BRATTLEBORO FESTIVAL

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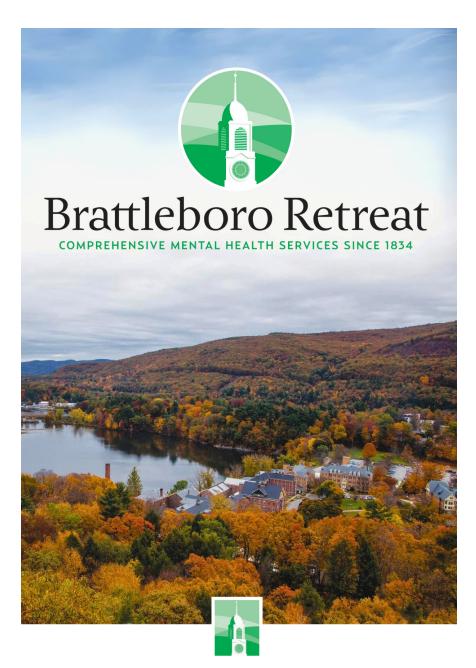
October 18-20, 2024

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9/30/24 5:24 PM



brattlebororetreat.org

22 Anna Marsh Lane | P.O. Box 803 | Brattleboro, VT 05302

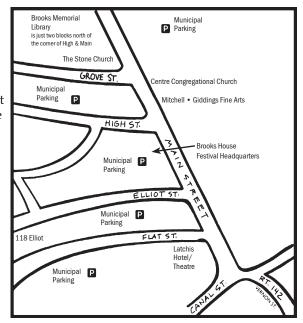
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WELCOME TO THE 2024 Brattleboro Literary Festival

All festival events are **FREE** and open to the public. There are no tickets, and seating is on a first-come basis. A map of festival venue locations is shown here. If you have any questions, please visit the Brattleboro Literary Festival headquarters in the Brooks House Lobby or check for details on our website at www.brattleborolitfest.org.

Though the Brattleboro Literary Festival is run entirely by volunteers, there are very real costs associated with it. All events are free unless otherwise indicated, but whether you attend one or a dozen, we ask that you make a donation to the festival, either by cash or check, or you can donate online at our website. Donation **boxes** are located at all venues. Thanks so much to all the donors, partners, and volunteers who help make the Brattleboro Literary Festival a continued success!

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FESTIVAL EVENT VENUES

118 Elliot Street — 118 Elliot Street .
Brooks Memorial Library — 224 Main Street .
Brooks House Lobby — 132 Main Street .
Centre Congregational Church — 193 Main Street .
Mitchell-Giddings Gallery — 191 Main Street .
The Stone Church — 210 Main Street .

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Day/Time	24 Brattleboro Literary Festival Schedule-at-a Event	Location	
Day/Time	Event	LUCATION	
Friday, Oct 18			
7:00-7:30 PM	Books to Looks Fashion Show	118 Elliot	
7:45-9:00 PM	Amy Jo Burns & Adelle Waldman	118 Elliot	
Saturday, Oct 19			
10:00-11:00 AM	Jeffrey Rosen	Centre Church	
10:00-11:15 AM	MT Anderson & Tania James	118 Elliot	
10:00-11:15 AM	Heather Treseler & Sharon Dolin	Mitchell-Giddings Gallery	
11:15 AM-12:15 PM	Harold Holzer	Centre Church	
11:30 AM-12:45 PM	Amitava Kumar & Tyriek White	118 Elliot	
11:30 AM-12:45 PM	Susan Rich & January O'Neill	Mitchell-Giddings Gallery	
12:30-1:45 PM	Emmeline Clein & Anna Shechtman	Centre Church	
1:00-2:00 PM	James Marcus	Mitchell-Giddings Gallery	
1:00-2:15 PM	Sigrid Nunez & Roxana Robinson	118 Elliot	
2:00-3:00 PM	Gary Gulman with Adrian Nicole LeBlanc	Centre Church	
2:30-3:45 PM	Major Jackson & Jessica Fisher	Brooks Memorial Library	
2:30-3:45 PM	Mark Cecil & Bill Roorbach	118 Elliot	
3:15-4:15 PM	Melissa Newman	Centre Church	
4:00-5:00 PM	Green Writers Press Showcase	118 Elliot	
4:00-5:15 PM	Kevin Goodan & Didi Jackson	Mitchell-Giddings Gallery	
5:00-6:00 PM	Natalie Dykstra	Brattleboro Museum	
7:00-8:30 PM	Write Action Open Reading	118 Elliot	
Sunday, Oct 20			
11:00 AM-12:15 PM	Edgar Kunz & Neal Shepard	118 Elliot	
11:00 AM-12:15 PM	Samuel Kǫ́láwǫlé & Zain Khalid	Brooks Memorial Library	
11:30 AM-12:30 PM	Brad Fox	The Stone Church	
12:30 PM-1:30 PM	Matthew Delmont	Brooks Memorial Library	
12:45-2:00 PM	Marie-Helene Bertino & Julia Phillips	The Stone Church	
12:30-1:45 PM	Leslie Sainz & Pablo Medina	118 Elliot	
2:00-3:00 PM	Sunil Amrith	118 Elliot	
2:00-3:15 PM	Juliet Grames & Sarah Stewart Taylor	Brooks Memorial Library	
2:15-3:15 PM	Lyn Slater with Wendy O'Connell	The Stone Church	
3:30-4:30 PM	Moon Unit Zappa	The Stone Church	

2024 FESTIVAL AUTHORS

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Sunil Amrith Edgar Kunz M.T. Anderson Adrian Nicole LeBlanc Marie-Helene Bertino Iames Marcus Pablo Medina Amy Jo Burns Mark Cecil Melissa Newman **Emmeline** Clein Sigrid Nunez Matthew Delmont January Gill O'Neil Sharon Dolin **Julia** Phillips Natalie Dykstra Susan Rich Jessica Fisher Roxana Robinson Brad Fox Bill Roorbach Kevin Goodan Jeffrey Rosen Juliet Grames Leslie Sainz Gary Gulman Anna Shechtman Harold Holzer Neil Shepard Didi Jackson Lyn Slater Sarah Stewart Taylor Major Jackson Tania James Heather Treseler Zain Khalid Adelle Waldman Samuel Koláwolé Tyriek Rashawn White Amitava Kumar Moon Unit Zappa

FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS AND BOOKSTORE

Open Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 am–3:30 pm Brooks House Lobby 132 Main Street, near the corner of Main and High or enter from the Harmony lot)

Write Action, the local writer's organization will be on hand from 9:00 am-3:00 pm both days with refreshments!

Browse festival books and relax at a café table in the atrium and reflect on the speakers you've heard or take a break to chat with your friends.

Pick up a program and get all your information about the festival and about Write Action—plus you can shop for festival books at our festival headquarters.

Special thanks to Julia Jensen for providing the artwork for the poster and program book cover!

