

*"Connections Nurtured  
Through Nature's Harmonies"*



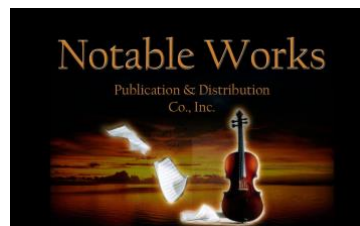
## Call for Poetry Submissions

Notable Works Publication is seeking original poetry submissions to be considered for upcoming events as well as future publications. Six poets will be selected to be featured at Notable Works' event on April 6, 2024 at the Barrington Public Library, which will kick off National Poetry Month and Earth Month. Submission Period: January 1, 2024 to February 15, 2024 at midnight.

*Photo by Barrington Land Conservation Trust*

**Guidelines:** Poets may submit up to three original works not previously published, each one formatted in 12 point Times New Roman font, not exceeding 50 lines (which includes the title and any spaces in-between) and no more than 66 characters on each line (which includes spaces and punctuation). For a complete list of submission guidelines, please visit [www.notableworks.org](http://www.notableworks.org) or email: [noreeninglesi@cox.net](mailto:noreeninglesi@cox.net)

For more information visit:  
[www.notableworks.org](http://www.notableworks.org)



## Songs and Poems for the Earth and the Season

*Hosted by:*

**Notable Works Publication and Distribution Co., Inc.**

*Raising Awareness for Environmental and Social Concerns through the Arts*

**Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 2 PM**

**North Providence Union Free Library**



*Photo Shared by Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council*

*Featuring:*

**A Special Presentation by Alicia Lehrer, Executive Director,  
Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council**

*Featured Poets:*

**Sharon E. Alexander, Diana Cole, Braden Collins,  
Lawrence J. Krips, Kate O'Kula, Jim Manchester,  
Heather Sullivan and Yvonne Wingard**

*Musical Performances by:*

**The Notable Works' Ensemble**

*Directed by Alison Shea*

*Noreen Inglesi, Artist in Residence*

**Fifth Grade Students from Stephen Olney School**

*Directed by Greg Berger*

*Special Guests:*

**Dr. Anne Marie Vale, Percussionist  
and Mary Zema, Mezzo Soprano**

*During Intermission, please join us for refreshments  
provided by D. Palmieri's Bakery, Santoro's Pizza,  
local Shaw's and Stop & Shop.*

**The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council:** The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council creates positive environmental, social and economic change by revitalizing the Woonasquatucket River, its Greenway and its communities.

The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC) officially incorporated in 2001 when the Woonasquatucket was designated one of only 14 American Heritage Rivers in the United States because of its historic role as the power behind much of the Industrial Revolution. WRWC is also an official RI Rivers Council that maintains representation from six RI communities.

Our long-term goals are a swimmable fishable Woonasquatucket River, connecting our Greenway to other transportation corridors throughout RI and beyond, and restoring the land and water resources in our watershed, especially where resources have been historically impaired and need is greatest.

Our major achievements are 1) Leveraging \$14 million as a federal Brownfield Showcase Community, 2) restoring 62 acres of parkland, 3) restoring a Brownfield and abandoned parks where drugs and prostitution abounded into positive community assets, Riverside, Merino and Donigian park, three of the City’s most successful and used green spaces, 4) developing Riverside Park at a brownfield site featuring Providence’s first off-road bike path community gardens, playgrounds, a canoe launch, a community bike shop, a stage and playing fields, and 5) successfully restoring passage for native migratory fish at the first four dams on the lower Woonasquatucket, an urban industrialized river.

