

Artisans Fair 2024

The third annual Forbes Artisans Fair was held on Sunday, October 6, 2024. Over forty-five artisans set up their tents on a picture perfect autumn day, and the event was well attended. The atmosphere was festive as shoppers purchased items such as hand made jewelry, lovely water colors and art prints, ceramics and clothing. Live music performances by Green Street Brew, the Fiddle Orchestra of Western Mass and the Ukulele Strum group entertained shoppers and vendors throughout the day. Lawn games and a face painter kept children entertained, and food trucks provided lunch options and treats. Popcorn, soft drinks, pumpkins and mums were also for sale. The event was a great success, and just under \$7000.00 was raised to support library programs. The Artisans Fair is one of two major fundraisers held by the Friends of Forbes each year, so it was gratifying to have such a wonderful turnout and community support for ForbesLibrary. Plans are underway for the 4th annual Artisans Fair to be held in October 2025.

Thank You Sponsors

The following local businesses sponsored our recent fundraiser, the Forbes Artisans Fair. We are grateful for their generous support, and we hope that if you do business with them, you'll thank them for supporting Forbes Library.

Peter Whalen & Janna Ugone Charitable Gift Fund
 The Berkshire Design Group, Inc.
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 Morrow's Auto Repair
 Tejas Beads
 Straw Dog Writers Guild



Welcome New Trustees

Forbes Library Board of Trustees Ann Michele "Shelly" Ruocco and Rebekah Anderson were appointed this past spring to fill two vacancies that were created when a change in the board's bylaws was made to increase the number of seats from five to seven.

Rebekah Anderson moved to Northampton from Minneapolis. She is active with Northampton Neighbors and enjoys activities with them – hiking, biking, and Spanish conversation. Soon after moving here, someone gave her Director Lisa Downing's card and said Rebekah must meet her. A retired librarian herself and self-described "collector of libraries," she was impressed with Forbes and, when the vacancies were announced, applied to serve on the Board of Trustees. She sees this as an opportunity to get to know the community and use her experience as a librarian and former library trustee to give back to the town that has welcomed her.

Shelly Ruocco is a human resources professional in higher education and nonprofits. She has lived in Northampton for over 10 years, and often visits the library and uses its resources.

Shelly feels that it is the most active and diverse hub in the community. She finds Forbes welcoming and easy to use, and says the staff make every effort to help users navigate the abundant resources and activities the library offers.



Shelly Ruocco



Rebekah Anderson

for the weekly email listing library events. "There's so much going on!" Rebekah Anderson likes the Library of Things and the communities within the library. "Forbes" she says, "is a real gem."

Both new Trustees have committee assignments and are excited to work with the Friends of Forbes Library too.

She hopes her HR expertise and willingness to devote time to the Board's work will help Forbes move forward.

Shelly confided that her new guilty pleasure is the Northampton Modern Quilters Guild. We asked them to tell us their favorite places in the library. Shelly said hers is the reading room near the fireplace. "The books, the newspapers, and the art make it a warm, comfortable place to hang out," she said. Rebekah likes the Children's and Young Adult Department. She enjoys the energy, the active and warm staff and, of course, Paco.

When asked about their first library memories, both Trustees had immediate responses. Shelly recalled Mrs. Tazner in the children's room in her hometown library in Gloversville, NY. She was a welcoming and encouraging presence to a "library kid" like her. Rebekah's family was not wealthy, and she remembers how much she enjoyed outings to her hometown library on Long Island to pick up books. She checked out a steady stream of books and felt empowered to pick whatever and however many books she wanted.

What do they think people should know about Forbes? Shelly Ruocco urges people to sign up

School Visits - Welcoming the Kindergardeners

This past fall, the Children's Room librarians, Sarah and Madison, visited every kindergarten in the Northampton Public Schools to get the city's youngest students excited about their local library.



Sarah described the joyous visits, "The kids loved talking about Paco!" There were stories and silly songs. The librarians handed out applications for children to sign up for their very own library cards. "Lots of kids were excited to give us a hug on our way out and share their experiences of visiting Forbes."

Through this important outreach, Forbes connects with children and builds relationships with local educators. Kindergarten visits let kids know that the library is a welcoming place for them, whether they have been to Forbes before or they are new to it. The library is here for kids as they move on from storytime to elementary school and beyond.

The Nook

If you walk into the Reference Room these days you might notice a popular attraction made possible by funding from Friends of Forbes. It's a new study nook! Located right under the mezzanine, this seating area offers a relaxing semi-private area for studying, reading, or simply spending a quiet few minutes.

We hope you enjoy a seat in this wonderful space during an upcoming library visit.



