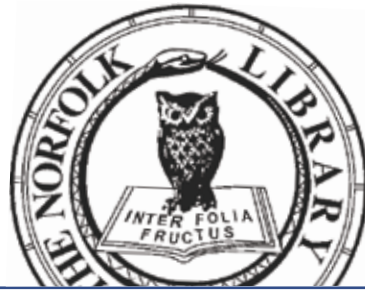


THE NORFOLK LIBRARY OWL



Vol 29 Issue 1

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORFOLK LIBRARY

January 2020

“Never to dim this light, young friends ...”

Were it not for the five small windows in the attic of the Library overlooking the Green, you might never know that there is a third-floor room that houses a collection of 19th-century bound periodicals. When the Norfolk Library opened in 1889, periodicals were enormously popular, such that the Library had a designated Reading Room (now the Director’s office) for the 28 magazines and newspapers it subscribed to.

Eight years earlier, Isabella Eldridge had opened a periodical reading room in the nearby Scoville house to gauge the need for a public library. Well attended, it had convinced her to build a permanent library, and the periodicals were transferred to the new building. Among them was the magazine *St. Nicholas* for children ages five to eighteen. A service provided to *St. Nicholas* subscribers was that, for a small fee, six issues could be sent off to be bound into a hard-back volume, with crimson covers and a gold-stamped title. These beautifully-bound volumes still sit on our third-floor shelves.

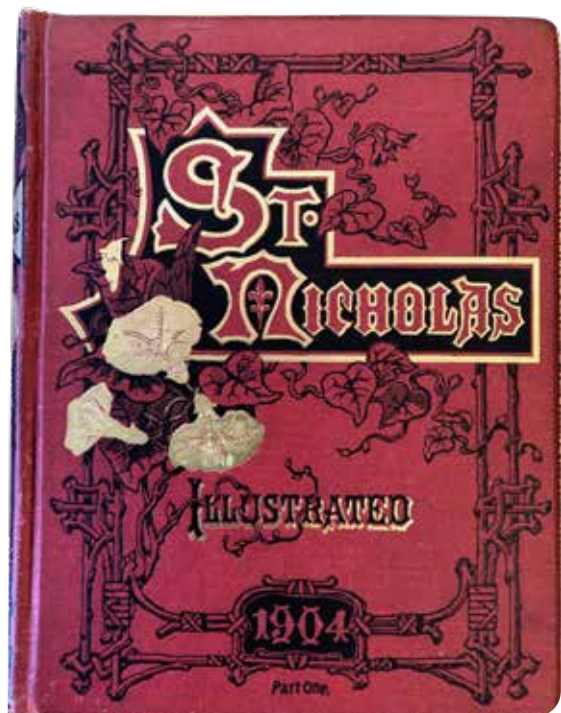
St. Nicholas (1873-1941) was published by Scribner’s beginning in November 1873 as *St. Nicholas: Scribner’s Illustrated Magazine for Girls and Boys*. It had 48 pages and a press run of 40,000 copies. From the start, the magazine was beautifully printed with illustrations from a group of artists and wood engravers, used by Scribner & Company’s other magazine *Scribner’s Monthly*. Within a few years, *St. Nicholas* increased in size to 96 pages, and reached a circulation of 70,000 subscribers. Although it was not the only children’s magazine at the time, it was considered the best—a showcase for both fine adult writers and upcoming young ones.

Its first editor was Mary Mapes Dodge, author of the best-seller *Hans Brinker; or, The Silver Skates*. Dodge had specific ideas about what a children’s magazine should and shouldn’t be. Her fresh approach precluded heavy-handed moralizing. In her words, a children’s magazine must not be

“a milk-and-water variety of the periodicals for adults. In fact, it needs to be stronger, truer, bolder, more uncompromising than the other... Most children...attend school. Their heads are strained and taxed with the day’s lessons. They do not want to be bothered nor amused nor petted. They just want to have their own way over their own magazine.”