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FESTIVAL EVENTS

FRIDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 18

7:00-7:30 pm Books to Looks: A Fashion Show 118 Elliot-Cash bar (beer &wine)

Books to Looks is a colorful collaboration with Kate Trzaskos (@katet_ in_vt) from Curated Thrift & Style. This presentation with live models will feature thrifted looks to match book covers from this year's Festival. The looks are sourced from **Experienced Goods** and **Morning Glorious Vintage** and all pieces are available for purchase.

7:45-9:00 pm Simply Life—Amy Jo Burns and Adelle Waldman 118 Elliot-Cash bar (beer &wine)

Amy Jo Burn's book *Mercury* is the generational story of a working class family of roofers in a small blue collar town. Family dynamics are tested with the collapse of the business and the discovery of a dark secret in this beautifully written book full of complex characters, each with their own story. **Adelle Waldman**'s book *Help Wanted* takes a look at a part of society mostly ignored, young people working behind the scenes at big box retail stores. Working to unload trucks and stock the store early in the morning, it is a lively, funny, moving caper about shift workers at a bigbox store in small-town upstate New York.

Sponsored by the Bratt Bibliophiles

Amy Jo Burns is the author of a memoir *Cinderland* and the novels *Shiner*, which was a Barnes & Noble Discover Pick and an NPR Best Book of the year and a new book, *Mercury*. She lives in Princeton, NJ.

Adelle Waldman is the author of a new novel, *Help Wanted*, selected by former President Obama for his summer reading, and a previous novel, *The Love Affairs of Nathaniel P*, named one of the best books of that year by *The New Yorker*. She lives in the Hudson Valley.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

10:00-11:00 am The Pursuit of Happiness—Jeffrey Rosen *Centre Congregational Church*

It's in the second paragraph of The Declaration of Independence that we learn about our self-evident and unalienable rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. But what did the founding fathers really mean by the latter phrase? It was decidedly not a heedless chase after pleasure, but almost the reverse—a striving for virtue. How did they come up with this notion? By plowing through reading lists that would stun most of us these days. In other words—those of Jeffrey Rosen's subtitle: *How Classical Writers On Virtue Inspired the Lives of the Founders and Defined America.* All quite noble, though many of the founders had difficulty living up to their own ideals because of "the peculiar institution": slavery.

Sponsored by the Richards Group

Jeffrey Rosen is the president and CEO of the National Constitution Center and a contributing editor for *The Atlantic*. The bestselling author of nine books, including *The Pursuit of Happiness*, he lives in Washington, DC.

10:00-11:15 am Historical Tales of Quest and Adventure—M.T. Anderson and Tania James 118 Elliot

If you're feeling beaten down by the drudgery and heartbreak of contemporary life, perhaps it's time to escape into a good novel. In particular, a beautifully written, immersive novel that transports you to the past, to a distant land, or an adventurous quest in search of something important, or meaning itself. In M.T. Anderson's adult debut novel *Nicked*, a young Benedictine monk in 11th century Italy is sent by his abbot to Turkey to retrieve the bones of Saint Nicholas. An irresistible brew of history, action, adventure, and fantasy, *Nicked* follows our hero as he sets off with a band of pirates, brigands, and adventurers on a dangerous seaborne journey. **Tania James's** *Loot*, longlisted for the National Book Award, is the dazzling and wildly inventive story of an eighteenth century Indian woodcarver's quest to retrieve a spectacular wooden tiger from an English country estate. It's a hero's quest, a love story, a young artist's coming of age story, an indictment of the bloody legacy of colonialism, and an exuberant heist novel traversing two continents and sixty-five years.

Sponsored by the Dublin Book Group

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Vermont novelist **M. T. Anderson's** *Feed* was a Finalist for the National Book Award and was the winner of the L.A. Times Book Prize. The first volume of Anderson's *Octavian Nothing* saga, *The Pox Party*, won the National Book Award. He is the author of the new Newbery Honor book *Elf Dog & Owl Head*, *Symphony for the City of the Dead* (long-listed for the National Book Award), and many other books..

Tania James is the author of three books of fiction in addition to *Loot*, and her short stories have appeared in *Granta*, *The New Yorker*, O, The Oprah Magazine, and *One Story*, among other places, and have been featured on *Symphony Space Selected Shorts*. She's an associate professor of English in the MFA program at George Mason University.

10:00-11:15 am Women's Lives—Sharon Dolin and Heather Treseler *Mitchell Giddings Gallery*

In **Sharon Dolin**'s book, *Imperfect Present* she confronts the urgencies of daily life, from questions of identity to sexual abuse to racial unrest to the ubiquity of plastic, these poems investigate ways to sustain ourselves in our fraught public and private lives. With her characteristic linguistic play, Dolin illuminates some of the most personal concerns that resonate throughout our culture and in ourselves, such as error, despair, uncertainty, and doubt. In sections that deploy the lens of art, the "Oblique Strategies" of Brian Eno and Peter Schmidt, and meditations on dreams and spirituality, *Imperfect Present* provides a panoply of approaches that grapple with the complexity of now. **Heather Treseler**'s collection Auguries & Divinations tracks a young woman's coming of age, attuned to the unspoken liabilities in women's lives, the suburban underworld, and the energies of eros. An older woman becomes the narrator's Beatrice in love and survival, and she returns to the New England of her childhood ready to claim a life of her own making, drawing on the classical practice of augury, or observing birds to discern human fate.

Sharon Dolin is the author of seven books of poetry including her new book *Imperfect Present*, and *Burn and Dodge*, which won the AWP Donald Hall Prize for Poetry. She lives in New York City.

Heather Treseler is the author of two collections of poetry, *Auguries & Divinations* which received the May Sarton Poetry Prize, and *Parturition*. She lives in Massachusetts.

11:30 am-12:30 pm Brought Forth on This Continent: Abraham Lincoln and American Immigration—Harold Holzer *Centre Church*

The U.S. has tussled with anti-immigration xenophobia since its founding, and it has clearly remained a live-wire issue in this election year. But in the 30 years prior to the start of the Civil War some ten million immigrants had settled in the U.S. As if he didn't have enough on his plate as he began his Presidency, Abraham Lincoln also had to deal with the public and political winds swirling around this influx, tensions that split apart Lincoln's earlier Whig party. Just as his positions on slavery and Black citizenship evolved, so did his stance on immigration, a progression charted in Harold Holzer's new work, a book Bill Moyers has called, "... another riveting revelation of Abraham Lincoln's life and times."

Harold Holzer is the author, co-author or editor of more than 50 books and hundreds of articles on Lincoln and the Civil War era, and was a consultant for Steven Spielberg's Lincoln. He has had a long career as a press secretary or speech writer for political figures (Bella Abzug, Mario Cuomo, Abe Beame), as a public affairs director for NY's PBS station, as a senior vice-president for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and is currently the director of the Roosevelt House of Public Policy Institute at Hunter College.

