

Vermont

Winter/Spring 2011

Humanities

Inside

- Weekly Civil War Book of Days Launched
page 3
- Vermont Reads 2011
pages 4 and 5
- Bequest Honors Community
page 7
- First Wednesdays
pages 13–15

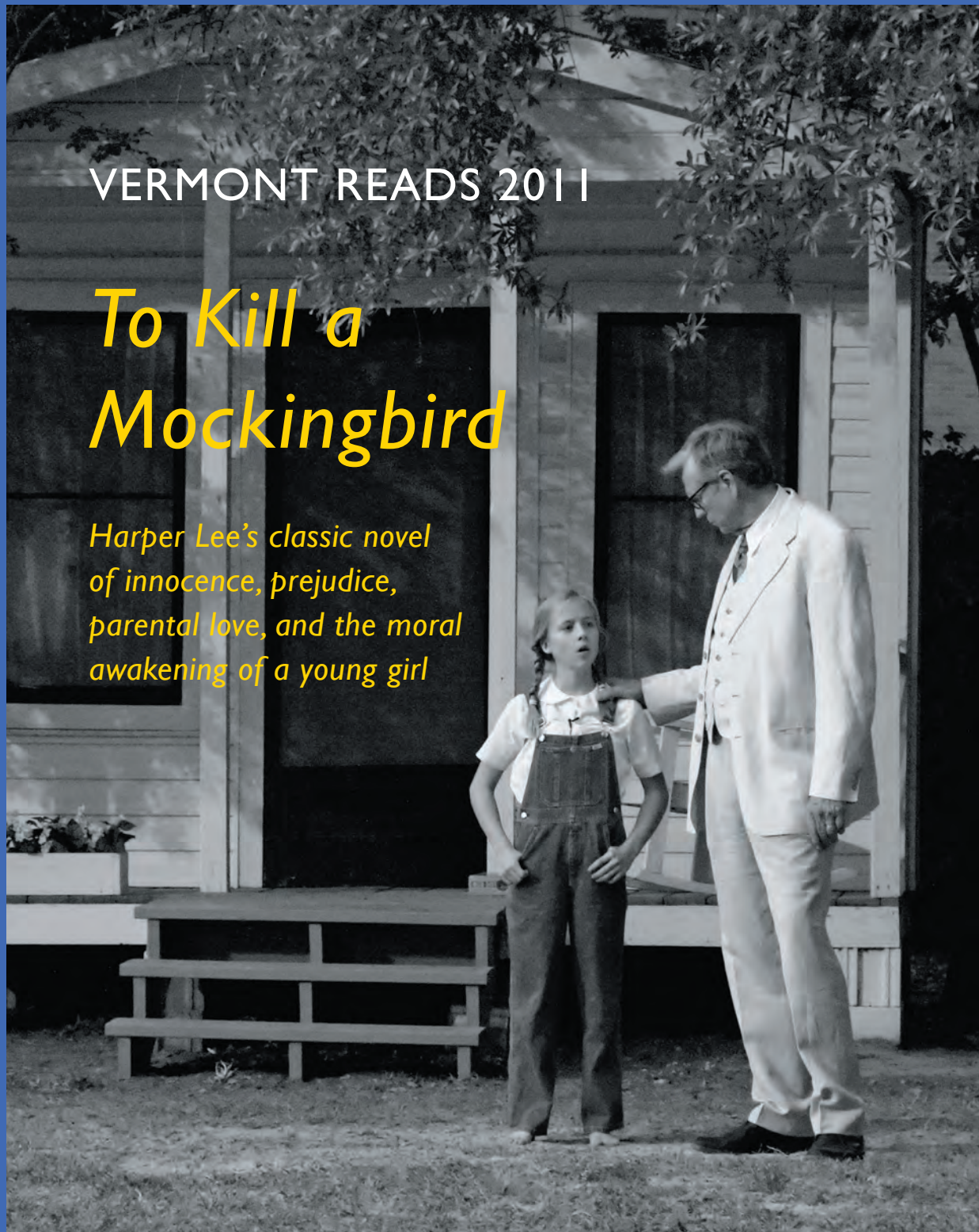


VERMONT
Humanities
COUNCIL

VERMONT READS 2011

To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Lee's classic novel of innocence, prejudice, parental love, and the moral awakening of a young girl



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

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Cover: *To Kill A Mockingbird* performed in Monroeville, Alabama,

April 2010 in honor of the 50th anniversary of the book.

Photo by Carol M. Highsmith, courtesy Library of Congress.

NEH Assessment—High Praise for VHC



Peter A. Gilbert
Executive Director

Last fall, the National Endowment for the Humanities sent a team of three distinguished people to Vermont, as it does every five years, to assess the Vermont Humanities Council—the organization, its programs, and the impact it makes on the state. The site visiting team looked under the hood, kicked the tires, and talked with myriad stakeholders. Their conclusion: “The Vermont Humanities Council is exemplary.”

They had high praise for the broad range of successful Council programs—and successful partnerships that address all three goals articulated in VHC’s mission statement—“to make Vermont a state in which every individual reads, participates in public affairs, and continues to learn throughout life.”

Perhaps most gratifying was what the visiting team heard from Vermonters when they met with them behind closed doors—about the difference the VHC makes to individuals, libraries, communities, civil discourse, and “the big picture.” If VHC weren’t here, the visitors were told, “vulnerable children and families wouldn’t have books,” and “adult learners wouldn’t have books or get to meet [and talk with] their authors.” Countless children would not benefit from “their mother being their first teacher,” and the needs of “populations like teen mothers and people coming out of prison” would go unmet.

Libraries, too, would suffer, the site team was told: “You can’t measure what VHC offers to libraries, particularly the stature of the scholars” whom the Council makes available. VHC enables libraries to host compelling public programs; without the VHC, library offerings would be “stark.” That’s especially important in rural communities: said one person, “I would lose my reason to get out of the house, particularly in the winter.” “The legitimacy that VHC brings to programs in libraries is very important—VHC’s sponsorship causes people to view the programs differently.” “Libraries change lives; so does the Vermont Humanities Council.”

The visiting team reported that it heard a lot about the important role that VHC plays in promoting civil discourse, particularly across “the usual boundaries.” The people they talked with called the Council an organization that promoted “core cultural values” and “an ongoing conversation with a wide variety of Vermonters about literature, arts, and humanities”; “a champion of civic discourse and idea-based discussion”; “a resource for knowing who we are”; and “one of the weavers of the fabric of community.” “The strength of Vermont communities is under assault,” the visitors were told; but “the Council allows people to build skills to deal with our world.” And, they were told, VHC and the humanities help provide “an understanding of our world at a time when everything is so much harder than it has been; we’ve never needed humanity—empathy, tolerance, forbearance—more than we do now.”

We are grateful for the confidence and support of both our fellow Vermonters and the site visitors, and strive every day to be worthy of it.

Peter A. Gilbert

VHC and the humanities help provide “an understanding of our world at a time when everything is so much harder than it has been; we’ve never needed humanity—empathy, tolerance, forbearance—more than we do now.”



Civil War Book of Days

150 Years Ago — This Week in the Civil War

“I am so grateful to the Humanities Council for the Civil War Book of Days! The daily march of secession activity leading to the war itself is fascinating—and horrifying in the parallels of polarization recognizable today. Thank you for making this history available in such a format.” – Mary Leahy

3rd Vermont Regiment couple.
Courtesy Vermont Historical Society.

New E-newsletter Gives Week by Week Account of Civil War

The Vermont Humanities Council’s Civil War Book of Days e-newsletter is receiving accolades from across the country from individuals, teachers, students, and Civil War buffs.

