

# First Wednesdays

A Free Monthly  
Humanities  
Lecture Series  
2007 - 2008

A Vermont Humanities  
Council Program

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

## Manchester

### Host:

**Mark Skinner Library**  
**802.362.2607**

### Location:

**First Congregational  
Church**



VERMONT  
Humanities  
COUNCIL

**802.262.2626**

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- Northshire Bookstore
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## Manchester • First Congregational Church • 7:00 PM

**OCTOBER 3—Alfred Stieglitz and the Rise of Modernism in America.** In this illustrated talk, Dr. Alan Fern, director emeritus of the National Portrait Gallery, explores how Alfred Stieglitz (1864–1946)—photographer, art dealer, and husband of painter Georgia O’Keeffe—dramatically altered the course of the arts in the U.S.

**NOVEMBER 7—The Impossible Presidency: Presidential Greatness in the Post-Modern World.** Presidential scholars long have ranked the greatness of presidents. UVM Professor Frank Bryan discusses the fact that no president since 1952 has been ranked as great.

**DECEMBER 5—American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies in the Founding of the Republic.** The last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century remains the most politically creative era in American history. Pulitzer Prize winner Joseph Ellis believes it was a time of triumphs and tragedies, all of which contributed to the shaping of our burgeoning nation. *Sponsor: Northshire Bookstore*

**JANUARY 2—Powers of Persuasion.** In her final superb novel, *Persuasion*, Jane Austen combined social satire with profound feeling. Bennington College Professor April Bernard considers why this “fairy tale for grown-ups” continues to compel readers.

**FEBRUARY 6—Love and Language.** Does the word “love” mean the same in every civilization? Has the concept changed throughout history? Amherst College Professor Ilan Stavans explores the variations of love across time and place.

**MARCH 5—Mr. and Mrs. Prince.** Author Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina tells the story of Lucy Terry and Abijah Prince, an accomplished African American couple in pre-Civil War New England, whose lives embodied the paradoxes of slavery in our region.

**APRIL 2—The Renaissance that Could Only Happen in Italy.** Champlain College Professor Nancy Nahra considers how the cultural explosion of the Italian Renaissance changed both art and the world.

**MAY 7—The Great Camps of the Adirondacks.** Vermont State Curator David Schutz discusses the Adirondack style of architecture and tells colorful stories of the Gilded Age millionaires who summered in the Adirondacks.