

## *Notable Works' Upcoming Projects & Events*

### **“Songs and Poems for the Earth and the Season”**

*Featuring*

**The Notable Works' Ensemble**

**Students from North Providence Schools  
and Robert's Musical Instruments**

**Poets from Notable Works' Poetry Initiatives**

*At:*

**North Providence Union Free Library**

**Saturday, November 29, 2025**

**11 AM - 1 PM**

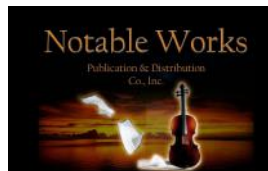
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**Notable Works' Annual**

**“Love Warms the Homeless Heart”**

**Tote Bag Project**

*Benefiting local families and individuals in crisis*



Please sign up for Notable Works' monthly newsletter at

[www.notableworks.org](http://www.notableworks.org)

## **Bridging the Divide Through Music and Poetry @ William Hall**



**William Hall Library Auditorium**

**1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI**

**Saturday, May 3, 2025**

**11 AM to 1 PM**

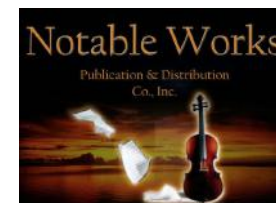
*Featuring:*

**Performance of Songs from the Musical “Sell Division”**

**Open Mic for Poetry**

**Video by Final Judge Tina Cane**

**Poetry Reading by the Six Winners of Notable Works'  
2025 Poetry Contest**



*Please join us for complimentary refreshments provided  
by Stop and Shop and Shaw's following the performance.*

**Notable Works Publication and Distribution Co., Inc.** is a non-profit organization founded by Director Bina Gehres and Artist-in-Residence Noreen Inglesi, whose **mission is to raise awareness for environmental and social concerns through the Arts.** In keeping with and in continuation of this mission, Notable Works was proud to release the third edition of Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet (2023). Through this and other publication projects, live performances of original poetry and music, written and spoken word, as well as the visual and performing arts, Notable Works hopes to illuminate scientifically proven techniques and concepts aimed at protecting Earth's natural environment.

As an arts organization, Notable Works' Team enjoys bringing together inspirational voices, while highlighting the efforts of some of Rhode Island's key environmental and social service agencies, to encourage dialogue and community involvement. We appreciate all who help bring Notable Works' projects and events to fruition.

For more information about Notable Works' projects and events, to sign up for our monthly newsletter *Notable Notes* and/or to order a copy of one of our publications, please visit: [www.notableworks.org](http://www.notableworks.org).

**Cranston Public Library: Our Mission:** The Cranston Public Library brings people, information and ideas together to enrich lives and strengthen the community. **Our Values:**

- **Access**  
We provide free and equitable access for all. We actively seek to remove barriers so everyone in the community can use the library.
- **Community**  
We engage with our community and partner with others to foster cooperation and provide services and collections that meet evolving community needs.
- **Intellectual Freedom**  
We champion the exploration of information and ideas. We protect the privacy and confidentiality of all library users.
- **Learning**  
We celebrate the power of literacy and lifelong learning. The library is a place where people of all ages can pursue their interests and improve their understanding.
- **People**  
We provide exceptional and responsive customer service. We invest in our staff and cultivate an environment of growth, support, and teamwork to best serve our community.

**Commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility:**  
The Cranston Public Library deeply values equity of access to information and resources and the pursuit of intellectual freedom for all patrons. In support of these principles, we welcome all members of the community and seek to provide a safe and inclusive space for all visitors, regardless of race or color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, actual or perceived gender identity or expression, disability, age, national or ethnic origin, or socio-economic status.

## Special Thanks to Notable Works' 2025 Sponsors

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Shirley Zema



### 2025 Poetry Initiative Judges

**Tina Cane, this year's Final Judge**, was born in Hell's Kitchen, NYC in 1969 and grew up in the city's East and West Village. She attended the University of Vermont, the Sorbonne and completed her master's degree in French Literature at the University of Paris X-Nanterre and Middlebury College. She is the founder and director of Writers-in-the-Schools, RI, for which she works as a visiting poet. Over the past twenty-five years, Tina has taught French, English, and creative writing in public and private schools throughout New York City and Rhode Island. Her poems and translations have appeared in numerous publications, including American Poetry Review, Spinning Jenny, Poetry, The Literary Review, Tupelo Quarterly, The Common, Texas Review, and Poem-a-Day. Her work, *The Fifth Thought*, was the 2008 Other Painters Press chapbook winner.

