

## Special Holiday Mini Book Fair featuring locally produced and written books

For personalized gifts unique to Brattleboro, come to Write Action's Holiday Mini Book Fair at the Atrium in the Brooks House, 132 Main St, Brattleboro, VT on Saturday, December 9, 2023 from 12-3 pm. This will be a unique kind of book fair, where authors will be available to discuss and sign their books.



Write Action Holiday Book Fair  
Dec 9, 2023 - Brooks House Atrium

In addition to individual books by local authors, a special Brattleboro history book featuring chapters contributed by 33 local writers, will be for sale at the Write Action table. ***Print Town: Brattleboro's Legacy of Words***, produced by The Brattleboro Words Project, is in its third printing and received the Hathaway Award from the Vermont Historical Society (VHS). From VHS's press release for the award: "*Print Town* is a 247-page collection of stories covering almost 300 years of local history. Many of the narratives will ring familiar with local history buffs, but the publication is peppered with lesser-known tales that contribute to the breadth and diversity of the finished product."

A sampling of books that will be offered for sale at the Fair:

Barbara Morrison's award-winning memoir *Innocent: Confessions of a Welfare Mother* has been praised by Hillary Clinton among others and the audiobook was recently named Best Audiobook of 2023 by the Independent Press Awards.

Rolf Parker-Houghton's chapbook, *Excavating Hope* includes poems and photos of "University of Brattleboro" events, taken by his wife, Cynthia Parker-Houghton. Included is Parker-Houghton's poem "The University of Brattleboro And The Uncluttered Table" which was shortlisted for the O' Bheal International Five Words Poetry Contest, where the judge called his work "wild, brilliant and exciting... a reminder of what poems can do and how often the best ones move beyond our perceptions of what a poem can be."

A representative from the Harris Hill Inc., organizers of the annual ski event will be selling their finely produced, generously illustrated book on the history of that event titled *Harris Hill Ski Jump: The First 100 Years*.

Sarah Cooper-Ellis will be selling her novel *Landing*, a late-life love story set in a beautifully-realized small Vermont town.

In Steve Minkin's *Where People Are Trees*, the Brattleboro-based writer's recently published collection, "—not just geographically but also spiritually, transformation takes root in the truths he finds and speaks" (Tim Mayo)

Kent and Siobhan Young will offer for sale a variety of self-published books and select greeting cards. This selection includes a collection of local Vermont nature photography by Siobhan with verse written by Kent, also two children's books by Kent and their daughter, Wren, illustrated by Wren's grandmother, Helen Eddy. The children's books, *Penelope*, describe the farm-based adventures of a gentle horse named Penelope.

Sylvie Weil's *At Home with Andre and Simone Weil*, about one of the most prominent intellectual families of 20th Century France is fascinating autobiography and biography at once, and has garnered great praise. From The Guardian: "a biography of three minds, working for and against each other."

Weil will also be selling *My Guardian Angel*, a tale of Jewish survival, circa 11th Century France, told through the story of the real but fictionalized granddaughter of the great 11th Century rabbi Rashi. "My Guardian Angel is a story of compassion and tolerance. Elvina's voice, 'feisty and funny,' lingers long in memory, and her courage and humor long in the heart. " "My Guardian Angel" won the Prix Sorci`ere in France, equivalent to our Newbury Award. There will also be a compact disc recording of the book for sale.

***This Earth, This Body*** by Arlene Iris Distler, her most recent poetry collection, has garnered praise from reviewers such as Sydney Lea, past Poet Laureate of Vermont. He has written: "a stirring collection....defiance, often exuberant, makes of *This Earth, This Body* an exemplum for human resilience;" from Laura Stevenson's review in the Reformer, " wonderful, beautifully crafted collection."

Cheryl Wilfong will bring an assortment of recent books, including the award-winning ***The Meditative Gardner***, and its follow-up, ***Garden Wisdom 365 Days***, plus ***Breast cancer meets mindfulness***. In addition there will be several selections from Cheryl's authored collection of memoir, travel, and the path to awakening .

Local sports maven Dana Sprague has a chapter in - ***The Green Mountain Boys of Summer***, the definitive book on Vermont Baseball players in the Major League. It's a limited edition, hardcover, and now out of print. A rare find!

Additionally, there will be a collection of unused books gifted to the nonprofit organization over the years from local authors which can be had at a huge discount.

There will be T-shirts for sale from The University of Brattleboro featuring Cynthia Parker-Houghton's quirky and wonderful designs, as well as T-shirts from Write Action with our beloved writing cow mascot.

The Mini Holiday Book Fair is organized by Write Action, a non-profit devoted to "encouraging, nurturing, and promoting the literary arts in Brattleboro and the surrounding towns" and is sponsored in part by the Brattleboro Literary Festival and Time to Write.

Come in from the cold and enjoy free coffee and pastries! (donations appreciated). For additional information contact [info@writeaction.org](mailto:info@writeaction.org).