

Vermont

Winter/Spring 2010

Humanities

*Sharing
Our Past . . .
Shaping
Our Future*

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VERMONT READS 2010

The Day of the Pelican

By Katherine Paterson

*The Story of an Albanian Family's
Journey from the Balkans to Vermont*

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Humanities
COUNCIL

Vermont Humanities

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Vermont Humanities Council

Sharing Our Past ... Shaping Our Future

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Don't Read!



Peter Gilbert,
Executive Director

Given that VHC is committed to promoting reading, lifelong learning, and civic engagement, this advice may surprise you. But I need to warn you about something extremely dangerous—reading. It can lead to thinking, and there's no knowing where that could lead. It can encourage curiosity, and you know what curiosity did to the cat. It can lead to knowledge—even, over time, wisdom, but that won't get you on the cover of *Rolling Stone*. And it can be fun, but Lord knows, with all the troubles in the world today, levity is the last thing that's called for.

Let me give you three literary examples of the pernicious effects of reading. Ray Bradbury's 1953 novel *Fahrenheit*

451 describes a future American society so hedonistic and anti-intellectual

that critical thought through reading books is outlawed. If books are discovered, the firemen are called, and the volumes burned. Why?

Because reading can be upsetting. Books can introduce you to disturbing ideas; they can challenge the status quo, or even your own convictions. Bradbury said that his novel wasn't about censorship, but about how television destroys interest in reading and leads to a sense that knowledge is comprised of mere factoids without context or significance.

Bradbury wasn't the only novelist who knew the dangers of reading. Cervantes, author of the very first novel, *Don Quixote*, knew it too. So I'd say that since Day One, novelists have been putting out products that are inherently dangerous to those who use them. Don Quixote, Cervantes' comic hero, is, you'll remember, a bit touched in the head. He mistakes windmills for monsters and his broken-down old horse for a noble steed. What turned his head? Reading too many chivalric romances. And so at the beginning of the novel, the curate and barber come into Don Quixote's library and burn countless volumes of romances.

And speaking of the pernicious influence of romances, Mark Twain absolutely hated Sir Walter Scott, the early-nineteenth-century English author of *Ivanhoe* and other historical novels that romanticized war and bygone days. Twain thought that Scott had such a large hand in forming the character of Southerners in this country that Scott was in great measure responsible for the Civil War. Twain asserted that "the Sir Walter disease" encouraged the South to be in love with "dreams and phantoms . . . with decayed and degraded systems of government; with the sillinesses and emptinesses, sham grandeurs . . . and . . . chivalries of a brainless and worthless long-vanished society"—and to be in love with dueling, inflated speech, and social caste. That's why, in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Twain has Huck, who romanticizes robbers and murderers, go on to a wrecked steamboat in the middle of a torrential rainstorm; there he happens upon three real-life robbers and murderers, and he witnesses their stark cruelty and the utter lack of honor among thieves. The name of the wrecked steamboat? "The Walter Scott."

My advice? Stay away from books—they might change your life, and hey, why mess with perfection?

"[Reading] can lead to thinking, and there's no knowing where that could lead."

Peter Gilbert



Author Mary Childers and a young woman at a VHC Welfare Brat program hosted by the Northwestern Counseling and Support Services Family Center in St. Albans.

Welfare Brat Inspires in Even More Communities

In 2009, for the third year, VHC brought *Welfare Brat* author Mary Childers to groups in Vermont communities through its Connections literacy program for adults. In October, Childers made six visits with 120 women in Northwest Vermont; during the visits she discussed her childhood growing up in poverty in the Bronx and her pursuit of the dream of a different life, which eventually led her to write *Welfare Brat*.

Nearly three hundred books were distributed to women in need and their service providers through nine participating agencies in Alburgh, St. Albans, Milton, and Winooski, including three family centers, Vermont Works for Women Transitional Jobs, Vermont Adult Learning, and the Vermont Department of Correction's facility for women in Swanton. Childers's visits and the books were provided in part through generous funding from

the Vermont Women's Fund and the Hendrickson Family Foundation.

Welfare Brat recounts Childers's childhood growing up on welfare as one of seven children in a house with no phone and little to eat. Her determination to transcend generational poverty led her out of welfare, to college and eventually a PhD in literature. Readers and critics have hailed her book for its honesty and clarity in relating her struggles, both internal and external, to break the cycle of poverty.

During the meetings, Dr. Childers read from *Welfare Brat*, spoke about her life and the process of writing the book and signed copies. Taking part in small and large discussion groups, participants had the opportunity to make connections between their lives, the book, and each other.

Many participants expressed their appreciation for Childers's visit. One woman said, "[Mary] is so real, raw, open-minded, outspoken, and down

to earth. She made me realize that even if you have barriers there is no shame in speaking up and asking for help. She gave me the courage and strength to get my life straight."

"Knowing that we both came from poor families gave me the ability and knowledge to know that I can do anything I put my mind to," said another participant. "I also realized that there are many out there who face similar situations who have the ability and strength to reach their goals."

Particularly successful was the participation of six women and two staff from a social service organization in Alburgh; they had never before met as a group or participated in any kind of reading and discussion program. Their experience as a learning community inspired them to ask VHC to provide a follow-up writing workshop program and a Read With Me family literacy series.

In addition to her meetings with women's groups, Childers met with volunteers, board members, and staff from Court Diversion and the Community Justice Center for a group discussion that informed and renewed their work.

The *Welfare Brat* programs provide a forum where women can consider the challenges that poverty poses to families and children and how they can rise above those challenges. As word of the program spreads among social service, educational, and community justice organizations, VHC anticipates that *Welfare Brat* and its author will touch many more people in 2010.

Dr. Childers will present a *Welfare Brat* First Wednesdays program at Montpelier's Kellogg-Hubbard Library on March 3 at 7:00 PM.





Michiko Oishi performs a Japanese tea ceremony with Paige Kempner at the VHC fall conference.

“I have always loved food and am fascinated by everything about it. As a fan of the humanities, I am so glad you put this conference on!”

– conference attendee

what must still be done. Afterward, his sensitive answers to many excellent questions shed further light on a critical issue.

Breakout sessions delved into particular aspects of food: the imagery of food in the New Testament, sustainable food production in Vermont, artisan cheesemaking, and the links between religious beliefs and food practices.

After a locally sourced lunch, UVM professor Amy Trubek presented “From Deer Camp to CSA: Food and its Relation to the Landscape.” Her talk looked at Vermont’s working landscape, the food it produces, and the culture it creates. Trubek’s audio clips, courtesy of the Vermont Folklife Center, filled the room with the voices of old-time deer hunters and maple sugarmakers—and with laughter and nods of recognition from many attendees.

