



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 17, 2018**

**Arts and Music Festival  
Coming to Delaware County This Summer**

The 2018 Hamlet of Harvard Arts and Music Festival will take place over four weekends this summer at Hamlet of Harvard Hall, which is located at the Corner of Route 30 and Harvard Road in East Branch, NY. The festival will open with a reception on August 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and end with a closing gathering on September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Featured artist Linda Jean Fisher will have numerous works on display throughout the festival. Various other artistic and musical events are scheduled for each weekend throughout the duration of the festival, including concerts, interactive performance art, theatrical performances, and poetry and prose readings.

In addition to Fisher, participating artists include artist Marcy B. Freedman, singer/songwriter Mario Giacalone, singer/songwriter Fred Gillen, Jr., artist Carla Rae Johnson, actor/director Ernie Schenk, writer Laura Ziemba, debut novelists, Tom Wilinsky and Jen Sternick, singer/poet collaborators Marion Loguidice and Joan Wilson, and journalist/storyteller Lillian Browne. Please see below for more information on contributing artists.

Hamlet of Harvard Hall will be open between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the weekends of August 11/12, August 18/19, August 25/26, and September 1/2. Suggested donation is \$5.00 per day or \$25.00 for a full Festival pass.

For more information, contact Jannette Barth at [jm.barth@mac.com](mailto:jm.barth@mac.com) or Linda Jean Fisher at [lindajeannerfisher@verizon.net](mailto:lindajeannerfisher@verizon.net). For a detailed schedule of events, go to Facebook [@HamletofHarvardHall](#).



## 2018 Hamlet of Harvard Arts and Music Festival

### Contributing Artists

#### **Linda Jean Fisher (Featured Artist)**

**Linda Jean Fisher** works in several media (painting, sculpture, drawing, installation, prose poetry, digital art, video, performance art) to investigate themes both quotidian and profound – among them race, sex, cultural identity/history, economic issues, human behavioral patterns. She has exhibited her work at various venues, including galleries, libraries, and universities, and is a participant in the Peekskill Arts Alliance’s annual “Open Studios” weekend.

Linda Jean will share a number of giclées (digital prints made on inkjet printers), videos, and prose poems from her in-progress work entitled “Six Million,” which is comprised of black ink impressions of her right forefinger, each memorializing one Jewish Holocaust victim. Every week, Linda Jean produces digital abstract art, videos, and prose poems to complement that work period’s fingerprints. She transposes the abstract art into giclées on canvas, and showcases them via video accompanied by recordings of prose poems. In addition, Linda Jean will perform live readings of selected prose poems throughout the festival.

#### **Marcy B. Freedman**

**Marcy B. Freedman** is an artist and an art historian. Through her art she has explored a wide range of styles and addressed a broad range of topics, using painting, collage, photography, video, and performance art. As an art historian, she has been a college instructor, freelance lecturer, and a curator of exhibitions and performances around the Hudson Valley.

At the opening reception, Marcy will present a one-on-one, face-to-face interactive performance entitled “True or False? Change is coming this fall!” During the performance, Marcy will chat with anyone willing to discuss the likelihood of “change” occurring in the latter part of 2018. Of course, some folks may want to talk about the annual seasonal changes from summer to autumn to winter, and the artist will be happy to oblige! However, Marcy is also hoping to find people who are prepared to address the important issues facing our country in the upcoming elections.

#### **Carla Rae Johnson**

**Carla Rae Johnson** is a 2017 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellow in Drawing, a 2005 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow in Sculpture, and a 1990 recipient of a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant. Her work includes drawing, sculpture, conceptual, performance, and installation art, and often addresses issues of social, political, and cultural import. She finds the most challenging forms and concepts at the intersection of the visual and the verbal, and delights in communicating insights with humor, word-play, and not just a little irony.

Carla Rae will interact with festival attendees by sharing satirical illustrations from her work “P. T. S. D. (Post-Trump Series of Drawings).”

### **Laura Ziemba**

**Laura Ziemba** has had several pieces of poetry and prose published in *Agate*, the SUNY Delhi campus literary magazine, including “Dirty Foot Girl,” “Abandon the Asylum,” “To Skin a Fox,” “War of the Willow,” “The Skin I Am In,” “I Live in New York – No, Not That New York,” “November Trees,” and “God, Dad, Dogwood, and Puppies From the Dirt.” She currently resides in the Catskills.

Laura’s penetrating observations of everyday life reveal the extraordinary hidden within the ordinary, imbuing her prose with a broad-based appeal. Whether it is illuminating the complexity of simple things, or simplifying the complex, Laura’s work is certain to strike an emotional chord within the listener, which will resonate long after the performance.

### **Mario Giacalone**

Singer/songwriter **Mario Giacalone** has been performing since the 1970s. An original member of the band “The Human Condition,” Mario performs as a solo artist and with the Mario Giacalone Trio. In addition to writing his own songs, he has composed music for numerous stage productions. His latest solo CD release is “Only Thing I’m Sure Of.”