**Carol Anderheggen** is a member of Ocean State Poets whose mission is to bring the joy of poetry to unserved and underserved venues in Rhode Island. She also serves as their web master. Her personal website is [carolmacray.com](http://carolmacray.com). Carol's poetry has appeared in numerous regional publications and several national publications (*Newport Life, A Letter Among Friends, NEARI Bylines, Hope Center for Cancer Support, RI Breast Cancer Coalition, Northeast Journal, Anemone, URI Women, The Great Swamp Gazette, Edison Literary Review, Evening Street Review*.) She attended, by invitation only, a weekend workshop with Galway Kinnell and a second one with Sharon Olds, both sponsored by the Redwood Library in Newport, RI. In addition, Carol attended and worked at the Frost Festival of Poetry in Franconia, NH for seven summers. She taught a poetry workshop at Salve Regina University in Newport, RI for ten years. Her current focus is running poetry workshops for our special needs population. Finishing Line Press published her first chapbook, *Writing Down Cancer*, in 2015 and a second chapbook, *Born-Child*, in 2017.

**Lawrence J. Krips** is the father of two delightful daughters and grandfather to three grand offsprings. He is an evolution (i.e., empowerment) coach, gatherings leader and poet. A founding member of Ocean State Poets, contributor to the Origami Poetry Project, Larry's poetry has appeared in *Poetry of Men, Tifferet, Writers' Circle* (receiving an Artistic Merit Award), *Rhode Island Writers' Circle Anthology, Love's Chance Magazine, The Open Door* (of NYC ARE), *50 Haikus, New Verse News, The Best of Kindness II Anthology* and *Under the 13<sup>th</sup> Star Anthology*. He has read in Rhode Island, New York City and Connecticut, appeared on TV's *Good News Rhode Island*, started the musical group *Mouthpeace*, performing also with *Thunder and The Bird*. His poem *Yahrzeit* received a Pushcart Prize nomination. *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 founding member and past president of Ocean State Poets. Her work has appeared in *Affinities* and *Tifferet* online journals, and in anthologies including *Where Beach Meets Ocean, They Work, We Write, Kindness*, and the *Ocean State Poets Anthology*. Her work was selected for publication in the Wickford Art Association's "Art and Poetry" exhibits and journals, and she read her ekphrastic poetry at Imago Gallery in Warren for the "Casting Shadows" exhibit. She also contributed ekphrastic poetry to the "Art in the Atrium" exhibit in Providence in 2024. Kate and colleagues from the Ocean State Poets conducted poetry workshops at the Adult Correctional Institution in Cranston for over ten years.



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*Special Thanks To:*

*Notable Works' Sponsors and Supporters  
Zach Berger and the Cranston Public Library*

*This Year's Final Judge Tina Cane*

*Poetry Judges: Carol Anderheggen,  
Kate O'Kula and Lawrence J. Krips*

*The talented Poets who shared their work  
as part of Notable Works' 2025 Poetry Initiative*

*Cast of "Sell Division" & The Performers*

*Dave McNally, Sound Engineer  
Greg Berger, Event Manager*

*Notable Works' Dedicated Board of Directors*

**PROGRAM**

**Songs from the Musical "Sell Division"**

*Music by Noreen Inglesi and Mary Zema*

*Script by Bina Gehres, Noreen Inglesi, Marianne Quinn and Mary Zema*

- Sell Division Opening*.....Ensemble
- Ten Thousand Reasons*.....Cecelia, Valerie
- Can't Judge a Book by Its Cover*.....Hattie, Victor
- Tough Enough*.....Valerie, Cecelia
- Truth in Me*.....Valerie, Cecelia
- My Own Daughter*.....Victor, Audrey
- Never Stop Believing*.....Audrey, Victor  
& Ensemble

