

**Kids, Books and the Arts Roster 2017**  
**Cactus Head Puppets**

131 Ashley Ave Apt D4  
West Springfield, MA 01089  
413-478-9294  
CactusHeadpuppets@gmail.com  
[www.cactusheadpuppets.com/](http://www.cactusheadpuppets.com/)

Contact: John Regan  
Arts Discipline: **Puppetry**

**Program Description:**

**The Pied Piper of Hamlin:** The town of Hamlin has a rat problem, and there's only one person who can help! Cactus Head Puppets brings the story of *The Pied Piper* to life in this comedic, updated adaptation of the traditional folktale. Not only does the town find a musical solution to pest control, but the kids of Hamelin also teach the grownups a lesson about generosity. In the end, the townspeople all come together in celebration. Join puppeteers John and Megan Regan as they present this classic tale, told with multiple puppetry styles and plenty of dancing rats! After the show stick around for a talkback where the puppeteers will show how they constructed the stages, scenery and puppets!

**Length of Program:** 45 minutes

**Program Suited for:** Ages 4 to 12

**Program can be performed:** Indoors

**Fee:** \$350

**Mileage Charge:** Federal rate

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** A smooth, flat floor space 11 ft. wide by 8 ft. deep with at least 8 ft. high ceilings, access to an electric outlet.

**Workshop Description:**

This workshop begins with a demonstration of different types of puppets, focusing on either rod puppets, shadow puppets, or paper bag puppets for the younger crowd. We then provide instruction and materials for all the participants to create their own simple puppet. Once the puppets are complete, we offer training in basic puppet performance, and each participant gets a chance to demonstrate their puppet for the group.

**Length of Workshop:** One hour

**Workshop Suited for:** Ages 5 and up

**Number of Participants:** Maximum of 25

**Fee for One Performance and One Workshop:** \$450

**Workshop Space Requirements:** Table space for each participant

**Kids, Books and the Arts Roster 2017**  
**Marek Bennett**

93 Bennett Road  
Henniker, NH 03242  
[marek@marekbennett.com](mailto:marek@marekbennett.com)  
[www.marekbennett.com/build](http://www.marekbennett.com/build)

Contact: Marek Bennett  
Arts Discipline: **Comics Workshop**

**Comics Workshop Description:** Join NH teaching artist Marek Bennett's COMICS WORKSHOP to learn how cartoonists build entire worlds and universes out of the simplest possible materials! Using only blank pages, pencils, ink and four basic "building blocks" of stories, we will craft dynamic characters and rich settings, and bring them to life in comics panels, strips and pages. We'll also look at how artists and authors use peer feedback to improve their work, and how to supplement our new worlds with helpful maps, splash pages and more. This interactive workshop builds literacy skills, hones powers of imagination, shares complex project organization and self-publishing techniques, and helps young artists collaborate, appreciate and support the work of their neighbors. Participants each create one plus pages of original comics, and go home with the skills necessary to continue creating comics all summer long. No experience required—everyone can draw comics!

**Length of Workshop:** 1-3 hours (depending on host preference)

**Workshop suited for:** ages 8 and up (usual groupings = ages 7-10; ages 10-14; ages 14 and up; or family groups of parents and children)

**Number of participants:** up to 25

**Workshop can be conducted:** indoors

**Fee:** \$350

**Mileage Charge:** \$0.50/mile

**Block booking rates available**

**Workshop Space Requirements:** digital projector\* & screen/display surface, tables and chairs for participants. **ART SUPPLIES:** copy paper (8.5x11) and pencils\*. (\* If host cannot supply these items, please notify Marek ahead of time and he can bring them.)

**Alternative Program:** 1 hour dramatic reading & discussion (without workshop); **Fee** = \$250, **Number of participants** = up to 60, all other details as above, minus ART SUPPLIES.