**Notable Works Publication and Distribution Co., Inc.** is a non-profit organization founded in June of 2007 by Director Bina Gehres and Artist in Residence Noreen Inglesi, whose mission is to raise awareness for environmental and social concerns through the Arts while providing a venue to local musicians, artists, composers and poets. Some of Notable Works’ publication projects include two editions of Love Warms the Homeless Heart, which addresses the difficult and different aspects related to the issue of homelessness, and three editions of Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet, which focuses on the issue of climate change and how it affects our natural environment and our communities. These publications address the above concerns through original poetry and include listings highlighting the efforts of local agencies, which are dealing so well with these issues. Just this past spring, Notable Works completed the third edition of Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet, which was officially released on June 11, 2023 at the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol, RI. And thanks to Notable Works’ dedicated sponsors and supporters and with the help of expert knitter Shanti Anderheggen as well as the Wethersfield Common’s Knitting Group, “Notable Works Annual Tote Bag Project” is able to once again provide many essential items such as hats, gloves, socks and hygiene items to benefit local families and individuals in need for the upcoming winter months. Other recent projects include video presentations highlighting the great work of Rhode Island agencies such as the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, The Rhode Island Land Trust Council and the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council just to name a few. Notable Works is excited to now to be working with the **Barrington Land Conservation Trust (BLCT)** on a new project entitled *Connections Nurtured Through Nature’s Harmonies*, which includes a “Call for Poetry,” a musical and poetic video presentation highlighting the great work of BLCT which will be premiered at a special event at the Barrington Public Library on April 6, 2024 at 1PM. To learn more and to sign up for Notable Works’ monthly newsletter *Notable Notes* visit: [www.notableworks.org](http://www.notableworks.org).

**Notable Works’ 2023 Sponsors**

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Helen Hudson Foundation

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Ruth Ann Dougherty & Cindy Drake  
Ana Marsden Fox and Family  
Mary Inglesi  
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**SPECIAL GUESTS:**

**Alicia Lehrer** joined the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC) as Executive Director in March 2008. She holds a BA in Environmental Science from Columbia University and an MS in Natural Resources Science from the University of Rhode Island. Alicia’s work at the WRWC has included spearheading migratory fish passage restoration at the first five dams on the river, working with partners to determine cleanup efforts of the Centredale Manor Superfund site, and leading Woonasquatucket River Greenway expansion, improvement and maintenance. Alicia joined Clean Water Action’s efforts to establish the RI Green Infrastructure Coalition in 2014 and has remained an active member. This partnership has helped inspire her to create green infrastructure demonstration projects in Olneyville and Elmhurst, and begin to develop larger plans to help make the Woonasquatucket corridor more resilient in the face of climate change. Alicia also serves on the RI Paths to Progress committee, working to establish a network of active transit (biking/walking) paths across RI.

Alicia, and the WRWC have been honored to be recognized for their work with several prestigious awards including:

- Alicia received the 2020 Urban Waters Learning Network “Learning Network Signature Award,” for commitment to improving the Woonasquatucket River and revitalizing the communities around it.
- Alicia received Rhode Island Clean Water Action’s 2019 “Community Builder of the Year Environmental Champion Award.”
- Kassi Archambault, WRWC’s first Education Director, honored with Clean Water Action’s Emerging Leader Award in 2017.
- Four Ovies (Olneyville neighborhood awards), two in 2016 and two in 2017, for outstanding programming and community engagement in Olneyville.
- Lisa Aurecchia, WRWC Director of Projects, honored with 2016 RI Blueways Award.
- Grow Smart Rhode Island’s 2016 Outstanding Smart Growth Project Award for mobilizing stakeholders to convert waste brownfield sites in Providence’s poorest neighborhood, Olneyville, into park land and the 7 miles of Greenway/Bike Path.
- River Network’s 2014 International River Hero Award to WRWC’s founder, Jane Sherman for bringing new life to the Woonasquatucket River and the neighborhood around it – Olneyville.

