

THE OWL

Vol 24 Issue 2

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORFOLK LIBRARY

July 2018

Italian Mandolins and Russian Samovars

After its opening on March 6, 1889, the Library quickly became a place of gathering for the entire community. It figured largely in the life of Norfolk photographer Marie Kendall's daughter Kay, born in 1899, who wrote: "Our library is unique. A wealthy woman gave it to the town and equipped it nicely. It has a conversation room where people may visit. It is always warm and smells good! Young people had a good time at the library. There was so much to do there – old bound St. Nicholas magazines that had to be read on the spot; art books too large to take home. The favorite town saying was 'Meet me at the libe.' And everybody did."

Even before the Great Hall addition was built in 1911, the Library was the venue for a variety of entertainments, concerts, and colorful lectures. Two "unique and elegant entertainments" given by Isabella Eldridge, founder of the Library, made headlines in the local newspaper.

On August 28, 1891, Professor Arthur Frothingham gave a lecture on Italian art. A noted art historian, Professor Frothingham was a summer resident of Norfolk. The lecture was illustrated with a stereopticon, a 19th century slide projector that blended two images on slides to make a three dimensional effect, a popular precursor to the moving picture.

The program, however, was not simply a lecture. The main hallway was decorated for the occasion with garlands in the colors of Italy festooned around the gallery railing, interspersed with Roman shawls, aprons, rugs, and mats. A large photograph of the Colosseum was placed at one end of the hall, draped with Italian flags. At the entrance to the Library, a miniature gondola sat in a tank of water, and a leghorn hat was filled with roses. A number of ladies were dressed in Roman costumes.

After the lecture, red, green and white Italian ices

shaped like guitars and mandolins were furnished by Maresi Confectioners of New York. The evening ended with dancing to the music of mandolins played by a group of Italian musicians from New York.

The following year, Isabella produced another novel program: Russia in Norfolk. She had been to Russia twice in the 1870s, and she invited Isabel Florence Hapgood (1858-1921) to speak. The topic was winter life in St. Petersburg. Hapgood was a distinguished translator of Russian and French literature, notably Leo Tolstoy and Victor Hugo. Her translations of the major works of Hugo introduced that author to American audiences. She made annual trips to Russia throughout her life and spent time with Leo Tolstoy on his country estate. A year before her talk at the Library, her article "Count Tolstoy at Home" appeared in *The Atlantic Magazine*. Hapgood later reported for the *New York Evening Post* and was in Russia when the revolution broke out in 1917. She escaped and was one of the first to report on the execution of the Romanovs.

For her talk in 1892, the Library was decked out with Russian flags, drapery and furs, and Russian emblems as described in the local paper: a Holy Picture or icon with a lamp burning in front of it; a black bear with a cub in its arms; and a model of the great Moscow bell. Golden rod, yellow nasturtium, pansies, yellow clover and sunflowers, representative of Russian life, filled the hall. A muzhik (Russian peasant) in costume was at the door to greet guests.

It is hard to imagine how all this and 150 people fit in the Library without the Great Hall addition. Once again, refreshments were served, this time caviar sandwiches, chicken rolls made from a St. Petersburg recipe, Charlotte Russe, and tea, poured from a Russian samovar of course.

—Ann Havemeyer, Director

EXHIBITION

Jim Jasper: Illustrations of Dante's *Inferno*

JULY EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday,
July 8, 4:00–6:00 pm

Jim Jasper's illustrations of the 34 cantos of Dante's *Inferno* are an exploration of the poet's dense cryptic poetry, his symbolism, and the geography and cosmology of the world that he created. Jim has made these small works on paper in the tradition of book illustration, illumination, or miniature painting. Starting with a digital print that contains photographic references and drawn elements, he hand-colors the print with watercolor, gouache, colored pencil, ink, and graphite. A resident of Norfolk, Jim holds a BA in Art from Yale University.



*Canto 25: 8th circle, 7th
malebolge; theft; Cianfa
and Agnello*

Turi Rostad: Just Icing on the Cake

AUGUST EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday, August 5, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Turi Rostad is a contemporary artist based in Norfolk whose work is punctuated by her vibrant spirit and originality of vision. Her art is optimistic, and her colors lush and lively.



Energetic, spontaneous form infuses her canvases and drawings. She is the proprietor of Turi's Framing Art.



