

First Wednesdays

A Free Monthly
Humanities
Lecture Series
2007 - 2008

A Vermont Humanities
Council Program

www.vermonthumanities.org

St. Johnsbury

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St. Johnsbury • St. Johnsbury Athenaeum • 7:00 PM

OCTOBER 3—The Revival and Transformation of Antiquity in the Renaissance. President Emerita of the University of Chicago Dr. Hanna Gray explores how intellectuals of the early modern era looked to the ancient past and the authority of its great books to reform the education and culture of their own time.

NOVEMBER 7—On Writing *Mark Twain: A Life*. Pulitzer Prize winning author Ron Powers discusses the challenges and opportunities he encountered while writing his acclaimed biography *Mark Twain: A Life*.

DECEMBER 5—Where in the World is Kingdom County? Vermont writer Howard Frank Mosher tells how he first came to the Northeast Kingdom and discovered a remnant of an earlier New England, full of stories of some of the last independent-minded individualists in America.

JANUARY 2—27 Rue de Fleurus. Dartmouth Professor Barbara Will describes the salon Gertrude Stein created on the Left Bank in Paris, which included many 20th-century literary luminaries.

FEBRUARY 6—Forward From Here: Leaving Middle Age and Other Unexpected Adventures. Author Reeve Lindbergh talks about “leaving middle age, and other unexpected adventures,” from snapping turtles in the road to new revelations, and new relatives in her family.

MARCH 5—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.

APRIL 9—An Evening with Thomas Jefferson. In anticipation of the Presidential elections, former President Thomas Jefferson, portrayed by Clay Jenkinson, talks about democracy today and how it compares with democracy during his time. *Note: This talk takes place on the second Wednesday of the month.*

MAY 7—The Founders and the Problem of Democracy. The founders never intended our nation to be a democracy, a concept they regarded with horror. Vic Henningsen considers how they became architects of their own frustration, overtaken by a revolution framed on notions of equality they espoused, but were reluctant to extend broadly.