11:30 am-12:45 pm Family History, and Myth—Amitava Kumar and Tyriek Rashawn White 118 Elliot

Amitava Kumar's *My Beloved Life* is an absorbing, moving novel tracing the life of Jadunath Kunwar, born in 1935 in an Indian village near George Orwell's birthplace. Jadu's life skates between the mythical and the mundane as changes big and small sweep across India, and he finds meaning in the most unexpected places: about how we tell stories and write history, how individuals play a counterpoint to big movements, and how no single life is without consequence. **Tyriek White's** *We Are a Haunting*, winner of The Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, is a lyrical novel of hope and transformation following three generations of a working class family and their inherited ghosts. Beginning in 1980's Brooklyn, this supernatural family saga is a searing social critique and a potent account of displaced lives, unraveling the threads that connect the past, present, and future, and exploring the neglected corridors of a pulsing city with pathos and poise.

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Amitava Kumar is the author of several books of non-fiction and four novels. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Ford Fellowship in Literature. Kumar lives in Poughkeepsie, in upstate New York, where he is the Helen D. Lockwood Professor of English at Vassar College.

A National Book Foundation "5 Under 35" honoree, **Tyriek Rashawn White** has received fellowships from Callaloo, New York State Writers Institute, and Key West Literary Seminar, and is currently the media director of Lampblack Literary Foundation, which provides mutual aid and various resources to Black writers across the diaspora.

11:30 am-12:45 pm Poetry of the World—January O'Neill and Susan Rich *Mitchell Giddings Gallery*

In *Glitter Road*, the brilliant and beautiful collection of poems by **January** Gill O'Neil, we are taken from truth to tenderness, old love to new love, the Northeast to the deep South, and everywhere in between. The engaging lyric forms move seamlessly from Tina Turner to the legacy of Emmett Till to cartwheels, to a Hallmark card that hasn't been invented yet, and into John Grisham's bed. O'Neil writes, "I'll take my miracles however they appear / these days"—and how can we not praise the wounded world with her? **Susan Rich**'s one-of-a-kind collection *Blue Atlas* follows a Jewish woman and her ghosts as they travel from West Africa to Europe and, finally, to the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco. The speaker searches repeatedly for a new outcome, seeking answers in a myriad of mediums such as an online questionnaire, a freshman composition essay, and a curriculum vitae. The raw, often far from idyllic experience of a global love affair that results in an unplanned pregnancy is examined and meditated upon through a surreal prism. The Blue Atlas, a genus of the common cedar tree first found in the High Atlas of Morocco and known for its beauty and resilience, becomes a metaphor for the hardship and power of a fully engaged life.

January Gill O'Neil is the author of four poetry collections including her newest collection *Glitter Road* plus *Rewilding*, *Misery Islands*, and *Underlife*. Currently the board chair of AWP, she lives in Beverly, MA.

Susan Rich is the author of five poetry collections including her newest, *Blue Atlas, Cloud Pharmacy,* and *The Alchemist's Kitchen,* a finalist for the Foreword Prize and the Washington State Book Award. She lives in Seattle.

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12:30-1:45 pm Too Much and Not Enough —Emmeline Clein and Anna Shechtman *Centre Church*

In Dead Weight, Emmeline Clein recounts her struggle with disordered eating alongside the stories of other women: historical figures, pop culture celebrities, and the girls she's known and loved. Through the story of her own sickness, the raw recollections of interview subjects, and dispatches from social media rabbit holes, Clein challenges stereotypes and renders statistics and science deeply personal and urgent. From her first encounters with icons of the thin ideal to her years ricocheting between hunger and bingeing, from the pro-anorexia blog that unexpectedly saved someone's life to the residential treatment centers that make so many people sicker, from a wrenching elegy for those who didn't survive to a manifesto for sisterhood, solidarity, and recovery, Clein uncovers girlhood's appetites and injuries to reveal the economic, cultural, and political history of an epidemic. The indisputable "queen of crosswords," Anna Shechtman published her first New York Times puzzle at age nineteen, and later, helped to spearhead the *The New Yorker's* popular crossword section. Working with a medium often criticized as exclusionary, elitist, and out-of-touch, Anna is one of very few women in the field of puzzle making, where she strives to make the everyday diversion more diverse. In this fascinating work—part memoir, part cultural analysis—she excavates the hidden history of the crossword and the overlooked women who have been central to its creation and evolution writes very compellingly about how the struggle to impose order on words in a box was intricately linked for her with her need as a teenager—when she started building puzzles—to impose order on her body through her struggles with anorexia.

Sponsored by The Brattleboro Retreat

Emmeline Clein is the debut author of the critically acclaimed memoir *Dead Weight* and a chapbook of poetry, *Toxic*. She lives in New York City.

Anna Shechtman is a Klarman Fellow at Cornell University. She is the creator of bimonthly crosswords for *The New Yorker* and her new book is *Riddles of the Sphinx*. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

1:00-2:00 pm Glad to the Brink of Fear—James Marcus *Mitchell Giddings Gallery*

More than two centuries after his birth, Ralph Waldo Emerson remains one of the presiding spirits in American culture. Yet his reputation as the starry-eyed prophet of self-reliance has obscured a much more complicated figure who spent a lifetime wrestling with injustice,

philosophy, art, desire, and suffering. **James Marcus** introduces readers to this Emerson, a writer of self-interrogating genius whose visionary flights are always grounded in Yankee shrewdness. Drawing on telling episodes from Emerson's life alongside landmark essays like "Self-Reliance," "Experience," and "Circles," *Glad to the Brink of Fear* reveals how Emerson shares our preoccupations with fate and freedom, race and inequality, love and grief. It shows, too, how his desire to see the world afresh, rather than accepting the consensus view, is a lesson that never grows old.

James Marcus's books include *Amazonia*: *Five Years at the Epicenter of the Dot-Com Juggernaut* and a new book, *Glad to the Brink of Fear: A Portrait of Ralph Waldo Emerson.* He is the former editor of *Harper's Magazine*, and currently teaches at NYU's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute.

1:00-2:15 pm Love and Solitude—Sigrid Nunez and Roxana Robinson *118 Elliot*

Sigrid Nunez's nationally bestselling *The Vulnerables* was named a Best Book of 2023 by NPR, *Kirkus, Vogue, Harper's Bazaar*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and others. With the help of an adrift member of Gen Z and a spirited parrot named Eureka, a solitary female narrator considers what it means to be alive at this moment in history, what happens when strangers are willing to open their hearts to each other, and how far even small acts of caring can go to ease another's distress. In **Roxana Robinson's** *Leaving*, a *New York Times* Editor's Choice, a couple whose love story ended in college meet again by chance decades later: both have pursued families and careers in the intervening years. The romance is rekindled, and as the affair intensifies each must ask difficult questions about loyalty, desire, moral responsibilities, and family vs. romantic love.

Sponsored by MWKABG

Sigrid Nunez has is the author of nine novels, including *The Friend*, which won the 2018 National Book Award and was selected for the *New York Times'* 100 Best Books of the 21st Century. She lives in New York City.

