

# Comedy and Satire: It's No Joke

From Jonathan Swift  
to Jon Stewart,  
Ridiculing Vice and Folly

Vermont Humanities Council 2010 Annual Fall Conference  
November 12 and 13

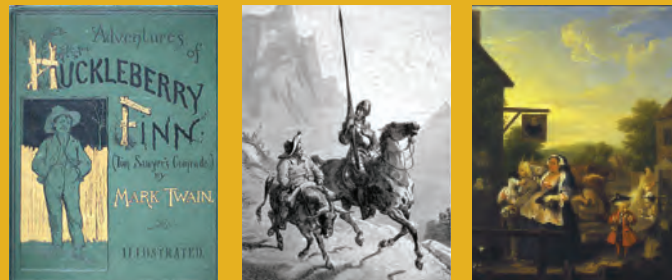
Begins Friday afternoon and runs through Saturday  
Stowe/Flake Mountain Resort & Spa, Stowe, Vermont

The Vermont Humanities Council invites you to its 37<sup>th</sup> annual fall conference, to enjoy the treatment that satirists and humorists throughout history have visited on the foolish and the wicked.

From Hogarth's prints to modern cartoons, from Charlie Chaplin to *Dr. Strangelove*, from Mark Twain to *Catch-22*, satirists have wielded both razor and bludgeon in pursuit not just of improvement and humor, but also of justice—and just deserts.

Join us in exploring—and relishing—their work, which deflates the inflated and afflicts the comfortable. Our examination of satire will include literature, drawings and cartoons, film, television, and the modern stand-up comic.

This is serious fun—please join us.



## Conference Details

If you are not on VHC's mailing list, contact us to be added to the conference notification list.

### Vermont Humanities Council

info@vermonthumanities.org  
802.262.2626 x 304  
vermonthumanities.org

Illustrations: Upper right, Ed Koren cartoon. Above: *Huckleberry Finn* first edition cover, 1885; *Don Quixote de La Mancha* and *Sancho Panza* by Gustave Doré, 1863; *Evening from Four Times of the Day* by William Hogarth, 1736.



## Featuring

- **Reel Satire — Barry Snyder**, Burlington College film scholar, takes a look at several of the best satiric films, and other new forms of satire.
- **The Sharply Pointed Pen: Satire and Humor in the Visual Arts — Alan Fern and Ed Koren** look at the history of comedy and satire in prints, drawings, and cartoons. Fern is Director Emeritus of the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC; Koren is the famous *New Yorker* cartoonist.
- **The Art of Satire — Robert Bell**, of Williams College, examines satire and comedy through the ages using delightful examples, from Shakespeare, Swift, Fielding, and Pope to Joyce, Monty Python, and Jon Stewart's *Daily Show*. What are the rules and boundaries of satire and comedy—if any?
- **The Muse of Comedy — James Tatum** looks at some of the theories about why we laugh, with examples from Aristophanes to Jonathan Swift, Spike Lee to Henny Youngman. Tatum is Professor of Classics Emeritus at Dartmouth College.
- **The Satire of Jane Austen—Claire Harman** examines Austen's use of satire in her novels. A professor at both Columbia and Oxford, Harman is author of *Jane's Fame: How Jane Austen Conquered the World*.
- **Breakout sessions:** Shakespeare's Satiric Voice with Robert Bell; America's Greatest Satirist, Mark Twain, with Williams College's David L. Smith; and Technology and the Golden Age(s) of Satire with UVM's Philip Baruth.
- **The Onion: A thoroughly Modern Voice —** Writers from the *Onion* share the joys and challenges of working in a world in which, as they see it, the absurdity of the actual has come to rival that of the imagined.

## What are the Humanities ...

- A favorite poem
- Humanities camps for middle school students
- A talk about diversity
- Vermont's Civil War legacy
- A reading program on influential First Ladies
- A book festival
- Film and fiction
- A conference on comedy and satire

vermonthumanities.org  
802.262.2626



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# Vermont Humanities

Summer 2010  
Calendar

Sharing  
Our Past ...  
Shaping  
Our Future

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Gulliver in Brobdingnag by Richard Redgrave

Comedy and Satire: It's No Joke  
From Jonathan Swift to Jon Stewart,  
Ridiculing Vice and Folly

2010 Annual Fall Conference • November 12 and 13  
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Stowe/Flake Mountain Resort & Spa, Stowe, Vermont



## Vermont Reads Author Event at Saint Michael's College

Presented by



Underwriter Media Sponsor



With support from the  
Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation



Photos: Lake Farka, Albania by Mark Orfla; Gjyle Konjuhi and family members walk towards a refugee camp in Albania, 1999, AP Photo/Jerome Delay; Road to Skopje, Mark Orfla.