**Kids, Books and the Arts Roster 2017**  
**Simon Brooks**

253 Barrett Road  
New London, NH 03257  
603-877-0033  
simon@diamondscree.com  
[SimonBrooksStoryteller.com](http://SimonBrooksStoryteller.com)

Contact: Simon Brooks  
Arts Discipline: **Storytelling**

**Program Description:**

Building a Better World begins with communities, and stories help build and strengthen communities. The old stories, the ancient tales, are still around because they are so good. They have been distilled, refined, honed over the centuries and still ring true. Simon Brooks takes these old folk and fairy tales, myths and legends and makes them relevant for our digital age. Bringing generations together to share the common thread of folk lore and tales of the fey (the fairy folk), Simon's unique talent with accents and vocal sound effects, energy and enthusiasm makes his tales accessible to all.

Stories about the environment, kindness, social justice are not new. Let Simon Brooks bring some of these powerful and entertaining stories to your library. Rumi's "Parrot and the Merchant" with its community support and subject of freedom, the misguided protection of Rapunzel's other mother, Solomon's social justice in "The Smell of Bread," and the Hispanic story of three creatures trying to create their own community are some of the tales Simon will bring with him. Stories told will be based on age and make-up of the audience.

**Length of Program:** 40 - 60 minutes

**Program suited for:** 5 and up

**Program can be performed:** indoors or outdoors

**Fee:** \$280

**Mileage Charge:** federal rate

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** Power for an amplifier. Simon brings his own amplifier.

**Workshop Description:** Participants will learn how to share their own stories. Working with multigenerational folks, Simon will help each person work on a true story—something that happened to them, or they witnessed. The group will work on these stories and share with other participants. Workshops run for about 90 minutes. The maximum number of participants is 10, aged 10 and up.

**Length of Workshop:** 90 minutes or more

**Number of participants:** 10

**Fee for one performance and one workshop:** \$500.00

**Kids, Books and the Arts Roster 2017**  
**Steve Corning**

72 Wentworth Street, Apt #2,  
Biddeford, ME 04005  
207-200-8017  
[stephencorning@gmail.com](mailto:stephencorning@gmail.com)  
[stevecorning.com](http://stevecorning.com)

Contact: Steve Corning  
Arts Discipline: **Juggling, Comedy & Variety**

**Program Description:**

Hailing from Maine, Steve Corning has brought his unique brand of variety arts and off-beat comedy to theaters and resorts across the country, and even internationally on Disney Cruise Line. Steve's one-man variety extravaganza features fast-paced juggling routines, mind-blowing escape artistry, contortion, comedy magic, and nearly endless amazing sideshow stunts. If you're looking for non-stop entertainment and laughs for the whole family, this show has it all!

**Length of Program:** 45 minutes

**Program Suited for:** All ages

**Program can be performed:** Indoors or Outdoors

**Fee:** \$400

**Mileage Charge:** 50 cents a mile

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** A performance space and electricity.

**Workshop Description:**

Always wanted to juggle? Now is your chance! Professional juggler and touring performer Steve Corning will provide a fun, high-energy juggling demo, followed by hands-on instruction and lessons for all ages and skill-types. Juggling is not only a great skill to break out at a party, it also can become an exhilarating hobby, and it's a healthy exercise for both the body and mind! Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn an awesome new skill!

**Length of Workshop:** one hour

**Workshop Suited for:** All ages

**Number of Participants:** 30 maximum preferred

**Fee for One Performance (30 min) and One Workshop (30 min):** \$475

**Workshop Space Requirements:** Almost any space will work; 8 ft+ ceilings and adequate space for attendees to spread out is preferred.

**Kids, Books and the Arts Roster 2017**  
**Hampstead Stage Company**

1053 North Barnstead Road  
Center Barnstead, NH 03225  
800-619-5302

[info@hampsteadstage.org](mailto:info@hampsteadstage.org)  
[www.hampsteadstage.org](http://www.hampsteadstage.org)

Contact: Anna Robbins  
Arts Discipline: **Theatre**

**Program Description:**

**Beauty and the Beast** is a classic French tale that tells the story of a young girl, Belle, who is sent by her father to live in a beautiful palace with an outwardly terrifying beast. The Beast must help Belle to discover his inner beauty and to help her to break the spell that has kept him locked in his beastly state. This story explores the themes of family, sacrifice, trust and love.