The weekly e-newsletter commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and marks what happened—and what was said and written—each week 150 years ago.

The Civil War, perhaps America’s greatest story, played out on a huge stage with great characters, themes, and multiple plot lines—a story both inspiring and absolutely heartbreaking.

VHC’s Executive Director Peter Gilbert sees the 150th anniversary as an opportunity to view the war through the lens of the humanities.

“The 150th anniversary deserves our attention not only because the war is endlessly fascinating for reasons having nothing to do with battle strategy, but also because the issues it dealt with are still with us—particularly federal-state power and race,” said Gilbert.

“Hearing about the issues and events on a weekly basis affords

people an opportunity not only to learn, but also to experience the events and issues as they played out, and not just view them in retrospect as history.”

The installments put human faces to this enormous conflict. They relate to the social, political, economic, military, and human aspects of the War, such as the following:

- how the election of 1860 and the slavery debate played out in Vermont.
- how South Carolina ordered rifles from President Buchanan’s secretary of war.
- how Lincoln’s election brought cadets at West Point to blows.
- and how South Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, Texas, and the other Southern states voted one after the other to secede.
- Lincoln’s poignant farewell to Springfield, Illinois before heading to Washington, DC.

Don’t miss what happens next in the events that led to that first shot at Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. Sign up for the Civil War Book of Days at vermonthumanities.org.

Civil War Offerings at VHC

Commemorate the Civil War sesquicentennial in your town with a lecture or book discussion about this cataclysmic war. Discover ways to explore the Civil War through a special section of VHC’s website. There you will find:

- First Wednesdays lectures,
- Speakers Bureau offerings,
- a research kit for Civil War research in your town,
- Reading and Discussion programs about the Civil War, and
- this fall, several new reading series provided through a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

Learn more and sign up for the Civil War Book of Days at vermonthumanities.org.

VERMONT READS 2011

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Fifty years ago, Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* won the Pulitzer Prize. VHC is pleased to be a part of the national recognition of this remarkable novel by naming it the 2011 Vermont Reads book.

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.

More than a story of race, class, and growing up in the Deep South of the 1930s, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a story of innocence, prejudice, parental love, and moral development. Perhaps above all, it is a story of integrity and courage. Join us, and join your neighbors, in discovering and rediscovering this classic story of the moral awakening of a young girl that parallels the moral reawakening of a country.

Many special programs are being planned for Vermont Reads 2011. Among the programs are

- an October 5 viewing of *To Kill a Mockingbird* at Montpelier's Savoy Theater with a discussion led by film scholar Rick Winston to follow;
- a First Wednesdays talk on interracial friendship by Emily Bernard;
- a Lost Nation Theater production of the play (see right);
- professional development workshops for teachers and adult educators centered on *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Led by a VHC scholar, the trainings will focus on leading a book discussion of *Mockingbird*, along with ways to engage fragile readers with this book and its themes.

- a Vermont Bar Association course, "Atticus Finch and the Professional Practice of Law: A Reconsideration," offered as part of the association's Continuing Legal Education curriculum. The three-hour interactive seminar will explore the legal and ethical issues of Atticus Finch's practice of law in general, his defense of Tom Robinson, and his response to the death of Bob Ewell.

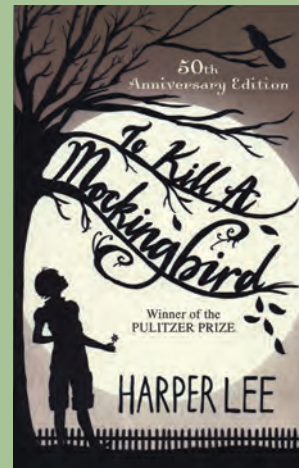
More than 100 Vermont Reads Communities in 2010

The 2010 Vermont Reads program enjoyed an exceptionally strong year with 102 communities participating in reading Katherine Paterson's *The Day of the Pelican*. More than 250 events took place at libraries, schools, and other venues, exploring the story of a Muslim family fleeing ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and landing in Vermont.

Communities hosted intergenerational book discussions and cultural displays and presentations, including music and dance. Other activities included potlucks, film screenings, and lectures from refugees about their own experiences.

VHC hosted author events throughout the state. More than 500 community members gathered to hear Katherine Paterson speak, answer questions, and sign books.

Vermont Public Radio aired a three-part series on the book that included a look at the lives of Vermont's refugee families and their struggles and successes, and interviews with new Vermonters and those who work with them. VPR also featured a Vermont Edition interview with Paterson.



Take Part in Vermont Reads!

Every year schools, libraries, other nonprofit organizations, and businesses take part in this statewide one-book community reading program. Be sure your town takes part in Vermont Reads 2011. Partner with your school and public library in reading and exploring an American treasure, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Middle schools are strongly encouraged to connect with their local high school to ensure that their Vermont Reads 2011 activities are planned in light of the high school's curriculum. Schools and public libraries are urged to promote participation by parents and other adult community members, and to explore partnerships with churches, synagogues, parents groups, peace and justice groups, and other organizations.

Application deadline: May 16, 2011

Applications: vermontreads.org

or call 802.262.2626 x304

Underwriter

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Vermont Reads Events

Bennington County

March 16 ~ Book Discussion: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. **Bennington**, Southern Vermont College Library, 7:00 PM. Andrea Robare, 802.447.6311.

March 25 and April 8 ~ Book Discussions: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. **North Bennington**, John G. McCullough Free Library, 11:30 AM. Susanne Warren, 802.447.7121.

April 21 ~ To Kill a Mockingbird and the Myth of Southern White Chivalry. Manchester-based lawyer Stephen Saltonstall will lead the discussion. **Bennington College**, Fireplace Room of the Deane Carriage Barn, 7:00 PM. Oceana Wilson, 802.440.4606.

Washington County

April 28–May 15 ~ Lost Nation Theater production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. **Montpelier.** See right.

April 28 ~ Book Discussion: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Southern-style refreshments will be served. Copies of the book available for loan from Waterbury Public Library. **Waterbury**, Crossett Brook Middle School, 7:00 PM. Elise Werth, 802.244.7036.

May 12 ~ Book Discussion: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Led by Gina Logan. **Westview Meadows at Montpelier**, 171 Westview Meadows Rd., 1:30 PM. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 802.223.3338.

May 19 ~ Film Screening: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. **Westview Meadows at Montpelier**, 171 Westview Meadows Rd., 1:30 PM. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, 802.223.3338.

Windsor County

April 14 ~ Book and Film Discussion: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. This discussion of *To Kill a Mockingbird* uses clips from the film and from the *Eyes on the Prize* documentary. **Quechee Library**, 4:30 PM. Marieke Sperry, 802.295.6341.

Visit vermonthumanities.org to learn more about Vermont Reads events planned for your community.

Lost Nation Theater presents



To Kill A Mockingbird

by Harper Lee—opening on Lee's 85th Birthday
April 28—May 15

50th Anniversary of this Classic of Integrity and Courage,
Growing Up and Human Dignity

7pm Thursday; 8pm Friday and Saturday • 7pm Sunday — except May 15 at 2pm
2pm Sat Matinee April 30 • special morning matinees for schools being scheduled.



Lost Nation Theater
Montpelier City Hall Arts Center
802.229.0492 • www.lostnationtheater.org

— named one of the Best Regional Theaters in America
by the NYC Drama League

A Conversation on Civility with NEH Chairman Jim Leach

In the midst of the nationwide early February snowstorm, National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman Jim Leach visited Vermont on his fifty-state American Civility Tour, which he began in November 2009.