Susan Rood:

SEPTEMBER EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday, September 9, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Susan Rood is a printmaker who works in linocut, monotype, and collage. She grew up in Northwest Connecticut and presently lives on the family farm where she has her studio. Her work reflects this environment. Animals and plants are sources for her representational artwork. The surrounding landscape provides the comfort and courage to also create more abstract narrative images explored as views from within. Susan has a BFA from Hartford Art School and a MS in Art Education from Central Connecticut State University. She teaches art at the Botelle School.

Robert Andrew Parker: Etchings, Lithographs, and Monotypes

W.H. Auden, Franz Kafka, and others

OCTOBER EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday, October 7, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Robert Parker has been called one of the masters of late 20th century illustration. A graduate of the School of the Art

EXHIBITION



Institute of Chicago, he has exhibited extensively since his first solo show in 1954, and his credits include set designs for opera and film as well as book illustrations. During his career, he has worked in such distinctive locales as Arles and Saint-Remy in France and the Himalayas, where a 1981 walking tour provided the subjects for a series on landscapes and fellow trekkers. He is the recipient of numerous fellowships and grants.

Margot Trout: Recent Landscapes

NOVEMBER EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday, November 4, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Margot Trout describes her landscape painting as an effort to give form to consciousness, making visible shifts in awareness and perception. She holds a BFA in Painting from



the Rhode Island School of Design, an MA in Art Education from Hunter College of the City of New York, and an MFA in Painting from the University of Massachusetts. She has taught at the Maine College of Art and Mount Holyoke College, and in 1994 opened her own school in Great Barrington. Her work has been exhibited widely in Maine, Massachusetts, and New York.

Jon Riedeman

DECEMBER EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday, December 2, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

The work of sculptor Jon Riedeman will be on display at the Library during the holidays. Jon has been making art for three decades, the last two in Norfolk. He has a BA in Art from Bucknell University and an MFA in Sculpture from Penn State University. He has been Sculptor-in-Residence at the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire, and has won several awards including a MacDowell fellowship and a Connecticut Commission on the Arts fellowship. His work has been shown in museums and galleries throughout the region and is in several private collections.

NORFOLK LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

The Associates is a group of dedicated volunteers who contribute their time and talents to support the Library. They organize monthly art exhibitions and raise funds for the cultural programs offered by the Library. The group welcomes new members. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. in the Great Hall.

Tom Hlas, *President*
Jan Rathbun, *Vice-President*
David Davis, *Secretary*
Paul Madore, *Treasurer*

SNAP | SHOTS

We were so lucky to host Lúnasa, “one of the best Irish bands on the planet,” for our annual St. Patrick’s Day celebration just before they returned to Ireland.



Library day-trippers to Chesterwood in Stockbridge, MA, the home of Daniel Chester French, sculptor of Abraham Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial.



At the final story time of the season, Miss Eileen’s Merrymakers donned hats and got to climb aboard a 1952 Crosley!



Pete the Cat visited the Library on “National Take Your Child to the Library Day.” Guess who was sweltering in that costume and trying to balance Pete’s oversized head while dancing to Pete’s song? Many, many thanks, Kristin Mudge!