Roxana Robinson is the author of eleven books, four of which have been chosen as New York Times Notable Books, and two as New York Times Editors' Choices. Her fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic, Harper's, Best American Short Stories*, and NPR.



2:00-3:00 pm Misfit—Gary Gulman with Adrian Nicole LeBlanc *Centre Church*

For years, **Gary Gulman** had been the comedian's comedian, acclaimed for his delight in language and his bracing honesty. But after two stints in a psych ward, he found himself back in his mother's house in Boston living in his childhood bedroom at age forty-six, as he struggled to regain his mental health. Chock-full of eighties nostalgia, this is no ordinary book on growing older and growing up. Gulman has an astonishing memory and takes the reader through every year of his childhood education with obsessively detailed stories that are riotously funny. As we meet his neighbors, teachers, heroes, and antagonists, we get a portrait of a young comedian who is often his own worst enemy. Gary will be in conversation with writer Adrian Nicole LeBlanc.

Gary Gulman is a popular touring comedian, selling out theaters nationwide including Carnegie Hall and has been a guest on every major late-night comedy show. He has a recurring role on the Hulu comedy series Life & Beth. *Misfit: Growing Up Awkward in the '80's* is his first book.

Adrian Nicole LeBlanc is an independent journalist who is best known for her nonfiction book *Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble, and Coming of Age in the Bronx*. A contributor to *The New York Times Magazine* and other publications, she has also been the recipient of numerous awards, including a MacArthur Fellowship.

2:30-3:45 pm Fables and Parables—Mark Cecil and Bill Roorbach 118 Elliot

The best fiction reveals the deeper truths underlying normal daily existence. Sometimes retelling a tall tale or creating a new one is the most effective way to get at those truths—and if it can be done in as delightfully engaging a way as the two novels featured in this event, then lucky readers will find themselves with something very special to look forward to. In **Bill Roorbach's** *Beep*, a squirrel monkey living in the Costa Rican rainforest is befriended by a kind-hearted tween traveling with her family and inadvertently finds himself transported to contemporary Manhattan. With her devoted help—and a bit of inspiration from a visiting Greta Thunberg, along with a dramatic zoo liberation—Beep manages to change the destiny of the world. Mark Cecil's debut novel, *Bunyan and Henry; Or, the Beautiful Destiny, is a reinvention of American* folklore involving the friendship between Paul Bunyan and steel drivin' man John Henry. It's a parable about true love, leading an authentic life, and the triumph of the human spirit, all while reveling in America's unseemly warts and outrageous glory.

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Mark Cecil is the host of *The Thoughtful Bro* show, where he conducts interviews with an eclectic roster of writers, including Pulitzer Prize, Academy Award and Booker Prize winners. Mark's writing has appeared in *LitHub*, *NPR*, *Writer's Digest*, *Cognoscenti*, and *The Millions*, among other publications. He lives near Boston with his family.

Bill Roorbach is the author of ten books including *Lucky Turtle*, a *New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice and winner of a Montana Book Award, and the bestselling novel *Life Among Giants*, winner of the Maine Literary Award in fiction. Bill lives with his family in Scarborough and Farmington, Maine.

2:30-3:45 pm Poets Who Teach—Major Jackson and Jessica Fisher *Brooks Memorial Library*

Jessica Fisher brings "the faraway close," through ruthless yet tender interrogations of possibility and permanence in her new collection, Daywork. Set against the backdrop of the fallen empire of Rome, Daywork takes its title from the giornata—the name in fresco painting for the section of wet plaster that can be painted in a single day, where each "day" is marked by the hidden seams in a finished painting. Razzle Dazzle traces the evolution of Major Jackson's transformative imagination and fierce music through five acclaimed volumes: his Cave Canem Poetry Prize–winning debut, *Leaving Saturn* (2002), which captures the spirit of resilience in the Philadelphia neighborhoods of the poet's youth; Hoops (2006), which finds transcendence in the solemn marvels of ordinary lives; *Holding Company* (2010), which shifts away from narrative to explore the seductive force of art, literature, and music; Roll Deep (2015), which addresses human intimacy, war, and the spirit of aesthetic travel; and his vulnerable, philosophical latest, The *Absurd Man* (2020). The volume opens with over three dozen new poems that erupt into full-throated song in the face of indignity and invite us into a passionate experience of the world.

Jessica Fisher is the author of three poetry collections: *Daywork; Inmost;* and *Frail-Craft*. She is an associate professor at Williams College and lives in Western Massachusetts.

Major Jackson is the author of six books of poetry, including *Razzle Dazzle: New & Selected Poems, The Absurd Man, Roll Deep, Holding Company, Hoops* and *Leaving Saturn*, which won the Cave Canem Poetry Prize for a first book of poems. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee where he is the Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Chair in the Humanities at Vanderbilt University.

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3:15 pm to 4:15 pm Head Over Heels—Melissa Newman *Centre Churc*

"It wasn't always a fairy tale, but I wanted to remember the best, dreamiest, most sublime part, and that part just happens to be true," **Melissa Newman** writes in her tribute to her celebrated parents, Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. If ever there was an iconic movie couple, Newman and Woodward were it. Subtitled *A Love Affair in Words and Pictures*, the coffee table book is stuffed with photos of the pair by some of the best: Richard Avedon, Bruce Davidson, Gordon Parks, Philippe Halsman and others, many of the photos rare and never before published, along with family snapshots, letters, and handwritten notes by the stars, philanthropists, and political activists.

Melissa Newman is the second of Paul Newman's and Joanne Woodward's three daughters, born in Hollywood the same day her parents' film *Paris Blues* premiered. She appeared in four films with one or both of her parents. She is a visual artist and teacher, and helped compile Newman's memoir, *The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man*, which was the basis for the recent Ethan Hawke-directed film, *The Last Movie Stars*. She lives in her parents' former house in Connecticut.

4:00-5:00 pm Green Writers Press Showcase 118 Elliot

The Green Writers Press Reading will include poetry, nonfiction, and fiction from a selection of our award-winning authors. The local publishing company will present a lively and diverse reading experience for the Brattleboro Literary Festival. We will have books and refreshments!

Green Writers Press, an independent, women-owned, Brattleborobased publishing company, is dedicated to spreading environmental awareness and social justice by publishing authors who promulgate messages of hope and renewal through place-based writing, racial justice, and environmental activism. The press' mission is to spread a message of hope and renewal through the words and images they publish. Throughout they adhere to their commitment to preserving and protecting the natural resources of the earth. Green Writers Press has published authors such as Julia Alvarez, John Elder, Dr. M Jackson, Madeleine Kunin, Congresswoman Becca Balint, Sharyn Skeeter, and Clarence Major. GWP was part of the Women's Convention in 2017, was a finalist for AWP's Publisher of the Year Award, and received The Vermont Literary Inspiration Award in 2019. In June 2023, founder **Dede Cummings** appeared on "The Innovation Station," at the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues (S/GWI) at the U.S. Department of State.