“Civilization requires civility,” says Leach. “Words matter. Polarizing attitudes can jeopardize social cohesion.”

While in Vermont, Leach appeared on VPR's Vermont Edition with Jane Lindholm, met with state legislators and lawmakers to discuss civility in the public sphere, and spoke to the general public about “Civility in a Fractured Society” at the Vermont State House as part of VHC's First Wednesdays program and the Farmers' Night series. Both the meeting with legislators and the evening talk were streamed live at vpr.net.

About the Vermont Humanities Council Leach said, “It happens that Vermont has one of the several finest [state humanities councils] in the country,” adding that the amount that VHC does—1,300 programs a year in 150 towns—“with an almost trivial amount of money . . . is really extraordinary.”

Leach began his term as NEH chairman in August 2009 after thirty years in the U.S. House of Representatives representing southeastern Iowa.



NEH Chairman Jim Leach and VHC Executive Director Peter Gilbert

To listen to either the Vermont Edition interview or the evening talk, visit vermonthumanities.org.

VHC thanks Speaker Shap Smith and President Pro Tem John Campbell for hosting the meeting in the House Chamber with Vermont's legislators.

New and Retiring Board Members

VHC welcomes three new board members beginning three-year terms in 2011 and bids farewell to four board members.

Elizabeth Beaulieu of South Burlington is Dean of the Core Division at Champlain College in Burlington. She holds M.A. degrees from Georgetown University and the University of York in England, and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her publications and teaching interests focus on African American, women's, and contemporary literature.



Elizabeth Beaulieu

Robert Kenny of Williston is the Vice President for Finance and Administration at Goddard College. A Certified Public Accountant, he received BA, BS, and MBA degrees from the University of Vermont. He taught Business Administration and Accounting for more than thirty years at Saint Michael's College.



Robert Kenny

He served as a board member and treasurer for Caswell Credit Union and as an accreditation evaluator for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Among his community activities are board and committee assignments for the Vermont Consultants Network, the United Way, and the Children's School.

Barbara Morrow of Manchester Center is the co-founder, with her husband Ed, of Northshire Bookstore, where she worked with publishers and authors in planning hundreds

of events. She also managed staff and selected books, and did public relations and merchandising. She has served on the boards of the New England Booksellers Association (as vice president) and the American Booksellers Association.



Barbara Morrow

Her community involvement includes service on the boards of Mark Skinner Library, Northshire Day School, PAVE: Project Against Violent Encounters, Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning (president), and, currently, Spring Lake Ranch and Weston Playhouse.

VHC says thank you and farewell to four board members.

Bern Collins of South Burlington joined the board in 2004.



Bern Collins

She served on the Development and Capital Campaign Committees, and most recently chaired the Membership/Nominating Committee, providing invaluable leadership in that important role. For four years she also organized the annual Spelling Bee for Literacy in Chittenden County. VHC is most grateful for her many contributions.

Gary Margolis of Cornwall was appointed to the board by the Governor in 2004. He served on the Grants Review Committee, the Membership/Nominating Committee, and the Victor R. Swenson Educator Award Selection Committee. He also was chair of the Program Committee and vice chair of the



Gary Margolis

board in 2006. VHC is grateful for his help in strengthening and developing Council public programs.

Departing Board Chair **Sylvia Robison** of Burlington joined the board in 2002. She served on the Development Committee and chaired both the Membership/Nominating and Program Committees. She was vice chair of the board in 2008 and board chair in 2009 and 2010. VHC deeply appreciates her leadership and wise counsel.



Sylvia Robison

Andrew Tangalos of Williston joined the board in 2004. He worked on the Finance, Program,



Andrew Tangalos

Membership/Nominating, and Grants Review Committees. He also was deeply involved in two working groups—an information technology task force and one that helped the Council design and adopt a logo. VHC thanks Andrew for his valuable counsel and service.

Call for Board Nominations

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

Board meetings: May 4, noon, VHC; September 7, noon, Brattleboro; and December 7, 11:00 AM, VHC.

Bequest Honors Preservation and Community

Margot George cherished her hometown of Montpelier and invested much energy in helping preserve it and its historic buildings for future generations. After Margot passed away on December 17, 2008, the *Montpelier Bridge* newspaper acknowledged “her tenacity that gave no ground to anyone or any



Margot George

proposal that would chip away at the city’s historic integrity.” As a realtor, walking tour guide, and member of the Montpelier Heritage Group, Margot poured herself

into stewarding the historic fabric of the community where she grew up for the benefit of current and future residents.

In December VHC learned that Margot had left a bequest of \$20,000 to the Council. VHC, which moved into a restored Italianate historic building in Montpelier in 2005, deeply appreciates and understands the intent behind Margot’s generous gift. In keeping with her instructions, the Council will use the funds to create a permanent endowment for programming in and around Montpelier that supports healthy community, with an emphasis on the relevance of history and the importance of preservation.

VHC sincerely thanks Margot for her contributions to her community and her generosity to the Vermont Humanities Council.

Making a Bequest

Including the Vermont Humanities Council in your estate plan is as simple as inserting this 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.” Even easier would be naming VHC as a beneficiary of your retirement account (for a specific amount or fractional share) through a change of beneficiary form.

For information: Peter Gilbert, 802.262.2626 x 300 or pgilbert@vermonthumanities.org or Tom Smith, Vermont Community Foundation, 802.388.3355 x 239 or tsmith@vermontcf.org.

St. Johnsbury Academy’s Kendra Paupst Swenson Award Winner



Kendra Paupst and Victor Swenson

St. Johnsbury Academy teacher Kendra Paupst is the Victor R. Swenson Humanities Educator for 2010. Board Chair Sylvia Robison presented Paupst with the award and a \$1,000 check at VHC’s fall conference on November 13.

Paupst joined the St. Johnsbury Academy faculty in 2003 and teaches

French, from beginner to Advanced Placement. Her teaching methods, which integrate technology with immersion in French culture, have helped steadily increase student enrollment in French at the academy.

“You are an inspiration to many for your attentiveness to students, your innovation using technology, and your passion for the French language and culture,” wrote St. Johnsbury Academy Headmaster Tom Lovett to Paupst.

Paupst brings in Francophone guest speakers so her students can hear different accents and learn about French-speaking parts of the world. She also takes the students on annual trips to Montréal and Québec City.

“Kendra is an inspiring colleague,” wrote ESL teacher Sandra

Mings-Lamar in her nomination letter. “[Her] enthusiasm is contagious. It is obvious that her students love learning from her and take risks with the language because she has created such a safe and fun place for them to learn.”

Paupst is the second teacher from the academy to receive the Swenson award. The late Graham Stiles Newell earned the inaugural award in 2003.

Nominate a Teacher!

VHC invites nominations for the 2011 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. Nominations are due June 1. To learn more: vermonthumanities.org or 802.262.2626 x309.



**VERMONT
Humanities
COUNCIL**

C·a·l·e·n·d·a·r

Late Winter and Spring 2011



Lake Champlain from the Mount Independence State Historic Site. Adam Kane will share tales of shipwrecks on the lake in Proctor on March 24. Image courtesy of Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing.

April 6 ~ Susan Cooke Kittredge with “The Unseen Alistair Cooke.”
First Wednesdays lecture, Manchester, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

April 10 ~ Vermont and the Civil War.
Vermont author and Civil War historian Howard Coffin speaks on the Civil War and its effect on Vermonters. **Pownal**, Solomon Wright Public Library, 1:30 PM. Wendy Hopkins, 802.823.5405.