Afternoon sessions included food in film; cultural symbols and food; the history of bread; and the cookbook as genre. The conference concluded with a panel, “Why Good Food Matters,” with Darra Goldstein, Amy Trubek, and Jeff Roberts, director of the Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese.

Filled with good food and food for thought, participants adjourned for another year.



Food writer and famed Knopf editor Judith Jones

Thinking about Food

The VHC’s 36th annual fall conference, “Food for Thought,” held November 13 and 14 at the Essex Culinary Resort, examined how food and eating shape us as individuals and as a culture. Throughout the two days, 190 people explored topics such as the role of place in taste (terroir), world food security, food and the landscape, the Japanese tea ceremony, and artisan cheesemaking.

On Friday afternoon five pre-conference workshops explored terroir, Tuscan food, wine and cheese pairings, the five tastes, and the Japanese tea ceremony. Each workshop offered an intimate, sensory window on to an experience of food, warming up minds and taste buds for the conference activities to come.

On Friday evening, participants were treated to a conversation between Darra Goldstein (professor and editor of *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture*) and legendary food and fiction editor

Judith Jones, whose long career includes editing books for Julia Child, James Beard, and others, and writing some of her own, including *The Pleasures of Cooking for One*. Their conversation—informal, witty, and dripping with insights about food, cooking, and culture—left attendees with much to discuss.

Saturday morning began with the presentation of the Victor R. Swenson Humanities Educator Award to Rutland High School teacher John Peterson (see next page).

Then international health expert Dr. Nils Daulaire spoke about “The Future of Food in a Hungry World.” Daulaire, former president and CEO of the Global Health Council and recently returned from work in Ethiopia, presented an eye-opening and often sobering illustrated talk that looked at health, food security, and global politics. He discussed the many factors affecting hunger hotspots across the planet, efforts made to mitigate the problem, and



SAVE THE DATE

VHC 2010 Fall Conference

Comedy and Satire: It's No Joke

From Jonathan Swift to Jon Stewart, Ridiculing Vice and Folly

November 12–13,
Stoweflake, Stowe, Vermont

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 "The Pardoner's Tale" to Mark Twain and *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 their work, which deflates the inflated and afflicts the comfortable. Our examination of satire may include literature, art, film, cartoons, television, theater, music, and the modern stand-up comic.

It will be serious fun! Mark your calendars.

Join the VHC mailing list:
info@vermonthumanities.org or
802.262.2626 x304.

Above, a painting of Gulliver on his travels by Richard Redgrave

Rutland High School Teacher John Peterson Receives Swenson Award

Board Chair Sylvia Robison presented Rutland High School teacher John Peterson with the 2009 Victor R. Swenson Humanities Educator Award at VHC's fall conference. Peterson was the seventh recipient of the award, first given out in 2003. The honor included a \$1,000 check.

Peterson has taught for twenty-three years in Rutland High School's Social Studies Department. He has designed and taught courses in Anthropology as well as an Advanced Placement U.S. History course.



Swenson Award winner John Peterson and Victor Swenson

He has served as the head of Rutland's Social Studies Department through the tenures of three different principals, and is currently president of the Vermont Alliance for the Social Studies.

"John is a teacher constantly in motion," said fellow Rutland teacher (and former student of Peterson's) Jennie Gartner, who noted Peterson's consistently fresh approaches to teaching, the interactive structure of his courses, his enthusiasm, and his humor. "He is always developing new ways to make history real, relevant and compelling for students. . . . There is no teacher I am aware of who is willing to do more for any student's education than John."

A trademark of Peterson's teaching is his use of historical reproductions and props to make his courses tangible and interactive—from costumes for Salem Witch Trial reenactments to authentic recipes like cod stew from particular places and times in history.

"He is so friendly and outgoing and enthusiastic about everything," remarked one of his students. "He puts an incredible amount of time into everything he does, and he honestly cares. That is a big difference."

Previous recipients of the award are Graham Newell of St. Johnsbury Academy; Mary Ann Chaffee of Essex High School; Frankie Dunleavy of Middlebury Union High School; Roberta Steponaitis of Vergennes High School; Jean Berthiaume of Harwood Union High School; and, in 2008, Debra Lynde of Milton High School.

Seeking Teacher for Annual Award and \$1,000 Prize

VHC invites nominations for the 2010 Victor R. Swenson Humanities Educator Award, which recognizes a Vermont educator in grades 6 through 12 who exemplifies excellence in the teaching of the humanities. Any community member may make a nomination—parents, colleagues, students, administrators, etc. To learn more: vermonthumanities.org, 802.262.2626, info@vermonthumanities.org. To submit a nomination, send a letter describing the nominee's qualifications to VHC by June 1. The judging committee will seek additional materials about finalists.

"John is a teacher constantly in motion. There is no teacher who is willing to do more for any student's education than John."

New and Retiring Board Members

VHC is pleased to welcome six new board members.

Francine Bazluke of Essex Junction is Vice President for



Francine Bazluke

Legal Affairs and General Counsel at the University of Vermont. Previously, she was an Associate at Paul Frank + Collins, Law Clerk for the Honorable Albert W. Coffrin (U.S.

District Court, Vermont), and an attorney at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Vassar College and the National Law Center at George Washington University, she is a member of the Vermont Advisory Committee on Civil Rights for the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, and has been active in the National Association of College and University Attorneys, including serving as its president and Chair of the Board of Directors.

Mary Ellen Bixby of Brattleboro was a middle and high school classics



Mary Ellen Bixby

teacher from 1966 to 1998 and a humanities teacher for many summers at Ripon College and at the Chautauqua Institution.

An English teacher at the Community College of Vermont, she is a graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman's College; she earned an MAT from Emory College, and a MA in Classics from Brown University. She is an active community member in Brattleboro at the Centre Congregational Church and the Brattleboro Town Arts Committee.

Penny McConnell of Norwich has been a bookseller for almost thirty years; she is co-owner of the Norwich Bookstore. Penny has served on the Vermont Public Radio



Penny McConnell

Community Advisory Board, and has recently served as Vice President of The New England Independent Booksellers Association. She is very involved with the Norwich Public Library, Everybody Wins Vermont, and area schools.

Nancy Linkroum Pennell of Chester directed the Aloha Camp in Fairlee, Vermont for 25 years and led alumni relations and development work for the Aloha Foundation. A graduate of Emma Willard School in Troy, NY, she received a BA in



Nancy Linkroum Pennell

Philosophy and English, with minors in Sociology and French from the University of Mississippi. A mother of four and grandmother of twelve, she is active in Planned Parenthood, Hospice, Springfield Hospital Auxiliary, and is a parenting group facilitator.