**Cast:** Elissa Parente, *Cecelia*; Kayla Kennedy, *Valerie*;  
Norman Rivera, *Victor*; Madison Durfee, *Audrey*;  
Betty Teixeira, *Hattie*; Samantha Limner, *1<sup>st</sup> Woman*;  
Princesa Diaz, *2<sup>nd</sup> Woman*; David Pepin, *1<sup>st</sup> Man*;  
Bob Cribari, *2<sup>nd</sup> Man* and Carolyn Soares, *Narrator*

**Performers:** Holly Spencer, flute and Maria Bilyeu, cello

**Open Mic for Poetry-** Hosted by Zach Berger

*INTERMISSION*

**Video by Final Judge Tina Cane**

**Reading by Winners of Notable Works' 2025 Poetry Contest:**  
Hosted by Carol Anderheggen

**Winners of Honorable Mentions:**

*Where the Divide Breathes* by Mary Gutierrez  
*Crossing to Goosewing Beach* by Seth Rafal  
*Natural Memories* by Marissa Sasso

**Third Place Winner**

*Anisoptera* by Zachary Berger

**Second Place Winner**

*White Noise* by Monique Cellemme

**First Place Winner**

*In Concert* by Diana Cole



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**Business Hours:**  
**Monday-Thursday**  
12pm - 8pm ·  
**Friday 12pm - 6pm**  
**Saturday 10am - 5pm**

## About the “Sell Division Cast”

**Robert (Bob) Cribari** (*2<sup>nd</sup> Man*) is originally from Warwick and currently lives in Cranston, Rhode Island, with his husband, Rob, and their lab mix, Gracie. His career has been in banking, but he has always nurtured his musical side through singing and playing the piano. When not working, Bob enjoys feeding his creative spirit by sitting at his piano or crafting beautifully scented soy candles. This marks his first musical theater performance.

**Princesa Diaz** (*2<sup>nd</sup> Woman*) is a teacher's assistant and author. At the age of 16, she started writing and reviewing grant proposals for nonprofits in the Boston area. She is an avid reader and pushes herself to write every day. During lockdown, she started experimenting with strange and interesting sounds and later went on to record tunes and videos. Princesa believes that writing and celebrating our own stories makes the world a better place. She hopes to inspire more people both big and small to walk in faith with confidence and pizzazz.

**Madison Durfee** (*Audrey*) she/her recently graduated from Endicott College with a BFA in Photography and a minor in Theater. She is thrilled to be working on her first project with Notable Works! Madison has had a love for the performing arts since she was eight years old and has had the opportunity to act in plays, musicals, and the movies *Moonrise Kingdom* and *Irrational Man*. She has also been fortunate enough to direct, take headshots, and create programs for some of the shows she has been involved with. Some of Madison's most notable roles include “Troupe Swing/Francis Bacon/Chef” in *Something Rotten*, “Friar John/Friar Lawrence US” in *Romeo & Juliet*, “Kalioppe/Kelly US” in *She Kills Monsters*, “Wendy” in *Peter Pan*, and “Apostle” in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She would like to thank her friends and family for their constant support and love! Enjoy the show!

**Kayla Kennedy** (*Valerie*) grew up in Coventry, Rhode Island and is currently a CCRI JAA student with a concentration in Technical Theater Hobbies: Painting, Drawing, and Ukulele Credits with Other Companies: Participant Advocate for Spongebob the Musical produced by Experiments in Theater [2024], Assistant Stage Manager for From Free to Freedom produced by Mixed Magic in conjunction with Providence Performing Arts Center [2024], Stage Manager for Let the Right One in [2024], Much Ado About Nothing [2024], Hand to God (KCACTF nominated/ Merit Award recipient) [2023], The Laramie Project (KCACTF nominated) [2023], Prop Designer for One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest [2024], and Snoopy in You're A Good Man Charlie Brown (KCACTF nominate) [2024], Ensemble in A Christmas Carol produced at Trinity Rep. [2018],

**Samantha Limner** (*1<sup>st</sup> Woman*) is happy to reunite with the Sell Division team! She is an Alto in the Foundations Chorus of Westerly, and recently performed three solo songs as the Tin Man's long lost girlfriend Cynthia Cynch in *Wizard of Oz in Concert* with Offsite Connecticut Theatre. Nonmusical credits include roles at The Arctic Playhouse in Warwick and The Granite Theatre in Westerly. She acts in The Laramie Project at The Granite Theatre this weekend and next weekend.