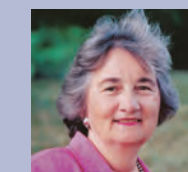
Thursday, October 7

**Katherine Paterson Public Address** — 7:00 or 7:30 PM (time to be confirmed). Katherine Paterson will give a talk and answer questions. During a reception following the talk, Paterson will sign books for attendees.

**Afternoon Workshops** — Before the talk, there will be several workshops centered around *The Day of the Pelican* for English Language Learners, teachers, and Saint Michael's College students and faculty.

VHC thanks the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress for its participation in this event.

To confirm time and for more information  
vermonthreads.org • 802.262.2626 x304 •  
info@vermonthumanities.org



Katherine Paterson



# Vermont Humanities

The Vermont Humanities Council newsletter, published three times a year

Editor and Design: Sylvia Plumb

## Vermont Humanities Council

Sharing Our Past . . . Shaping Our Future

11 Loomis Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602  
Phone: 802.262.2626 • Fax: 802.262.2620  
E-mail: info@vermonthumanities.org  
Web: vermonthumanities.org

### Staff

**Joan M. Black**, Office Assistant, jblack@vermonthumanities.org  
**Jeff Euber**, Communications & Literacy Assistant, jeuber@vermonthumanities.org  
**Mark Fitzsimmons**, Director of Community Programs, mfitzsimmons@vermonthumanities.org  
**Peter A. Gilbert**, Executive Director, pgilbert@vermonthumanities.org  
**Sylvia Plumb**, Director of Communications, splumb@vermonthumanities.org  
**Jessica Santucci**, Community Programs Assistant, jsantucci@vermonthumanities.org  
**Jan Steinbauer**, Director of Literacy Programs, jsteinbauer@vermonthumanities.org  
**Ali White**, First Wednesdays Director, Consultant, awhite@vermonthumanities.org  
**Linda Winter**, Director of Finance & Administration, lwinter@vermonthumanities.org  
**Linda Wrazen**, Annual Fund Manager, lwrazen@vermonthumanities.org

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Cover: Gulliver on his travels by Richard Redgrave



# C.a.l.e.n.d.a.r

## Summer 2010



Author Woden Teachout will examine the colorful history of the American flag in a talk at Warren Public Library on August 8.

### ADDISON COUNTY

**August 4 ~ Reading Places: Art, Architecture, and Gravestones in Early Vermont.** William Hosley demonstrates how art and artifacts can be used to understand historical experience while surveying the visual allure of historic Vermont. **Shoreham Historical Society**, 7:00 PM. Susan Peden, 802.897.2001.

**Book discussion: The Genius of Mark Twain.** Brilliant satire, knee-slapping comedy, potent social commentary . . . what more can you ask for? **Middlebury**, Ilsley Public Library, Thursdays, 10:30 AM. Chris Kirby, 802.388.4095. **July 29**, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Led by Ron Powers. **August 19**, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. Led by Marilyn Burrington.

### CALEDONIA COUNTY

**August 10 ~ "I Have Not Forgotten You": Vermont Women and the Westward Movement.** Through diaries, letters, and

reminiscences, Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith share the experiences of women who left—but never forgot—Vermont. **Peacham Congregational Church**, 7:00 PM. Jutta Scott, 802.592.3262.

### CHITTENDEN COUNTY

**Book discussion: Mysterious Lens on American Culture.** In these mysteries, mayhem and murder play out against a cultural/ethnic backdrop—illuminating more than simply whodunnit. Led by Barbara Mieder. **Shelburne**, Wake Robin Retirement Community, 200 Wake Robin Dr., 7:30 PM. Natalie Albers, 802.985.0659. **September 13**, Sherman Alexie's *Indian Killer*.

### ESSEX COUNTY

**August 1 ~ Vermont and the Civil War.** Vermont author and Civil War historian Howard Coffin will speak on the Civil War and its effect on Vermonters. **Island Pond**, American Legion Brighton Post 80, 1:00 PM. Mark Biron, 907.322.4486.

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

**August 7 ~ Vermont and the Civil War.** Vermont author and Civil War historian Howard Coffin will speak on the Civil War and its effect on Vermonters. **Franklin Town Hall**, 7:00 PM. Sue Clark, 802.285.6472

### GRAND ISLE

**August 22 ~ The Western Abenaki: History and Culture.** Jeanne Brink examines the importance in Abenaki society of elders and children, the environment, and the continuance of lifeways and traditions. **Isle La Motte**, Saint Anne's Shrine, TIME TBA. Katya Wilcox, 802.318.6229.  
**Book discussion: Booker Prize Winners.** The Booker Prize has achieved respect that rivals the Pulitzer. Graham Swift said "It's the one which, if we're completely honest, we most covet." Led by Arthur Biddle. **North Hero Public Library**, Thursdays, 7:30 PM. Judy Poquette, 802.372.5458. **August 5**, Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*. **August 26**, Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient*.