Gilbert Steil, Jr. of Ryegate is an organizational consultant with over twenty years of experience, both nationally and internationally, specializing in whole system change—the development of strategies, plans, and designs through the engagement of whole



Gilbert Steil, Jr.

organizations, including nonprofits, businesses, and governmental agencies. Organizations he has worked with include the United Way of Rhode Island, UNICEF, and Nevada's health department. He has a BS in Mathematics from Case Western Reserve and a MS in Organization Development from American University. He is a St. Johnsbury Athenaeum board member, chair of the Endowment Committee for the St. Johnsbury Unitarian Church, and a member of Catamount Arts.

Russell E. Willis of Essex Junction is former provost and Chief Academic Officer at Champlain College. He is Vice President for



Russell E. Willis

Strategic Partnerships at Global Classroom, Inc., a company that provides a Web-based online education platform for organizations of any size and educators in any field.

He has earned multiple degrees from Southern Methodist University: a BS in Electrical Engineering, BS in

Call for Board Nominations

The Vermont Humanities Council invites nominations for its board of directors. If you or someone you know would like to be considered for board membership, contact Development Officer Linda Wrazen at lwrazen@vermonthumanities.org or 802.262.2626 x309.

Board meeting schedule; February 10, 11:00 AM, VHC offices; May 5, noon, VHC offices; September 8, noon, Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury; and December 8, 11:00 AM, VHC offices.

Management Systems, an MS in Engineering Management, and a Masters of Theology. He received his PhD from Emory University in Ethics and Society. A former UCC and Methodist minister, he has taught ethics, sociology, and religious studies and served as an administrator at a number of institutions, including Arizona State, Iowa State, Iowa Wesleyan College, McMurray University, and Dakota Wesleyan University.

VHC bids farewell to longtime board member **Tom Giffin** of



Tom Giffin

Rutland, who began his board service in May 2001. His tenure included service on the Finance, Membership, Program, Public Affairs, and Victor R. Swenson Award committees. He was Board Vice Chair in 2007 and Chair in 2008. VHC thanks Tom for his deep commitment and long service.

Staff Farewell

At the close of 2009, **Jane Ackerman** left VHC to take a position at the National Wildlife Federation in its Northeast Regional Office in Montpelier. Jane joined VHC as Director of Development in October 2007.



Jane Ackerman

In her two-plus years with the Council, she helped expand the First Wednesdays program, brought in new underwriters, hosted many successful events around the state, and traveled statewide to meet one-on-one with VHC's donors and constituents. We thank her for her service and wish her well!

Vermont Reads 2010 *The Day of the Pelican*

Katherine Paterson's new book, *The Day of the Pelican*, is the Vermont Reads book for 2010. The book recounts the journey of a Muslim family fleeing ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and landing in Vermont.



With Paterson's characteristic balance of sensitivity and openness to life's difficult passages, the powerful story conveys a sense of the experiences of many of our newest Vermonters.

Examining such themes as cultural conflict, the rule of law, intolerance, compassion, and resilience, this compelling book holds much food for thought and countless lessons for readers of all ages.

Paterson, an internationally recognized author who needs no introduction to most Vermonters, recently was named the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. Paterson will serve in the position during 2010 and 2011.

Be Involved in Vermont Reads

Each year more than sixty Vermont towns from around the state take part in Vermont Reads. Be sure your town is involved in this community-wide project. Schools, libraries, and other nonprofit organizations may apply. Partnerships with organizations and businesses are encouraged. Communities receive free books as well as resources and publicity materials.

Applications due: **May 14, 2010**

Applications: vermontreads.org or call 802.262.2626 x304

Seventy-four Vermont Reads Communities in 2009

The Vermont Reads program enjoyed another strong year with seventy-four communities statewide participating in reading Julie Otsuka's novel *When the Emperor Was Divine*. Over 250 events took place at libraries, schools, and other venues, exploring the story of the internment of a Japanese American family during World War II.

Along with book discussions, host communities held Japanese culture workshops that included brush painting, kite making, origami, sushi making, Mah Jongg, flower arranging, and tea ceremonies. Other activities included photo displays, film screenings, and lectures.

In September, 270 students and community members gathered at venues in Brattleboro, Burlington (as part of the Burlington Book Festival), and St. Johnsbury to hear author Julie Otsuka read from and sign her book and answer questions.

Vermont Public Radio aired a five-part series on the book, including author interviews and readings, and insights from Vermont historians and local descendants of those who had been interned during World War II.

Underwriter



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Winter/Spring 2010



Examine the Neolithic world of stone at a talk in St. Johnsbury on March 13. Above, Poulnabrone Dolmen, in County Clare, Ireland. Photo by Jon Sullivan, pdphoto.org.

ADDISON COUNTY

March 3 ~ Former Bucknell University and University of Rochester president George Dennis O'Brien with "In Search of Nirvana: Rock-'n'-Roll Religion."

First Wednesdays, Middlebury, 7:00 PM.
See page 14.

April 7 ~ Author Dr. Polly Young-Eisendrath with "Why Conscience is Key."

First Wednesdays, Middlebury, 7:00 PM.
See page 14.

April 28 ~ Letters to Vermont. Donald Wickman introduces the audience to soldiers whose correspondence during the Civil War saw newspapers come of age in reporting war news. **New Haven Community Library, 7:00 PM.**
Deborah Lunbeck, 802.453.5213.

May 5 ~ Susan Cooke Kittredge with "The Unseen Alistair Cooke."

First Wednesdays, Middlebury, 7:00 PM.
See page 14.

May 12 ~ Dorothy Canfield Fisher:

A Vermonter for the World. Canfield Fisher's writings transcended our region. Helene Lang brings her to life.

Middlebury, Ilsley Public Library, 11:00 AM. Patricia Sheffert, 802.453.2999.

June 12 ~ Mad Matt the Democrat. Vincent Feeney discusses Matthew Lyon—one of the most colorful characters in Vermont's early years, whose life not only exemplified the promise of possibility in the then-new United States, but also reflected the political tensions of the times. **Orwell, Mount Independence State Historic Site, 1:00 PM.** Elsa Gilbertson, 802.759.2412.

Receive the Monthly VHC E-calendar!

Send an e-mail with "Sign Up for Monthly Calendar" in the subject line to jeuber@vermonthumanities.org.

BENNINGTON COUNTY

March 3 ~ Middlebury College's Artist-in-Residence Jule Emerson with "Stanley's Red Pajamas." First Wednesdays, Manchester, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

April 7 ~ Dartmouth professor Peter Saccio with "The Importance of Being Oscar." First Wednesdays, Manchester, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

May 5 ~ Children's book publisher, critic, and editor Anita Silvey with "Everything I Need to Know I Learned from a Children's Book." First Wednesdays, Manchester, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

Book discussion: A Mysterious Lens on American Culture. Mayhem and murder play out against a cultural backdrop. Led by Helene Lang. **Arlington, Martha Canfield Library, Saturdays, 2:00 PM.** Phyllis Skidmore, 802.375.6153.