Authors who will be reading short excerpts include:

Julia C. Alter holds an MFA in Poetry from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Her debut poetry collection, *Some Dark Familiar*, won the 2023 Sundog Poetry Prize and was published by Green Writers Press in 2024. She lives in Vermont with her son.

Ray Clark has called New Hampshire and Vermont home for most of the fifty years. For all of those years, he was at The School for International Training where he was a teacher trainer for Peace Corps Programs. His poetry collection, *Here and There: 50 Years of Poems* is being launched at the Brattleboro Literary Festival and published by Green Writers Press.

Chard deNiord is the author of nine books of poetry, most recently *One As Other* (Green Writers Press, 2024). He is Professor Emeritus of English and Creative Writing at Providence College, and co-founder of The New England College MFA Program. From 2015 to 2019, deNiord served as poet laureate of Vermont. He lives in Westminster West, Vermont with his wife, Liz.

Jackson Ellis is a writer and editor from Vermont who has also spent time living in Nevada and Montana. His debut fiction, *Lords of St. Thomas*, received the Howard Frank Mosher First Novel Prize. His second novel, *Black Days*, is being launched October 22 with a book tour throughout Vermont.

Brad Fawley started running in 7th grade and was a small college NCAA All-American in Cross-Country and 5000 meters. After earning his law degree from the University of Virginia, Brad now practices law as an intellectual property and environmental litigator. His new book, *The Frontrunner*, is currently being adapted into a screenplay. Brad and his wife split their time between Vermont and California.

Susan Weiss works in the visual arts in various mediums including painting and drawing, photography, graphics, and video. Her work explores the issues of identity and the social landscape of contemporary culture. Her photography art book, *The Orchard*, will be published by Green Writers Press in October, 2024. Susan lives in San Francisco and Vermont.

The Orchard has an essay/introduction written by **Eve O. Schaub**, an internationally published author and humorist. Her books have been translated into Chinese, Hebrew, and Spanish, and her writing has additionally appeared in *Newsweek*, *the Boston Globe*, *Vermont Magazine*, and *Vermont Life*. Eve lives with her family in Vermont and she enjoys performing experiments on them so she can write about it.

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4:00 - 5:15 pm The Natural World—Kevin Goodan and Didi Jackson *Mitchell Giddings Gallery*

Didi Jackson's poems investigate both sacred and natural spaces. They move grief and emotional suffering to language as a site of recovery and renewal. Much of this collection is ordered around the work of the Swedish visual artist Hilma af Klint. Jackson's poems explore plant life and natural species in the Green Mountains of Vermont, where perceived thresholds blur in acts of spiritual reimagining. This is a book that questions all that is endless, all that has been thought as limiting, and all that remains unknown. Following the news of a long-past lover's death, Kevin Goodan's In The Days That Followed grapples with the sudden knowledge of the existence of a stillborn child conceived out of wedlock and never named, and never spoken of after the relationship had ended. How do you miss someone who you never even knew? It is within this distillation of loss, of distance, and grief, that allows us to form the unborn, the unnamed, the absent parts of ourselves into the language, into the landscape, and give them a fleeting figure. By giving them a voice and a shadow, a gesture of acknowledgment, we can give a sweet farewell from the earth, from our past, and from their future they were never granted.

Kevin Goodan was raised on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Western Montana. He is the author of five poetry collections, including his most recent *In the Days That Followed*. He lives in Western Massachusetts.

Didi Jackson is the author of *Moon Jar* and a new collection, *My Infinity*. She has had poems selected for *Best American Poetry* and Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-day. She lives in Nashville, TN and teaches at Vanderbuilt University.

5:00-6:00 pm Chasing Beauty—Natalie Dykstra Brattleboro Museum and Art Center

Natalie Dykstra's book *Chasing Beauty* is the vivid story of Isabella Stewart Gardner—creator of one of America's most stunning museums an American original whose own life was remade by art. The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, with its plain exterior enfolding an astonishing four-story Italian palazzo, rose from Boston's Fens at the turn of the twentieth century. Its treasures encompassed not only masterwork paintings but tapestries, rare books, prints, porcelains, and fine furniture. Chasing Beauty illuminates the fascinating ways the museum and its holdings can be seen as a kind of memoir, dazzling and haunting, created with objects instead of words and displayed per Isabella's wishes in the exact placements she initially curated. It is the story of the complex and

singular woman behind one of the most fascinating museums in the nation and the world—a tale of beauty and loss, grit and American self-invention.

Sponsored by the Keene Book Group

Natalie Dykstra is the author of *Clover Adams: A Gilded and Heartbreaking Life* and a new book *Chasing Beauty: The Life of Isabella Stewart Gardner*. She is emerita professor of English and senior research professor at Hope College, where she taught writing, literature, and the arts for twenty years. She lives with her husband in Waltham, Massachusetts.

7:00 pm Write Action Open Reading 118 Elliot

Brattleboro Literary Festival attendees are invited to read at the annual BLF Open Reading hosted by Write Action. Anyone interested in participating should stop by the Brooks House anytime on Saturday to sign up, or sign up at the event. Each reader will have a four-minute time slot and will read in the order of signing up.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

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11:00 am -12:15 pm Strangers in a Strange Land—Samuel Koʻláwolé & Zain Khalid Brooks Memorial Library

In Samuel Koláwolé's masterful first book, The Road to Salt Sea, A young man's life is turned upside down when he is forced to flee Nigeria and embark on a perilous journey to Europe to seek safety and a better life. With nothing but hope and determination, he faces down human traffickers, treacherous landscapes, and the unforgiving sea. Navigating the dark underbelly of illegal migration, his story exposes the harsh realities of a world that often seems too cruel and unforgiving and is a reminder of the struggles many face in search of a better life. In **Zain** Khalid's Brother Alive, it is 1990 and three boys are born, unrelated but intertwined by circumstance: Dayo, Iseul, and Youssef. They are adopted as infants and share a bedroom perched atop a mosque in one of Staten Island's most diverse and underserved neighborhoods. The three boys are an inseparable trio, but conspicuous: Dayo is of Nigerian origin, Iseul is Korean, and Youssef indeterminately Middle Eastern. Youssef shares everything with his brothers, except for one secret: he sees a hallucinatory double, an imaginary friend who seems absolutely real, a shapeshifting

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familiar he calls Brother. Brother persists as a companion into Youssef's adult life, supporting him but also stealing his memories and shaking his grip on the world.

Zain Khalid was named a 2024 "5 Under 35" honoree by the National Book Foundation. He is the debut author of *Brother Alive*, winner of the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award and he lives in New York City.

Samuel Koláwolé was born and raised in Ibadan, Nigeria. His new book is *The Road to Salt Sea*, a story of migration. He lives in Pennsylvania where he is an Assistant Professor of English and African Studies at Penn State.

