

First Wednesdays

A Free Monthly
Humanities
Lecture Series
2007 - 2020

A Vermont Humanities
Council Program

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The Vermont Humanities Council (VHC) is under grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or VHC.

Burlington • Fletcher Free Library • 7:00 PM

OCTOBER 3—The Sounds of Spanglish. Amherst College Professor Ilan Stavans discusses Spanglish, the intercourse of Spanish and English used by millions of Americans that is becoming a major cultural force.

NOVEMBER 7—U.S. Foreign Policy: Preemptive Unilateralism vs. Containment. Retired Chief of Counterterrorism for the CIA Haviland Smith looks back to when U.S. foreign policy was based on containment and alliances, and compares that with the current tendency towards preemptive unilateralism.

DECEMBER 5—Book Clubs, Tupperware, and Oprah. In the 19th century, reading novels was deemed a feminine pursuit. Today, Oprah's persona perpetuates this gendering of reading. UVM Professor Sarah Turner asks: Are book clubs a gendered sphere?

JANUARY 2—The Meaning of Help. What exactly is this thing we call help? Author Garret Keizer invites us to consider a small word with far-reaching implications.

FEBRUARY 6—Why Jung? Jungian analyst and author Dr. Polly Young-Eisendrath explores why the psychology of Carl Jung has had staying power in helping us understand ourselves.

MARCH 5—Searching for Early America: Reconstructing the Early Years of the New Nation. UVM Professor Jacqueline Barbara Carr examines the Early Republic (c. 1789–1828)—one of the most overlooked periods in U.S. History, and yet one of sweeping social and economic change.

APRIL 2—The Importance of Being Oscar. Dartmouth Professor Peter Saccio considers Oscar Wilde's comic genius, his social standing in late Victorian society, and his historical influence. *Sponsor: Paul Frank + Collins*

APRIL 28—Civic Engagement in a Diverse and Changing America. Over the last half century, Americans have become less connected with one another and with our communities. Harvard professor and *Bowling Alone* author Robert D. Putnam asks why this happened, whether it matters—and if so, what we can do about it.

Note: This program takes place on a Monday.

Location: UVM Campus Center Theater

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