February 28, Sherman Alexie's Indian Killer. March 14, Barbara Neely's Blanche Cleans Up. March 28, P. L. Gaus's Blood of the Prodigal.

Book discussion: Victorian Roots of Mystery. Bennington Free Library. April 11, April 25, May 16, June 6. See page 12.

CALEDONIA COUNTY

February 28 ~ Old-Time Rules Will Prevail: The Fiddle Contest in Vermont. Fiddler Adam Boyce discusses fiddling styles of the past and presents rare recordings of live fiddle competitions as well as some live fiddling of his own. **Hardwick Memorial Building, 1 Church St., 3:00 PM.** Lisa Sammet, 802.472.5948.

March 3 ~ Retired CIA Chief of Counterterrorism Haviland Smith with "Problem Solving in the Middle East and South Asia." First Wednesdays, St. Johnsbury, 7:00 PM. See page 15.

April 7 ~ Author and illustrator David Macaulay with "Building Books." First Wednesdays, St. Johnsbury, 7:00 PM. See page 15.

H Calendar

March 13 ~ AHA! James Naismith, Creator of Basketball. Meet Dr. Naismith in this energetic and engaging performance by Robert Cheney. **St. Johnsbury,** Springfield College School of Human Services, 347 Emerson Falls Rd., 1:30 PM. Laurie Machell, 802.751.0432.

March 13 ~ The Neolithic World of Stone. Bob Manning examines the Neolithic monuments of Ireland, Brittany, and the United Kingdom. **St. Johnsbury,** Catamount Arts, 3:00 PM. Jerry Aldredge, 802.748.5616.

May 5 ~ Analyst and author Dr. Polly Young-Eisendrath with “The Truth about Happiness.” **First Wednesdays, St. Johnsbury,** 7:00 PM. See page 15.

May 21 ~ 400 Miles Down the Connecticut River. Author Michael Tougias offers a narrated slide presentation on the Connecticut River’s history from the days of loggers, Indian Wars, steamships, and canals. **Sheffield Town Hall,** 7:00 PM. Pat O’Hagan, 802.626.9828.

Book discussion: What a Character. What makes a character memorable? Led by Helene Lang. **Walden Community Library,** Tuesdays, 7:00 PM. Stuart Smith, 802.563.2630. **March 16,** Ralph Ellison’s *The Invisible Man*. **April 20,** Virginia Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse*. **May 18,** Willa Cather’s *My Antonia*.

Book discussion: Blue Collar America. Examine the realities of minimum-wage existence, small-town economics, social divisions, and what constitutes the good life. **Lyndonville,** Cobleigh Public Library, Thursdays, 7:00 PM. Cindy Karasinski, 802.626.5475. **March 11,** Barbara Ehrenreich’s *Nickel and Dimed*. Led by Suzanne Brown. **April 1,** Richard Russo’s *Empire Falls*. Led by Jay Craven.



Learn about the Connecticut River’s storied history on May 21 in Sheffield. Above, the old Bellows Falls Arch Bridge. Courtesy Library of Congress.

Book discussion: Understanding Post-Colonial Africa. This series introduces post-colonial Africa to the novice and explores some of the continent’s crises in depth. **Danville,** Pope Memorial Library, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM. Deidre Palmer, 802.684.2256. **March 24,** J. Nozipo Maraire’s *Zenzele: A Letter for My Daughter*. Led by Suzanne Brown. **April 28,** Dave Eggers’ *What Is the What*. Led by John Turner.

CHITTENDEN COUNTY

March 3 ~ UVM English Department Chair Tony Magistrale with “Why Stephen King Still Matters.” **First Wednesdays, Burlington,** 7:00 PM. See page 13.

March 10 ~ AHA! James Naismith, Creator of Basketball. Meet Dr. Naismith in this energetic and engaging performance by Robert Cheney. **Charlotte Senior Center,** 212 Ferry Rd., 1:00 PM. Mary Recchia, 802.425.6345.

April 7 ~ Dartmouth professor Allen Koop with “Stark Decency: German POWs in a New England Village.” **First Wednesdays, Burlington,** 7:00 PM. See page 13.

April 13 ~ Alec Turner: A Trek from Slavery to Freedom. Alec Turner was born a slave in 1845 on the John Gouldin plantation of Port Royal, Virginia. He died a freeman, farmer, and landowner in Grafton, Vermont in 1923. Jane Beck recounts his remarkable story. **Milton Public Library,** 7:00 PM. Fran Ferro, 802.893.4644.

April 27–May 1 ~ Voices from Terezin. **Burlington.** See page 12.

May 5 ~ Author Marjorie Ryerson with “The Intimate Privilege of Being with the Dying.” **First Wednesdays,**

Burlington, 7:00 PM. See page 13.

Book discussion: Gastronomy: Novels about Food and Culture. These mouth-watering novels highlight how what we eat is closely aligned with who we are. Led by Lesley Wright.

Charlotte Library, Thursdays, 7:30 PM. Sherrie Simmons, 802.425.3864.

March 11, Diana Abu-Jaber’s *Crescent*. **April 8,** Chitra Diva Karuni’s *The Mistress*

of Spices. **May 13,** Nicole Mones’s *The Last Chinese Chef*.

Book discussion: The Romantic Ideal. The characters in these works seek out their ideal of love, happiness, and fulfillment with consequences that are by turns bittersweet, tragic, noble, unconventional, and even comic. Led by Marilyn Burrington. **Shelburne,** Wake Robin Retirement Community, Mondays, 7:30 PM. Dorothy Warren, 802.496.4665. **March 1,** Penelope Fitzgerald’s *The Blue Flower*. **March 29,** Gustav Flaubert’s *Madame Bovary*. **April 26,** Edith Wharton’s *Summer*. **May 24,** Arundhati Roy’s *The God of Small Things*.

Book discussion: Retellings. These novels re-imagine classic works of fiction. Led by Marilyn Burrington. **South Burlington Community Library,** Wednesdays, 7:00 PM. Louise Murphy, 802.652.7076. **March 24,** Geraldine Brooks’ *March*. **April 21,** John Clinch’s *Finn*.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

March 8 ~ Vermont Reads Community Book Discussion. *The Day of the Pelican* by Katherine Paterson. Community book discussion open to all. **Highgate Public Library,** 6:00 PM. Lisa Comiskey, 802.868.3970.