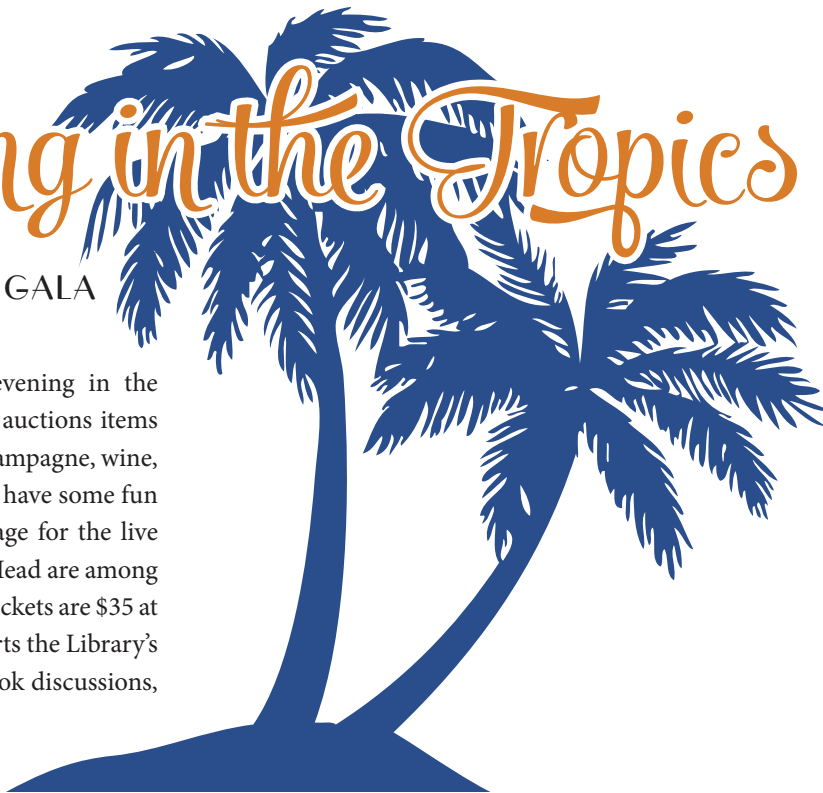


An Evening in the Tropics

NORFOLK LIBRARY AUCTION GALA

Friday, August 24, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Mark your calendars now for a festive evening in the tropics. Bid on a host of outstanding silent auctions items while feasting on tropical hors d'oeuvres. Champagne, wine, and drinks will be served. Then get ready to have some fun as our entertaining auctioneers take the stage for the live auction. Corsica, Jackson Hole, and Hilton Head are among the outstanding getaways offered this year. Tickets are \$35 at the door. Remember, your generosity supports the Library's many free special events, films, concerts, book discussions, children's programs — and more.



Love is sharing
a good book.



The Norfolk Library Book Sale

The 42nd Annual Book Sale will take place the weekend of August 25-26, on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. You won't want to miss

the opportunity to browse through 10,000 amazing books donated from Norfolk's private libraries, 75% of them hardcover. Proceeds benefit the Norfolk Library Associates and support the Library's free programs. Many thanks to Bridget Taylor and the volunteers who make the annual book sale such a success.

The Raffle: "Garden Notes"

Don't miss the opportunity to win this fantastic paper art shoe! Using music sheets, pages from a bird book, a garden catalog, and an old calendar, Linda Filley has created "Garden Notes" especially for the Norfolk Library Auction. Among the charming miniature details are a shovel, spade, and garden shears! Buy your raffle tickets at the Library today @\$1/ticket!



2018 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Kickoff Party: “Bach 2 Rock” with Caryn Lin

Friday, June 15, 6:30 pm

A multi-media show by electric violinist Caryn Lin. Come early and picnic on the library lawn. Dessert will be served after the show!

Matica Circus Arts

Monday, June 25, 6:30 pm

An acrobatic/comedy act that will delight audiences of all ages with extreme unicycling, juggling, Chinese yo-yos, and some awesome balancing on a really big rolling globe. Audience participation is a must!

Puppet Show with Sarah Nolen: “The Fairy Tailor”

Monday, July 2, 6:30 pm

Magical beings are known for their great sense of fashion. But who stitches together all of their stories? Meet the Fairy Tailor, hard at work in her enchanted shop. Watch as everyday garments become extraordinary characters, and share stories of bravery, from “Little Red Riding Hood(ie),” to “The Emperor’s New Clothes.”

DJ Red’s Supreme Dance Workshop

Monday, July 9, 6:30 pm

With easy-to-follow party dance moves lead by “DJ Red,” this program is designed to build confidence and creativity and will make your child BEAM.

Ashleytrix & The Wizards

Monday, July 16, 6:30 pm

A wizard rock band creates a magical performance ... Wizard Rock is inspired by Harry Potter, of course! Weather permitting, the show will be outside.

Grunts, Calls & Bleats: The Music of Animals

Monday, July 23, 6:30 pm

Why do animals make the sounds they do? The Stamford Nature Center will bring animals for the children to meet.

Out of Mount Rushmore’s Shadow

Monday, July 30, 6:30 pm

Storyteller Lou Del Bianco will portray his grandfather, the chief carver of Mount Rushmore, in this touching immigrant story of struggle and legacy.

Grand Finale: Monkey & Dino’s Funky Puppet Show

Friday, August 3, 6:30 pm

Best friends Monkey (a monkey) and Dino (a dinosaur) are attempting to bring YOU the greatest puppet show EVER! Join this simian and reptilian team (along with a host of their wacky friends) as they perform sketches, music, and more. Maybe they’ll even learn something along the way. Or maybe not; who’s to say? There’s only one way to find out, and that’s to come to the show by UConn Puppet Arts alumnus John Cody. Prizes will be given for the Summer Reading “Color Your Crystal Challenge” and cake will be served!

All programs run 45 – 60 minutes.

