vote/>. This program is funded in part by Mass Humanities, which receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Northampton's Notification Day 1920

When Calvin Coolidge learned he was the Vice Presidential candidate



Digital resources available 24/7 from Forbes

Whether our building is open or closed, library card holders always have access to eBooks via the Overdrive or Libby app, streaming video on Kanopy, and a range of databases like Consumer Reports.

For links to these resources and more, check out:

<https://forbeslibrary.org/readers/digital-books-and-media/>

Need a library card? You can sign up online!

<http://forbeslibrary.org/help/apply-for-a-library-card-online-2/>

Become a Friend

Help Support Forbes Library by becoming a member today!

Use the PayPal button on our web page <http://forbeslibrary.org/friends/support/> to send in your membership for 2020.

Marie Hershkowitz Memorial Children's Book Fund

Trustees of Forbes Library have established the Marie Hershkowitz Memorial Children's Book Fund in honor of a beloved Bridge Street School teacher. The fund was established with a gift of \$50,000 from Dr. Melvin Hershkowitz, Marie's father.

Forbes Library's children's department is a crucial community resource that supports early literacy and a lifelong love of learning and libraries for the kids, families, and teachers in our community. This year, as part of a state mandate, Forbes Library will spend \$20,300 on books and other materials necessary to meet the needs of kids and teens. Despite book budget cuts, circulation in our Children's & Young Adult Department grew by 15% last year, totaling almost 100,000 items. Part of this growth was a result of our expanded outreach to schools and other organizations that serve youth in our community.

Most of the library's book funds were established early in the library's 125-year history, and interest from these funds—along with donations and grants—are the sole source of funding for our children's book budget. Unfortunately, these funds are not keeping pace with spending increases. "A community of our size deserves a well-funded children's department. We are seeking ways to improve sustainability for our annual book budget, and that's why we are so grateful for the establishment of this new fund. With proper funding, we won't have to worry about the future of our children's book budget," said Russell Carrier, President of the Forbes Library Board of Trustees.

The trustees plan to grow the fund to \$100,000 over the next few years. "We are so humbled to be able to memorialize Ms. Hershkowitz. This fund will allow us to purchase about 90 children's books from the interest of the fund in the first year and this number will continue to grow as the fund grows," said Lisa Downing, Library Director. Books purchased with the fund will be identified with a book plate bearing the name Marie Hershkowitz Memorial Children's Book Fund along with a line drawing of a greyhound, one of Marie's favorite animals.

Wine Tasting 2020 Cancelled



In mid March the Friends of Forbes Library Board made the difficult decision to cancel our annual wine tasting scheduled for September. This would have been the tenth anniversary of this fundraising event to support the library. Over the years the event has grown and gained the support of the community. The major planning for this event is done in the spring. We contact our regular sponsors and potential new sponsors, and we ask local restaurants to donate food for the event and gift cards for our raffles. We ask local businesses and artists to donate items for our silent auction. Our sponsors, Liquors 44, businesses and restaurants commit to us early in the year for an event which takes place in the fall. As we discussed our options in early March, many restaurants and businesses were closing. Aside from the most important concern about the safety of holding a large group gathering, there was too much uncertainty about the continued impact of the health and economic crisis on the people we count on to move forward.

The Annual Wine Tasting and the Annual Garden Tour are our biggest fundraisers, and cancelling both presents challenges for fundraising this year. We are grateful for the past support of so many sponsors, businesses and restaurants who worked with us and made this event such a success. We will work hard to find other ways to support the library this year, and we wish everyone well. We look forward to next year and hope you will join us at both events.



WELCOME Madison Bishop New Children's and YA Librarian

Madison is thrilled to join Forbes Library as the new Children's and YA Librarian! She was previously the Head of Youth Services at the Plymouth Public Library in Plymouth, MA, where she oversaw new toddler programs like Art Explorers and Afternoon Storytime, helped redesign the library's Teen Space, and increased the programs and materials available for tweens and teens. One of Madison's favorite parts of being a librarian is leading art programs with kids of all ages, whether it be a writing workshop, drawing group, or just getting messy with some finger paint. She can't wait to get to know Forbes Library patrons and introduce them to their next favorite book!

Forbes Staff Picks

forbeslibrary.org/staff_picks/

Forbes Library staff have been sharing their staff picks online for decades, but for the first time we are now including some of our favorite online resources, from podcasts, to games, to streaming movies. Visit forbeslibrary.org/staff_picks/ to check out these online resources selected by Forbes Library staff!

Library Giving Day

Thank you to everyone who made a gift to Forbes Library on April 23 for Library Giving Day. Your continued support during these uncertain times is appreciated by all of the library staff and the Friends.

75 library lovers gave a total of \$5,070 to support Forbes Library for Library Giving Day. In appreciation, the **Friends of Forbes** have doubled it all, for a total of \$10,140! 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 be put to work in the support of the most critical needs for the patrons in our community. Thank you for showing your library love on Library Giving Day!