Book discussion: Influential First Ladies. Rediscover presidential history through the power behind the throne. Led by Helene Lang. **Fairfax Community Library,** Thursdays, 6:30 PM. Lauren Cady, 802.849.2420. **March 11,** Blanche Wiesen Cooke’s *Eleanor Roosevelt: Volume 2, The Defining Years, 1933–1938*. **April 8,** Lynne Withee’s *Dearest Friend* (Abigail Adams).

GRAND ISLE COUNTY

May 3 ~ Beatrix Potter Revisited. Helene Lang portrays Beatrix Potter, highlighting her artistry, her writing, and her years raising Herdwick sheep. **Grand Isle,** Block School House, 7:00 PM. Janet DeSarno, 802.372.4058.

March 17 ~ The Irish “Wave” in the Green Mountains. Vince Feeney, author of *Finnigans, Slaters and Stonepeppers*, tells the little-known story of the impact of Irish immigrants on Vermont life in the middle of the nineteenth century. **South Hero Community Library,** 7:00 PM. Diana Cleborne, 802.372.6209.

Book discussion: Booker Prize Winners. The Booker Prize has achieved respect that rivals the Pulitzer. Graham Swift singled it out as the finest accolade a writer can receive. “It’s the one which, if

H Calendar

we're completely honest, we most covet." Led by Arthur Biddle. **North Hero Public Library**, 7:30 PM. Judy Poquette, 802.372.5458. **June 24**, Margaret Atwood's *The Blind Assassin*.

LAMOILLE COUNTY

March 10 ~ World War II: American Perceptions and Historical Realities. Mark Stoler compares our perceptions of World War II's causes, consequences, and historical lessons with what some scholars now maintain. **Stowe, Town & Country Resort**, 1:30 PM. Millie Marron, 802.253.9011.

Book discussion: Middle Eastern Voices. Examine the four cultures that make up the Middle Eastern region: Arabic, Iranian (Persian), Jewish, and Turkish. Led by Francette Cerulli. **Jeffersonville, Varnum Memorial Library**, Saturdays, 3:00 PM. April Tuck, 802.644.6632. **March 13**, Simin Daneshvar's *Savushon*. Led by Linda Bland. **April 10**, Yashar Kemal's *Memed, My Hawk*. Led by Linda Bland.

Book discussion: Our Civil War Legacy. Reexamine the legacy of the war that tore apart the U.S. **Stowe Free Library**, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM. Megan Carder, 802.253.6145. **March 17**, Drew Gilpin Faust's *The Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*. Led by Victor Swenson. **April 7**, David Blight's *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*. Led by Judith Yarnall.

Book discussion: Earth Tones. Authors strike provocative environmental notes as they look at how to live in harmony with nature. Led by Helene Lang. **Morristown Centennial Library**, Thursdays, 7:00 PM.



Learn all about Mark Twain with a reading and discussion program in Bradford in February and March. Above, George Alfred Townsend, Mark Twain, and David Gray, 1871, courtesy Library of Congress.

Frances Ruggles, 802.888.2616. **March 4**, Thomas Berry's *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*.

ORANGE COUNTY

June 26–27 ~ Vermont History Expo: Back to the Land Again! Tunbridge Fair Grounds. See page 12.

Book discussion: Masters of the Short Story. Discover the short story's 19th-century roots and its later development as a 20th-century art form. Led by Suzanne Brown. **East Corinth, Blake Memorial Library**, Wednesdays, 4:30 PM. Ken Linge, 802.439.5338. **March 17**, Ann Beattie's *Park City*.

Book discussion: The Genius of Mark Twain. Brilliant satire, knee-slapping comedy, potent social commentary . . . what more can you ask for? Led by Suzanne Brown. **Bradford Public Library**, 6:30 PM. Debra Tinkham, 802. 222.4536. **March 31**, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. **April 29**, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*.

ORLEANS COUNTY

March 3 ~ Lyndon State College professor Elaine Razzano with "Dangerous Literature." First Wednesdays, Stanstead, Quebec, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

April 7 ~ Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ron Powers with "On Writing Mark Twain: A Life." First Wednesdays, Newport, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

April 11 ~ A Vermont Music Sampler. Vermont has a significant musical history. John Philip Sousa wrote "Stars and Stripes Forever" in Isle La Motte; Justin Morgan was a composer; electronic music was first created at Bennington College. William Tortolano explores this topic. **Orleans, Jones Memorial Library**, 2:00 PM. Joanne Pariseau, 802.334.5201.

May 5 ~ Dartmouth professor Allen Koop with "The White Mountain Huts." First Wednesdays, Stanstead, Quebec, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

Book discussion: From Page to Screen. When is it true that the movie is good, but the book is better? Videos accompany the series. Led by Jay Craven. **Barton Public Library**, Mondays, 6:30 PM. Toni Eubanks, 802.525.6524. **March 15**, Edith Wharton's *Ethan Frome*. **April 19**, Richard Russo's *Empire Falls*. **May 17**, Russell Banks's *The Sweet Hereafter*.

RUTLAND COUNTY

March 3 ~ Author Howard Frank Mosher with "Transforming History into Fiction: The Story of a Born Liar." First Wednesdays, Rutland, 7:00 PM. See page 15.

March 10 ~ 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. **Castleton State College, Old Chapel**, 1:00 PM. Holly Hitchcock, 802.468.5105.

April 7 ~ Bestselling author Chris Bohjalian with "Secrets of Eden." First Wednesdays, Rutland, 7:00 PM. See page 15.

April 15 ~ Lincoln, Vermont, and the Gettysburg Address. Civil War Historian Howard Coffin explores Lincoln's ties to Vermont as well as the Second Vermont Brigade and Pickett's Charge. **Pawlet Community Church**, 7:30 PM. Stephen Williams, 802.645.9529.

May 5 ~ Middlebury professor Susan Watson with "Einstein's Century: 1905–2005." First Wednesdays, Rutland, 7:00 PM. See page 15.

May 15 ~ Shipwrecks of Lake Champlain. Through slides, drawings, and video, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum archaeologist Adam Kane tours what lies beneath the waves of Lake Champlain. **Pittsfield Town Hall**, 7:00 PM. Jane Roberts, 802.746.8157.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

March 3 ~ Dr. Mary Childers with "Welfare Brat." First Wednesdays, Montpelier, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

March 3 ~ A Room of One's Own. In three dramatic scenes, Sarah Payne introduces the audience to one of the the 20th century's most important writers, Virginia Woolf. **Montpelier, Vermont College of Fine Arts**, 1:00 PM. Chris Brown, 802.223.1763.

March 19–28 ~ Green Mountain Film Festival. Montpelier. See page 12.

March 31 ~ Bearing Witness: Art as Social Commentary and Art as Propaganda. The art and posters of World War II, including those by Norman Rockwell of Arlington, will be the main focus of this slide lecture by Bob Manning. **Barre, Aldrich Public Library**, 1:00 PM. Chris Brown, 802.223.1763.