The Mario Giacalone Trio (singer Mario Giacalone on lead guitar, Alan Lebow on guitar, and Jon LaTona on bass) is excited to bring its fusion mix of rock, jazz, and pop acoustic styles to the Hamlet of Harvard Arts and Music Festival. Taking advantage of the venue’s intimate setting, Mario will augment the trio’s musical performance with his trademark storytelling and witty repartee.

### **Fred Gillen, Jr.**

NYFA (New York Foundation for the Arts) grant recipient **Fred Gillen, Jr.** has released ten critically acclaimed full-length albums, and he has performed across the U. S., Europe, and, most recently, in Nepal. His songs have been featured on ABC’s “All My Children,” NPR’s “Car Talk,” CMJ’s New Music Marathon Sampler, and globally on independent radio. His version of Woody Guthrie’s “I Ain’t Got No Home” was featured on “Pete Remembers Woody,” Pete Seeger’s 2012 album honoring Woody Guthrie. Gillen’s songs, like Guthrie’s, often reflect the struggles of society’s marginalized and forgotten, shining a light on both the despair and hope in the human condition.

At the festival, Fred will introduce some of the most recent compositions from his current work-in-progress, a new song collection with the working title “New York to Kathmandu.” He will also perform songs from his previous album, “What She Said,” interspersed with selected folk songs from the past that reflect our present day.

### **Ernie Schenk**

**Ernie Schenk** is a professional director, actor, and designer (MFA, NYU Tisch School of the Arts). He appeared with Stacy Keach and Stefanie Powers in “Cyrano de Bergerac,” and with John Cullum in the Broadway musical “Shenandoah.” He spent three years as a professor at University of Scranton, where he was director of theatre, and has been the director of the Little Victory Players theater group.

Various members of the Little Victory Players, directed by Ernie, will read from “The Spoon River Anthology,” a collection of poems written between 1914 and 1915 by Edgar Lee Masters. Set in the fictional town of Spoon River – a small town much like the hamlet of Harvard, NY – Masters’s poems portrayed day-to-day life in rural America through 212 characters’ voices.

### **Tom Wilinsky and Jen Sternick**

Attorneys-turned-novelists and friends since high school, **Tom Wilinsky** and **Jen Sternick** will read from their recently-published debut novel, *Snowsisters*, a young adult love story. Tom and Jen began writing together three years ago after noticing a dearth of quality fiction for the young adult LGBTQIAP+ community. *Snowsisters* tells the story of two girls who meet at a weeklong conference for aspiring young writers. Jodi Picoult called *Snowsisters* a “wonderful, important debut,” and *Kirkus Reviews* said, “In a narrative where learning a writer’s craft fuels each coming-of-age, the clear literary metaphors for diversity, tradition, and modernity are both thematic and thoroughly satisfying.”

Tom and Jen will read from *Snowsisters* and discuss writing as a team, the young adult fiction marketplace, and the rewards and perils of social media for authors. Copies of *Snowsisters* will be available for purchase and signing.

### **Marion Loguidice and Joan Wilson**

**Marion Loguidice**, a native New Yorker, broke into the music scene when she was 40. This late bloomer hit the stage running, with sold-out performances at Austin’s Cactus Cafe (SXSW) and NYC’s Poisson Rouge, Joe’s Pub, and Gramercy Theatre. And along the way, she made five remarkable and well-received recordings (one featuring a duet with the legendary Cyndi Lauper). In the words of Chuck Taylor, “What happens when you mesh a bit of folk, an ooze of blues, a dash of funk and fortify it with the melodic singalong essence of a universal been-there-lived-it singer/songwriter? Cool cats meet Marion.” **Joan Wilson**, a longtime writer in the business world, is morphing back into the creative arena and will be reading some of her poems to start off an afternoon of poetry and music. Two friends who greatly value the power of words, Joan and Marion look forward to sharing their humor, compassion, and insights with the festival audience.

### **Lillian Browne**

**Lillian Browne** is an accomplished journalist tackling some of the Delaware County’s most heated topics including crime and politics. On assignment in Nevada in 2015 she was assigned to cover the desert’s “Water Wars,” which included the nuclear contamination of underground aquifers that provide drinking water to residents of Nevada and portions of California. A self-proclaimed naturalist, conservationist, and environmentalist, she is also a licensed New York State Outdoor Adventure Guide and acts as a “Lore Guide” for visitors to the Catskills. In 2018, she co-produced a documentary filmed in Delaware County: “SMACKED! Heroin Addiction & Recovery in Rural America.”

Lillian will present collaborative creative compositions that combine poetry with culinary and visual art. Food is connective tissue for emotions and memories, whether sweet, nourishing, bitter, sour . . . or a little salty. A culinary artist will interpret her written work by creating a signature recipe that will be served to the audience. A visual artist will also interpret Lillian’s written work by creating an inspired work of art.

Additional artists participating in the Festival are TBA. For updates, go to Facebook@HamletofHarvardHall