**Noreen Inglesi**, composer, poet and vocalist is co-founder and Artist in Residence for Notable Works and taught music for the Town of North Providence and the Community College of Rhode Island. Noreen received her master’s degree in music education and composition at the University of Rhode Island. She’s received much recognition for her music and poetry which has been featured locally by The American Band, The State Ballet of Rhode Island, The Colonial Theatre, Verdant Vibes, Vibe of the Venue and Water Fire Providence. Noreen is also proud to be a member of Ocean State Poets and her poetry has been published by Crosswinds Poetry Journal, Nobel House, the National Library of Poetry, Frequency Writers, The Poetry Loft, The Rhode Island Bards, Wickford Art Association and Notable Works Publication. Her music has been recorded and released with the Contemporary Record Society, Andreu Marc Publications, The Music Library, Platinum Records and Notable Works Publication & Distribution Co., Inc. Noreen has recently co-written a new music called “Sell Division” *Breaking the Chains of Perception*” with Bina Gehres, Marianne Quinn and Mary Zema. [www.notableworks.org/about-noreen](http://www.notableworks.org/about-noreen).

**Maria Bilyeu**, cellist, was born in Kansas City, Missouri. Maria Bilyeu has been playing music and improvising since age 10. She began her playing career on piano and took up the cello at age twelve. She is classically trained on cello, a former member of the URI Honors String Quartet, and a winner of the concerto competition in college. Maria uses that training to perform traditional composition and to create new and transcendent improvisational adventures. She has performed in a myriad of venues from solo weddings to end-of-life services to Country Club cocktail parties, and as a member of several popular bands.

**Teresa Gervais**, flutist, earned her Associate of Fine Arts degree in Music from the Community College of Rhode Island, where she studied with Susan Thomas, and a Bachelor’s degree in Flute Performance from the Florida State University, where she studied with Charles Delaney. She also completed her Master of Arts and Teaching Degree at Rhode Island College, where she studied flute with Dr. Mary Ellen Guzzio. Teresa, who has been first chair in the RIC Symphony Orchestra and has been teaching privately for many years. Teresa has taught General Music K-8 in both the Franklin, MA and Pawtucket, RI school districts, as well as served as the applied flute instructor at the Community College of Rhode Island.

**Beth Schapira**, lead vocalist, is a native of Connecticut who has been living in Rhode Island for the past 30 years. She is an analytical chemist by trade but has been performing music and singing her whole life in various Choral Groups, Local Events, and Community Theater Productions. She is currently a soloist at St. Bernard’s Church in Wickford, under the direction of fellow ensemble member Alison Shea. In her spare time Beth enjoys spending time with her two dogs and working on a good crochet project.

### Program Notes

“Never Stop Believing” by Noreen Inglesi was written for a recently completed musical entitled “Sell Division” “*Breaking the Chains of Perception*” *A Musical in Two Acts.*” This newly created theatrical work, which includes 15 musical pieces in a wide variety of styles including, jazz, classical, popular and hip-hop, was a collaborative project between four colleagues-Bina Gehres, Noreen Inglesi, Marianne Quinn and Mary Zema.

It is our hope that we will soon be able to announce upcoming Readings during the spring and summer of 2024 while seeking interest for a full production of this musical. Please contact Noreen Inglesi at (401) 384-7274 or email: [noreeninglesi@cox.net](mailto:noreeninglesi@cox.net) or Mary Zema via email: [zemawoman@cox.net](mailto:zemawoman@cox.net) if you are interested in learning more about this new and timely work.

You may also click the link below to view and listen to the synopsis and audio excerpts of the musical numbers on You Tube:

[https://youtu.be/oCIRK\\_jhHkg](https://youtu.be/oCIRK_jhHkg)



“Til the Muddy Water Flows” by Noreen Inglesi was written to highlight the efforts of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council to clean up and preserve the Woonasquatucket River. Those ongoing cleanup efforts are depicted in this song, scored for chorus and concert band, through its explicit lyrics as well as the steady and driving rhythms in the bass line against the lyrical and ever flowing melody of the flute. During the Industrial Revolution between 1760-1820, the Woonasquatucket River was dammed by mill owners to ensure a steady supply of water year-round for the mills along its banks. Through the years, though, the river was used as a dumping ground for chemicals; however, local residents have played a key role in the cleanup efforts to restore and preserve this national jewel. ‘Til the Muddy Water Flows” focuses on the benefit of this community spirit, determination and teamwork as spearheaded by The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC), to clean up and preserve the Woonasquatucket River and its surrounding communities.