11:00 am - 12:15 pm Edgar Kunz & Neal Shepard 118 Elliot

Edgar Kunz new collection *Fixer* is full of temp jobs, conspiracy theories, squatters, talk therapy, urban gardening, the robot revolution: this collection fixes its eye on the strangeness of labor, through poems that are searching, keen, and wry. The virtuosic central sequence explores the untimely death of the poet's estranged father, a handyman and addict, and the brothers left to sort through the detritus of a life-long lost to them. Through lyrical, darkly humorous vignettes, Kunz asks what it costs to build a home and a love that not only lasts but sustains. In **Neil Shepard's** ninth poetry collection, *The Book of Failures*, **Neil Shepard** wanders urban and rural landscapes, from American coastlines to foreign shores, the sudden signposts deciphering what's won, what's lost. Though the tone is often elegiac in this prismatic book of human strivings, it is woven with wit and wisdom enough to illuminate the night sky and bring unexpected levity to his many discoveries.

Edgar Kunz is the author of two poetry collections: *Fixer*, named a *New York Times* Editors' Choice Book, and *Tap Out*. He lives in Baltimore where he teaches at Goucher College.

Neil Shepard has published nine books of poetry, most recently, *The Book of Failures*. He founded and directed the writing program at the Vermont Studio Center. He lives half the year in Johnson, Vermont, and half in New York City.

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11:30 am -12:30 pm Deep Blue Sea—Brad Fox *The Stone Church*

Brad Fox's *The Bathysphere Book*, introduces the reader to Otis Barton, the designer of the deep sea vessel called the bathysphere, and William Beebe, his colleague, as they journey together into the unknown world of deep sea exploration. Combining history, biography, science and art, Fox thrills with his poetic prose as he brings the personalities, quirks, and passions of the men and women involved in these expeditions to life. Gorgeously illustrated with paintings by the Wildlife Conservation Society artists who brought these unseen sea creatures to the surface and packed with fascinating details from the scientists' log books, The Bathysphere Book celebrates creative risk and daring. It is a book that plunges you into the dark, silent depths to show you the strange and beautiful and brings you back up to see the world in a completely new way.

Brad Fox is a writer, journalist, translator, and former relief contractor living in New York. His latest book is *The Bathysphere Book*, selected as a Science & Literature honoree by the National Book Foundation for 2024.

12:30-1:30 pm Half American—Matthew Delmont *Epsilon Spires*

It wasn't until 1948 that President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, ending 170 years of officially sanctioned discrimination in the U.S. Armed Forces. Yet over a million Black men and women had served during World War II—at Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, Iwo Jima and other theaters of the conflict. Yet their history has been largely untold. **Matthew Delmont** rights that wrong in *Half-American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad.* He writes, "Every day brought new evidence that [Black Americans] were fighting for a country that did not regard them as fully human." Yet fight they did, making it plausible that they were giving even more than the last full measure of devotion.

Matthew Delmont is the Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Professor of History at Dartmouth College. A Guggenheim Fellow and expert on African American history and the history of civil rights, he is the author of five books including *Half American*, which received the Anisfield-Wolf award, he lives in Hanover, NH.

12:30-1:45 pm Cuban Influences—Pablo Medina and Leslie Sainz 118 Elliot

Award-winning poet, novelist and translator Pablo Medina's new collection Sea of Broken Mirrors is a book of questions and incantations. Full of lush sonics and surreal yet contemporary imagery, the book offers Medina's take on biblical canticles. His work is grounded in descriptions of Vermont's nature --still beautiful despite the ravages of global warming--as well as memories of his youth and family. Born in Cuba and raised there until the age of twelve, Medina infuses his work with Cuban culture. For him, cultural identity is not a static reality, but a vessel riding the sea into the unknown. The poems explore how the diminishment of self (indeed, its ultimate disappearance) can be a way of engaging with the world, the ultimate essence of which is found in the language of poetry. Taking its title from Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea, Leslie Sainz's Have You Been Long Enough at Table explores the personal and historical tragedies of the Cuban American experience through a distinctly feminine lens. Formally diverse with echoes of Spanish throughout, this debut collection critiques power and patriarchy as weaponized by the governments of the United States and the Republic of Cuba. In investigating the realities of displacement and inherited exile, Sainz honors her imagined past, present, and future as a result of the "revolution within the revolution"—the emancipation of Cuban women.

Pablo Medina was born in Havana, Cuba, and grew up in New York City. He is the author of more than twenty published works including poetry, fiction, works in translation, and a memoir. He lives in Vermont.

Leslie Sainz is the author of *Have You Been Long Enough at Table*, winner of the 2024 Audre Lorde Award and finalist for the 2024 Vermont Book Award. The daughter of Cuban exiles, she lives in Vermont.

12:45 - 2:00 pm Speculative and Literary—Marie-Helene Bertino & Julia Phillips *The Stone Church*

Marie-Helene Bertino's *Beautyland*, a Best Book of 2024 at *The New York Times, TIME, Goodreads, Esquire, Elle,* Bookshop.org, and WBEZ Chicago, and recently named one of *Esquire's* 75 Best Sci-Fi Books of All Time, is a wise, tender, and irresistibly engaging novel about a woman of unusual perception who discovers that she has connections on a faraway planet. Julia Phillips's nationally bestselling *Bear* is the mesmerizing novel of two sisters whose efforts to escape the struggles and limitations of daily life on a Pacific Northwest island is upended a bear shows up to forever change the trajectory of their lives. A story about the bonds of sisterhood and the mysteries of the animals that live among us—and

within us—*Bear* is a propulsive, mythical, rich novel from one of the most acclaimed young writers in America.

Marie-Helene Bertino is the author of the three novels and a short fiction collection. Her work has been anthologized in *Best American Short Stories* and *Pen/O. Henry Prize Stories*, and has twice been featured on NPR's "Selected Shorts" program. She is the Ritvo-Slifka Writer-in-Residence at Yale University.

Julia Phillips is the author of *Disappearing Earth*, a finalist for the National Book Award and one of *The New York Times Book Review's* 10 Best Books of the Year, and a new book, *Bear*. A 2024 Guggenheim fellow, she lives with her family in Brooklyn.

2:00-3:00 pm The Burning Earth—Sunil Amrith *118 Elliot*

It may begin like a story—"Once upon a time all history was environmental history"—but **Sunil Amrith** isn't writing fiction. One might wish the history of civilization was, well, a little more civilized, rather than characterized by relentless avarice, and a seemingly endless exploitation of humans and resources. But that's the history Amrith charts here in his new book, *The Burning Earth*, and if the subject matter roams over centuries of sucking the earth dry, it's an amazingly accessible and engrossing read. *The New Yorker* writer Jill Lepore said the book, "… is as beautiful as it is indispensable, as breathtaking as it is devastating. It answers questions most of us have been too daft even to ask. It will set you on fire."

Sunil Amrith, a 2017 recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, is an expert in broad studies of migration and environment, displayed in four previous award-winning histories, including Unruly Waters. He is the Renu and Anand Dhawan Professor of History and professor in the School of the Environment at Yale University. He grew up in Singapore and lives in Connecticut.

