

# Bennington Free Library

Volume 22, No.1

A Quarterly Newsletter

April 2017

## Annual Library Book Sale May 12 and 13

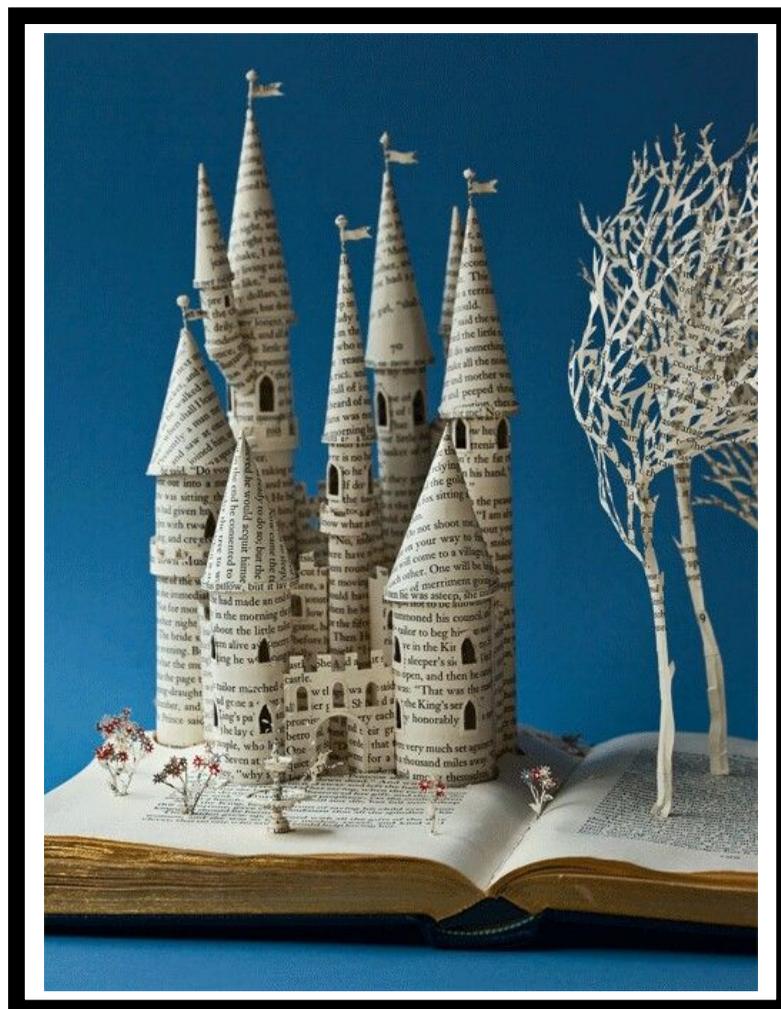
Organizing for the library's annual book sale, held at the First Baptist Church on Main Street in Bennington is in full swing.

Volunteers have been sorting and packing books, videos, audio books, puzzles and other items all year and the selection promises to be as just as varied as past sales.

This year's sale features donated books from the community as well as titles culled from the library's collection. The combination delivers a wide variety of genres certain to satisfy the most diverse tastes.

Bibliophiles who pay a ten dollar admission fee may attend our Friday Night preview sale and enjoy first choice of items featured in the sale. It is well worth the investment and perhaps you'll find a recent release you've been dying to read or a rare first edition!

The library's annual book sale is a major fundraiser for the library as well as an entertaining community event. Please support the library by attending and be certain to bring friends and family!



An example of creative "repurposing" of books.  
What ideas can you come up with?

## BookFest

benefitting the **Bennington Free Library**  
Books are only the beginning...

First Baptist Church  
601 Main Street - Bennington  
May 12 and 13, 2016



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**Letter from the Director.....**

As I write this, I can scarcely believe that spring is just around the corner. Fall and winter programming has kept us busy through the cold winter season and we now must make plans for our volunteer reception, annual booksale, Mayfest booth and a full roster of activities for the summer reading program. There's never a dull moment at the library!

In this issue we take time to thank our volunteers, though a simple "thank you" does not seem an adequate expression of our appreciation for all that our library volunteers accomplish. Whether supervising the VT History Room, helping with the book sale, delivering books to area day care centers for Book Express or assisting in a myriad of other ways, we simply could not provide the quantity and quality of programming we offer without their help.