### LAMOILLE COUNTY

**September 15 ~ Vermont Folk Art.** This presentation by Jane Beck touches on the learning and creation of traditional art and the emotional bond that exists between the maker and the receiver of a

## VHC Supports Vermont's Three Big Book Festivals

You will want to attend the Green Mountain state's three fabulous book festivals — each supported by the Vermont Humanities Council. All three festivals are free and open to the public with activities for all ages.

**Bookstock: The Green Mountain Festival of Words, Woodstock, July 30-31** - This community-wide celebration of books and authors — especially those connected with Vermont — explores how books help us examine a wide range of human experiences. The festival is presented by Pentangle Council on the Arts. 802.457.3981 or bookstockvt.org.

**Burlington Book Festival, September 24-26** - This three-day festival, now in its sixth year, takes place in a variety of Burlington venues. The celebration of the written word will offer readings, book signings, panels, workshops, demonstrations, musical performances, family activities and special events featuring literary luminaries from around the world — and from just around the corner. www.burlingtonbookfestival.com

**Brattleboro Literary Festival, October 1-3** - This ninth annual festival is a celebration of those who read books, those who write books, and the books themselves. The festival includes readings, panel discussions, and special events, featuring emerging and established authors. www.brattleboroliteraryfestival.org

## Calendar

folk art object. **Morristown**, River Arts, 7:00 PM. William Lizotte, 802.241.3744.

### ORANGE COUNTY

**Book discussion: A Mysterious Lens on American Culture.** In these mysteries, mayhem and murder play out against a cultural backdrop—illuminating more than whodunnit. **Post Mills**, George Peabody Library, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM. Peter Blodgett, 802.333.9724. **July 28**, Barbara Neely's *Blanche Cleans Up*. Led by Mary Hays.  
**Book discussion: When Cultures Meet.** This series explores the ramifications of contact between Europeans and the native inhabitants in the Champlain basin. **Strafford**, Morrill Memorial & Harris Library, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM. Peter Blodgett, 802.333.9724. **August 11**, Brian Moore's *Black Robe*. Led by Jim Schley. **August 25**, Stephen Brumwell's *White Devil*. Led by Jean Gerber. **September 8**, Colin Calloway's *New Worlds for All*. Led by Alan Berolzheimer.

### ORLEANS COUNTY

**Book discussion: Orchestrated Stories.** This series offers fictional interpretations of composers. Led by Francette Cerulli. **Glover Public Library**, Thursdays, 5:00 PM. Toni Eubanks, 802.525.6524. **August 12**, Tananarive Due's *Joplin's Ghost*. **September 9**, Barbara Quick's *Vivaldi's Virgins*.

Learn about the legacy of Vermont's farms at a talk in Rutland on August 5. Photo: Farm Security Administration



### RUTLAND COUNTY

**July 26 ~ Film screening and discussion of "Crossing Arizona."** A Vermont Reads event. **Killington**, Sherburne Memorial Library, 1:30 PM. Heather Grev, 802.442.9765.  
**July 27 ~ Sprightly Steps: Vermont's Contra and Square Dancing Tradition.** Early settlers may have frowned upon the merriment of dancing, but people of all backgrounds fell under the spell of the fiddle. Presented by Adam Boyce. **Wallingford Town Hall**, 7:00 PM. Christine Bannerman, 802.446.3560.  
**August 5 ~ A Sense of Place: Vermont's Farm Legacy.** Vermont Folklife Center director Gregory Sharrow explores the fabric of farm culture in the past and probes its relationship to the world of Vermont today. **Rutland**, InterAge Adult Day Program, 230 N. Main St., 11:00 AM. Shelby Korona, 802.773.2011.

**August 23 ~ Film screening and discussion of "God Grew Tired of Us."** **Killington**, Sherburne Memorial Library, 1:30 PM. Heather Grev, 802.442.9765.

**August 25 ~ Cross generational book discussion of The Day of the Pelican.** A Vermont Reads event. Patrons can bring their copy of the book for reference. **Killington**, Sherburne Memorial Library, 4:00 PM. Heather Grev, 802.442.9765.

**September 8 ~ Georgia O'Keeffe: An American Master.** O'Keeffe's flower paintings of the 1920s brought her fame. Bob Manning examines the long and productive life that transformed O'Keeffe into an American icon. **Rutland**, InterAge Adult Day Program, 230 N. Main St., 11:00 AM. Shelby Korona, 802.773.2011.