2:00-3:15 pm Small Town Mysteries—Juliet Grames & Sarah Stewart Taylor *Brooks Memorial Library*

It's 1960 in Calabria when twenty-seven-year-old Francesca, a starryeyed American, arrives in the isolated mountain village of Santa Chionia, tasked with opening a nursery school. There is no road, no doctor, no running water or electricity. And thanks to a recent flood that swept away the post office, there's no mail, either. Most troubling, though, is the human skeleton that surfaced after the flood waters receded. Who is

it? And why don't the police come and investigate? In the hot summer of 1965, Bostonian Franklin Warren arrives in Bethany, Vermont, to take a position as a detective with the state police in **Sarah Stewart Taylor**'s new book *Agony Hill*. Warren's new home is on the verge of monumental change; the interstates under construction will bring new people, new opportunities, and new problems to Vermont, and the Cold War and protests against the war in Vietnam have finally reached the dirt roads and rolling pastures of Bethany. Warren has barely unpacked when he's called up to a remote farm on Agony Hill. Former New Yorker and Backto-the-Lander Hugh Weber seems to have set fire to his barn and himself, with the door barred from the inside, but things aren't adding up for Warren.

Juliet Grames is the best-selling author of *The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna* and a new novel, *The Lost Boy of Santa Chionia*. Editorial director at Soho Press in New York, she lives in Connecticut.

Sponsored by the Vermont Italian Cultural Association

Sarah Stewart Taylor is the author of the Sweeney St. George and the Maggie D'arcy series. Her new book is Agony Hill. She writes and lives with her family on a farm in Vermont where they raise sheep and grow blueberries.

2:15-3:15 pm How to Be Old—Lyn Slater with Wendy O'Connell *The Stone Church*

When Lyn Slater started her fashion blog, Accidental Icon, at age sixtyone, she discovered that followers were flocking to her account for more than just her A-list style. As Lyn flaunted gray hair, wrinkles, and a megadose of self-acceptance, they found in her an alternative model of older life: someone who defied the stereotypes, refused to become invisible, and showed that all women have the opportunity to be relevant and take major risks at any stage of their life. *How to Be Old* tells the ten-year story of Lyn's sixties, the sometimes-glamorous, sometimesturbulent decade of Accidental Icon. This memoir is about the hopeful and future-oriented process of reinvention. It shows readers that while you can't control everything, what you can control is the way you think about your age and the creative ways you respond to the changes in your mind and body as they happen. Rather than trying to meet standards of youth and beauty as a measure of successful aging, Lyn promotes a more inclusive and empowering standard to judge ourselves by. Lyn will be in conversation with Wendy O'Connell, the host of Here We Are on BCTV

Sponsored by the Walpole Book Group

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Program Bratt Lit 10-2024.indd 22

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Lyn Slater is a cultural influencer, writer, and former professor. She started Accidental Icon in 2014 and has since garnered fan base of almost a million followers. Her new book is *How to Be Old* and she lives in upstate New York.

3:30-4:30 pm Coming of Age — Moon Unit Zappa *The Stone Church*

What would life be like as the child of rock iconoclast and composer Frank Zappa? Endless meals of burnt weeny sandwiches washed down by white port lemon juice? Nothing so amusingly absurd, unless you consider the very name you were given. Frank's frequent absences and endless cavorting with his groupies led to a stormy marriage with his wife Gail Zappa, and a distant relationship with his daughter, in spite of Zappa's biggest popular hit, featuring Moon Unit Zappa as the chattering "Valley Girl." Moon Unit spent a long time trying to figure out if her mother was more abusive or abused. At the end of Frank Zappa's life there was a meager, if nonetheless healing reconciliation. "Life as a Zappa entails both heartbreak and triumph," said *Kirkus Reviews* of Moon Unit's rollicking memoir.

Sponsored by the Works

Moon Unit Zappa is the daughter of legendary musician Frank Vincent Zappa and his second wife, Gail Zappa. At the age of fourteen, Moon Zappa appeared in Frank Zappa's career defining music video, "Valley Girl," which later helped jump-start Moon's own career. Since then, Moon has worked as an actress, singer, writer, comedian, businesswoman, podcaster and as a VJ for both MTV and VH1.

3:30-4:45 pm Write Action Spotlight Reading *118 Elliot*

Brattleboro's vibrant writing community will be featured at the **Write Action Spotlight Reading**. The Spotlight Reading consists of ten-minute readings by local authors who have published a noteworthy book in the past year. The 2024 Brattleboro Literary Festival readers include Lynn Levine, Elaine Reardon, and Kent Young. ()

FESTIVAL ORGANIZATION

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Festival Production: Jessica Callahan Gelter, Jerry Carbone, Stephanie Greene, Sandy Rouse

Literary Cocktail Hour: Jerry Carbone, Sandy Rouse

Publicity: Shari Altman, Jenny Altshuler, Sandy Rouse

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Video: Brattleboro Community Television, Jerry Carbone

Words Project: Jerry Carbone, Stephanie Greene, Sandy Rouse, Lissa Weinmann

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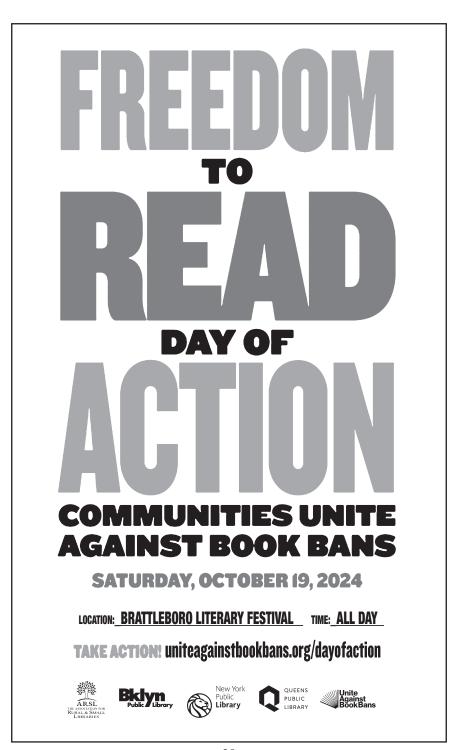
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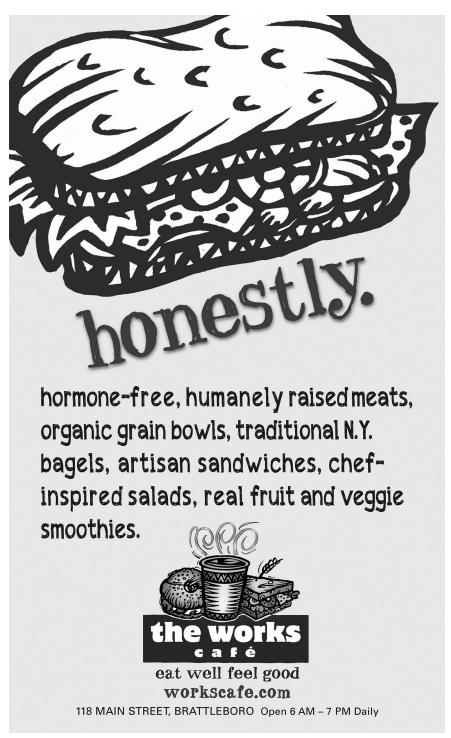
Sound: Matthew Wojcik, Archer Parks