And so in this issue of the newsletter we acknowledge and honor the individuals who dedicate their time and expertise to the library. I hope you will take time to review their names and thank them for their service to our library and community. All will be honored at a special reception on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

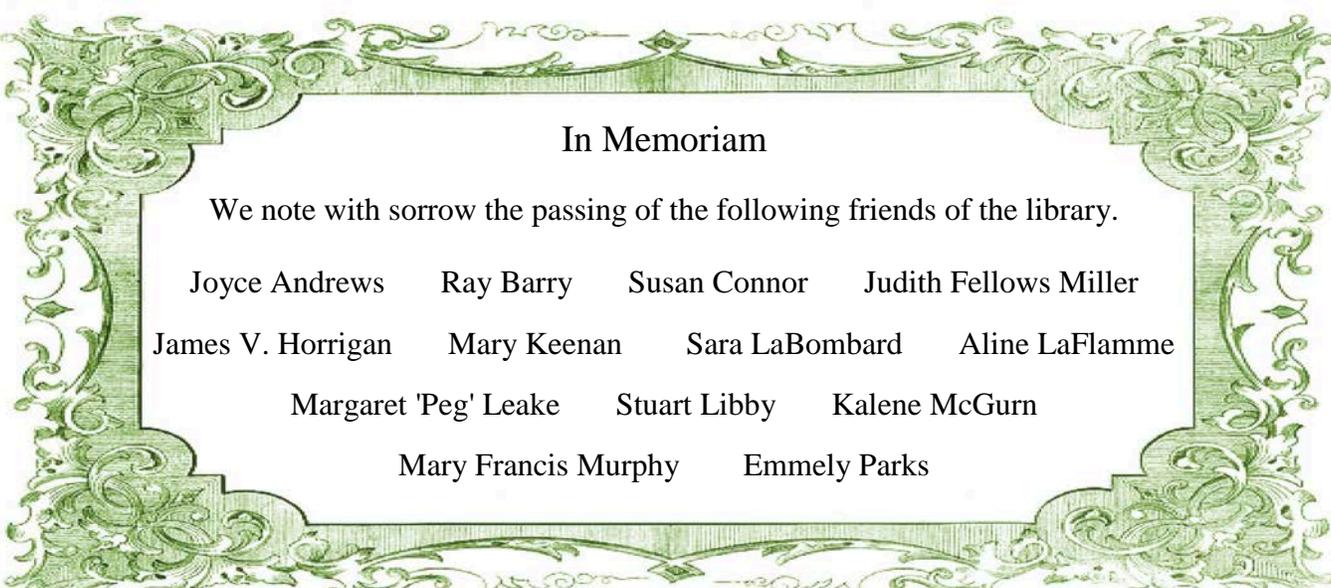
Spring also heralds the conclusion of our annual fundraising initiative. In order to maintain our current programs and services, the library must raise 25% of its annual operating budget each year. This is a considerable undertaking, accomplished through the collective effort of board members, busy staff and dedicated volunteers.

***If you have not yet contributed to our Annual Fund, there is no time like the present.  
Your donation, in any amount, is an important factor in our ongoing sustainability.***

Finally, you are reading this newsletter because you recognize the important role the library plays in our community and are invested in its continued success. Please consider the value the library offers to you on a personal level, and show your appreciation in any way that you can. Through financial support, donations of services and supplies, as volunteers... whatever is within your means, I hope you will join us in working to make our library the very best it can be.

***Wishing you all a great spring... hope to see you in the library soon!***

***Lynne Fonteneau McCann***



### In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the passing of the following friends of the library.

Joyce Andrews	Ray Barry	Susan Connor	Judith Fellows Miller
James V. Horrigan	Mary Keenan	Sara LaBombard	Aline LaFlamme
Margaret 'Peg' Leake	Stuart Libby	Kalene McGurn	
Mary Francis Murphy	Emmely Parks		

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 9-15, 2017

*Volunteer Hours donated at the Bennington Free Library in 2016*

*Thank you for all you do!*

**The Bennington Free Library is fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers. In 2016 our volunteers donated time in Technical Services, the Children's Room, Adult Reference Services, Circulation, Interlibrary Loans, Administrative Services, in the Vermont History Room, during our annual booksale and as Directors and Trustees\* on the Library's Board.**