**Elissa Parente** (*Cecelia*) is a Film major at CCRI and plans to transfer to URI in Spring of 2025 in the same major. She currently serves as Publicist for the CCRI Players. Previous credits with the CCRI Players include: Helga Ten Dorp in *Deathtrap* (KCACTF Irene Ryan Nomination), Associate Producer for *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Antony & Cleopatra*, Assistant Stage Manager for *The Laramie Project*, *Candy Starr in One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, *Lucy Van Pelt in You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!*, actress in *Summer Rep Season 6*, and Assistant to the Director for *Anthony Goes' production of Let the Right One In*.

**David Pepin** (*1<sup>st</sup> Man*) “I'm thankful that a leisurely spin through Facebook brought me to this show and landed me back on stage after 6 1/2 years off it.” David was a writer and performer in the Providence Newspaper Guild Follies (basically, an annual Saturday Night Live all about Rhode Island's news, movers and shakers, etc.) for 12 years before the long-running show ended in 2018. You may still occasionally catch David singing karaoke or playing trivia out and about. He was an editor and reporter for a number of Southern New England newspapers for about 35 years and still does some freelance work. David, a graduate of Bishop Hendricken High School and Boston University, has also volunteered on local political campaigns.

**Norman Rivera** (*Victor*): Born in Providence, RI, Norman, although new to musical theater, is no stranger to performance. He is a musician who has been performing as a solo guitarist for several years. When he isn't working IT support, he can be found singing karaoke, catching a live concert or hiking/exploring.

**Carolyn Soares** (*Narrator*) is a retired teacher and literacy coach who always enjoyed incorporating the musical talents of others into her lessons. She has been a healing arts practitioner for more than 26 years offering vibrational healing, sound baths and cupping massage to help others to heal. Carolyn is a lifelong learner and loves trying new things- like taking art lessons and narrating musicals! She has recently become a new ‘Lovie’ to her first granddaughter Sloane and is embracing all that this new chapter in her life will bring.

**Betty Teixeira** (*Hattie*) has been performing for over 50 years. She is a retired teacher of special needs children, and a registered music therapist. Betty was a fellow in the Buzzards Bay National Writing Project focusing on poetry and storytelling. She has directed productions for Portsmouth Community Theatre as well as the Little Theatre of Fall River, where she has served on their board of directors. She has done voice overs for radio and most recently for FRCMedia's documentary **Safe Houses: The Underground Railroad in Fall River**. Some of her most memorable roles have been Bananas in House of Blue Leaves, Domina in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Yenta in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Aunt Abby in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and the Reverend Mother in *Nonsense*. Currently she is a certified grief facilitator conducting funeral services and authorized to perform weddings in Massachusetts. She is pleased to participate in this reading of “Sell Division.”

### The Performers:

**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 compositions 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.

**Holly Spencer**, flautist, is from Southern Rhode Island. She started playing the flute at 10 years old with the middle school band and played all throughout middle and high school. At 16, she began classically training with flautist Lucinda Ladd of the American Band, becoming more serious in her studies and learning mostly baroque and early classical. She also participated in the annual RIMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival in her junior and senior years. Later, she studied music at the Community College of Rhode Island, focusing on Flute under flautist Teresa Gervais. It was then that she began to expand her repertoire, playing more modern pieces by composers like Griffes, Dutilleux, Poulenc, and Chaminade. She also performed with the CCRI Chamber Ensemble, led by Dr. Audrey Kaiser. Holly is now a mother of two children. She resides in Ashaway, RI with her daughter Astrid (age 10), her son Charlie (age 2) and her fiancé, John. Some of her other interests include hiking, writing, yoga, beach-going, cooking and baking, herbalism and other natural healing practices, as well as spending time with her kids.