To that end, Dodge created departments for different age groups. “For Very Little Folks” was a page of simple stories printed in large type. “The Puzzle Box” contained riddles, math, and word games. The “Agassiz Association,” begun in 1885, was intended to develop an awareness of nature and the importance of conservation. Hundreds of Agassiz chapters were organized across the country, and reports of activities

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EXHIBITION

Pamela Harnois

FEBRUARY EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday, January 26, 4:00 – 6:00 pm



Norfolk resident Pamela Harnois is a visual artist who specializes in transparent watercolor. She holds a BFA in painting and is a member of the New England Watercolor Society, Norfolk Artists and Friends, and the Artisans Guild. She is known for her light and loose style in florals, land-

scapes, seascapes, trees, animals, and still life. Pamela writes: “There is a delicate balance and story of contrasts meandering through my Woodlands and Wildflowers artwork. The elements of large and small, lights and darks, balance and chaos; nothing is random. The branches and blooms reflect the woodlands way of life. If you need bringing back to the present moment, be around nature’s art. No plans, no agenda, no doing... just gently being, in tune with nature’s rhythms where nothing is ever forced or rushed and everything blooms with perfection at just the right time.”

Michael Lampro

MARCH EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday, March 1, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Berkshire County native Michael Lampro captures the unique flora and landscapes of New England and beyond in his photographs. Growing up in an area rich with outdoor recreational opportunities, he has always felt a strong connection to nature, a connection enhanced by his work in landscape design. By using unconventional angles, he



strives to present the subject in a new and unusual way. Weather and lighting inspire his creativity. From chasing the late afternoon “magic light” on a summer day, to rushing out after an ice storm in January, Michael welcomes the challenges that scenic photography has to offer.

Shirley Metcalf

APRIL EXHIBITION

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

Shirley Metcalf is a professional mixed-media artist and long-time resident of Norfolk, who holds a BFA in painting from the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford, and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Clarkson University. She has exhibited her work locally and nationally. Her “Color Ecology” series merges botanical eco-printing with traditional surface design processes on natural fibers. Combining eco-dyed, earthy hues of plants with the infinite colors, textures, and materials of traditional art processes reveals contrary yet harmonious compositions. The vast range of colors and materials in her artwork suggests that diversity can allow us a more beautiful, mystical, and fascinating place to coexist.



Janet Andre Block

MAY EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday, May 3, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Based in Salisbury, Janet Andre Block has shown in solo and group shows in the Northwest corner and as far afield as the Venice Biennale. She has studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and at NYU where she pursued a Master of Studio Art. Janet works in oil, acrylic, and ink to create abstracted paintings of flowers, fruit, and other structures. She writes: “I have learned that simple, common objects have architecture and resonance deeper

EXHIBITION

than what appears in our passing glance. Painting offers me an opportunity to slow down, take a good look, and experience wonder.”

Lauren Packard

JUNE EXHIBITION

Opening reception: Sunday, May 31, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Lauren Packard is a mixed-media artist, who lives with her partner and two cats in Brooklyn, NY, and summers in Norfolk. After she underwent brain surgery in 2014, paint became her primary form of communication. While words often escaped her, paint rarely did. It allowed her to express and process all of the mystery, confusion, fear, and frustration she experienced during her recovery. As a public elementary school art teacher, Lauren has grounded her work

in exploratory play and unexpectedness, reflecting her students’ use of raw, expressive movement and marks. Her art explores the tensions and juxtapositions of the dichotomies of her life: West Coast/ East Coast, gender



binaries, public and private, summer and winter, mind and body, trauma and recovery, introvert and extrovert, organic and geometric, health and sickness, right brain and left brain, known and unknown, past and present, dream and reality.

Continued from page 1

were printed in the department.

Dodge wrote a monthly column, “Jack-in-the-Pulpit,” and contributed her own stories and poems. She knew many writers and asked them to submit their work. Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *Little Lord Fauntleroy* first appeared as a *St. Nicholas* serial beginning in November 1885. Other novels that were serialized include Louisa May Alcott’s *Eight Cousins* and Mark Twain’s *Tom Sawyer Abroad*. Dodge asked Rudyard Kipling to do a fiction series, and he sent her the *Jungle Book* stories.