### PROGRAM

Land Acknowledgement by Sharon J. Alexander

#### The Notable Works’ Ensemble

*Never Stop Believing* .....by Noreen Inglesi/N. Inglesi & Mary Zema  
*Winter Wonderland*.....by Dick Smith and Felix Bernard  
*Simple Gifts* .....Traditional Shaker Tune/Arranged by Noreen Inglesi  
*Keep the Candle Burning Bright*.....by Noreen Inglesi  
*‘Til the Muddy Water Flows*.....by Noreen Inglesi

#### Fifth Grade Music Class from Stephen Olney School

*Directed by Greg Berger*

*Hello Song*.....by Greg Berger  
*Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*.....,by Haven Gillespie  
*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.....Johnny Marks  
*Only at Christmas Time*.....by Greg Berger

*Sung by Patti Lou Davis*

#### \*Intermission

#### Featured Poets:

Sharon E. Alexander

Diana Cole

Braden Collins

Lawrence Krips

Kate O’Kula

Jim Manchester

Heather Sullivan

Yvonne Wingard

#### Open Mic Poetry

*Led by David Dragone*

**Dr. Anne Marie Vale**, Percussion

*Deck the Halls*.....Arranged by Carl Strommen

*Mambo Swing*.....Scotty Morris

**Special Thanks To:** Mary Albanese and the staff at the North Providence Union Free Library for making this event today possible. Thank you to our Special Guests: Alicia Lehrer and WRWC as well as Patti Lou Davis, Dr. Anne Marie Vale and Mary Zema; Greg Berger and Fifth Grade Students from Stephen Olney School; The Notable Works’ Ensemble; David Dragone and the featured poets who shared their great works today. And special thanks to Notable Works’ dedicated Board of Directors and volunteers and Notable Works’ wonderful and loyal sponsors and supporters!

## Fifth Grade Students from Stephen Olney

*Directed by Greg Berger*

Sienna Belanger	Amayah Garcia	Isabella Panesso
Mia DaRosa	Lucas Hammond	Aurora Raposa
Sophia DeFreitas	Tamara Johnson	Londyn Stone
Tahlia Diaz	Keira LaMountain	Kattaleya Trott
Yara Dib	Helena Martin	Adrianna Tuorto

**Greg Berger**, Sound Technician & Event Manager, has been a music and band teacher in for the Town of North Providence since 2002. He's been at the middle school level up until 2021 when he made the move to Stephen Olney Elementary School. Greg performs with the Notable Works' Ensemble as percussionist and is the technical director, sound engineer and manager at Notable Works' events.

### About the Poets

**David Dragone**, **Notable Works' Resident Poet** is Editor-in-Chief of Crosswinds Poetry Journal, a Rhode Island-based international journal of poetry established in 2015. Dave's poetry has appeared in *Avocet*, *Bryant Literary Review*, *California Quarterly*, *Common Ground Review*, *Commonweal*, *Connecticut River Review*, *Main Street Rag*, *The Providence Journal*, *Rhode Island Public Radio*, and *Trinity Repertory Theater*. Dave is the author of two collections of poetry, *Temperaments*, published in 2016, and *Primal*, published in 2022 by Main Street Rag Publishing. He is a member of The Academy of American Poets, The New England Poetry Club, Ocean State Poets and facilitates poetry workshops in libraries and other venues. David also teaches and performs on violin and is a member of the Notable Works' Board of Directors.

**Sharon E. Alexander**, a Narragansett Indian, who grew up living off the land, was born and raised in Washington County, RI observing firsthand, the devastating effects of pollution, toxic waste, a nuclear power plant now closed, and global warming. She has been described as 'a woman dedicated to her faith, being a mom, family, culture and career'. Recently she was named 'The People's Poet', had one of her poems read and distributed at a graduation class and selected winner in a local contest.