April 21 ~ To Kill a Mockingbird and the Myth of Southern White Chivalry.
A Vermont Reads event. **Bennington College**. See page 5.

May 4 ~ Williams College art professor Carol Ockman with “Barbie after 50.”
First Wednesdays lecture, Manchester, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

June 12 ~ Vermont and the Civil War.
(See April 10 above.) **Rupert Congregational Church**, 2:00 PM. Gene Higgins, 802.394.7738.

ADDISON COUNTY

March 24 ~ The Town Photographer in Vermont. Photographer and local historian Forrest Holzapfel discusses the role of the village photographer in 19th-century Vermont. **New Haven Community Library**, 7:00 PM. Deborah Lundbeck, 802.453.4015.

April 6 ~ Dartmouth professor Peter Saccio with “Poems of Faith and Doubt.”
First Wednesdays lecture, Middlebury, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

May 4 ~ Dartmouth professor Irene Kacandes with “Daddy’s War.”
First Wednesdays lecture, Middlebury, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

June 16 ~ Vermont History through Song. Singer and researcher 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 collection of sheet music. **Bristol**, Howden Hall, 7:00 PM. Gerald Heffernan, 802.453.6029.

BENNINGTON COUNTY

March 16 ~ Book Discussion: To Kill a Mockingbird. A Vermont Reads event. **Bennington**, Southern Vermont College Library. See page 5.

March 25 and April 8 ~ Book Discussion: To Kill a Mockingbird. A Vermont Reads event. **North Bennington**. See page 5.

Receive the Monthly Events E-calendar!

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

Has your e-mail address changed? Be sure VHC has it so you will learn about programs in every county in Vermont.

CALEDONIA COUNTY

April 6 ~ Journalist and UVM lecturer Gordon Robison with “The Obama Administration and the Middle East.”
First Wednesdays lecture, St. Johnsbury, 7:00 PM. See page 15.

May 4 ~ Author Reeve Lindbergh with “Journey Toward Insight: Diaries and Letters of Anne Morrow Lindbergh, 1947–1986.” First Wednesdays lecture, St. Johnsbury, 7:00 PM. See page 15.

May 18 ~ Aine Donovan of Dartmouth’s Ethics Institute with “Reconstructing Honor.” First Wednesdays lecture, St. Johnsbury, 7:00 PM. See page 15.

Book Discussion: When Cultures Meet. Explore the ramifications of contact between Europeans and the native inhabitants of the Champlain Basin. Led by Helene Lang. **Walden Community Library**, Tuesdays, 7:00 PM. Stuart Smith, 802.563.2630. **March 15**, Stephen Brumwell’s *White Devil*. **April 19**, William Cronon’s *Changes in the Land*.

H Calendar

Book Discussion: From Page to Screen.

When is the movie is good, but the book better? **Lyndonville**, Cobleigh Public Library, Thursdays, 7:00 PM. Cindy Karasinski, 802.626.5475. **April 7**, Isak Dinesen's *Out of Africa*. Led by Suzanne Brown. **April 28**, Stephen King's "Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption" and *The Shawshank Redemption* (film). Led by Jay Craven.

Book Discussion: Retellings. These novels re-imagine classic works of fiction, retelling them from another character's perspective. **Danville**, Pope Memorial Library, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM. Deidre Palmer, 802.684.2256. **March 30**, Geraldine Brooks's *March*. Led by Patricia Norton. **April 27**, John Clinch's *Finn*. Led by John Turner.

CHITTENDEN COUNTY

March 21 ~ One Regiment's Story in the Civil War: The Ninth Vermont, 1862–1865. Civil War historian Donald Wickman shares tales of the 9th Vermont Regiment, which became one of the most traveled regiments in the Federal army. **Essex Junction**, Brownell Library, 7:00 PM. Penelope Pillsbury, 802.878.6955.

April 6 ~ Poet Michael Palma with "They Still Do Write Them the Way They Used To." First Wednesdays lecture, Burlington, 7:00 PM. See page 13.

April 9 ~ Vermont History through Song. (See Addison County, June 16.) **Essex**, Memorial Hall, Rte. 15, 2:00 PM. Sherry Norton, 802.879.7334.

April 12 ~ More than Books: Reflections on Libraries, Community, and Historic Preservation. This illustrated program by preservationist and photographer Bill Hosley examines nearly 200 years of American library history. **Shelburne**, Pierson Library, 6:00 PM. Linda Huntington, 802.985.5124.

April 13 ~ More than Books: Reflections on Libraries, Community, and Historic Preservation. (See directly above.) **South Burlington Community Library**, 12:00 PM. Louise Murphy, 802.652.7076.

April 27 ~ Vermont and the Civil War. Vermont author and Civil War historian Howard Coffin will speak on Vermont's contributions to the Civil War. **Essex Junction**, Brownell Library, 7:00 PM. Penelope Pillsbury, 802.878.6955.

May 4 ~ Author and Middlebury College professor Jay Parini with "The Passages of Herman Melville." First Wednesdays Burlington, 7:00 PM. See page 13.

May 4 ~ Big Read Dinner and Book Discussion. Essex Junction, Brownell Library, 6:00 PM. See page 12.

May 11 ~ Big Read Discussion with Filmmaker and Vietnam War Veteran Patrick Boyden. Essex Junction, Brownell Library, 7:00 PM. See page 12.

May 17 ~ Vermont and the Civil War. (See Bennington County, April 10.) **Burlington**, Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, 188 N. Prospect St., 7:30 PM. Judy Hershberg, 802.863.4214.

Book Discussion: Never-Setting Sun: The Heyday of the British Empire. Discover the complexities of colonialism in these works set in India and Africa. **Charlotte Library**, Thursdays, 7:30 PM. Beth Merritt, 802.425.2191. **May 12**, Ama Ata Aidoo's *Our Sister Killjoy*. Led by Lesley Wright. **April 14**, Wole Soyinka's *Ake: The Years of Childhood*. Led by Cheryl Heneveld.

Book Discussion: The Rise of the English Novel. How did the modern novel arise? Led by Helene Lang. **Shelburne**, Wake Robin Retirement Community, Mondays, 7:30 PM. Natalie Albers, 802.985.0659.

April 4, Samuel Richardson's *Pamela*. **May 2**, Henry Fielding's *Joseph Andrews*. **May 23**, Tobias Smollett's *The Expedition of Humphrey Clinker*.

Book Discussion: Orchestrated Stories. Enjoy fictional interpretations of Joplin and Vivaldi. Led by Marilyn Burrington. **South Burlington Community Library**, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM. Louise Murphy, 802.652.7076. **April 6**, Barbara Quick's *Vivaldi's Virgins*.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

April 14 ~ More than Books: Reflections on Libraries, Community, and Historic Preservation. (See Chittenden County, April 12.) **Fairfield Municipal Building**, 7:00 PM. Kristen Hughes, 802.827.3945.

May 11 ~ Disappearing Alphabets and the Future of the Written Word. Writer Tim Brookes offers thought-provoking perspective on what the digital age means for the written word. **Fairfield**, Bent Northrop Memorial Library, 7:00 PM. Kristen Hughes, 802.827.3945.

Book Discussion: World War II: The Loss of the Age of Innocence. These novels richly illustrate coming-of-age themes against the backdrop of World War II. Led by Cheryl Heneveld. **Fairfax Community Library**, Thursdays, 6:30 PM. Lauren Cady, 802.849.2420. **April 14**, Elie Wiesel's *Night*.



