

**WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE:
JOURNEYS TO PLACES REAL AND IMAGINED**

A Celebration of Hastings' Luminary Billie Burke and Magical Places That Inspire Us

Opening Reception -- September 12, 6 pm - 8 pm

Village Hall Gallery, Municipal Building, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NY (August 3, 2019) — The Hastings-on-Hudson Village Arts Commission in partnership with the Hastings Historical Society announce ***We're Not in Kansas Anymore: Journeys to Places Real and Imagined***, a multimedia exhibit and celebration of art's ability to transport us to places we've experienced or places we've only dreamed of.

Through a variety of media — painting, photography, mosaic, watercolors and fiber arts — the show highlights individual responses to the question, "Where does your art transport you?" The juried art exhibit showcases twenty-nine works selected from more than 200 submissions. The artists included in the show represent eighteen communities in New York and New Jersey. Of the twenty-nine, ten are from Hastings.

Featured: Lea Carmichael, Julia Eisen-Lester, Fernanda Franco, Randy Frost, Trine Giaver, Raine Gifford, Eleanor Goldstein, EB Gregor, Carol Herd-Rodriguez, Susan Hoeltzel, Ellen Hopkins Fountain, Kristin Javier, Dara Kane, Ed Lessing, Jamie MacKenzie, Sherri Paul, Carol Perron Sommerfield, DeAnn Prosia, David Rabinowitz, Susan Richman, Elyza Sanchez, Salvador Sanchez, Jamie Taylor, Robert Uricchio, Soma Vajpayee, Michael Washburn, Karen Williams Edelman, Donald Winter, and Lesley Zablinger.

Alongside the artwork in the gallery, will be, in words and photos, the narrative of Hastings' luminary Billie Burke (1884-1970), a stage and screen star and renowned comedienne adored for her role as Glinda the Good Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*. Burke, who with her husband, the impresario Florenz Ziegfeld, resided at a lavish estate called Burkeley Crest, now officially part of Hastings High School's athletic fields on Farragut Avenue.

Lisa Oswald, Chief Curator and Hastings Village Arts Commissioner says, "We believe art is a bridge to help connect people with each other and to Hastings' rich history. *We're Not in Kansas Anymore* honors our past and transports us to places real and imagined."

"We're excited to participate in a program that combines creative artistry and village history in such a unique way," says Natalie Barry, President of the Hastings Historical Society. "I'm certain Billie Burke, a much-beloved former resident of Hastings, would be happy at how her iconic role in *The Wizard of Oz* is sparking the imagination of so many people."

This celebration extends Village-wide throughout September and October with related programming by the Hastings Historical Society, a free outdoor Saturday morning family event at The Good Witch Coffee Bar, and a free outdoor screening of *The Wizard of Oz* presented by the Village of Hastings, to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the 1939 theatrical release of the classic.

We're Not in Kansas Anymore kicks off with an opening reception featuring music by jazzy band Ice Nine on Thursday, September 12 from 6-8pm in Village Hall Gallery (7 Maple Avenue).

[A rundown of partner and related programming here:](#)

Special talk

Sunday, September 22

From Broadway to Broadway: The Magical Life of Billie Burke, Natalie Barry, President, Hastings Historical Society. An intimate talk about Billie Burke's career with special emphasis on her family life in Hastings.

Location: Hastings Library, 7 Maple Avenue, Orr Room, 2 pm - 4 pm, reception to follow.

Family event

Saturday, October 5

The Technicolor Pachyderm, a hands-on children's art event. Pay honor to Billie Burke's menagerie at Burkeley Crest (and Herman, her baby elephant) by helping to build a paper mache replica! Producers: Joanna Prisco, The Good Witch Coffee Bar, and Bridget McCormick, museum educator and program developer.

Location: 134 Southside Avenue at the Hastings Train Station, 9 – 12 pm, weather permitting. For same day updates: follow the @HastingsArtsCommission on Facebook.

Movie screening

Saturday, October 5

Outdoor screening of The Wizard of Oz, presented by the Village of Hastings on Hudson

Location: Fulton Park adjacent to the Hastings Library, 7 Maple Avenue. Attendees should bring a blanket. Rain location: Orr Room at the Hastings Library, 7:30 pm.

We're Not in Kansas Anymore: Journeys to Places Real and Imagined was organized by Hastings Village Arts Commissioners Lisa Oswald (Chief Curator), with the support of Susan Soriano (Co-Curator), and Daniel Belasco; Natalie Barry, President, Hastings Historical Society; and Jan Clough, Vice President, Hastings Historical Society. Special thanks for research assistance provided by Claudia Gisolfi, Matthew Pollack, Amanda Escotto and Jonah Fried; Amy Asch, musical theatre researcher and archivist; for programming assistance Joanna Prisco, The Good Witch Coffee Bar and Bridget McCormick, museum educator and program developer; and Lindsey-Jeanne Taylor of Lindsey Taylor Creative for marketing and promotional services.

VILLAGE HALL VIEWING HOURS

We're Not in Kansas Anymore is on view from September 1 to November 2, 2019

Monday – Saturday, 9 am – 4:30 pm. Free and open to the public.

Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY

FOR KANSAS EVENT UPDATES

Visit the Hastings Arts Commission on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HastingsArtsCommission>

FOR WIZARD OF OZ MOVIE SCREENING UPDATES

Visit Destination Hastings on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DestinationHastings>

ABOUT THE HASTINGS VILLAGE ARTS COMMISSION

The Hastings Village Arts Commission was established by the Village Board of Trustees to enrich the lives of Hastings-on-Hudson residents through the arts. The Commission promotes the use of the village's public spaces including the Municipal Building and outdoor venues for display of visual arts of various media and sculpture, and welcomes proposals from artists, sculptors and curators on a rolling year-round basis.

ABOUT THE HASTINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hastings Historical Society is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization founded in 1971 as part of a grassroots movement to identify and protect the historic treasures of Hastings. The Hastings Historical Society Observatory Cottage is open year-round to the public Mondays and Thursdays from 11 am to 2 pm and from 2 pm to 4 pm on the first Saturday of each month, from September to June. Other times can be arranged by appointment by calling 914-478-2249. For more information, visit the Hastings Historical Society at www.hastingshistorical.org.

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