



1st Wednesdays

Humanities Lecture Series

October 2016 – May 2017

FREE PUBLIC TALKS
At Libraries around Vermont



Vermont
Humanities



A Vermont Humanities Council Program

1st Wednesdays

Including Three UVM Humanities Center Lectures on Happiness

Hosted by nine libraries around Vermont

7:00 PM on First Wednesdays

October 2016 through May 2017

- Brattleboro
- Middlebury
- Norwich
- Essex Junction
- Montpelier
- Rutland
- Manchester
- Newport
- St. Johnsbury

Statewide Underwriters:

National Life Group Foundation ▪ Vermont Department of Libraries

Talks marked “A Pulitzer Prizes Centennial program” are part of a joint venture of the Pulitzer Prizes Board and the Federation of State Humanities Councils in celebration of the 2016 centennial of the Prizes. The initiative seeks to illuminate the impact of journalism and the humanities on American life today, to imagine their future, and to inspire new generations to consider the values represented by the body of Pulitzer Prize-winning work.

First Wednesdays programs are underwritten in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Vermont Department of Libraries.

The Vermont Humanities Council (VHC) is under grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or VHC.

Vermont Humanities Council

11 Loomis Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602

vermonthumanities.org, 802.262.2626

PHOTO CREDITS

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Brooks
Memorial
Library
802.254.5290

7:00 PM



VHC Underwriters

Program:

Carole and Geof Gaddis

Chroma Technology

Crosby-Gannett Fund of
the Vermont Community
Foundation

Merchants Bank

University of Vermont
Humanities Center

Vermont Public Radio

Library Underwriters

Brattleboro Camera Club

Brattleboro Savings & Loan

Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC

The Richards Group

Starr Latronica

World Learning

A program of



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Brattleboro

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 5 ▪ Catherine Sanderson

The Science of Happiness

Amherst College professor Catherine Sanderson describes cutting-edge research from the field of positive psychology on the factors that do (and do not) predict happiness, and shares practical ways to increase one's own psychological well-being. [A UVM Humanities Center Lecture on Happiness.](#)
Underwriter: University of Vermont Humanities Center

NOVEMBER 2 ▪ David Brancaccio

What This Country Needs is a Secretary of the Future

David Brancaccio, host of NPR's *Marketplace Morning Report*, considers one way our democracy might get beyond the short-term focus of politics and address long-term challenges such as sustainability, infrastructure, and healthcare. It's an approach suggested to him by a beloved author. **Location:** Centre Congregational Church. **Underwriter:** Vermont Public Radio

DECEMBER 7 ▪ Huck Gutman

William Carlos Williams:

America's Most Revolutionary Twentieth Century Poet

UVM professor Huck Gutman considers how William Carlos Williams changed American and world poetry forever by creating a new poetic language and new poetic forms. [A Pulitzer Prizes Centennial program.](#)
Underwriter: Chroma Technology

JANUARY 4 ▪ Peter Travis

Chaucer's Canterbury Tales: Still Funny After All These Years

Dartmouth professor Peter Travis discusses the genius and enduring humanity of Geoffrey Chaucer, the 14th-century "Father of English Poetry."

FEBRUARY 1 ▪ Marlene Heck

Building Monticello

Jefferson never knew the Monticello of today—in perfect condition, impeccably furnished. Dartmouth College senior lecturer Marlene Heck explains the lifelong project Jefferson called his "essay in architecture."
Underwriter: Carole and Geof Gaddis

MARCH 1 ▪ Suzanne Brown

Jane Austen in Her Time

Jane Austen lived in exciting times, and yet until recently was considered "untouched by the political, intellectual, and artistic revolutions of her age." Drawing on Austen's novels, Dartmouth visiting assistant professor Suzanne Brown shows how Austen was in fact a keen observer of her era's values who both shared and critiqued them. **Underwriter:** Merchants Bank

APRIL 5 ▪ Erin Sassin

Reinventing the Family Home

Middlebury College professor Erin Sassin examines how American reformers and homeowners have, in pursuit of "the simple life," attempted to reinvent the form and idea of the single-family home, from farmhouses and communal experiments to the current tiny house phenomenon.
Underwriter: Crosby-Gannett Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation

MAY 3 ▪ Colin Calloway

The Indian World of George Washington

Dartmouth College professor Colin Calloway discusses the first president's relations with Indian peoples and considers how Native American nations and lands shaped the man who shaped the republic.