Lisa
Tiny Desk Concerts from NPR Music
...something for all musical tastes to tide you over until you can get out to your next live performance.

https://forbeslibrary.org/staff_pick_reviewers/lisa/

Sarah
The Art of Manliness Podcast
The Art of Manliness's subject matter is delightfully unique and often offers a perspective you don't hear anywhere else.

https://forbeslibrary.org/staff_pick_reviewers/sarah/

Ben
Take Me to the World: A Sondheim 90th Birthday Celebration
The performances are entertaining and moving and heartfelt, and of course the music and lyrics is superb.

https://forbeslibrary.org/staff_pick_reviewers/ben/

Rachael
Stuff You Should Know
...a podcast that is very educational and informative, and at the same time is really funny.

https://forbeslibrary.org/staff_pick_reviewers/rachael/

Virtual Hosmer Gallery

Local artists and art lovers have a place to connect while staying at home. As of May 15, 289 works by 100 western Massachusetts artists are on display in the Virtual Hosmer Gallery community art exhibit! A broad range of media and styles are represented, including oil and acrylic painting, digital and film photography, watercolor, collage, paper cutting, artist's books, ceramics, fiber art, sculpture, printmaking, drawings and pastels. This is the biggest show the Hosmer Gallery has ever hosted! Check it out at <https://forbeslibrary.org/virtual-gallery/>. If you want to join the exhibit, click the [Submission Form](#) link at the top of the virtual gallery



ArbreDeLaVie

: JohnPolakPhotography.com.

The 100th artist joined the exhibition on May 15: Audrey Hyvonen, fiber artist from Easthampton!

Free Money \$\$\$\$ For \$\$\$\$ 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!

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!

Summer Reading 2020

Imagine Your Story



Summer Reading 2020 ★ Imagine Your Story!

With our lives upended by COVID-19, we wanted to be sure to still provide one of our favorite and most important initiatives: Summer Reading! Since school buildings have been closed since March, it's more important than ever to keep kids engaged and prevent the Summer Slide: the phenomenon where children reenter school in the fall behind where they were academically when they left school in the spring. This year, through a program and mobile app called Beanstack, we're offering a virtual Summer Reading program for all ages! Participants will earn virtual badges for logging the minutes they spend reading (or being read to), and for completing activities written by Forbes Library staff. Once they earn at least 10 badges, they'll win the "Pay It Forward" prize--the opportunity to vote for a charity to which we'll make a donation in their honor. Throughout the summer, be sure to visit our online calendar of events and Facebook page to see the many virtual programs we're offering--from online storytimes and book clubs to special performers. In these challenging times, let's come together virtually to spend the summer reading, completing fun activities, and supporting the organizations helping to keep our community strong!

Doreen *Continued from page 1*

What positive changes have you seen to the building over the years? The parking lot is a definite improvement. They had very limited parking before they created the parking lot! I think putting the main desk in the middle is a very definite positive change and they recently had the book and media return changed and I think that is a definite improvement. They showed me how to check out my own books and media using their computer program and this has been a real improvement.

What services have you used most over the years I like the reading room and I like that the brand new books are put there for people to browse. I also think it's nice that they are doing more with the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library. I've used this library for researching my family history. Forbes has been a great venue for research back before things were computerized. They had and still have a nice collection of microfilm of vital records, newspaper records, church records and census records. The reference librarians are very helpful, also - always with a smile!

Are there any things, events or people that you miss? When you walk into Forbes and turn to the right there are tables you can study at and to the left there are a lot of computers. There used to be a whole floor above that! I was sorry to see that glass floor taken out. My sister, Muriel Adams, was the children's librarian for many years. It's just the most wonderful library. We are so blessed to have Forbes in Northampton!

Excerpts from a Pandemic Diary

Roxy, (Huntington MA) 4/24/2020:

It's different this spring. The skies are cloudy, the trees blooming slowly, and the world tucked away...As of now Friday April 24, 2020, stores are filled with people wearing masks, wiping down carts, and cringing away from you if you walk too close...With all this free time I'd love to visit the park, the mall, the beach, the library, my friends, and just be free as a teenager should be.

Yet I can't. All of those things are closed. This is an alien feeling, a panic setting over me. Am I closed in? Am I trapped? Yes, indeed I am, save for those strange visits to the grocery store. The governor will not reopen the state yet and we have been in shutdown for 6 weeks, save essential workers and businesses. I was a Senior this year. I was so excited to graduate. I was a shy girl all four years of high school and I was finally going out with friends. I expected to be out of school for two weeks. School is now canceled for the remainder of the year.

I may possibly not have a graduation. I may not be able to enjoy that milestone of my life with my friends and family. I have worked so hard to get to this moment, yet to have it fade away. I was a straight A student and I never got a detention. Why me? Why did I get this taken away?

I lost my job in November. I'm still living off the money I saved, in my parents house. I've been struggling to find a job. Anything. I had plans to work this Summer, save up, and get my own apartment. Financial stress corrupts my mind.

My hopes, my goals, dreams all seem to crumble like dust in my hands. I know that this is nothing compared to the suffering and death of thousands, but this is my pain from my heart. All that seems to make this cease is pen, pencil, and paintbrush, striking paper. Vivid scenes of trees, of darkness, of glamour, and of realism stem from my instrument of frustration. Art is what I put my time, my heart, and my soul into. I can see, I can imagine the world. It's just within my grasp, yet I cannot touch it.