Cathy Alberti	Marge Galvin	Sandy Loiterstein	Jasmine Pratt
Lucy Baldwin	Anita Gauthier	Fred Loy	Jane Radocchia
Anna Becker	Jon Goodrich*	Maureen Loy*	Michael Rancourt
Bennington Garden Club	Misti Granger	Linda Lyons	Betsy Ratelle
Bennington Rotary Club	Diana Griffiths	Lisa Mandela	Al Ray
Tricia Bittteker*	Joe Hall	Saralea Mandela	Ginny Ray
Emily Blohm	Joyce Hall	Barbara Marino	Dana Rozycki
Rachella Bolton	Mary Hall	Dale Maturski	Jenni Rozycki
Ray Bolton	Ellen Havlak	MAU Interact Club	The Reutter Family
James Boutin	Rick Havlak	Steve McClure	Collette Schoellkopf
Laura Boutin	Art Haytko	Vince McLean	William Schoellkopf
Anne Bugbee	Melissa Hepler	John McShane	Sherry Schwarz
Bob Bullington	Sue Hoffman-Ogier	Norma McShane	Josie Shepard
Terri Bullington	Brennan Holland	Rev. Richard McSherry	Constance Smith
John Butler	Bill Holmes	Dare Meunier	Ida Snow
Claire Cabiles	Michael Horwitz	Mary Mollica	Logan Snow
Alison Camarda	Diane Howard	Jane Moriarty	Nancy Steffen
Kate Canning*	Anne Humphrey	Catherine Morrissey	Sharon Stepp
Jim Carroll*	Frances Hunt	Christine Morrissey *	Bob Taff
Bella Casalinova	Ashley Jowett	Michael Munson*	Denise Taff
Jess Casalinova	Kathy Kaiser	Viola Myers	Kathy Thompson
Jim Cook & Dept. of	Laura Kaiser	Dave Newell*	John Toscano
Corrections	Madeline Kennedy	Donald Nolan	Abbie Trafton
Charles Copp	Jennifer Kern	Nancy O'Neil	Kay Trafton
Courtney Cowan	Jan Ketterer	Emily Ostler	Barth Vander Els*
Valeria Crossley	Catherine Kindle	Meg Outwater	Betty Vander Els
Edna Curran	Charlotte Knighton	Emmely Parks	P.J. Venti*
Dottie DePollo	David Knighton	Krystianna Pietrezak	Jean Wassick
Tom DePollo	Cindy Krautheim	Lisa Pietrezak	Renee' Williams
Linda Donigan	Dianna Leazer	Jane Pinsonneault	Richard Williams
April Erwinski	Kelley Legacy*	Rita Pinsonneault	Bill Wolfe
Lisa Flynn	Stuart Libby	Chris Poggi	Rose Wolfe
Ann Fort	Rhonda Levin	John Poggi	Richard Wright
Jerry Fressola	Jeson Li	Ethel Pratt	Pat Zemianek
Auberta Galusha			

**Annual Volunteer Reception - Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 3:00 PM**



## *Off to a Great Start: Bennington County 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten*

*“Experts tell us that children need to hear a thousand stories read aloud before they begin to learn to read for themselves.”* states Mem Fox, internationally known children’s book author & literacy advocate. It is based on this premise that Bennington Free Library helped to create the ***Bennington County 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten*** initiative for children birth through age 6. The BFL partnered with Sunrise Family Resource Center, Bennington County Head Start, UCS Infant-Toddler Center, John G. McCullough Free Library and Oak Hill Children’s Center to provide support and materials for 1KBB4K.



**Here’s How it Works:** Parents and caregivers can register for ***Bennington County 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten*** at any of the participating sites. Families receive program information and reading logs to record their progress. Each time a child is read a book aloud, families can color in a star on the reading log or use the free 1KBB4K smartphone app. After they reach 200 books, children are eligible for a free book available at Bennington Free Library, John G. McCullough Free Library or Oak Hill Children’s Center. When they complete 1,000 books, they will receive a special certificate and will be given a bookplate with their name to place in a favorite book at their library. In addition, children can have their picture taken for the ***Reader’s Hall of Fame*** at their library or on the Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/1KBooksB4K](http://www.facebook.com/1KBooksB4K).