Jane Beck, Vermont Folklife Center founder, will discuss Vermont Folk Art on May 18 in Grand Isle. Above, Hooked Rug by Imelda Lepine, Morrisville, Vermont 1979.

Book Discussion: Farms and Gardens.

These authors explore the philosophical roots, family dynamics, and personal enrichment associated with tending and growing. **Richford**, Arvin A. Brown Public Library, Wednesdays, 6:00 PM. Susan Smolinsky, 802.848.3313. **March 30**, Jamaica Kincaid's *My Garden*. Led by Rachael Cohen. **April 27**, Jane Brox's *Here and Nowhere Else*. Led by Linda Bland.

GRAND ISLE COUNTY

May 18 ~ Vermont Folk Art. Jane Beck touches on the learning and creation of traditional art. **Grand Isle**, Block School House, Route 2, 7:00 PM. Janet DeSarno, 802.372.4058.

Book Discussion: Women's Literature: Dual Heritages. These foreign-born female American writers celebrate the diversity of their dual heritages. Led by Arthur Biddle. **North Hero Public Library**, 7:30 PM. Judy Poquette, 802.372.5458. **June 23**, Nora Keller's *Comfort Woman*.

Book Discussion: A Mysterious Lens on American Culture. Mayhem and murder play out against a cultural backdrop. Led by Peter Burns. **South Hero Community Library**, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM. Diana Cleborne, 802.372.6209. **March 30**, Sherman Alexie's *Indian Killer*. **April 13**, Faye Kellerman's *Ritual Bath*. **April 27**, Barbara Neely's *Blanche Cleans Up*. **May 11**, P. L. Gaus's *Blood of the Prodigal*.

LAMOILLE COUNTY

May 11 ~ The Old Country Fiddler: Charles Ross Taggart, Vermont's Traveling Entertainer. Fiddler Adam Boyce portrays Charles Ross Taggart near the end of his career, circa 1936, sharing recollections of his life interspersed with live fiddling and humorous sketches. **Jeffersonville**, Warner Lodge Building, 7:00 PM. Georgiana Little, 802.644.5675.



Read and discuss soldiers' stories in a book discussion series at Stowe Free Library. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Justin J. Shemanski

Book Discussion: What a Character! What makes a character memorable? Led by John Turner. **Morristown Centennial Library**, Thursdays, 7:00 PM. Frances Ruggles, 802.888.2616. **March 17**, Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*. **April 7**, Willa Cather's *My Antonia*.

Book Discussion: Soldering On. For soldiers and civilians of any war, the battle doesn't necessarily cease when the battlefield is left behind. Led by Victor Swenson and Judith Yarnall. **Stowe Free Library**, Thursdays, 7:00 PM. Megan Carder, 802.253.6145. **March 24**, Jonathan Shay's *Odysseus in America*.

ORANGE COUNTY

March 17 ~ The Irish "Wave" in the Green Mountains. Vince Feeney, author of *Finnigans, Slayers and Stonepeppers*, tells the little-known story of the impact of Irish immigrants on Vermont life in the middle of the nineteenth century. **Vershire Town Center Building**, 6:30 PM. Lynn Roy, 802.685.3151.

Book Discussion: Memorable Memoirs. These memoirs became classics for a good reason. Led by Suzanne Brown. **East Corinth**, Blake Memorial Library, 4:30 PM. Ken Linge, 802.439.5338. **March 17**, Eudora Welty's *One Writer's Beginnings*. **April 7**, Russell Baker's *Growing Up*.

Book Discussion: Ernest Hemingway's For Whom the Bell Tolls. The story of the struggle between personal honor and duty during the Spanish Civil War makes this one of the greatest war novels of all time. Led by Jim Schley. **April 26. Randolph**, Kimball Public Library, 7:00 PM. Lynn Gately, 802.728.5073.

ORLEANS COUNTY

April 6 ~ Former CIA Chief of Counterterrorism Haviland Smith with "Dealing with Instability in Today's Middle East." First Wednesdays lecture, Newport, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

May 4 ~ UVM English Department Chair Tony Magistrale with "Why Stephen King Still Matters." First Wednesdays lecture, Newport, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

May 23 ~ The Irish "Wave" in the Green Mountains. (See March 17, Orange County.) **Lowell Community Library**, 7:00 PM. Sam Thurston, 802.744.6859.

June 1 ~ Dartmouth professor Irene Kacandes with "The Enduring Appeal of Anne Frank and Her Diary." First Wednesdays lecture (rescheduled), Newport, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

Book Discussion: Blue Collar America. Examine the minimum-wage existence, social divisions, and what constitutes the good life. Led by Jay Craven. **Barton Public Library**, Mondays, 6:30 PM. Toni Eubanks, 802.525.6524. **March 21**, Don Snyder's *The Cliff Walk*. **April 18**, Philip Levine's *What Work Is*. **May 16**, Russell Banks's *Affliction*.

RUTLAND COUNTY

March 24 ~ Shipwrecks of Lake Champlain. Through slides, drawings, and video, take a memorable tour of what lies beneath the waves with Lake Champlain Maritime Museum archaeologist Adam Kane. **Proctor Free Library**, 6:30 PM. Lisa Miser, 802.459.3539.

April 6 ~ Retired NBC correspondent Robert Hager with "Courting Disaster: From the Vietnam War to 21st Century Terrorism." First Wednesdays lecture, Rutland, 7:00 PM. See page 15.

April 20 ~ Ma's Vermont or Pa's Montana? The Shipman Family Dilemma of 1881. Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith relate the experiences of the Shipman family of Bethel who set out for Montana territory in the 1880s. **Wallingford**, Gilbert Hart Library, 7:00 PM. Betty Emery, 802.446.3366.

Lots Going On!

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May 4 ~ Dartmouth professor Peter Saccio with "Going to War in Shakespeare: Olivier, Branagh, and Henry V." First Wednesdays lecture, Rutland, 7:00 PM. See page 15.

June 1 ~ Dartmouth professor Cynthia Huntington with "Poetry of the Earth: Re-imagining Nature." First Wednesdays lecture (rescheduled), Rutland, 7:00 PM. See page 15.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

March 15 ~ The Irish "Wave" in the Green Mountains. (See March 17, Orange County.) **Cabot Public Library**, 6:30 PM. Kathleen Hoyne, 802.563.2721.

March 18 and 23 ~ Film: Freedom Riders. **Montpelier**, Green Mountain Film Festival. See page 12.

March 31 ~ George Houghton: Vermont's Civil War Photographer. Donald Wickman explains some of Houghton's life and shows a number of the images that brought the Civil War back to Vermont via photography. **Waitsfield Elementary School**, 7:00 PM. Sandra Reilly, 802.496.5758.

April 1-30 ~ Poetry Alive 2011. **Montpelier.** See page 12.

April 3 ~ The Music of Poetry. This lecture-demonstration by jazz and classical musician Michael Arnowitz explores the musical aspects of poetry, song lyrics, and literature. **Barre**, Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main St., 3:00 PM. Sue Higby, 802.479.7069.

April 12 ~ Making Poetry Memorable through Music. **Montpelier**, Vermont History Museum, 2:00 PM. See page 12.

April 13 ~ The Burden of History: American Soldiers and the Vietnam War. **Northfield**, Brown Public Library, 7:00 PM. See page 12.

April 20 ~ The Things They Carried book Discussion. **Northfield**, Brown Public Library, 7:00 PM. See page 12.

April 20 ~ Former Vermont Chief Justice Jeffrey Amestoy with "The Supreme Court Argument That Saved the Union." First Wednesdays lecture, Montpelier (rescheduled to third Wednesday), 7:00 PM. See page 14.