**Diana Cole**, a Pushcart Prize nominee, has had poems published in numerous journals including *Poetry East*, *Spillway*, *The Tar River Review*, *The Christian Century*, *Cider Press Review*, *The Public's Radio 89.3*, *Friends Journal*, *Verse Daily*, *Tipton Poetry Journal*, *The New Verse News*, *Main Street Rag*, *Crab Creek Review* and upcoming in Orison Books. Her chapbook, *Songs by Heart*, was published in 2018 by Iris Press. She is a senior editor for *Crosswinds Poetry Journal* and conducts workshops in Reading Poetry Aloud.

**Braden Collins** started writing poetry when he was 8 years old. Braden wrote a poem on the death of John F. Kennedy, and it was posted all over his school. He was very proud of his work and that sparked his interest in poetry. Besides poetry, he has also written short stories, some songs and also a Christmas story which was turned into book form but has never been published. Notable Works published his poem entitled "The Crusade." This poem was inspired and dedicated to the front-line workers at Emergency Rooms who were overcome by all the new patients coming in during the Covid 19 pandemic. They were heroes during this frightening time and put themselves at great risk during this terrible crisis, which wasn't totally defined as a crisis at the time. Notable Works published this poem in **Love Warms the Homeless Heart II** in 2021. Braden worked as a volunteer for Notable Works and is now a member of Notable Works' Board of Directors. He is a widower who feels blessed with 2 children, 4 grandchildren and a new great granddaughter. He was born in Providence and has lived most of his life in Rhode Island. He attended Pawtucket high schools and has lived in both Pawtucket and currently in Cranston for over the last 30 years.

**Lawrence J. Krips** is an evolution coach, gatherings leader and poet. A founding member of Ocean State Poets and contributor to the Origami Poetry Project, Larry's poetry has appeared in *Tifferet*, *Rhode Island Writers' Circle Anthology*, *New Verse News*, *The Best of Kindness II anthology*, *Love's Chance Magazine*, *The Open Door* and *50 Haikus*. He has appeared with the musical group, *Mouthpeace* and *Thunder and The Bird*. Mr. Krips received a Pushcart Prize nomination for his poem *Yahrzeit*. His first book, *A Soul's Way*. *Soulspeak* was published by Hallowed Abyss and is also available as a cd. You may contact Larry at: [illuminationcoaching@aol.com](mailto:illuminationcoaching@aol.com).

**Kate O'Kula** is a former social worker, administrator and consultant. She moved to RI in 2003 and engaged in local, national and international advocacy efforts, which still continue. She is a founding member of the Ocean State Poets and served as president for many years. She joined fellow poets in conducting poetry workshops at the RI prison facility for ten years and participated in many public performance outreach efforts. Her poetry has appeared in the journals *Affinities* and *Tifferet*, and anthologies *Where Beach Meets Ocean* (Block Island Poetry Project), *They Work, We Write* (Ocean State Poets), *Kindness* (Origami Project), and the *Ocean State Poets Anthology*. Her poetry was chosen for three publications of Wickford Arts Association's "Poetry and Art," and her poem, "Timeless," was awarded third prize by Notable Works in 2023.

*About the Poets Continued:*

**Jim Manchester** is a retired English/theatre teacher, gardener, retired voice actor, and sometimes poet. He resides in the lovely and historic seaport town of Bristol, RI.

**Heather Sullivan** is a founding member of Ocean State Poets and the editor of two poetry collections, *Butterfly Wings* and *Poems on Branches*, published by Salve Regina University. Her chapbook, *These Onyx Hours*, was published in 2014 by Finishing Line Press. In 2007, Heather was appointed Assistant Creative Director of The Writers' Circle, Inc. where she worked until 2010. Her writing has appeared in numerous regional and national publications. She can be reached at: [www.poetheathersullivan.com](http://www.poetheathersullivan.com).