### Composers/Lyricists “Sell Division”

**Noreen Inglesi**, composer, writer, co-founder and Artist in Residence for Notable Works, taught music for the Town of North Providence and the Community College of Rhode Island. Noreen was twice nominated for Teacher of the Year and received her Associates of Fine Arts Degree at the Community College of Rhode Island and her undergraduate and master’s degree in music education and music theory/composition at the University of Rhode Island. Noreen has received much recognition for her music and poetry. Locally, her music has been featured by The American Band, The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island, The State Ballet of Rhode Island, The Colonial Theatre, Verdant Vibes, Vibe of the Venue, the Westerly Band and WaterFire Providence. Noreen is also proud to be a member of Ocean State Poets and her works have been published by *Crosswinds Poetry Journal*, Nobel House, the National Library of Poetry, Rhode Island Bards, Frequency Writers, The Poetry Loft and Notable Works Publication and Distribution Co., Inc. <https://notableworks.org/about-noreen/>

**Mary Zema** composer, writer, is a career vocalist, singer/songwriter and guitarist with a BM in Music Theory/Composition and a MM in Music Education. 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. 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. Mary recently released her second album “Whistles, Dimes and Dragonflies” and a video with the same name. She taught music in the Fall River Public School system for 33 years. She is presently performing with her band, “Throwback,” playing music from the 60s - 90s. YouTube-Mary Zema music. [www.Facebook.com/musicmaryzema](http://www.Facebook.com/musicmaryzema).

### About the Winning Poets:

**First Place Winner: Diana Cole**, a Pushcart Prize nominee, has been published in over 60 poetry journals including Poetry East, Spillway, Main Street Rag, Cider Press Review, The Public's Radio 89.3, BlueLine, Friends Journal, Verse Daily, The New Verse News and Orison Books. Her chapbook, *Songs By Heart* was published in 2018 by Iris Press. In 2024 she was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Notable Works Poetry Initiative. For the past five years she was an editor for The Crosswinds Poetry Journal. Her full-length book, *Between Selves*, was released in the summer of 2023 by Indian Press, Cyberwit.net. More information at [dianacolepoets.com](http://dianacolepoets.com)

**Second Place Winner: Monique Cellemme**, a music teacher and writer, has always loved the interplay between song and words. Her poetry has been published in *Rhode Island Bards Anthology 2024*, *The Cowl* and by Notable Works. She was a winner of the Notable Works Poetry Contest and a 2024 finalist for the CALYX Lois Cranston Poetry Prize. Monique holds degrees in music education from Westminster Choir College and Providence College. She lives in Rhode Island with her husband and two sons.

**Third Place Winner: Zachary M. Berger** is a librarian devoted to public service, poetry, his husband, and their four rescue dogs (not necessarily in that order). He lives near coastal Rhode Island and worries about its longevity. He co-hosts the monthly Words on Fire Open Mic at the William Hall Library and tries to be more disciplined about regularly submitting his own poetry for publication.

### Winners of Honorable Mention:

**Mary Gutierrez** is a resident of Florida and an Environmental Scientist by profession and passion. She is currently the Director for Earth Ethics, Inc., a non-profit environmental and social justice organization. Her environmental background is often reflected in her writings. Mary has been published in numerous local and national poetry zines and magazines. She has one self-published book, "Naked in the Rain" and is part of the published anthologies, "Word in a Web", "Voices of the Earth: The Future of Our Planet III", "G.I. Days: An Anthology of Military Life," "Cadence 2024" and Emerald Coast Review XXII. Ms. Gutierrez is also an ordained minister and lifelong vegetarian who strives to educate others on our connection to nature, other species, and their importance to us.

**Seth Rafal:** I was born in Delaware but have lived in New England since I was 18. I was educated at the University of Vermont (B.A. in Religion, '78, M.S. in Counseling, '84, and M.D. in '94). I came to Boston for residency in psychiatry and practiced there until 2022. My wife and I are fulltime residents of Little Compton, RI, where she paints, I write, and we hike almost daily. Language and meaning have been the focus of my life, both professionally and personally. I wrote poems occasionally before I retired from medical practice in 2022, and I am grateful to have more time to do so now. For me, poetry allows greater freedom than prose to explore meaning and visceral experience.

**Marissa Sasso** a writer based in Connecticut. Her poetry has been shown in the International Symposium on Electronic Art, in galleries across North America and Europe, and published by Notable Works Publication & Distribution Co. She has been mentored and published by the National Association of LGBTQ+ Journalists and has worked with American University’s Antiracism Research and Policy Center.