Brownell
Library
802.878.6955
7:00 PM



VHC Underwriters

Program:

Bern and Peter Collins
Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC
Husky Injection Molding
Systems, Inc.
Lisa Schamberg and
Pat Robins
University of Vermont
Vermont Council on
World Affairs

Library Underwriters

Brownell Library
Foundation
The Essex Agency Inc.
Kolvoord, Overton
and Wilson
RETN

A program of



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Humanities**

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Essex Junction

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 5 • Isabel Wilkerson

***The Warmth of Other Suns:
The Epic Story of America's Great Migration***

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities in search of a better life—a movement that reshaped culture and politics and set in motion racial challenges we now face. **A Pulitzer Prizes Centennial program. Location: Ira Allen Chapel, Burlington, 5:00 PM. Underwriter: University of Vermont**

NOVEMBER 2 • Willard Sterne Randall

Hamilton: The Man and the Musical

From his birth in the Caribbean to death in a duel, Alexander Hamilton's life was part romance, part tragedy—and the inspiration for the blockbuster Broadway musical. Hamilton biographer Willard Sterne Randall discusses the man and the musical, with excerpts from its score. **Underwriter: Lisa Schamberg and Pat Robins**

DECEMBER 7 • George Jaeger

America in a New, More Dangerous World

Veteran diplomat George Jaeger discusses recent rapid changes in world power relationships and key challenges America faces: from our perception of our world role and nuclear policy to our critical relationships with Europe, Russia, and China. **Underwriter: Vermont Council on World Affairs**

JANUARY 11 (Note date) • Huck Gutman

Walt Whitman and the Civil War

Whitman's Civil War writings give us a dual portrait, first the war as “a strange, unloosen'd wondrous time,” and second the emergence of a new Whitman. UVM professor Huck Gutman examines some of the most remarkable poems about war ever published and looks at Whitman's remarkable development. **Underwriter: Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC**

FEBRUARY 1 • Thomas Denenberg

The Wyeths: First Family of American Art

Shelburne Museum director Thomas Denenberg discusses the Wyeths—N. C. (1882–1945), Andrew (1917–2009), and Jamie (b. 1946)—and offers new perspectives on these painters. **Underwriter: Bern and Peter Collins**

MARCH 1 • Irene Kacandes

Conversations That Change How We Live and Die

Dartmouth professor Irene Kacandes draws our attention to passages from great literature and nonfiction that can help launch conversations about living and dying. **Underwriter: Husky Injection Molding Systems, Inc.**

APRIL 12 (Note date) • Glenn Andres

Building for a Gilded Age

Middlebury College art and architecture professor emeritus Glenn Andres explores how the US asserted itself architecturally on the world stage around the turn of the twentieth century, a time of bold experiments, proud philanthropy, and a desire to rival the Old World in splendor.

MAY 3 • Ann DeMarle

Video Games: Changing Stories and Changing Behaviors

Ann DeMarle, director of Champlain College's Emergent Media Center, explores digital gaming, how designers and players both participate in the storytelling process, and ways some game creators seek to effect social change through gaming.

Host:
Manchester
Community
Library

802.362.2607

Location:
First
Congregational
Church

7:00 PM



VHC Underwriters

Program:

Burr & Burton Academy
Keelan Family Foundation
Merchants Bank

The Preservation Trust of Vermont

r.k. Miles

Southern Vermont
Arts Center

Woolmington, Campbell,
Bernal & Bent, P.C.