The “St. Nicholas League” encouraged the creativity of older children. It was one of the magazine’s most important departments, in which monthly contests were held for the best poems, stories, essays, drawings, photographs, and puzzles submitted by its young readers. Winners received gold badges, runners-up received silver badges, and “honor members,” winners of both gold and silver badges, were awarded cash prizes. Some young St. Nicholas League winners went on to achieve prominence. 14-year-old Edna St. Vincent Millay took home the first of seven poetry badges for poems published in *St. Nicholas*. Drawings by 9-year-old William Faulkner and 11-year-old E.E. Cummings made the honor roll. A photograph by 13-year-old F. Scott Fitzgerald was published, as was a sketch by 11-year-old Eudora Welty and a story by E. B. White, who wrote: “We Leaguers were busy youngsters. Many of us had two or three strings to

our bows and were not content till we had shown in every department, including Wildlife Photography.”

In spite of its name, *St. Nicholas* was not a religious magazine, and the St. Nicholas League did not favor any particular race, ethnicity, or religion. As Suzanne Rahn writes, “*St. Nicholas* provided a safe haven from the prejudice and active discouragement that many of these young artists—particularly girls—would have met at home, at school, even professionally... Recent immigrants, who had to contend with so many barriers elsewhere, are also accepted without question here; among the names of members and prize-winners are many of Italian, Eastern European, Armenian, and Jewish origin. All citizens were truly equal in the League’s version of America.”

In the first issue of *St. Nicholas*, Mary Mapes Dodge explained why she chose “St. Nicholas” for the name of the magazine: “Isn’t he the kindest, best, and jolliest old dear that ever was known?... He has attended so many heart-warmings in his long, long day that he glows without knowing it, and ... casts a light upon the children’s faces that lasts from year to year.” It was the magazine’s aim “Never to dim this light, young friends, by word or token, to make it even brighter, when we can, in good, pleasant, helpful ways, and to clear away clouds that sometimes shut it out.”

—Ann Havemeyer, Director

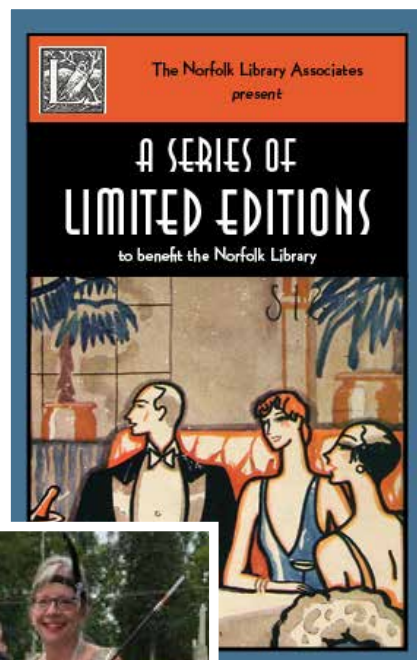
GREENWOODS | PUPPET FESTIVAL

Our first Greenwood Puppets Festival was a rousing success as we welcomed over 450 people and eight puppeteers to the Library to celebrate the art of puppetry. Thank you to John DeShazo for stage and lighting production, which turned the Great Hall into a real theater. We are very grateful to our generous sponsors: Battell Arts Foundation, Norfolk Connecticut Children's Foundation, Norfolk Library Associates, and the Town of Norfolk.



SNAP | SHOPS

A festive time was had by all at the Library Associates' gala cocktail party "Roaring Twenties Paris" on August 23. We stepped back in time to Les Années Folles, with some in jazz age dress, while feasting on delectable hors d'oeuvres and signature cocktails amidst the music of a quartet of jazz musicians. Many thanks to all who contributed and to the hosts of the five fabulous French-themed Limited Editions dinner parties: Michael Selleck, "Villa America"; Jean Crutchfield & Robert Hobbs, "The Art of Dining: Dione Lucas & Robert Motherwell"; Catherine Gevers & John Fernandez, "Where Paris Dines"; Marie Lowe and Christina Vanderlip, "Ooh La La!"; and Kate Wenner & Gil Eisner, "Ceci N'est Pas Un Poulet: A Surrealist Dinner."