April 22 ~ Poetry Alive 2011: Montpelier, Art Walk. **Montpelier.** See page 12.

April 28 through May 15: Lost Nation Theater production of To Kill a Mockingbird. In partnership with Vermont Reads. **Montpelier.** See details, page 5.

April 28 ~ Book Discussion: To Kill a Mockingbird. A Vermont Reads event.

Waterbury, Crossett Brook Middle School, 7:00 PM. See page 5.

April 30 ~ The Big Read Summit. Northfield, Norwich University. See page 12.

May 12 ~ Book discussion: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. A Vermont Reads event. Montpelier, Westview Meadows, 1:30 PM. See page 5.

May 19 ~ Film Screening: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. A Vermont Reads event. Montpelier, Westview Meadows, 1:30 PM. See page 5.

May 4 ~ Amherst College professor Ilan Stavans with “Singer’s Typewriter. . . and Mine.” First Wednesdays lecture, Montpelier, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

May 31 ~ Vermont Civil War Songbook. Dressed in period costume, singer Linda Radtke, joined by pianist Arthur Zorn, shares songs from Vermont during the Civil War period, with engaging commentary and letters from Vermont soldiers. Worcester Town Hall, 6:30 PM. David Book, 802.223.5625.

Book Discussion: New England Uncovered. What lies beneath the popular images of New England with its white spires and Yankee frugality? Led by Rachael Cohen. Thursdays, 9:30 AM. Gail Hietzker, 802.583.1935. **March 17**, Bill Bryson’s *I’m a Stranger Here Myself*. Waitsfield, Joslin Memorial Library.

Book Discussion: Gastronomy: Novels about Food and Culture. One of the most tantalizing ways to learn about a culture is through its food. Led by Helene Lang. Northfield, Brown Public Library, Mondays, 7:00 PM. Sue MacMartin, 802.485.4621. **March 28**, Chitra Divakaruni’s *The Mistress of Spices*.

Book Discussion: Earth Tones. These authors strike provocative environmental notes as they look at how to live in harmony with nature. Montpelier, Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Mondays, 7:00 PM. **April 4**, Rachel Carson’s *Under the Sea Wind*. Led by Patricia Stuart. **April 25**, T.C. Boyle’s *A Friend of the Earth*. Led by Alan Berolzheimer. **May 9**, Thomas Berry’s *The Great Work*. Led by Gina Logan.

Poetry Discussion: “You Come Too.” Examine the work of influential poets with VHC Executive Director Peter Gilbert. Refreshments served. RSVP or walk-in. Montpelier, VHC offices, 11 Loomis Street, 5:30 PM. Joan Black, 802.262.2626 x307. **April 12**, Billy Collins (in partnership with Kellogg-Hubbard Library for National Poetry Month): “Fishing on the Susquehanna in July,” “Morning,” “Her,” “Canada,”

“Reading an Anthology of Chinese Poems...,” “Nostalgia,” “The Death of Allegory,” and “Creatures.” **May 11**, Seamus Heaney: “Mid-Term Break,” “Digging,” and others.

WINDHAM COUNTY

April 13 ~ Amherst College professor Javier Corrales with “Did Karl Marx Predict the Cuban Revolution?” First Wednesdays lecture, Brattleboro, 7:00 PM. See page 13.

May 4 ~ Mount Holyoke College professor Kavita Datla with “The Changing Face of Islam: Transformation in Modern South Asia.” First Wednesdays lecture, Brattleboro, 7:00 PM. See page 13.

June 1 ~ Pianist Michael Arnowitt with “Beethoven’s Sketchbooks.” First Wednesdays lecture (rescheduled), Brattleboro, 7:00 PM. See page 13.

Book Discussion: A Mysterious Lens on American Culture. Mayhem and murder play out against a cultural backdrop. Led by Deborah Luskin. Putney, Westminster West Public Library, Thursdays, 7:00 PM. Beverly Major, 802.387.4682. **April 14**, P. L. Gaus’s *Blood of the Prodigal*.

WINDSOR COUNTY

March 27 ~ Vermont History through Song. (See Addison County, June 16.) Rochester, Pierce Hall Community Center, 2:00 PM. Nancy Wooley, 802.767.4453.

April 2 ~ The Big Read Kick-off: *The Things They Carried*. White River Junction, Briggs Opera House. See page 12.

April 4 ~ Disappearing Alphabets and the Future of the Written Word. Writer Tim Brookes offers thought-provoking perspective on what the digital age means for the written word. Quechee Library, 7:00 PM. Kate Schaal, 802.295.1232.

April 6 ~ Amherst College professor Ilan Stavans with “An Evening of Latin American Poetry.” First Wednesdays lecture, Norwich, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

April 6 ~ The United States and the War in Vietnam: A Historical Perspective. Hartford, Cornerstone Community Center. 7:00 PM. See page 12.

April 8 ~ How the Guitar Conquered America. Tim Brookes considers how the guitar grew from a folk instrument 425 years ago to outselling all other musical instruments combined. North Pomfret, Pomfret Town Office, 5218 Pomfret Rd., 7:00 PM. Anne Bower, 802.457.2877.

April 14 ~ Book and Film Discussion: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. A Vermont Reads event. Quechee Library, 4:30 PM. See page 5.

April 27 ~ *The Things They Carried* Book Discussion. Hartford, 7:00 PM. See page 12.

April 28 ~ More than Books: Reflections on Libraries, Community, and Historic Preservation. (See Chittenden County, April 12.) Springfield Town Library, 7:00 PM. Nancy Tusinski, 802.885.3108.

May 4 ~ Lincoln historian Harold Holzer with “Abraham Lincoln, the Silent President-Elect.” First Wednesdays lecture, Hanover, 7:00 PM. See page 14.

May 14 ~ Carry It Forward. White River Junction, Briggs Opera House, 3:00 PM. See page 12.

May 15 ~ The Western Abenaki: History and Culture. This lecture examines the importance in Abenaki society of elders and children, the environment, and the continuance of lifeways and traditions. Hartland Public Library, 2:00 PM. Carol Mowry, 802.436.3383.

June 1 ~ Dartmouth professor Tom Luxon with “John Milton, Marriage, and Friendship.” First Wednesdays lecture, Norwich (rescheduled), 7:00 PM. See page 14.

June 8 ~ Indian Wars of New England. Michael Tougas offers a slide lecture on the conflicts between Native Americans and colonists, from the Pilgrims’ first arrival in New England to the closing days of the French and Indian War. Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 7:00 PM. Mary Nadeau, 802.295.2123.

Book Discussion: Orchestrated Stories. Enjoy fictional interpretations of Schumann, Joplin, and Vivaldi. Led by Rachael Cohen. Hartland Public Library, Wednesdays, 6:30 PM. Theresa Gregory, 802.436.2473. **March 16**, Janice Galloway’s *Clara: A Novel*. **April 20**, Tananarive Due’s *Joplin’s Ghost*. **June 29**, Barbara Quick’s *Vivaldi’s Virgins*.



Enjoy Vermont History through Song with Linda Radtke throughout Vermont. Photo by Glenn Moody Photography.

Events Supported with a VHC Grant

POETRY Alive!

Celebration of National Poetry Month

Montpelier, Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

Rachel Senechal, 802.223.3338.

April 1–30 ~ The Kellogg-Hubbard Library and Montpelier Alive will celebrate poetry with a month-long calendar of events. Poems submitted by Vermonters will be on display in downtown windows throughout April and as part of Art Walk on April 22.