**Pinocchio** is Carlo Callodi's tale of an Italian woodcarver, Geppetto, who carves a son out of a block of pine. Join the wooden marionette on his journey to become a real boy! Through many mischievous adventures, Pinocchio discovers that to be human is to be good-hearted and brave.

**Length of Program:** 45 to 50 minutes followed by a brief Q & A session

**Program suited for:** ages 5-12

**Program can be performed:** indoors and outdoors (with prior notice)

**Fee:** \$375

**Mileage Charge:** none

**Performance Space Requirements:** We require a space large enough for our set and the audience. The set is approximately 20 feet left to right, 15 feet front to back, and seven feet high. It is adjustable and can be made to fit into nearly any space. Community/program rooms tend to work well. The shows can be performed outside. No access to electrical outlets is needed.

**Workshop Description:** We have several workshops to choose from including the following: *Building a Performance, Animal Physicality, Creating a Character, Improvisation, and Stage Combat*. For detailed descriptions, please go to our website and click on Workshops!

**Length of Workshop:** 45 minutes

**Workshop suited for:** See website for information about age suitability for the different workshops

**Number of participants:** maximum of 35 students

**Fee for one performance and one workshop:** \$475

**Workshop Space Requirements:** None

**Kids, Books and the Arts Roster 2017**  
**John Higby**

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Amherst MA 01004  
617-470-7182

[john@yoyoshow.com](mailto:john@yoyoshow.com)  
<http://www.yoyoshow.com/>

Contact: John Higby  
Arts Discipline: **Comedy and Clowning**

**Program Description:**

John Higby has been performing his unique comedy yo-yo show for over 20 years in 26 countries. He holds five Guinness world records, and he provides a high energy, interactive show for all ages.

**Length of Program:** 45 minutes

**Program Suited for:** All ages

**Program can be performed:** Indoors or Outdoors

**Fee:** \$400

**Mileage Charge:** none

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** 15 foot by 15 foot performance space.

**Workshop Description:**

Participants will learn to make a yo-yo really work and will master the “sleeper” where the yo-yo is spinning. “Walk the dog” and “Around the World” are other tricks that will be taught.

**Length of Workshop:** 30 minutes

**Workshop Suited for:** All ages

**Number of Participants:** 50

**Fee for One Performance and One Workshop:** \$500

**Workshop Space Requirements:** Depends on how many kids but a great outdoor activity.

**Kids, Books and the Arts Roster 2017**  
**Jungle Jim's of Boston**

Jungle Jim's of Boston  
P.O. Box 398-036  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
617-223-1700  
Events@JungleJimBoston.com  
[ILoveMyLibrary.com](http://ILoveMyLibrary.com)

Contact: Kylene Vanderwende  
Arts Discipline: **Balloon Artistry & Magic**

**Program Description: "Minecraft Madness"**

This program encourages and motivates children to create a brighter world through reading and imagination. Utilizing comedy, magic, improv and balloon art, Jim brings the characters from the popular video game, "Minecraft," to life. Over 20 volunteers participate in entertaining and team building activities. Why is it important to use our imaginations? What are the parallels between building inside of a video game and creation in the real world? How do books and creativity help make the builder who he or she is? Jim challenges the children to be explorers and creators in his or her own way. And the finale will blow the audience away: Jungle Jim climbs inside of a six-foot balloon slimeball!

**Length of Program:** 45 minutes

**Program suited for:** ages 3-10

**Program can be performed:** indoors only

**Fee:** \$499

**Mileage Charge:** \$0.50/mile

**Block booking rates and shared driving fees are available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** Access to electricity; parking space within 100 feet of library; table.