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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.

LITERARY SERIES

Jauchzet! The Culture and History of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*

THURSDAYS, JANUARY 9–FEBRUARY 13, 10:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

Is there music more glorious than the piece we now call Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*? But there's more to the story than the music! Join Mark Scarbrough for a deep dive into the culture, history, and art surrounding this masterwork. Each of the six sessions will be devoted to one of the six cantatas that make up the oratorio. We'll pay careful attention to the defeat of Sweden, the growth of Prussian power, the rise of Russia, and the consequent alliances in central and western Europe, as well as the position of Bach in the larger transition to modernism in Western culture. Each session will offer two video performances of each cantata.

FILMS

Thursday Night Classic Films

JANUARY 16 – *Modern Times* (1939) This comedic masterpiece is just the ticket for the winter doldrums! Iconic Little Tramp (Charlie Chaplin) is employed at a state-of-the-art factory, where the inescapable machinery completely overwhelms him, and where various mishaps keep getting him sent to prison. In between his various jail stints, he meets and befriends an orphan girl (Paulette Goddard). Both together and apart, they try to contend with the difficulties of modern life, with the Tramp working as a waiter and eventually a performer.

FEBRUARY 20 – *Showboat* (1951) The film adaptation of the Broadway musical by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II, based on Edna Ferber's best-selling 1926 novel of the same name, follows the lives of the performers, stagehands, and dock workers on the Cotton Blossom, a Mississippi River showboat, over 40 years from 1887 to 1927. Its themes include

racial prejudice and tragic, enduring love. One of MGM's most popular musicals, it features such classic songs as Ol' Man River, Make Believe, and Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man.

MARCH 19 – *My Left Foot* (1989) An Irish-British co-production starring Academy-Award winner Daniel Day-Lewis, the film tells the story of Christy Brown, born with cerebral palsy, who learns to paint and write with his only controllable limb: his left foot.

Documentary Films

United Skates (2018)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 4:00 PM

Recently released in New York and Los Angeles and shortlisted by the International Documentary Association's award for top feature in 2018, the film depicts black roller skating culture "with both elegiac and euphoric beauty" [*The New York Times*], while giving voice to dozens of skaters who tried to skate at unfriendly establishments, facing discrimination, police searches, and arbitrary rules. Replete with archival footage, the film was edited by Katharine Garrison, daughter of the late Lloyd and Sarah Garrison, who will bring it to Norfolk.

Always in Season (2019)

DATE AND TIME, TBA

Always in Season is an award-winning film that explores the lingering impact of more than a century of lynching African Americans and connects this form of historic racial terrorism to racial violence today. The film centers on the case of Lennon Lacy, an African-American teen who was found hanging from a swing set in Bladenboro, North Carolina, on August 29, 2014. Despite inconsistencies in the case, local officials quickly ruled Lennon's death a suicide, but his mother, Claudia, believes Lennon was lynched. Claudia moves from paralyzing grief to leading the fight for justice for her son. Following the screening of this film, there will be a discussion with a guest facilitator.

French New Wave Film Series

New Wave is a French film movement which emerged in the 1950s and 1960s and is often referred to as one of the most influential movements in the history of cinema. A form of European art cinema, New Wave films and filmmakers such as

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Jean-Luc Godard and François Truffaut were linked by their rejection of traditional film conventions then dominating France. They embraced radical experimentation with editing, visual style, and narrative, as well as engagement with the social and political upheavals of the era. Introduced by filmmaker Diego Ongaro, this series will take place on three consecutive Thursdays: April 2, 9, and 16.

- **Breathless** (1960) For the most emblematic film of the French New Wave starring Jean-Paul Belmondo and Jean Seberg, the “enfant terrible” director Jean-Luc Godard breaks free of the rules of cinema and follows the wanderings of a petty thug and a young American woman in Paris.