Norfolk Library Art Contest

Create a design for a notecard that shows what’s special to you about the Norfolk Library. The contest is open to children in grades K-6th. Artwork may be in any medium you wish (collage, markers, paint, etc.) but no bigger than 8x11. Your name, phone, and age must be on the back since the judging will be anonymous. One entry per reader! Deadline: Monday, July 16, 2018, 7:00 pm. The 4 designs chosen will be announced at the Summer Reading Grand Finale on Friday, August 3.



PROGRAMS | PERFORMANCES

Please visit our website www.norfolklibrary.org and sign up for our bi-weekly Night Owl e-newsletter for up-to-date information on our free programs.

Summer Seminar “With Liberty and Justice for All—Pick One”

Mondays, July 9 to August 13, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure* is one of his most complex and interesting discourses on power politics. Kim Maxwell will lead a discussion about the play and the tensions it presents around the rule of law, liberty, and justice. The group will then apply the model to our own country, looking at differences as well as similarities 100 years ago, just as World War I was ending, and today. Limited to 10; please call the Library to register.

AUTHOR TALKS

Caitlin Macy, *Mrs.* (2018)

Friday, July 20, 10:00 am

Enjoy coffee, tea, and scones while talking with Caitlin Macy about her new novel *Mrs.* This is the first in our series of upcoming programs on the creative process, and Caitlin will discuss the novel, set in the well-heeled milieu of New York’s Upper East Side. A resident of New York and Norfolk, Macy is also the author of *The Fundamentals of Play* (2000) and *Spoiled* (2009).

Andrea Barnett, *Visionary Women* (2018)

Friday, July 27, 10:00 am

This is the story of four influential women—Jane Jacobs, Rachel Carson, Jane Goodall, and Alice Waters—who spearheaded the modern progressive movement. Linked not by friendship or field, but by their choice to break with convention, these women showed what one person speaking truth to power can do, and they profoundly shaped the world we live in today. Meet the author and hear more about these pioneering women.

WIN WEEKEND EVENTS

Monkey & Dino’s Funky Puppet Show with John Cody, Puppeteer

Friday, August 3, 6:30 – 7:30pm

See Summer Reading Program, page 6

Magnificent Microscopes with Rich Kessin

Saturday, August 4, 10:30 am

Have a look at slides through 19th and 20th century microscopes provided by the Norfolk Historical Museum and Columbia University. Rich will also demonstrate the use of smartphone microscopes, available at the library circulation desk. Attach it to a smartphone and anything can be magnified at least fifty times, and you can take a photo!

Tour with Ann Havemeyer: Upstairs Downstairs at the Norfolk Library

Saturday, August 4, 1:00 pm

Go behind-the-scene with the Director to places you may not have been and hear stories you may not have heard.

Performance: Sons of Astro

Saturday, August 4, 3:00 pm

Mike Cobb and Matt Statler play cosmic American music in the style of Gram Parsons and The Byrds with a focus on strong storytelling and vocal harmonies.

FALL PROGRAMS

Haystack Book Talks Festival

- Friday, October 12, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Welcome Reception hosted by the Library Associates

- Saturday, October 13, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Meet the authors and book signing

- Sunday, October 14, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Meet the authors and book signing

PROGRAMS | PERFORMANCES

The following authors will be in Norfolk for the Festival:

- Rumaan Alam, *That Kind of Mother* (2018)
- Angelica Baker, *Our Little Racket* (2018)
- Mark Eisner, *Neruda: The Poet's Calling* (2018)
- Jessica Powell, translation: *Pablo Neruda, venture of the infinite man* (2015)
- John Keene, *Counternarratives* (2016)
- Rosa Alcalá, *MyOTHER Tongue* (2017)
- Ken Ilgunas, *This Land is Our Land: How We Lost the Right to Roam and How to Take it Back* (2018)
- Kate Harris, *Lands of Lost Borders: A Journey on the Silk Road* (2018)
- Jeff Goodell, *The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World* (2017)
- Julian Brave Noisecat, journalist

Complete schedule to be announced.

Taylor Mali: Metaphor Dice

Saturday, November 3, 5:00 pm

Backgammon, Boggle, board games, casinos ... all depend on a roll of the dice. Now Brooklyn-based poet, educator, spoken word and voiceover artist Taylor Mali has come up with an entirely novel use of dice for teachers and students, indeed anyone who may have "writers block." Metaphor Dice is a tool designed to make poetry writing simple, fun,



and enlightening by exploring the random words rolled out on three dice. Taylor is a four-time National Poetry Slam champion and the author of four books, including *What Teachers Make: In Praise of the Greatest Job in the World*. This is the second in our series on the creative process.