**What Counts?** Any book children hear read out loud counts towards their goal, including repeat books, or storytime books at preschools, childcare centers, family daycare homes and at local libraries. Families can also check out special ***Bennington County 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten*** bags available at participating sites. Each bag contains 5 books and can be signed out and returned to any location. Building Bright Futures, Catamount Rotary, Stewart’s Shops and the Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLIF) have generously supported this local literacy initiative.



**Off to a Great Start:** The ***1,000 Books B4K*** Kick-off was held at Bennington Free Library on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Over 190 children & grownups were in attendance for two programs which featured Vermont author, Marilyn Taylor McDowell. McDowell told stories and spoke with parents about the importance of reading and shared tips for recording progress for the ***1,000 Books B4K*** program. “Enlist your preschool, or enlist grandma and grandpa,” she said, “All these books they’re hearing count.” “The important thing is that you’re all together,” she said, “That closeness and love puts it in a child’s heart that reading is associated with these feelings.” A CLIF Community Building Grant funded this special ***1,000 Books B4K*** Kick-off and to further the mission, each child at the event received two free books for their home library.

BFL Children’s Librarians, Chris Poggi & Linda Donigan hope everyone will spread the word about our ***1,000 Books Before Kindergarten*** program & encourage any young child in their lives to enjoy listening to books & visit the library. There are 1,000+ reasons why this works!

Linda Donigan

## Pete's Picks

Pete wants to thank The Children's Literacy Foundation and Bennington Elementary School. Bennington Elementary School was a recipient of the CLiF Year of the Book Grant.

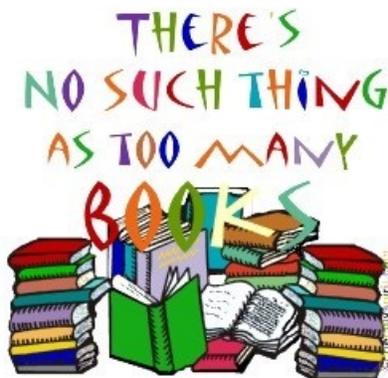
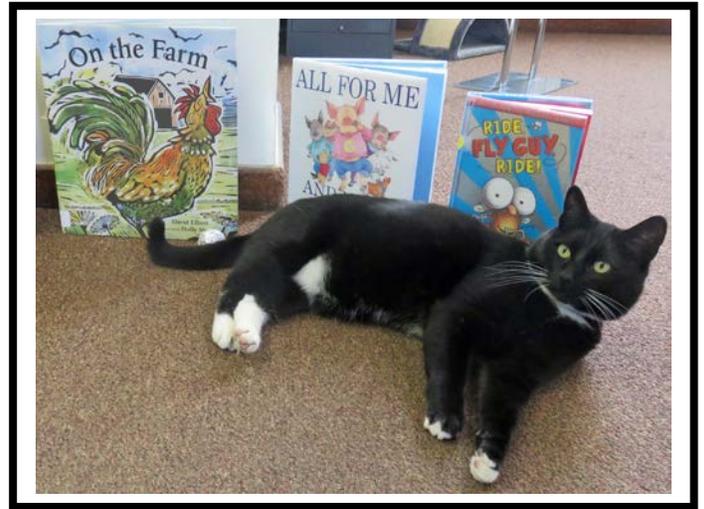
This grant not only benefited Bennington Elementary School but Bennington Free Library as well. We were able to choose 356 books for our children's collection. The CLiF books can be found in all aspects of our collection -Picture Books, Easy Readers & Chapter Books, Juvenile Novels, Graphic Novels and Juvenile Non-fiction. Here are some of Pete's Favorites:

*Shades of People* by Shelly Rotner & Sheila M. Kelly (PB ROT): Cocoa, tan, rose, and almond-people come in lots of shades, even in the same family. This exploration of one of our most noticeable physical traits uses vibrant photographs of children and a short text to inspire young children both to take notice and to look beyond the obvious.

*Soar* by Joan Bauer (J-FIC BAU): Sports, friendship, and a tragedy are all wrapped up in one heartwarming story. Jeremiah lives and breathes baseball and wants nothing more than to be a professional player, but a severe heart condition has put his dreams on hold. Jeremiah and his father move to a town that is something of a baseball capital; the entire community is shaken by the death of a beloved school baseball player. Jeremiah finds himself coaching and bringing baseball back to the local middle school.