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April 7 ~ Susan Cooke Kittredge with "The Unseen Alistair Cooke."
First Wednesdays, Montpelier, 7:00 PM.
 See page 14.

April 11 ~ Reading Places: Art, Architecture, and Gravestones in Early Vermont. William Hosley demonstrates how art and artifacts can be used to understand historical experience.
Waterbury, American Legion, 16 Stowe St., 2:00 PM. Jan Gendreau, 802.244.5029.

April 25 ~ Susan B. Anthony—The Invincible! The feisty activist comes to life—circulating petitions, getting arrested, and challenging legislators, presidents, and newsmen—in Sally Matson's spirited performance.
Waterbury, Old Stagecoach Inn, 2:00 PM. Elise Werth, 802.244.7036.

May 5 ~ Dartmouth professor Colin Calloway with "1763 and How America Became American." **First Wednesdays, Montpelier,** 7:00 PM. See page 14.

Book discussion: When Cultures Meet. In fiction and nonfiction, the series explores the ramifications of contact between Europeans and the native inhabitants in the Champlain basin.
 Thursdays, 9:30 AM. Joy Worland, 802.496.4205. **March 11,** Stephen Brumwell's *White Devil*. Led by Gina Logan. **Waitsfield,** Joslin Memorial Library. **April 15,** William Cronon's *Changes in the Land*. Led by Rachael Cohen. **Warren Public Library.**

"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. **March 10,** William Wordsworth: "The Tables Turned," "Composed upon Westminster Bridge," "The World is too much with Us," "Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey," "My Heart Leaps Up," "She Dwelt Among the Untrodden Ways," and "A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal."

WINDHAM COUNTY

March 3 ~ Award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns with "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." **First Wednesdays, Brattleboro,** 7:00 PM. See page 13.

April 7 ~ Freelance journalist Nicholas Schmidle with "To Live or Perish Forever: Two Tumultuous Years in Pakistan." **First Wednesdays, Brattleboro,** 7:00 PM. See page 13.

May 5 ~ Author Howard Frank Mosher with "Transforming History into Fiction: The Story of a Born Liar." **First Wednesdays, Brattleboro,** 7:00 PM. See page 13.

Book discussion: Farms and Gardens. Explore the philosophical roots, family dynamics, and personal enrichment associated with tending and growing.
 Led by Deborah Lusklin. **Putney, Westminster West Public Library, Thursdays,** 7:00 PM. Beverly Major, 802.387.4682. **March 25,** Jamaica Kincaid's *My Garden*. **April 22,** Jane Brox's *Here and Nowhere Else: Late Seasons of a Farm and its Family*.

Book discussion: Pilgrimage. Discover a variety of journeys in these writings.
 Led by Elayne Clift. **Grafton Public Library, Thursdays,** 6:30 PM. Michelle Dufort, 802.843.2404. **March 4,** Peter Mathiessen's *The Snow Leopard*. **March 18,** Gita Mehta's *A River Sutra*.

WINDSOR COUNTY

March 3 ~ Dartmouth professor Allen Koop with "Stark Decency: German POWs in a New England Village." **First Wednesdays, Norwich,** 7:00 PM. Page 14.

March 16 ~ Shipwrecks of Lake Champlain. Through slides, drawings, and video, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum archaeologist Adam Kane tours what lies beneath the waves of Lake Champlain.
Woodstock, Thompson Senior Center, 1:00 PM. Pam Butler, 802.457.3277.

April 7 ~ Dartmouth Professor Annelise Orleck with "100 Years since Triangle: The Fire that Seared a Nation's Conscience." **First Wednesdays, Norwich,** 7:00 PM. See page 14.

April 8 ~ Teddy Roosevelt: Mind, Body, and Spirit. Using Teddy Roosevelt's own words, performer Ted Zaleski emphasizes the forces that shaped Teddy's personality and leadership style.
Springfield Town Library, 7:00 PM. Nancy Tusinski, 802.885.3108.

May 7 ~ Harvard sociologist Robert Putnam with "E Pluribus Unum: Immigration, Diversity, Community." **First Wednesdays, Dartmouth College,** 7:00 PM. See page 14.

May 13 ~ Sprightly Steps: Vermont's Contra and Square Dancing Tradition.



Learn about Susan B. Anthony when Sally Matson brings her to life in Waterbury on April 25.

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.

Ascutney, Martin Hall, 5259 Route 5, 7:00 PM. Amity Aldridge, 802.674.2863.

March 21 ~ 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 extraordinary visual allure of historic Vermont. **Hartland Public Library,** 2:00 PM. Carol Mowry, 802.436.3383.

April 9 ~ Weston Playhouse: Teacher's Workshop. See page 12.

Book discussion: Influential First Ladies. Rediscover presidential history through the power behind the throne. Led by Suzanne Brown. **Norwich Public Library,** Wednesdays, 7:30 PM. Mary McKenna, 802.296.2191. **March 17,** Phyllis Lee Levin's *Edith and Woodrow: The Wilson White House*. **April 21,** Blanche Wiesen Cook's *Eleanor Roosevelt: Volume 2, The Defining Years, 1933–1938*.

Book discussion: Orchestrated Stories. Explore fictional interpretations of four eminent composers: Mozart, Schumann, Vivaldi, and Joplin. Led by Suzanne Brown. **Quechee Library,** Tuesdays, 4:30 PM. Kate Schaal, 802.295.1232. **March 16,** Janice Galloway's *Clara*. **April 27,** Tananarive Due's Joplin's *Ghost*.

Book discussion: Memorable Memoirs. These memoirs became classics for a reason. Led by Rachael Cohen. **Hartland Public Library,** Wednesdays, 6:30 PM. Theresa Gregory, 802.436.2473. **March 17,** Eudora Welty's *One Writer's Beginnings*. **April 21,** Russell Baker's *Growing Up*.

VHC Humanities Grants

VHC made its December grant awards to seven organizations, granting a total of \$16,000 for projects that advance the humanities statewide as well as in individual Vermont communities.