About Kay Burnett

The Friends recently voted to dedicate the study nook in memory of Kay Burnett. A staunch library supporter, Kay left a significant bequest to the Friends which provided seed money for a long-desired endowment fund. That fund - now more than double the initial investment - provides annual income to support the Library's many initiatives including materials, programs and special purchases like the new nook.

For over 50 years, Kay served as Music Cataloger for the Smith College Libraries. Her extensive work cataloging sound recordings served as a model for music catalogers worldwide. In 2002, Online Computer Resource Center's Music Users Group awarded its first Distinguished Service Award to Kay for her significant professional contributions to the music library community, "advancing the case for high quality music cataloging in a cooperative environment."

Nicknamed "the trail lady", Kay also loved hiking the Pioneer Valley and beyond. She received a Certificate of Merit for her revitalization of Mt Tom's trail system; and the KayBee Trail is named in her honor. Kay was also very active in the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

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or use the paper ballot available at the circulation desk and put us in the running for up to \$5,000 free dollars.

Join the Friends

Please join us in our support of all Forbes does for the community

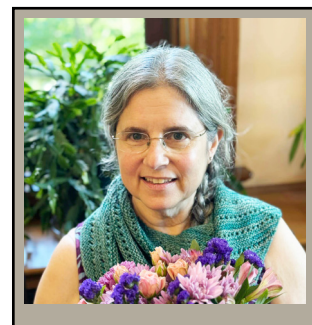


Adult Programming
Outreach Services
Books and Technology
Children and Young Adult Programs
Building Upgrades
and More !

Faith Kaufman Retires

If you've spent any time in the Arts and Music Department at Forbes Library, chances are you've interacted with Faith Kaufmann. Faith recently retired after 36 years at Forbes. As Head of Arts and Music, her tasks included managing the circulating and special collections, producing programs including art exhibits and concerts, and providing general and specialized reference services. Faith started the first lawn concert at Forbes in the 1990s. She also helped design the Hosmer Gallery, which was launched in 2002, and organized the many exhibits there. One of the most unique parts of her job was the scanning, restoring, and cataloging of the library's collection of historic photographs and art works. Faith worked with colleagues Julie Bartlett Nelson and Dylan Gaffney to gather the special collections into an online database so people could view these images from anywhere rather than having to be in the library.

photo-Marlene Wong



Faith Kaufman

Faith has enjoyed the exhibits, concerts and community events over the years. For the library's 125th anniversary celebration in 2018, Faith collaborated with community members and local bands to re-create a 1918 Community Sing that was documented in the photo collections. With updated songs and a little amplification, hundreds of people joined to sing on the library lawn during the anniversary celebration. Sparked by the donation of a ukulele by Downtown Sounds in 2009, Faith created the collection of musical instruments that patrons can sign out. She noted that this is a helpful service for people who want to try out an instrument without having to purchase it, and it now includes a variety of about 30 instruments. One unusual instrument the Arts & Music team added to the collection was a theremin, a modern version of one of the first electronic instruments developed. Thanks to Northampton's curious and creative community, it immediately got a wait list of over 24 patrons! (and eventually, a second theremin was purchased). Faith continues to be busy in retirement. She currently sings with the Valley Light Opera and the Brattleboro Camerata. She's looking forward to more art making including a return to knitting now that the weather is cooling off. She also volunteers with Rachel's Table, an organization that works to alleviate hunger and reduce the waste of food in Western Massachusetts, by gathering surplus from farm and retail partners and distributing it to agencies that serve people impacted by food insecurity. What's next for this busy woman? As she said, she's only getting started!

This is an exciting time at the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Museum. Plans to revamp the museum space and modernize the exhibits are moving forward. Few changes have been made to the museum since it opened in 1956, and an upgrade will greatly strengthen the museum's mission to give its visitors a well-balanced historical account of Coolidge's political and family life. The museum's meeting space is regularly used by a variety of groups throughout the year who will also benefit from a more up-to-date facility. Representatives from design firms have toured the museum and have had discussions with library and museum staff. Currently design proposals are being received and reviewed. Once a plan has been chosen, a fundraising campaign will begin. In other exciting news, the Coolidge Museum now has a monthly newsletter featuring information about current and planned events, book groups, and interesting facts about the Coolidges, including some local history.



Coolidge Corner

To receive newsletters sign up at <http://forbeslibrary.org/emails-and-newsletters/> or email us at Coolidge@forbeslibrary.org.

Both the Presidential Book Club led by Bill Scher and the Herstory Book Group led by Leslie Skantz-Hodgson and Rob Weir are continuing to draw new members. For more information go to Coolidge@forbeslibrary.org.