- **The 400 Blows** (1959) François Truffaut’s first film with the famous character of Antoine Doinel is one of the masterpieces of French cinema. Based on Truffaut’s own childhood and wonderfully interpreted by actor Jean-Pierre Léaud, it is a beautiful and heartbreaking film about the difficult life of a young teenager in Paris in the 1950s.

- **Pauline at the Beach** (1983) This film is post New Wave but still anchored in that movement. Directed by Éric Rohmer, one of the founding members of the French New Wave, it is a delightful tale set on the French coast of Normandy and follows the love life of teenage girl Pauline and her adult cousin Marion.

SPEAKERS

Scott Williams

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 4:00 PM

Scott Williams, Ph.D., is an expert in wildlife biology, who has been studying overabundant white-tailed deer herds and their impact on native and managed ecosystems, orchards, gardens, and landscape plantings. His field of expertise includes not only deer but also Connecticut wildlife such as songbirds and other migratory birds, game birds, small and medium sized mammals, and fish. This talk is part of the Great Mountain Forest lecture series.

David Wagner

Norfolk Land Trust Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 3:30 PM

David L. Wagner, Ph.D., is an entomologist and a professor

of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Connecticut’s Center for Conservation and Biodiversity. He is the author of *Caterpillars of Eastern North America*, widely regarded as one of the most authoritative field guides on caterpillars. As he writes in the preface to his field guide, “Every biologist and weekend naturalist dreams of one day exploring the tropical rainforest, but it is not necessary to be transported to a jungle to find beauty, view mysterious phenomena, or make new scientific discoveries ... all exist as close as the nearest woodlot. All it takes is to walk more slowly, watch more closely, and develop an appreciation for what Dr. E. O. Wilson of Harvard calls ‘the little things that run the World.’”

John Root, “Edible Wild Plants of the Northeast”

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 4:00 PM

John Root is a certified organic landscape professional and botanist, who will introduce us to the identification and uses of wild plants for food and beverage. Distinguishing characteristics, seasons of availability, habitats, methods of preparation, and nutritional and medicinal value of our region’s most common and appealing wild plants will be discussed.

CONCERTS

Recital: Pianist Po-Wei Ger

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 4:00 PM

A native of Taiwan, Po-Wei Ger studied piano at the Manhattan School of Music before attending Yale University, where he is pursuing a Master of Music degree. Po-Wei was a Norfolk fellow last summer at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and audiences will remember his skilled performances on piano. For this recital, Po-Wei has chosen works by Schumann, Prokofiev, Fauré, and Chopin. Please join us to cap off the holidays and welcome Po-Wei back to Norfolk!

Moonshine Holler

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 5:00 PM

Moonshine Holler, the husband and wife duo of Paula

Bradley and Bill Dillof, captures the essence of American roots music: hillbilly blues, ballads and breakdowns, Carter family classics and jug band stompers, with knock-your-socks-off flatfoot dancing to boot. Known for their musical prowess on more instruments than they can juggle (banjo, fiddle, guitar, Hawaiian guitar, harmonica, ukulele, kazoo), Paula and Bill are two performers steeped in old time traditional music who have performed and taught across the country and abroad.

Foundry Saxophone Quartet

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 3:00 PM

Comprised of saxophonists Max Schwimmer, Mallory Kokus, Kara Cook, and Andrew Studenski, this accomplished group will perform a variety of music centered on original classical works, as well as a mix of jazz, folk, and ragtime. Founding member Max Schwimmer brings a sense of musical adventure to each performance. A classically-trained saxophonist, he has performed through the United States as well as internationally in Italy and the Ukraine. As a member of the Asylum Quartet, which received the Grand Prize in the 2014 International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition, he received praise for “nonstop virtuoso skills” (*Times Herald-Record*). Mr. Schwimmer’s arrangements for saxophone ensembles include works by Charles Ives, Philip Glass, Beethoven, Debussy, Franck, Gershwin, Piazzolla, Zorn, Imogen Heap, Ljova, and Louis Thomas Hardin (“Moondog”).