**Kids, Books and the Arts Roster 2017**  
**Diane Kordas**

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603-315-3083  
[diane@dianekordas.com](mailto:diane@dianekordas.com)  
[www.dianekordas.com](http://www.dianekordas.com)

Contact: Diane Kordas  
Arts Discipline: **Music and Puppetry**

**Program Description:**

**Build a Better World—Build a House!** Puppets bring to life two stories of construction and building for this year's theme: "Who's in Rabbit's House" (African folktale) and "The Three Wolfies and a Big Bad Pig" (a twist on the Grimm's tale). Colorful African animals help out rabbit for the first story, and the classic three pigs story is presented with a twist. Silliness, laughs and audience participation make this fun for the family while learning about building and construction, too—hitting the nail on the head for this year's theme!

**Length of Program:** 45 minutes with demo after show for a total of an hour

**Program Suited for:** Ages 0 to 10 and families

**Program can be performed:** Indoors

**Fee:** \$300

**Mileage Charge:** 30 cents/mile

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** Three-prong outlet to plug in presenter's sound system. Diane provides her own portable puppet theater, sound and lights.

**Workshop Description:**

**Build a Better World—Build a Fairy House!** Participants will make their own fairy house and be encouraged to make up their own story to go with it. Diane will supply scenarios and stories on cards to facilitate the process. The houses will be made from recycled materials using two-liter pop bottles, small boxes, oatmeal containers, etc. It's best if library/children can help save/supply these materials. Fairies are made from beads and pipe cleaners (supplied by Diane).

**Length of Workshop:** Approximately one and a half hours

**Workshop Suited for:** Ages 4-10.

**Number of Participants:** maximum of 25

**Fee for One Performance and One Workshop:** \$400

**Workshop Space Requirements:** Work tables, markers, crayons, and tape. It is helpful if library can also provide a two-liter bottle and a small box or round coffee can or oatmeal container for each workshop participant.



**Kids, Books and the Arts Roster 2017**  
**Magic by George**

P.O. Box 394  
Holden, MA 01520  
978-937-5900

[george@magicbygeorge.com](mailto:george@magicbygeorge.com)  
[www.magicbygeorge.com](http://www.magicbygeorge.com)

Contact: George Saterial  
Arts Discipline: **Magic**

**Program Description: Magically Building a Better World**—Soon after reading a magic book from his hometown library, George’s world began to change. By using those pages as a blueprint, George constructed a foundation that built a career taking him across six continents and 32 countries, entertaining audiences with his unique style of magic. By performing internationally, George has discovered that magic can tear down walls, dismantle barriers and, in fact, build bridges across all cultures to form lasting friendships. This theme is now incorporated into George’s newest fun-filled magic show, “Magically Building a Better World.”

This fast-paced show harmoniously combines George’s playful persona with jaw-dropping magic, lighthearted humor, captivating storytelling and plenty of audience participation. Your audience will be kept on the edge of their seats as they are thrilled by the appearance of LIVE BIRDS and the actual LEVITATION OF AN AUDIENCE MEMBER!

Patrons, young and old, will be inspired by authentic accounts of George’s experiences from around the globe and how his magic has not only touched so many lives but how it has enriched George’s life as well. Also, many of the unique props used in the show were designed and constructed by George.

**Length of Program:** 45 to 50 minutes

**Program Suited for:** Ages 5 to 105

**Program can be performed:** Indoors or Outdoors

**Fee:** \$425

**Mileage Charge:** No

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** Access to an electrical outlet. Performance space approximately 12 ft. by 8 ft. or larger is preferred.

**Workshop Description: Get Ready to Build Your Own Magic Show!** In this workshop, children will construct their own magic tricks using everyday household objects; design their own magic poster; and be encouraged to read and learn more about magic and the history of famous magicians from the past. Participants will build the confidence to perform for their family and friends and also discover that sharing their magic will create continuing opportunities to form friendships.

