

## Cultural Council Summer News

The Charlemont-Hawley Cultural Concert has funded many programs already this year. Several are coming up this summer.

As always, the council is proud to help fund Mohawk Trail Concerts, which brings chamber music to the Charlemont Federated Church each Saturday evening in July. Anyone who pays for a ticket may bring a guest who has never before attended a concert for free. For more information on the concerts and on this summer's season in particular, visit <https://www.mohawktrailconcerts.org/>.

This year's Charlemont Forum will focus on threats to American Democracy. The season will kick off on Monday, July 16, at 7 p.m. with Marlboro College professors Meg Mott and Amer Latif. The pair will examine the issues of public discourse and the bridging of political and religious divides. And on Tuesday, July 31, at 7 p.m., the forum will bring Josh Silver to the stage. Silver will describe local civic-reform efforts around the country to reclaim American democracy. Both sessions are free (although donations are always welcome!), and both take place at the Federated Church on Route 2 in Charlemont. For more information, call Peter and Susan Purdy at 339-4301.

A wonderful local organization, Hilltown Youth Theatre, teaches teens (many of whom face behavior and health challenges) to create innovative performances in conjunction with local arts and humanities groups. This year's troupe will perform a show called "Avatar, the Last Airbender" in early August outdoors at Berkshire East. For details, visit <https://hilltownyouth.org/>.

The council also helps fund the weekly Thursday night Coop Concerts at Greenfield Energy Park. These evenings offer family fun in a relaxed setting. (Bring a lawn chair!) For a full calendar, see <http://www.coopconcerts.org/>.

We have funded Alice Parker's SINGs in the past, although she didn't ask for money this year. Alice will lead two sings this summer at the Federated Church in Charlemont. The first will take place on Tuesday, July 24, at 7:30. The second will be held on Tuesday, August 14, also at 7:30. Alice has a wonderful way of getting a whole room (even non-singers) singing. Both SINGs are free. Tinky Weisblat of Hawley, soprano, and Jerry Noble, on piano, will present a program – A Century of Songs and Singers - paying tribute to songs, singers, and composers born in 1918. To be held Saturday, August 25, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. at the Federated Church, Route 2, Charlemont.

More council-funded programs are due to take place in the fall, including a production of Thornton Wilder's play Our Town at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls and an excursion for Hawlemont students to the Hicks Family Farm Corn Maze.

In addition to its cultural offerings, the council has donated money to the Sons & Daughters of Hawley this year to purchase a flatbed scanner for ongoing archival preservation. There will be reports on this project—and much more—at Hawley Day on August 12.

For more information about the Charlemont-Hawley Cultural Council, contact council chair Tinky Weisblat at 339-4747.