St. Patrick’s Concert

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 6:00 PM

The Norfolk Library’s celebration of St. Patrick’s Day has become an annual tradition for fans of the Emerald Isle. Once again we will host a lively evening of Irish music and fare as we welcome internationally-recognized Irish musicians Cathy Jordan from Dervish and guitarist Eamon O’Leary to perform traditional and original Irish folk songs with close harmonies and deft instrumental arrangements.

A singer, song-writer, and multi-instrumentalist, Cathy Jordan was born in Scramogue, County Roscommon, and joined the Sligo-based band Dervish as lead vocalist, starting a musical journey that has spanned over two decades. During that time Cathy has been the front woman and

bodhran player with the group and has led them through thousands of concerts in hundreds of cities in nearly 40 countries, performing and co-producing Dervish albums. An icon of Irish music, Jordan and Dervish were honored with a BBC2 Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019.

Originally from Dublin, Eamon O’Leary has lived in New York City for the last twenty years, where he has become a fixture of the city’s thriving Irish music scene. Recent work includes collaboration with Jefferson Hamer as The Murphy Beds; and Nuala Kennedy and celebrated Irish guitarist John Doyle as The Alt. Eamon is a superb accompanist, a talented singer-songwriter, and a respected interpreter of traditional Irish song.



Melvin Chen and Christian Teal perform Bach and Brahms

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 4:00 PM

Melvin Chen, Director of the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and his former pre-college violin teacher Christian Teal will be performing together at the Library in April. Teal is the Joseph Joachim Professor of Violin, Emeritus at the Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University, where he taught for years and was the first violinist in the Blair String Quartet. Now based in Cambridge, Teal is pursuing a solo career. A native of Tennessee, pianist Melvin Chen has received acclaim for performances throughout the United States and abroad. As a soloist and chamber musician, Mr. Chen has performed at major venues in the United States, and his performances have been featured on radio and television stations around the globe. Solo recordings include Beethoven’s Diabelli Variations on the Bridge label, praised as “a classic” by the *American Record Guide*. A graduate of Yale University, Melvin Chen holds a doctorate in chemistry from Harvard University, and a double master’s degree from

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the Juilliard School in piano and violin. He is on the faculty of the Yale School of Music, where he serves as Associate Professor (Adjunct) of Piano and Deputy Dean.



Manhattan Chamber Players

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 7:00 PM

The Manhattan Chamber Players are a chamber music collective of New York-based musicians who share the common aim of performing the greatest works in the chamber repertoire at the highest level. Performing at the Library will be MCP's Artistic Director and founder Luke Fleming, who holds the degrees of Doctor of Musical Arts, Artist Diploma, and Master of Music from the Juilliard School. A violist, Mr. Fleming was formerly with the internationally acclaimed Attacca Quartet and has been lauded by Gramophone for his "superlative technical and artistic execution." Mr. Fleming will be playing with pianist David Fung, praised in the *Washington Post* for his "ravishing and simply gorgeous" performances, who garnered international attention as a winner in two major international piano competitions; Mark Dover, clarinetist of Imani Winds, North America's premier wind quintet; and Brook Speltz, cellist of the internationally-renowned Escher String Quartet, an artist of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and First Prize winner of the prestigious Ima Hogg Competition.

Music Among Friends

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 4:00 PM

Jim Nelson of the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival returns to Norfolk with a program featuring musicians from the Yale School of Music. Designed to be fun and engaging,

the program is an opportunity for both the experienced concertgoer and the classical music novice to enjoy an informal discussion of chamber music among friends, old and new. Members of the audience are encouraged to participate with questions and comments. No background in music is necessary—all you need is an active curiosity.