THURSDAY NIGHT FILM SERIES

Explore Hollywood's extensive pre-digital canon of fantastic films, forgotten classics, and silent movies on the big screen, as the Norfolk Library classic film series continues on select Thursdays at 7:00 pm. Musicals are slated for this fall. We begin with *West Side Story* in honor of the Leonard Bernstein centennial and then feature two Irving Berlin classics. Come early (6:30 pm) for refreshments!

October 18 – *West Side Story* (1961)

November 15 – *Holiday Inn* (1942)

December 13 – *White Christmas* (1954)

CONCERTS

One Piano – Four Hands with Linda Bell and Maura May

Sunday, September 16, 5:00 pm

Norfolk's own Linda Bell and Maura May, both talented musicians, will join forces on the library piano. Four-hand piano playing has a long cultural history. Before the advent of the phonograph, the only way to hear new music, short of going to the concert hall, was to play it on the piano. Music publishers arranged symphonies, operas, and chamber music for four hands, and the piano became the centerpiece of domestic life.

Rebekah Heller, Bassoonist

Saturday, October 6, 7:30 pm

Rebekah Heller will make her Norfolk debut in a concert of newly-created electro-acoustic works composed for solo bassoon. Praised for her "flair" and "deftly illuminated" performances by *The New York Times*, Rebekah is a uniquely dynamic solo and collaborative artist. Called "an impressive solo bassoonist" by the *New Yorker*, she is fiercely committed to expanding the modern repertoire for the bassoon. Her debut solo album of world premiere recordings (featuring five new pieces written with and for her), *100 Names*, was called

PROGRAMS | PERFORMANCES

Photo by Carrie Schneider



“pensive and potent” by *The New York Times*, and her newly-released second album, *Metafagote*, is receiving wide acclaim.

Rebekah has been a featured soloist with the Seattle Symphony, the Nagoya Philharmonic, and this season, she is looking forward to her solo debut with the New York Philharmonic. As Artistic Director and bassoonist of the renowned International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), Rebekah is deeply engaged in working with younger musicians to continue the ICE-y legacy of fearless exploration and deep collaboration. She is also an advocate for underrepresented voices and outrageous experimentation. Before joining ICE in 2008, Rebekah served as Principal Bassoonist of the Jacksonville Symphony. She lives in New York.

Andrew Thomson, Percussionist

Friday, October 19, 7:30 pm

Andrew Thomson has earned an international reputation as a composer, performer, and educator, and has collaborated with a variety of organizations, ranging from the internationally-acclaimed choirs of Joyful Noise, Inc. to the United States Marine Corps. Andrew has a degree in



Composition and Percussion from Ithaca College and was the youngest member of the composition and arranging staff at the Armed Forces School of Music. He currently teaches percussion in northwestern Connecticut and gives clinics, recitals, and master classes around the country.



Ed Snodderly, a Southern music legend

*Saturday, November 17, 12:00-3:00 pm workshop;
7:30 pm concert*

The name Ed Snodderly is synonymous with the best Southern music and culture. If you saw the movie *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* you saw Ed as the village idiot whose fiddling took center stage. If you visited Nashville’s Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, you read Ed’s song lyrics inscribed into the wall, chosen for their simple eloquence to embody that renowned institution. Born in East Tennessee, Ed is a musician, songwriter, actor and co-owner of one of the country’s longest running music venues, The Down Home, located in Johnson City, Tennessee. In the 90s his musical brilliance was feted in a duo with Eugene Wolf known as “The Brother Boys,” acknowledged critically for a decade with their now classic recordings on Sugar Hill. Ed will offer a free songwriting workshop (pre-registration required) and a concert in the evening.

NORFOLK LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Elisabeth C. Gill, <i>Vice-President</i>	Adam Heller
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THE OWL

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Norfolk, Connecticut 06058

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ph. 860 542-5075

Monday	10:00 am	–	7:00 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am	–	5:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am	–	5:00 pm
Thursday	10:00 am	–	7:00 pm
Friday	10:00 am	–	5:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am	–	2:00 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm	–	4:00 pm

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The Library is pictured about 1910 during Isabella Eldridge's era, with lush greenery, potted plants, and flower boxes in the windows, all filled with plants from the Eldridge gardens.