- **Civil War Anniversary Exhibit, American Precision Museum, Windsor, \$3,400**—for a special exhibit on the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Funds awarded to help support the curation of this project.
- **Victorian Roots of Mysteries Reading Series, Bennington Free Library and Baker Street Breakfast Club, Bennington, \$1,200**—to support a four-part reading and discussion series using books which are based on the “Sherlock Holmes” mystery style.
- **13th Annual Green Mountain Film Festival, Focus on Film, \$2,400**—support for the Montpelier-based film festival, comprised of multiple film screenings and ancillary events, such as discussions and presentations involving filmmakers, writers and other guests.
- **MANGO Online Language Learning, Green Mountain Library Consortium, Statewide, \$2,000**—to help support the implementation of the interactive online language learning program MANGO, which will be made available to patrons through member libraries.
- **Vermont History Expo, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, \$1,000**—to support the 10th year of this weekend heritage festival. This year’s theme is Back to the Land Again: Vermont Heritage Ways for Today.
- **Teacher’s Workshop, Weston Playhouse Theatre Company, \$3,000**—to support a workshop for middle and high school teachers that focuses on the Playhouse’s fall production of *The Death of a Salesman*.
- **Voices from Terezin, Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Burlington, \$3,000**—to support a week of events, including symposia, an art exhibit, and two concerts which will aim to educate audiences about the historic World War II concentration camp Terezin concert.

Humanities Grants Deadlines

Spring Round: *Letter of Intent:* March 1; *Application:* April 2 (postmark date); *Decision:* May. **Fall Round:** *Letter of Intent:* September 13; *Application:* October 22 (postmark date); *Decision:* December.

Grant Events

Green Mountain Film Festival

Ten-day Film Festival in Downtown Montpelier

Donald Rae, 802.262.3423.
greenmountainfilmfestival.org

March 19–28 ~ Film screenings, discussions, and presentations involving filmmakers, writers, and scholars. This year’s festival includes programs for a younger audience and a venue in St. Johnsbury in collaboration with Catamount Arts from April 9 to 11.

Weston Playhouse: Teacher’s Workshop

Theatre Workshop for Teachers

Cathy Bagwell Marsh, 802.824.8167 x105, westonplayhouse.org

April 9 ~ A full-day workshop for middle and high school teachers of

literature, social sciences, and performing arts that focuses on *Death of a Salesman*.

Victorian Roots of Mystery Reading Series

Reading and Discussion Series Based on the “Sherlock Holmes” Mystery Style

Bennington Free Library, Sundays, 2:00 PM. Charles R. Putney, 802.442.0963, benningtonfreelibrary.org

April 11 ~ Anna Katherine Green’s *The Leavenworth Case*

April 25 ~ Fergus W. Hume’s *The Mystery of a Hansome Cab*

May 16 ~ Robert Louis Stevenson’s *New Arabian Nights*

June 6 ~ Arthur Conan Doyle’s *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

Voices from Terezin

A Week Focusing on Historic World War II Events

Burlington, Louise De Cormier, 802.259.2327, vso.org

April 27–May 1 ~ Symposia, art exhibit, and two concerts—all about the historic World War II concentration camp concert at Terezin.

Vermont History Expo: Back to the Land Again!

Two-day Festival, Tunbridge Fair Grounds

Vermont Historical Society, 802.479.8500, vermonthistory.org

June 26–27 ~ A two-day celebration of Vermont History with exhibits, music, family activities, music, food, presentations, performances, and more!



Rose Schneiderman speaking at a Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire protest, circa 1911. Courtesy of Brown Brothers

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

Brattleboro • Burlington • Manchester • Middlebury • Montpelier • Newport/Stanstead • Norwich • Rutland • St. Johnsbury

First Wednesdays — Near You!



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- Burlington
- Manchester
- Middlebury
- Montpelier
- Newport/
Stanstead, Quebec
- Norwich
- Rutland
- St. Johnsbury

Don't miss these talks by nationally renowned speakers in these communities on the first Wednesday of each month, October through May.

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Statewide: Vermont Department of Libraries

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The Preservation Trust of Vermont supports First Wednesdays' valuable role in community building at our local libraries.

Brattleboro — Brooks Memorial Library

224 Main Street • 802.254.5290 • 7:00 PM

MARCH 3 — The National Parks: America's Best Idea. Award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns discusses his latest project, a history of the national parks that focuses on the contributions of a diverse group of so-called ordinary Americans. **Location:** *Latchis Theatre.* **Sponsor:** *Dakin & Benelli, P.C.*

APRIL 7 — To Live or Perish Forever: Two Tumultuous Years in Pakistan. Freelance journalist Nicholas Schmidle offers a gripping account of his two years as a journalism fellow in Pakistan. He reveals a country that may be the battleground for the future of the Muslim world. **Sponsor:** *Windham World Affairs Council of Vermont*

MAY 5 — Transforming History into Fiction: The Story of a Born Liar. Author Howard Frank Mosher considers the challenges and possibilities of writing historical fiction.

Library Sponsors: Brattleboro Savings & Loan • Entergy Vermont • Friends of Brooks Memorial Library • Windham World Affairs Council of Vermont

Burlington — Fletcher Free Library

235 College Street • 802.865.7211 • 7:00 PM

MARCH 3 — Why Stephen King Still Matters. UVM English Department Chair Tony Magistrale examines Stephen King within the tradition of the American Gothic, which included writers such as Poe, Hawthorne, and Twain, and considers King's faith in individualism.

APRIL 7 — Stark Decency: German POWs in a New England Village. Dartmouth professor Allen Koop tells the story of New Hampshire's only World War II prisoner-of-war camp. He describes how ordinary people in Stark turned bitter division into camaraderie.

MAY 5 — The Intimate Privilege of Being with the Dying. Being present through the final days and at the moment of a loved one's death can be one of the most profound experiences we have. Author Marjorie Ryerson shares compelling stories she gathered for her recent book.

Library Sponsor: Friends of the Fletcher Free Library

First Wednesdays

Manchester – First Congregational Church (Host: Mark Skinner Library)

3624 Main Street • 802.362.2607 • 7:00 PM

MARCH 3 — Stanley's Red Pajamas. Before actors utter a single word, their costumes have already spoken volumes. Middlebury College Artist-in-Residence Jule Emerson discusses the relationship between dramatic literature and costume design.

APRIL 7 — 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.

MAY 5 — Everything I Need to Know I Learned from a Children's Book. Eminent children's book publisher, critic, and editor Anita Silvey provides insights into the question that has informed her entire career—what are the best books for children and what do adults remember about them?

Middlebury – Ilsley Public Library

75 Main Street • 802.388.4095 • 7:00 PM

MARCH 3 — In Search of Nirvana: Rock-'n'-Roll Religion. George Dennis O'Brien, former president of Bucknell University and the University of Rochester, examines the story of legendary grunge band Nirvana and Kurt Cobain, which offers insight into the world of rock, its promise, and its dangers.



Alistair Cooke

APRIL 7 — Why Conscience is Key. Helping kids develop a solid conscience requires much thought from educators and parents. Author Dr. Polly Young-Eisendrath discusses its importance in childrearing in American families.