**Yvonne Wingard** hails from Providence and enjoys being able to express her gratitude and love for our dear planet through her writing. She currently works in the environmental sphere with the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, and is applying to URI's Masters in Environmental Science and Management program for Fall 2024. Yvonne hopes to continue learning about and growing closer to the natural world through personal and spiritual journeys, which has led her down this path. In her free time, she enjoys reading, spending time with her cat, journaling and spending time outdoors in the warmer months.

**The Notable Works' Ensemble:**

**Notable Works Ensemble** was formed in 1995 with URI music graduates: Tina Bernard, soprano and guitarist, Maria Bilyeu, cellist; Noreen Inglesi, composer, poet and vocalist and Alison Shea, pianist. The ensemble is also so pleased and honored to also include the very talented lead vocalist Beth Shapira and flutist Teresa Gervais. This both flexible and gifted group of musicians have beautifully played a key role in fulfilling Notable Works' mission of raising awareness for social and environmental concerns through both live musical performances as well as through audio and video productions. Also, the ensemble founders, under the direction of Artist in Residence, Noreen Inglesi, have been key players in Notable Works' Board of Directors. [www.notableworks.org](http://www.notableworks.org).

**Alison Shea**, Director of the Notable Works' Ensemble and pianist, is a music graduate from URI and has been performing with Noreen Inglesi since her early days there as a student. She has been the Music Director at St. Bernard's Church in Wickford for the past 17 years, where she conducts Children's, Teen, and Adult Choirs and oversees all the music for both the liturgy and religious education programs. In addition, Alison also taught piano, vocal, and woodwinds at More Than Music Studio in Wickford for more than 25 years. Over the past several years Alison has enjoyed working with various local theater and performing groups. When she isn't involved with music she enjoys cooking, gardening and spending time with her 2 boys.

*Special Guests Continued:*

**Patti Lou Davis** is a vocalist and educator from Warwick, Rhode Island. Growing up in New Jersey, she began her music training at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, studying Vocal Performance. She earned her Bachelors Degree in Vocal Performance with a concentration in Musical Theatre from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. She then studied Music Education at the University of Rhode Island Music Graduate School. Patti Lou has performed throughout the New England and New York City area with a number of community theaters and semi-professional theaters. Some of her noted roles include Fantine in *Les Miserables*, Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (MOTIF nomination for Best Leading Actress in a Musical), Marguerite in *The Scarlett Pimpernel*, Julie Jordan in *Carousel*, and Lucy Harris in *Jekyll & Hyde* (DASH nomination for Best Leading Actress in a Musical). Patti Lou works as the Cantor and Director of Children's Music Ministry at St Kevin's Church in Warwick Rhode Island. She also teaches PreK4 at St Kevin's School and teaches private vocal lessons for singers all over the state.

**Dr. Anne Marie Vale** received her bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from Rhode Island College, a master's degree in psychology from Divine Mercy University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in organizational leadership from Regent University. Anne Marie was an elementary music specialist and classroom teacher for 29 years in the North Providence School System. In 2006, she was honored as "North Providence Teacher of the Year". Her first book, *Whispers from Above and Reflections of the Heart* (available on Amazon), contains poetic reflections on nature and biographical narratives. Anne Marie and her husband, Michael, enjoy strolling along various nature walks throughout Rhode Island. She also performs regularly with the award-winning Providence Drum Troupe throughout the Northeast, as well as the annual Honk Festival in Austin, Texas.

**Mary Zema** is a career vocalist, singer/songwriter and guitarist. She began playing guitar at the age of seven and singing and writing songs at age ten. A native of Warwick, RI, Mary has played throughout New England and her style is eclectic; pop, rock, ballads, electronic, etc. Her debut release, co-produced by Richard Bone, "Songs of Early Paradise" was in the top twenty on DMX radio New York. I recently released my second album "Whistles, Dimes and Dragonflies" and a video of the same name. Mary recently co-wrote a musical with three of her colleagues called "Sell Division"- *Breaking the Chains of Perception*. **YouTube-Mary Zema music. Facebook.com/musicmaryzema.**