April 12 ~ Making Poetry Memorable through Music. Burt Porter explores the relationship between poetry and music, including the mnemonic aspects of rhyme, meter, and melody. **Vermont History Museum**, 2:00 PM.

April 12 ~ You Come Too, Poetry of Billy Collins. Join VHC Executive Director Peter Gilbert for a discussion of poems by Billy Collins. **VHC Office, Montpelier, 5:30 PM.** See details, page 12. (A VHC event presented as part of Poetry Alive 2011)

The Big Read: *The Things They Carried*

Part of the Big Read, a Nationwide One-Book Reading Program

Statewide. Northern Stage Company, Kyle Silliman-Smith, 802.291.9009 x26.

April 2 ~ Kick-off Event. Featuring talks with Vietnam veteran Benjamin Danielson, Northern Stage's Producing Director Catherine Doherty, and an artist from the Center for Cartoon Studies. **White River Junction, Briggs Opera House, 1:00 PM.** Kyle Silliman-Smith, 802.291.9009 x26.

April 6 ~ The United States and the War in Vietnam: A Historical Perspective. Mark Stoler examines the U.S. involvement in Vietnam, why it was unsuccessful, and why the experience still haunts Americans and influences our policies elsewhere. **Hartford, Cornerstone Community Center, 7:00 PM.** Hartford Library, 802.296.2568.

April 13 ~ The Burden of History: American Soldiers and the Vietnam War. Lecture by Steven Sodergren, Assistant Professor of History at Norwich University. **Northfield, Brown Public Library, 7:00 PM.** Brown Public Library, 802.485.4621.

April 20 ~ The Things They Carried Discussion. Led by Lea Williams, associate professor of English at Norwich University. **Northfield, Brown Public Library, 7:00 PM.** Brown Public Library, 802.485.4621.

April 27 ~ The Things They Carried Discussion. Led by Hartford High School teacher Denise Warren. **Hartford, Cornerstone Community Center, 7:00 PM.** Hartford Library, 802.296.2568.

April 30 ~ The Big Read Summit. Performances, graphic art displays, writing workshops, and a panel discussion. **Northfield, Norwich University, all day.** Kyle Silliman-Smith, 802.291.9009 x26.

May 4 ~ Dinner and The Things They Carried Discussion. Led by Edward Cashman (a Captain in the Vietnam War). Includes a Vietnam-inspired potluck supper. **Essex Junction, Brownell Library, 6:00 PM.** Brownell Library, 802.878.6955.

May 11 ~ Discussion with Filmmaker and Vietnam War Veteran Patrick Boyden. Patrick Boyden, chaplain for the Gold Star Families in Vermont, will lead a discussion of two 30-minute movies he produced, *Remembrance* and *In Country*. **Essex Junction, Brownell Library, 7:00 PM.** Brownell Library, 802.878.6955.

May 14 ~ Carry it Forward. This multimedia finale, produced by Northern Stage Company, includes performers sharing selections from the book, original works by students and veterans, and projections of original graphic strips. The performance will be broadcast statewide. **White River Junction, Briggs Opera House, 3:00 PM.** Kyle Silliman-Smith, 802.291.9009 x26.

14th Green Mountain Film Festival

Ten-day Film Festival in Downtown Montpelier, March 18–27

Montpelier. Donald Rae, 802.262.3423. Visit greenmountainfilmfestival.org.

March 18 and 23 ~ Film: Freedom Riders. From May until November 1961, more than 400 black and white Americans risked their lives and endured beatings and imprisonment for traveling together on buses through the Deep South. Stanley Nelson's film captures Freedom Summer. Stephen Green of Berlin, a Freedom Rider, will discuss the film.



SAVE THE DATE

VHC 2011 Fall Conference

The Resilient Human Spirit

The Power of the Humanities to Heal

November 11–12,

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Time and again we are astonished and inspired at the human capacity to come through the most difficult circumstances, even to grow profoundly in the process. How does a challenging experience transform into something as precious as wisdom, or compassion, or forgiveness? How we deal with life's most difficult challenges is at the very heart of human experience.

Explore the resilience of the human spirit and the role that the humanities—including reading, writing, reflection, religion, philosophy, and the arts—have in confronting “the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.”

Join us for an uplifting and inspirational two days as we consider what thinkers, writers, religious leaders, poets, and artists throughout history can tell us about the indomitable human spirit.

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



Pablo Neruda and Moniz Bandeira (1956)

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Brattleboro – Brooks Memorial Library

224 Main Street • 802.254.5290 • 7:00 PM

APRIL 13 — Did Karl Marx Predict the Cuban Revolution?

The causes of the Cuban Revolution—and revolutions in general— are widely debated. Amherst professor Javier Corrales reviews some of the most important—if flawed—theories.

MAY 4 — The Changing Face of Islam:

Transformation in Modern South Asia. Looking at Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India, Mount Holyoke College professor Kavita Darla considers the need to shift from a “Clash of Civilizations” model of Islam to considering how transformations in Islam share something with transformations in other religions. *Sponsor: Centre Congregational Church*

JUNE 1 — Beethoven’s Sketchbooks. In this performance lecture, pianist Michael Arnowitt considers Beethoven’s creative process by exploring Beethoven’s sketchbooks. **(Rescheduled from February)**

Library Sponsors: Brattleboro Savings and Loan • Entergy-Vermont • Friends of Brooks Memorial Library

Burlington – Fletcher Free Library

235 College Street • 802.865.7211 • 7:00 PM



APRIL 6 — They Still Do Write Them the Way They Used To.

Refuting the notion that modern poetry is formless and self-absorbed, poet Michael Palma considers contemporary poets who use rhyme, meter, and figurative language to explore timeless, universal themes.

Sponsor: Pomerleau Real Estate

MAY 4 — The Passages of Herman Melville.

Author and Middlebury College professor Jay Parini reflects on Melville’s various voyages and how each led to a particular book or series of books. *Sponsor: Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer PC*

Library Sponsor: Friends of the Fletcher Free Library

Rockwell Kent illustration for *Moby Dick*, 1930, Plattsburgh State Art Museum. (Bequest of Sally Kent Gorton. Copyright © 1930 by R. R. Donnelley & Sons, Inc. and The Plattsburgh College Foundation, Inc. All rights reserved.)

H

First Wednesdays

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

3624 Main Street • 802.362.2607 • 7:00 PM



Learn how Barbie became a cultural phenomenon on May 4 in Manchester. Photo by Carrie Bee.

APRIL 6 – 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, and shows *All at Sea*, his recently rediscovered 1933 short film featuring Charlie Chaplin. **Sponsor: Keelan Family Foundation**

MAY 4 – Barbie after 50. Barbie turned fifty in 2009. Despite debates about her suitability for children, Barbie's longevity is due in part to her improbable body. Williams College art professor Carol Ockman considers Barbie both as a cultural phenomenon and in relation to the nude in Western art.

Middlebury – Ilsley Public Library

75 Main Street • 802.388.4095 • 7:00 PM

APRIL 6 – Poems of Faith and Doubt. Dartmouth professor Peter Saccio discusses belief and disbelief and issues of moral choice and divine grace as they appear in one poem each by Wallace Stevens, Philip Larkin, W. H. Auden, and George Herbert.

MAY 4 – Daddy's War. Dartmouth professor Irene Kacandes uses her own family's story as a starting point to explore how the trauma of war, like the revenge of Greek gods, can visit each succeeding generation.