Poster & Program Printing: Minuteman Press

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JIMMY STEWART Film Festival

& THE MARY STEWART ART EXHIBITION

THE PARALLEL CAREERS OF SIBLINGS JIMMY AND MARY STEWART DURING WWII

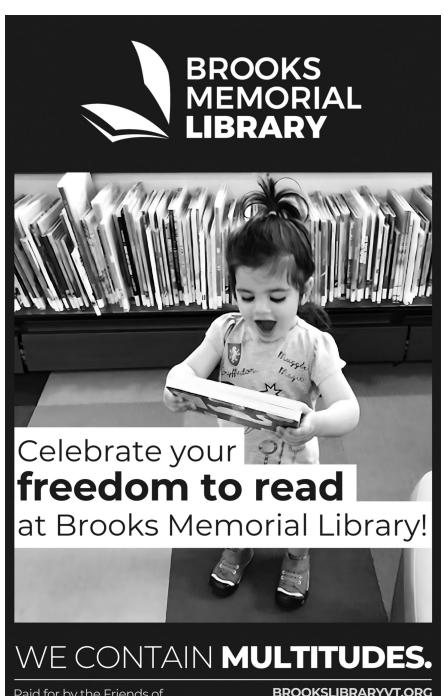
While Jimmy Stewart was the first Hollywood star to join the service during WW II and become a decorated bomber pilot, his sister Mary Stewart did her part by designing powerful anti-Nazi propaganda posters back home, some never before seen in public. View their parallel careers at this art exhibition and film festival.

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Proceeds shared with Latchis Arts and other local non-profit groups. Latchis Theater 50 Main St, Brattleboro, VT 05301 (802) 246-2020 jon@latchisarts.org

Friday, October 25, Mary Stewart Opening 6:00 PM 7:30 PM: "The Philadelphia Story" Q&A with Stewart family members after the showing Saturday, October 26 11:00 AM: Special Family Screening of "American Tail: Fievel Goes West" 4:00 PM: "Rear Window", 7:30 PM: "Harvey" Q&A with Stewart family members after the evening showing Sunday, October 27 4:00 PM: "Shop Around the Corner", 7:30 PM: "It's a Wonderful Life" Monday, October 28: 7:30 PM, Special Screening of "The Mortal Storm" Introduced by Tim Metcalfe

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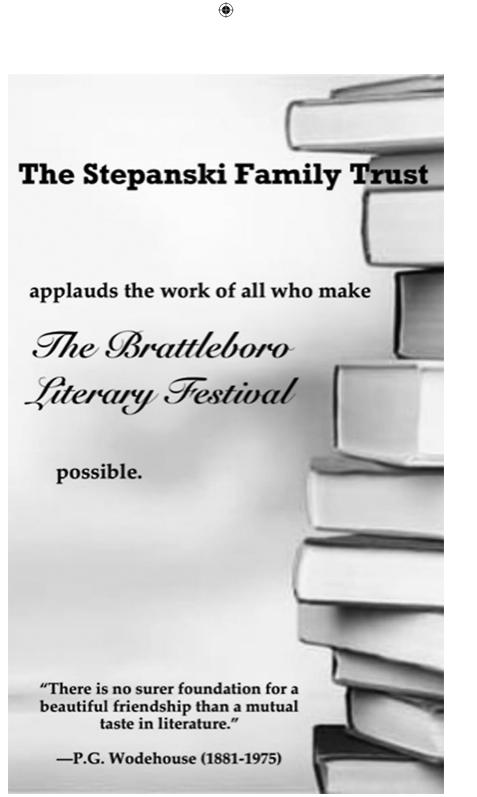


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BRATTLEBORO LITERARY FESTIVAL SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Friday Eve	118 Elliot	Recorded by	w BCTV for later h	roadcast
7:00-7:30 PM	Special Event Books to Looks Fashion Show	You Tube Live Streamed on YouTube		
7:45-9:00 PM	Fiction Amv Jo Burns & Adelle Waldman	Live Stream	ed on toulube	ï
Saturday	118 Elliot	Centre Church	Mitchell Giddings Gallery	Saturday
10:00-11:00 AM 10:00-11:15 AM 11:15-12:15 PM 11:13-12:45 PM 12:30-1:45 PM 12:00-2:15 PM 2:00-3:00 PM 2:30-3:45 PM 3:15-4:15 PM 4:00-5:15 PM 4:00-5:15 PM 4:00-5:30 PM 7:00-8:30 PM	Fiction MT Anderson & Tania James MT Anderson & Tania James Amitava Kumar & Tyriek White Amitava Kumar & Tyriek White Image: Sigrid Nunez & Roxana Robinson Mark Cecil & Roxana Robinson Mark Cecil & Bill Roorbach Special Event Green Writers Press Showcase Write Action Open Reading Brattleboro Museum Non-Fiction Natalie Dykstra	Non-Fiction You Streaming Jeffrey Rosen Non-Fiction Harold Holzer Non-Fiction Formation Emmeline Clein & Anna Shechtman Streaming Gary Gulman & Adrian Nicole LeBlanc Non-Fiction Melissa Newman	Poetry Heather Treseler & Sharon Dolin Poetry Susan Rich & January O'Neill James Marcus Brooks Memorial Library Jessica Fisher & Maior Jackson Mitchell Giddings Gallery Kevin Goodan & Didi Jackson	10:00-11:15 AM 11:30-12:45PM 1:00-2:00 PM 2:30-3:45 PM 4:00-5:15 PM
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Sunday 11:00-12:15 PM 11:30-12:30 PM 12:30-1:45 PM 12:45-2:00 PM 2:00-3:00 PM 2:15-3:15 PM 3:30-4:45 PM 3:30-4:30 PM	Poetry Edgar Kunz & Neal Shepard Poetry Leslie Sainz & Pablo Medina Non-Fiction Sunil Amrith Special Event Write Action Spotlight Reading	Stone Church Non-Fiction Brad Fox Fiction Marie-Helene Bertino & Julia Phillips Lyn Slater with Wendy O'Connell Non-Fiction Moon Unit Zappa	Fiction Samuel Koláwojé & Zain Khalid Non-Fiction Matthew Delmont Juliet Grames & Sarah Stewart Taylor	Sunday 11:00-12:15 PM 12:30-1:30 PM 2:00-3:15 PM
LOCATIONS FOR ALL VENUESJust colspan="3">Integration of the second sec				

