

# PRESS RELEASE

[Visual Arts, Music, Cultural Council]

## REINVIGORATED SOUTHBOROUGH CULTURAL ARTS COUNCILS DISTRIBUTES GRANTS, PLANS NEXT STEPS

A recent surge to 15 members has reinvigorated the Southborough Cultural Arts Council. In December 2013, the council granted a total of \$5,380 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to 11 local cultural programs including concerts, programs at the library, museum passes, and the purchase of graphic design software for the literary magazine, Sachem, at Algonquin Regional High School.

Members are now focusing understanding the art and cultural scene in Southborough, and brainstorming future events. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for up-to-date information.

The council is pleased to welcome 11 new members who have been recently sworn in by Southborough Town Clerk. These members are: Louise Clough, Judy Christensen, Ray Gendreau, Jane Gordon, Jen Hansen, Kiera Joujoute, Sandy Kiess, Jane Lesniewski, Jennifer Saffran, Mary Simmons, and Robyn Stewart. If you know any of these members, please reach out to them and share your knowledge with them of the cultural arts in Southborough.

The 11 grants to 2014 programming include:

- \$2,605 for Southborough Summer Concerts and Movies
- \$1,000 for access to Adobe Creative Suite C56 to create art and text for layout of the Sachem Magazine at Algonquin High School
- \$440 for storytelling professional at the library (July 2014)
- \$300 for audio journal for the blind, visually impaired, reading impaired

- \$300 for Songbirds of the Northeast at 21 Highland Street, Southborough (March 10)
- \$250 for Annual Messiah Concert at Pilgrim Church (Dec. 4)
- \$250 Genealogy Club's monthly meetings at library (Sept. – June)
- \$250 for Metrowest Symphony Orchestra (March 9)
- \$250 for Assabet Valley Mastersingers at St. Marks (March 9)
- \$175 for Northboro Area Community Chorus (May and December concerts)
- \$100 for admission for Fruitlands Museum Centennial Anniversary Program (July 21)

According to co-chair Alexandra De Collibus, who joined the council with her husband, Mike Krausert, in October 2012, "We're excited to go forward and expand the role of the council in Southborough. Next year, we hope to receive a greater variety of local grant applicants as well as more applications focused in the visual arts. To make this happen, we plan to reach out to the community of artists in town."

One of the ideas circulating among the council is to help artists publicize their work by creating a local directory and by publishing profiles of local artists, musicians, and authors. The group has also discussed sponsoring an open studio event, juried art show, and placement of art in the community. De Collibus commented, "We hope to rebuild the Southborough Arts Council by thoughtfully collecting information on the art and cultural scene, carefully choosing and planning events, and strengthening the connection between Southborough and the arts. Please get in touch with me at [director@SouthboroughArts.org](mailto:director@SouthboroughArts.org) if you have suggestions or even better, if you'd like to join our dedicated group of volunteers."