*Eye To Eye* by Steve Jenkins (J573.8 JEN): Did you know ... The eyes of the colossal squid are the size of basket -balls? The tuatara lizard has a third eye on the top of its head? Find out all about animal eyes in this stunning book.

Chris Poggi



## BookFest 2017

The library needs help throughout the week of the booksale: assistance with sorting and setup is critical to its success. Please inquire at the Reference Desk for details.

No experience is necessary – but a desire to work with old and/or interesting books while supporting the library is helpful!

**Donations will not be accepted throughout May.**

If you have books to donate, please hold them until June, when the library will accept donations for the 2018 sale. Please: no encyclopedias, textbooks, magazines, moldy, damaged, dirty or musty books.

*The Library must pay to dispose of them!*

## National Library Week

National Library Week is being observed @ Bennington Free Library from April 9-15 and is an annual celebration of the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians. All types of libraries – school, public, academic and special – participate. Register for special prize drawings \*and\* learn something new at your library.



## Library Mural Raises Money for Capital Improvements

In the Spring of 2015, the library commissioned local artist Helen Sharkey to create a library themed mural to raise funds for capital improvements to the library. The mural itself is located in the Circulation area, visible to all who enter the library. It is both a nod to the past and a look to the future as we work to preserve this important building for generations to come.

At a minimum, the library hopes to raise sufficient funding to replace the library's slate roofs. Other needs include replacement of flooring in the Main Street building, heating system upgrades, windows in the children's room and much more. The Main Street section of the library - as the original 1865 structure - requires considerable attention in order to maintain the building's integrity and maintain it as a safe environment to work and play.

A generous bequest from George S. Jones as well as donations from The Bank of Bennington, Wills Insurance and individual donors provided funding to complete restoration of the Main Street Building's roof last fall. Fundraising to replace the Silver Street roof and connectors is underway and we hope to have sufficient funds to complete the work by next summer's end.

The mural is becoming increasingly popular and is a very visible and immediate way to honor someone special. For each donation of five hundred dollars, donors may include their name or the name of their loved one on the mural. In some instances, donors have chosen to include their family's surname as a permanent record of support.

The campaign is not intended to supplant our usual annual fund campaign, which generates support for yearly operating expenses; rather, it is intended to raise funds specifically for the repair and restoration of library facilities as outlined in the library's Capital Improvement Plan. The current plan is available on our website.

The library has realized a great deal of progress in efficiency upgrades and repairs but there is more to be done. Please consider making a donation to our Capital Improvement Fund in addition to your regular giving. Each donation of five hundred dollars will earn a place on our mural, and will be recognized by all who visit the library. Thank you.

Lynne Fonteneau McCann

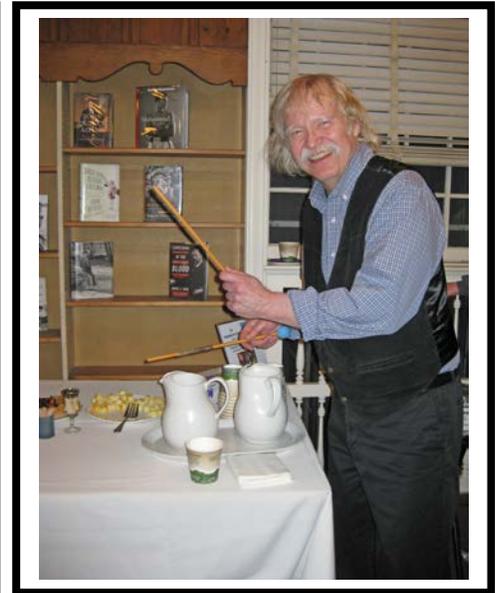


Our Library has been serving the Bennington community since 1865. Please consider making a legacy bequest to the Library. Your gift will benefit our community for generations to come.

(Photo left) Francis "Shep" Jones is seen with a plaque acknowledging the contribution of his son George S. Jones, whose bequest to the library allowed the library to begin work on the restoration of its roof.

## Announcing: The Big Kids Fun Korner!

The main reading room, home of the popular community jigsaw puzzle and oversized chess set, is now offering more creative space for adults (AKA Big Kids): the Big Kids Fun Korner. Borrow a board game and try a new activity each month (March: KEVA planks). Create, commune, and relax. Reconnect with your sense of play and wonder.... and stop by the Reference Desk with your ideas!



On Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> the The Banulis, Miller, and DeAngelo Jazz Trio (and surprise guests!) performed at the library for an appreciative audience. On the right: Gary Miller improvises on Bennington Pottery Stoneware during the performance.

## Is the BFL on Your Shopping List?!

THIS GREAT LOOKING BAG  
GENERATES A \$1  
DONATION TO US  
WHEN PURCHASED!

REALLY!

Thanks for all your support!

The Hannaford Supermarket in Bennington has chosen The Bennington Free Library as a beneficiary of the Hannaford Cause Bag program!

This means for the entire month of **APRIL** every time the blue reusable bag with the good karma message is purchased at the Hannaford Supermarket in Bennington we receive \$1!

This is a great opportunity for us, and an easy way for you to show your support for the library!

**Starting April 1st and throughout the month,** consider buying a few blue reusable bags with the good karma message.

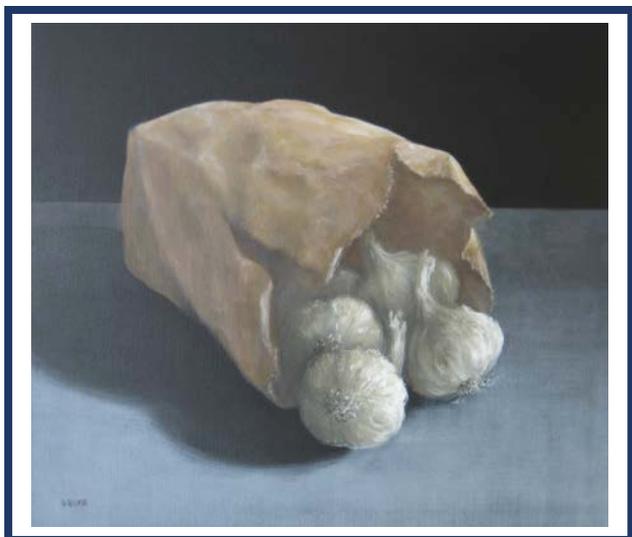
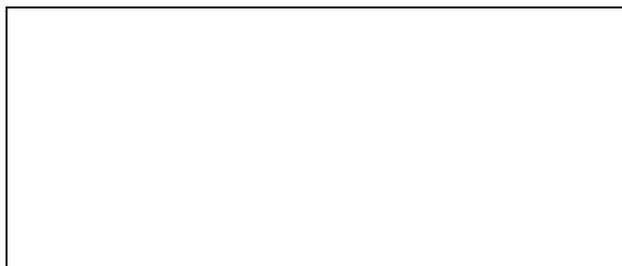
**And remember to spread the word – the more bags purchased, the bigger donation to Bennington Free Library. THANK YOU!**

For more information about the Hannaford Cause Bag Program, visit [www.hannaford.bags4mycause.com](http://www.hannaford.bags4mycause.com).

**Bennington Free Library**

101 Silver Street  
Bennington, VT 05201  
1-802-442-9051  
<http://benningtonfreelibrary.org>

Non-Profit  
Postage Paid  
Permit # 10  
Bennington VT



*Wall Works:*  
*Art at the Library*  
*Berta Burr: Recent Works*

*Art show and sale*  
*April 29 through August 31*  
*Artist's reception: April 29: 2 - 3:30 p.m.*

The inaugural Wall Works exhibit featured the landscape and still life paintings of Berta Burr. In the upcoming Spring/Summer show, Berta's paintings will grace the library's walls once again. Her current work demonstrates a fascination with texture, light and shadow, which she skillfully explores in this series.

Berta's solo exhibitions have included the Bennington Museum, the Toomey Gallery and Southern Vermont College in Bennington, The Southern Vermont Arts Center in Manchester, Vermont, and the Plum Gallery in Williamstown, MA. Group shows include the PSA Gallery and Drawing Center in New York, Cooperstown Historical Society in Cooperstown, NY, the Left Bank, Toomey, and No Bias Galleries in Bennington.

*Berta's paintings will be on display from April 29 through August, and you are invited to an opening reception on April 29 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Please join us as we welcome Berta and celebrate the work of this talented local artist. Refreshments will be provided; we hope to see you there.*