Library Sponsor: Friends of Ilsley Public Library

Montpelier – Kellogg-Hubbard Library

135 Main Street • 802.223.3338 • 7:00 PM

APRIL 20 – The Supreme Court Argument That Saved the Union. President Lincoln justified the Emancipation Proclamation as a "necessary war measure." But was the Civil War, in point of law, a war? Former Vermont Chief Justice Jeffrey Amestoy tells the thrilling story of Richard Henry Dana, Jr.'s oral argument before the Court in the *Prize Cases*. **Sponsor: Vermont Bar Association (Third Wednesday—Rescheduled from April 6)**

MAY 4 – Singer's Typewriter . . . and Mine. Amherst College professor Ilan Stavans, editor of the *Collected Stories of Isaac Bashevis Singer*, examines the life and work of the Yiddish writer and Nobel Prize winner. **Sponsor: Bear Pond Books/Rivendell Books**

Library Sponsor: In honor of Mathew Rubin

Newport – Goodrich Memorial Library

202 Main Street • 802.334.7902 • 7:00 PM

APRIL 6 – Dealing with Instability in Today's Middle East. Former CIA Chief of Counterterrorism Haviland Smith examines the historical and contemporary causes of Middle East instability.

MAY 4 – 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.

JUNE 1 – The Enduring Appeal of Anne Frank and Her Diary. Dartmouth professor Irene Kacandes examines some of the reasons why Anne Frank's diary continues to be read worldwide by people of all ages. **(Rescheduled from February)**

Library Sponsor: Associated Insurance • Community National Bank • Newport City Renaissance Corporation

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

15 Church Street • 802.649.1184 • 7:00 PM

APRIL 6 – An Evening of Latin American Poetry. Amherst College professor Ilan Stavans reads poems by Rubén Darío, Jorge Luis Borges, Gabriela Mistral, Pablo Neruda, Octavio Paz, and others—parts of a tradition in which words are mechanisms of resistance against oppression. **Sponsor: Stave Puzzles**

MAY 4 – Abraham Lincoln, the Silent President-Elect. Presented with the Dartmouth History Department. In the 150th anniversary year of Lincoln's inauguration, preeminent Lincoln historian Harold Holzer considers Lincoln's silence prior to his inauguration, and the role it played in the sectional crisis and the Civil War. **Location: Filene Auditorium, Moore Hall, Dartmouth**

JUNE 1 – John Milton, Marriage and Friendship. Long before writing *Paradise Lost*, Milton urged Parliament to revise marriage laws to permit divorce more broadly, using classical theories of friendship. Dartmouth professor Tom Luxon explores how Milton's redefinition of marriage unintentionally charted a path toward making same-sex marriages imaginable. **Sponsor: The Norwich Bookstore (Rescheduled from February)**

Library Sponsors: The Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation • Friends of the Norwich Public Library • Harbor Mountain Press • Mascoma Savings Bank • Norwich Historical Society

Humanities Grants Deadlines 2011

Spring Round: *Letter of Intent:* February 28;
Application: March 31 (postmark date); *Decision:* May

Fall Round: *Letter of Intent:* September 9; *Application:*
October 21 (postmark date); *Decision:* December.

Rutland – Rutland Free Library

10 Court Street • 802.773.1860 • 7:00 PM



A 1983 launch of Space Shuttle Challenger. On January 28, 1986, Challenger and its seven-member crew were lost 73 seconds after launch when a booster failure resulted in the breakup of the vehicle. Courtesy NASA.

APRIL 6 — Courting Disaster: From the Vietnam War to 21st Century Terrorism.

Retired NBC correspondent Robert Hager relates stories from forty years on the front lines of network journalism—including the Munich Olympics massacre, the Islamic revolution in Iran, the losses of two space shuttles, 9/11, and more.

MAY 4 — Going to War in Shakespeare: Olivier, Branagh, and Henry V.

Using clips from the films of *Henry V* by Laurence Olivier (1944) and Kenneth Branagh (1989), Dartmouth professor Peter Saccio explores the ways this play speaks to our times.

JUNE 1 — Poetry of the Earth: Re-imagining Nature.

New Hampshire Poet Laureate and Dartmouth professor Cynthia Huntington examines poetry's changing language of nature and spirit in contemporary times, referencing the work of Mary Oliver, Jane Kenyon, and Mark Doty.

(Rescheduled from February)

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

APRIL 6 — The Obama Administration and the Middle East.

Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign promised change both at home and abroad. Journalist and UVM lecturer Gordon Robison examines whether the Obama Administration's approach to one key area of the world—the Middle East—differs from its predecessor's.

MAY 4 — Journey Toward Insight: Diaries and Letters of Anne Morrow Lindbergh, 1947–1986.

Author Reeve Lindbergh discusses collecting for publication four decades of previously unpublished diaries and letters written by her mother, Anne Morrow Lindbergh—shedding light on her mother's marriage to Charles Lindbergh and her take on key world events. **Sponsors:** *Bill and Sharon Biddle*

MAY 18 — Reconstructing Honor. Aine Donovan, executive director of Dartmouth's Ethics Institute, considers the meaning of honor in a world of rapidly changing social norms and presents a roadmap for reconstructing the idea of honor. **(Third Wednesday, Rescheduled from February)**

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

VHC Humanities Grants

The December grant awards totaled \$15,451 for projects that advance the humanities throughout Vermont.

- **American Invention and Innovation in Sound, Estey Organ Museum, Brattleboro, \$1,245**—for a pilot program in Southern Vermont schools to teach the history, technology, and cultural impact of Estey Organs.
- **14th Annual Green Mountain Film Festival, Focus on Film, Montpelier, \$2,590**—for showings of *Freedom Riders* followed by discussions with a former Freedom Rider.
- **Westward from Vermont, Henry Sheldon Museum, Middlebury, \$2,500**—to develop a learning kit and support school trips for Addison County students to visit the museum as part of their curriculum on the Westward movement.
- **Poetry Alive 2011, Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier, \$2,000**—for a celebration of National Poetry Month, including author visits, poetry readings, a poetry slam, films, and poems on display in Montpelier.
- **Place, Duty and Unity: Learning About Service, Northeast Kingdom Arts Council, Hardwick, \$116**—to support publicity for an event commemorating Lincoln's First Inaugural Address and sharing Civil War history of the Northeast Kingdom.
- **The Big Read: *The Things They Carried*, Northern Stage Company, White River Junction, \$2,000**—for lectures and discussions in libraries of *The Things They Carried*, the 2010-2011 selection for the nationwide reading program The Big Read.
- **Service and Sacrifice: Vermont's Civil War Generation, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, \$2,000**—for the development of Civil War exhibits, including the photographs of George Houghton, Charles Andrus' Grand Panorama of the Civil War, and the state collection of battle flags, as part of the VHS Saving Vermont's Treasures campaign.
- **2011 Teacher's Workshop, Weston Playhouse, \$3,000**—for a workshop for middle and high school literature, social sciences, and performing arts teachers that focuses on the production of *Saint Ex*, inspired by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.

What are the Humanities ...

- A favorite poem
- Humanities camps for middle school students
- A discussion of the film *Freedom Riders*
- Vermont's Civil War legacy
- A reading program on soldiers' return home
- A talk on Latin American poetry
- Film and fiction
- A discussion of women's literature

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Inside this issue

- Civil War Book of Days E-newsletter • page 3
- Vermont Reads *To Kill a Mockingbird* • pages 4–5
- Calendar of Events • pages 8–12
- First Wednesdays Monthly Lectures in Nine Vermont Communities • pages 13–15

The Inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln, March 4, 1861. Preeminent Lincoln historian Harold Holzer will discuss Lincoln's silence prior to his inauguration at a First Wednesdays lecture on May 4 at Dartmouth. See page 14. Library of Congress photo.

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