MAY 5 — The Unseen Alistair Cooke. One of the twentieth century's preeminent journalists, Alistair Cooke reported on the events of his time. His daughter, Susan Cooke Kittredge, speaks about her father and his life away from the public eye.

Library Sponsor: Friends of Ilsley Public Library

Montpelier – Kellogg-Hubbard Library

135 Main Street • 802.223.3338 • 7:00 PM

MARCH 3 — Welfare Brat. Dr. Mary Childers's childhood in the Bronx was often marred by violence, alcoholism, and neglect. Referencing her own story, she discusses various paths out of poverty and away from welfare dependence, as well as ethical issues associated with publishing memoirs.

APRIL 7 — The Unseen Alistair Cooke. One of the twentieth century's preeminent journalists, Alistair Cooke reported on the events of his time. His daughter, Susan Cooke Kittredge, speaks about her father and his life away from the public eye.

MAY 5 — 1763 and How America Became American. Native American History scholar and Dartmouth professor Colin Calloway considers a time when a war of independence waged by Indian people set America on course for a second, more famous, war of independence.

Newport – Goodrich Memorial Library

202 Main Street • 802.334.7902 • 7:00 PM

Stanstead, Quebec – Stanstead College

450 Dufferin Street • 819.876.7891 x270 • 7:00 PM

MARCH 3 — Dangerous Literature. Throughout time and in all countries, books have been banned. Elaine Razzano, professor of English at Lyndon State College, examines the ways history, politics, religion, and economics influence which books may be considered dangerous to young and/or adult minds.

Location: Stanstead, Quebec

APRIL 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*. **Location:** Newport

MAY 5 — The White Mountain Huts. Dartmouth professor Allen Koop explains the Appalachian Mountain Club's hut system in New Hampshire, and considers how the huts and their people have formed a society with its own history, traditions, and legends. **Location:** Stanstead, Quebec



First Wednesdays in Newport and Stanstead is a partnership between the Vermont Humanities Council and Stanstead College. The series is supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation.

Norwich – Congregational Church (Hosts: Norwich Public Library and Norwich Historical Society)

15 Church Street • 802.649.1184 • 7:00 PM

MARCH 3 — Stark Decency: German POWs in a New England Village. Dartmouth professor Allen Koop tells the story of New Hampshire's only World War II prisoner-of-war camp. He describes how ordinary people in Stark turned bitter division into camaraderie. **Sponsor:** *Gilberte Interiors, Inc.*

APRIL 7 — 100 Years since Triangle: The Fire that Seared a Nation's Conscience. Dartmouth Professor Annelise Orleck reflects on the March 25, 1911 fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in Greenwich Village, which killed 146 workers, most of them young immigrant Jewish and Italian women.

Sponsor: *Smith & Vansant Architects, PC*

MAY 7 — E Pluribus Unum: Immigration, Diversity, Community. Presented with the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center. Disconcerting new evidence shows that community bonds are weakened by ethnic diversity. Author and Harvard sociologist Robert Putnam examines how our own history shows that the challenges can be overcome, enabling us to reap the many benefits of diversity. **Location:** *Filene Auditorium, Dartmouth College*
Sponsor: *Dartmouth Bookstore*

Library Sponsors: The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation • Friends of Norwich Public Library • Harbor Mountain Press • Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation

Rutland – Rutland Free Library

10 Court Street • 802.773.1860 • 7:00 PM

MARCH 3 — Transforming History into Fiction: The Story of a Born Liar.

Author Howard Frank Mosher considers the challenges and possibilities of writing historical fiction.



APRIL 7 — Secrets of Eden. Bestselling author of *Midwives* and *The Double Bind* Chris Bohjalian talks about writing his new book, *Secrets of Eden*, a novel of shattered family ties, intimate secrets, and the nature of sacrifice.

MAY 5 — Einstein's Century: 1905–2005. In 1905, at the age of twenty-six, Einstein published five papers that laid the foundation of modern physics. Middlebury professor Susan Watson explores the nearly mythical influence of one of the greatest thinkers of the twentieth century.

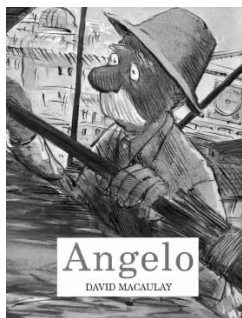
Library Sponsors: Friends of Rutland Free Library • Rutland Regional Medical Center

St. Johnsbury – St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

1171 Main Street • 802.748.8291 • 7:00 PM

MARCH 3 — Problem Solving in the Middle East and South Asia.

Retired CIA Chief of Counterterrorism Haviland Smith considers the regional rivalries and conflicts involving Arabs, Israelis, Persians, Kurds, Pakistanis, Afghans, Sunni, and Shia, and to what extent they have been mitigated or solved by regional powers, America, and the West.



APRIL 7 — Building Books. Author and illustrator David Macaulay traces the development of his books, from his earliest ideas to the published work—everything that makes the creative process so interesting, exhilarating, and often frustrating.

MAY 5 — The Truth about Happiness. What is happiness, and why is it so elusive? Are Americans particularly hungry for happiness? Analyst and author Dr. Polly Young-Eisendrath examines the cultural and psychological context of happiness.

Library Sponsors: Friends of St. Johnsbury Athenaeum/Secondhand Prose

Planning Ahead

You've always planned ahead—for things like paying for college, saving for retirement, and providing for your children's and grandchildren's futures.

Have you thought about the financial legacy you'd like to leave to your community and state? You want to continue to make a difference to future generations. You want to see the things that you've valued continue to thrive in the future—the programs you've enjoyed, Vermont's special character that's meant so much to you, the help and support that you've provided to others who are less fortunate.

A bequest to the Vermont Humanities Council—or other planned giving vehicle—can ensure that the VHC programs that you've enjoyed over the years can continue, that Vermont communities will stay vital, and that, through reading, Vermonters of all backgrounds will have not only access to the world of ideas and imagination, but also the ability to achieve their human potential.

Including the VHC in your will or estate plan is as simple as inserting the following language in your will: "I give _____ to the Vermont Humanities Council, having its principal offices at 11 Loomis Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602, for its general purposes." Perhaps you might designate VHC as the recipient of a gift annuity or retirement plan proceeds, or even name the VHC as the recipient of some fraction of—or the balance of—your estate.

Thinking about the future can be daunting. It can also be inspiring. When you help secure the Vermont Humanities Council's future, you help secure the future of our special state, and you enrich the lives of Vermonters not yet born. Thank you.



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 talk on America's National Parks
- Film and fiction
- A conference on comedy and satire

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Skaters on Mirror Lake, Yosemite National Park, circa 1911. Award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns will present *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* on March 3 in Brattleboro. See page 13.

Vermont

Winter/Spring 2010

Humanities