FIELD TRIP

Frelinghuysen Morris House & Studio, Lenox, MA

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

George L. K. Morris and Suzy Frelinghuysen, prolific abstract artists since the late 1930s, were a remarkable couple at the leading edge of the national and international art scene. Collectors and intellectuals, they created a Berkshire home that reflected their aesthetic worlds. Frelinghuysen and Morris are today being widely rediscovered and evaluated as significant figures in the history of American art. We will visit their house set on a 46-acre estate in the heart of Lenox, MA, preserved just as it was when they created it, and view their exquisite collection of American and European Cubist Art.

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 many free cultural programs offered by the Library. The group welcomes new members. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 4:00 pm in the Great Hall.

Tom Hlas, *President*
Jennifer Almquist, *Vice-President*
Louise Davis, *Secretary*
Paul Madore, *Treasurer*

THE OWL

The Norfolk Library
9 Greenwoods Road East
Post Office Box 605
Norfolk, Connecticut 06058

www.norfolklibrary.org
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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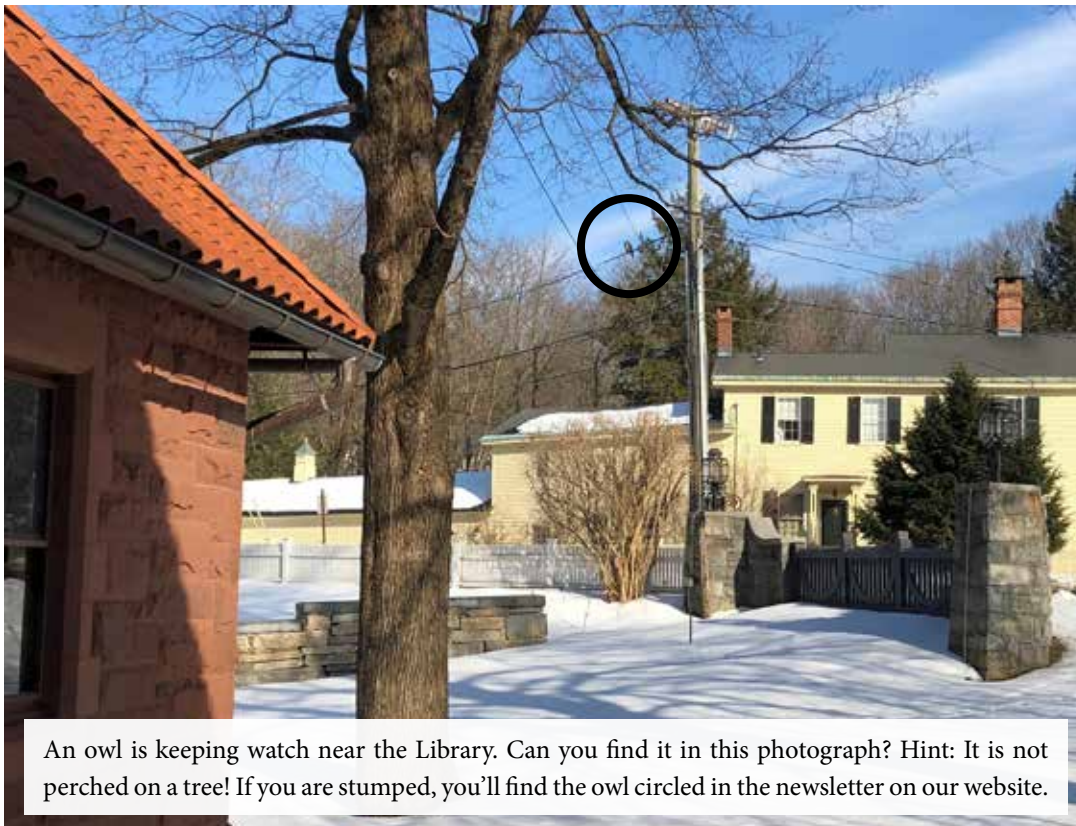
John Fernandez

LaRita Freedman

Adam Heller

Ruth Melville

Barbara Spiegel



An owl is keeping watch near the Library. Can you find it in this photograph? Hint: It is not perched on a tree! If you are stumped, you'll find the owl circled in the newsletter on our website.