### WASHINGTON COUNTY

**July 28 ~ The Irish "Wave" in the Green Mountains.** Vince Feeney, author of *Finnigans, Slaters and Stonepeppers*, tells the story of the impact of Irish immigrants on Vermont life in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup>

## Calendar

## First Wednesdays Season Highlights

Talks begin October 6 at a Library Near You

First Wednesdays, VHC's eclectic series of talks by eminent speakers, begins October 6 at nine Vermont sites. Among the speakers for the new season are:

- Pulitzer Prize-winning Civil War historian James McPherson, Brattleboro, October 6
- Author and Middlebury professor Allison Stanger, Norwich, November 3
- New York Times Chief Washington Correspondent David Sanger, Manchester, October 6
- Southern Poverty Law Center spokesman Mark Potok, Montpelier, November 23
- President emeritus of the University of Chicago Dr. Hannah Gray, Norwich, October 6
- Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Joseph Ellis, Manchester, December 1
- John Cole, founding director of the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, Middlebury, October 6
- Jan Albers, executive director of the Sheldon Museum, Newport, October 6
- Ilan Stavans, Amherst College professor and author, Burlington, October 6
- Jim Leach, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Montpelier, February 2
- American historian TH Breen, St. Johnsbury, December 1
- Rolf Diamante, writer and National Park superintendent, Rutland, January 5

### First Wednesdays Locations

- Brattleboro, Brooks Memorial Library
- Burlington, Fletcher Free Library
- Manchester (host: Mark Skinner Library), First Congregational Church
- Middlebury, Ilsley Public Library
- Montpelier, Kellogg-Hubbard Library
- Newport, Goodrich Library
- Norwich (host: Norwich Public Library, Norwich Historical Society), Norwich Congregational Church
- Rutland Free Library
- St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

## Sign up for the Vermont Humanities Council E-newsletter!

Don't miss out on VHC events. Receive the biweekly e-newsletter. Send an e-mail with "Sign Up for E-newsletter" in the subject line to jeuber@vermonthumanities.org.

century. **Barre**, Aldrich Public Library, 6:00 PM. Karen Lane, 802.479.0450.  
**August 8 ~ Capture the Flag: A Political History of American Patriotism.** Author Woden Teachout examines how the American flag has been captured and claimed by a wide range of our fellow citizens to uphold their versions of the American story. **Warren Public Library**, 4:00 PM. Gail Hietzker, 802.583.1935.  
**August 22 ~ Vermont History through Song.** Singer Linda Radtke, joined by pianist Arthur Zorn, brings Vermont history to life with engaging commentary about the songs found in the Vermont Historical Society's sheet music collection. **Warren Public Library**, 3:00 PM. Gail Hietzker, 802.583.1935.

**"You Come Too": British Poetry.** Examine selected works of British poets with VHC Executive Director Peter Gilbert. **Montpelier**, VHC, 11 Loomis St., 5:30 PM. Jessica Santucci, 802.262.2626 x304. **August 11**, Thomas Hardy: "The Convergence of the Twain," "Channel Firing," "The Oxen."

### WINDHAM COUNTY

**Yellow Barn Musicological Lecture Series.** Pre-concert talks on musicological topics. Supported by a grant from VHC. **Putney Public Library**, Saturdays, 7:00 PM. **July 24**, Composer in residence Melissa Hui and the Peabody Trio discuss the evening's program. **July 31**, Baritone William Sharp and other Yellow Barn musicians look at the storytelling on the evening's program. **August 7**, Cellist Natasha Brofsky and other Yellow Barn musicians join Artistic Director Seth Knopp in a look back on the festival and a closer look at Vinko Globokar's "Freu(n)de." **Note:** the lectures are free; the concerts that follow have a fee. Catherine Stephan, 802.387.6637 or visit www.yellowbarn.org.

**Book discussion: The Seven Deadly Sins.** Discover why these short stories "remind us that most of our problems arise in the

hidden recesses of the human heart." Led by Richard Wizansky. **East Dover**, Dover Free Library, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM. John Flores, 802.348.7488. **August 4** (Greed and Gluttony), **August 18** (Lust).

### WINDSOR COUNTY

**July 31 ~ Bookstock: The Green Mountain Festival of Words.** This festival celebrates books and authors. Presented by Pentangle Council on the Arts and supported by a grant from VHC. **Woodstock** 802.457.3981 or visit bookstockvt.org. **September 4 ~ Vermont History through Song.** Singer Linda Radtke, with pianist