**Length of Workshop:** one hour    **Workshop Suited for:** Ages 8 and up

**Number of Participants:** Maximum of 20

**Fee for One Performance and One Workshop:** \$675

**Workshop Space Requirements:** Table space for each participant.

**Kids, Books and the Arts Roster 2017**  
**Bob Riordan's World of Wonder**

6 Belmont Terrace  
Derry, NH 03038  
603-965-5766  
[bobriordan@comcast.net](mailto:bobriordan@comcast.net)  
BobRiordanMagic.com

Contact: Bob Riordan  
Arts Discipline: **Magic & Comedy**

**Program Description:** Have you ever seen a caged bird disappear in a flash? Or how about seeing your best friend's head vanish in a snap? You will giggle in surprise as Bob's friend, Reggie the Rabbit (puppet), hammers away at how important the infrastructure of reading is to building a better world as he (and Bob!) S.T.E.A.M. into the show! Combining magic, music, comedy, storytelling, theme appropriate content, and of course ... an abundance of audience participation ... smiles and excitement gush forth when the Wonder Show comes to town. From magic that happens right under people's noses to large feats of illusion, the Wonder Show has something for everyone. Moms, Dads and youngsters alike will marvel at the magic that ensues and smile with delight as their senses are dazzled and their funny bones tickled. Bob Riordan's Wonder Show offers an unforgettable experience into the world of magic – a world of which you become a part.

**Length of Program:** 45 minutes to one hour

**Program Suited for:** Ages 4 and up

**Program can be performed:** Indoor space is preferable

**Fee:** \$425

**Mileage Charge:** N/A

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** 6' X 8' performance space (slightly larger if possible) and access to electric power source.

**Workshop Description:** Kids and adults alike will be taught magic skills guaranteed to amuse and amaze. Utilizing everyday household objects, participants will be guided as to how to get on their mark and get set to have fun through the world of magic. All materials for the workshop, as well as take home items will be provided to further the workshop experience. Apart from learning 'tricks', this workshop provides an opportunity to express creativity and build self-confidence.

**Length of Workshop:** Approximately one hour

**Workshop Suited for:** 8 years old and up

**Number of Participants:** Maximum of 20

**Fee for One Performance and One Workshop:** \$700

**Workshop Space Requirements:** Adequate table space and seating for all attendees.

**Kids, Books and the Arts Roster 2017**  
**Tj Wheeler**

11 Brown Rd.  
Hampton Falls, NH 03844  
978 973 1709  
[tjwheeler7@yahoo.com](mailto:tjwheeler7@yahoo.com)  
[www.tjwheeler.net](http://www.tjwheeler.net)

Contact: Tj Wheeler  
Arts Discipline: **Music**

**Program Description:** “To Make a Better World to Live In”

The program title is also the name of a classic New Orleans R&B song from Earl King. Much of Tj Wheeler’s music originated in New Orleans and the Deep South out of the Black American Blues, Jazz and Folk traditions. Tj pays homage to the masters he learned from on such instruments as a cigar box guitar, banjo, diddley bow, ukulele and kazoo. He even tap dances while playing and singing! Tj’s a *natchal* storyteller and he details how the songs helped build up community, create hope and how they still provide inspiration for all of us – young and old-- today. Tj’s programs are very interactive. He also brings percussion instruments so that everyone can jam along on some old time Jug Band songs.

**Length of Program:** 60 to 75 minutes

**Program Suited for:** All ages

**Program can be performed:** Indoors or outdoors

**Fee:** \$375

**Mileage Charge:** federal rate

**Block booking rates available**

**Performance Space Requirements:** A safe, dry place to play. If outside, some type of overhead covering in case of rain is appreciated. Prefer a wooden floor, if possible, for tap dancing while sitting down and playing. Need three-prong outlet strip within a foot of playing area. Need an armless chair (not a stool) and a bottle of water. If providing own PA system, need help &/or flat dolly.

**Workshop Description:**

A workshop before the main concert can be arranged. There are several topics available that libraries can choose at the time of booking.

**Length of Workshop:** Approximately one hour

**Workshop Suited for:** 6 years old and up

**Number of Participants:** Maximum of 50

**Fee for One Performance and One Workshop:** \$500

**Workshop Space Requirements:** Please contact Tj