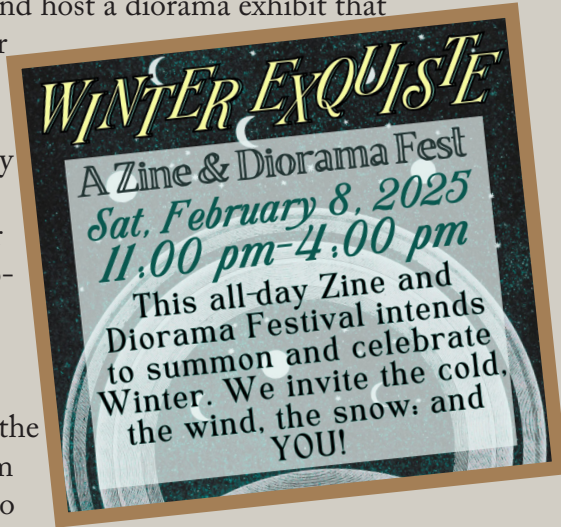
Zine Fest and Diorama

Forbes Library will host a one-day zine fest on Saturday, February 8th from 11-4 in the first floor reading room. This space will be turned into a winterscape for the occasion and host a diorama exhibit that will display for the month.

Contact the library to apply to become a zine vendor or diorama exhibitor.

Anyone who would like to help decorate the Reading Room and turn it into an immersive winter scene, please reach out to zineclub@forbeslibrary.org.

And please, spread the word! It's going to be a chilly blast!



Happy 130th Anniversary! On October 23rd, 1894, six hundred people assembled in the large room on the second floor to dedicate the new building. Learn more about Forbes Library's history at

<https://forbeslibrary.org/info/forbes-library-timeline/>.

Bus Trip

Twenty-eight people enjoyed a trip to see the exhibit on Belle da Costa Greene at the Morgan Library and Museum in Manhattan, sponsored by the Friends of Forbes. This library started as the personal library of Pierpont Morgan. Renowned for its architecture, the Morgan holds a world-famous collection of ancient manuscripts, bibles, and rare books. JP Morgan, Jr, son of Pierpont, arranged for it to become a public institution shortly after his father's death. The group was given guided tours of the historic museum.

The trip was inspired by the book *The Personal Librarian*, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. To mark the centenary of the library as a public institution, a special exhibit on Belle da Costa Greene, the personal librarian to J. P. Morgan, was designed. She was instrumental in building the collection of rare books and manuscripts contained in the library. The exhibit described Greene's life from her beginning in a predominantly Black community in Washington, DC to becoming one of the most important librarians in the history of the US. Participants enjoyed lunch in Manhattan, as well as two movies during the bus ride-- a documentary on J.P. Morgan and the film *Passing*, which illustrates the difficulties Black Americans have faced navigating racial barriers.

The Friends of Forbes plan to do more day trips to historic sites in the future. These will be advertised on the library website as they are developed.

Shop at Forbes for the Holidays

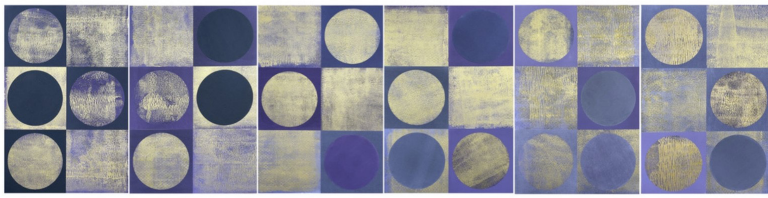
And don't forget your Paco t-shirt! These come in sizes for children and adults. These items are available year-round and make great gifts for birthdays, graduations, and any other celebration. Plus you can feel good about your purchase as you're supporting Forbes Library!

Looking for a holiday gift? Look no further than Forbes Library. We have mugs, tote bags, hats and more.



Hosmer Gallery

December



Doris W. Madsen Printmaking

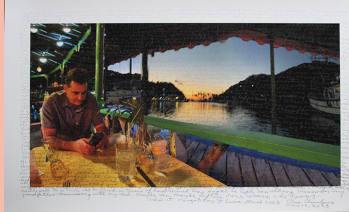


Whendy Carter Monoprints



Tony(a) Lemos Botanical prints

January



Eileen Claveloux Photcollage



Margaret Humbert-Droz Paper arts



Mandana Marsh B&W photography

March

February

Through Her Lens: Women photographers of Western Mass.

Featuring Anne Miller, Deb Lohmeyer, Jill Toler, Joyce Lak, Karen Browne-Courage, Mary Vazquez, and Nancy Lowry



Ruth LaGue Acrylic paintings



Caroline Jennings Oil paintings

April

Zine Libraries of Western Mass & Beyond showcase

May

JFK Middle School student art exhibition



David A. Russell Wood sculpture & tables

Join the Friends!
www.friends@forbeslibrary.org