Library Underwriters

The Perfect Wife
Restaurant and Tavern

Spiral Press Café

Vermont Renewable Fuels

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Manchester

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 5 ▪ Michael Puett and Christine Gross-Loh **What Chinese Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life**

Harvard Professor of Chinese History Michael Puett and journalist Christine Gross-Loh, co-authors of the international bestseller *The Path: What Chinese Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life*, share how Puett's hugely popular course on Chinese philosophy is life-changing for many of his students. **Underwriter: Burr & Burton Academy**

NOVEMBER 2 ▪ Michael Arnowitt **Chopin's Preludes**

In this performance talk, pianist Michael Arnowitt explores the life of Frederic Chopin and his Preludes, quintessential Romantic miniatures that span the full range of human experience and emotion. **Underwriter: r.k. Miles**

DECEMBER 7 ▪ Ed McMahon **Where Am I? The Power of Uniqueness**

Former Scenic America president and TED talk lecturer Ed McMahon, who holds the Charles E. Fraser Chair on Sustainable Development at the Urban Land Institute, highlights the importance of a sense of place and explores why our physical surroundings are worth caring about. Presented with The Preservation Trust of Vermont

JANUARY 4 ▪ Katherine Paterson **Reading for the Life of the World**

Vermonter Katherine Paterson, award-winning author of *Bridge to Terabithia* and *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, considers the importance and many benefits of reading. **Underwriter: Merchants Bank**

FEBRUARY 1 ▪ Susan Ackerman **All About Eve**

Dartmouth religion professor Susan Ackerman considers both traditional and contemporary interpretations of the Adam and Eve story and how recent scholarship on women and the Bible pushes us to rethink our common assumptions about Eve. **Underwriter: Woolmington, Campbell, Bernal & Bent, P.C.**

MARCH 1 ▪ Kirsten Hoving **The Impressionists: Painters of Modern Life**

Middlebury professor Kirsten Hoving examines how Impressionists focused in their paintings of contemporary life on cutting-edge modern subjects, imbuing them with controversial, even shocking, meanings. **Underwriter: Southern Vermont Arts Center**

APRIL 5 ▪ Mark Stoler **Churchill and Roosevelt: The Personal Element in Their Partnership**

University of Vermont History Professor Emeritus Mark A. Stoler examines the important personal relationship between Britain's Prime Minister and America's President during their World War II alliance. **Underwriter: Keelan Family Foundation**

MAY 3 ▪ David Blight **Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory**

Yale professor David Blight discusses America's collective memory of the Civil War and the perilous path of remembering and forgetting. **Underwriter: Keelan Family Foundation**

Illesley
Public Library
802.388.4095
7:00 PM



VHC Underwriters

Series:

The Residence at
Otter Creek

Program:

A Friend of the Series
Steven Jupiter Gallery
Structural Energy Corp.
Tapia & Huckabay, P.C.

Library Underwriter
Friends of Illesley Library

A program of



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Middlebury

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 6 (Note date)

Michael Puett and Christine Gross-Loh

What Chinese Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life

Harvard Professor of Chinese History Michael Puett and journalist Christine Gross-Loh, co-authors of the international bestseller *The Path: What Chinese Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life*, share how Puett's hugely popular course on Chinese philosophy is life-changing for many of his students. **Location: Middlebury College, Dana Auditorium.**
Underwriter: Structural Energy Corp.

NOVEMBER 2 - James Maroney

Memoirs of an Art Dealer

Former Head of American Paintings at Christie's and Sotheby's James Maroney shares stories of his experiences in the art world of the 1970s when American art began to come into its own.
Underwriter: Steven Jupiter Gallery

DECEMBER 7 - Amy Hungerford

Wallace Stevens and the Art of the Empty Mind

Yale Professor of English and Dean of Humanities Amy Hungerford demonstrates how, in the early 20th century, Wallace Stevens set out to clear away a Romantic view of nature and see the world freshly in his distinctly modern poetry. **A Pulitzer Prizes Centennial program.**
Underwriter: Tapia & Huckabay, P.C.

JANUARY 4 - Annelise Orleck

What If Poor Women Ran the World?

Labor historian Annelise Orleck tells the story of nine African-American union maids in Las Vegas during the 1970s who challenged welfare cuts and built a long-lasting, vibrant anti-poverty program run by poor mothers.

FEBRUARY 1 - Jane Chaplin

The Invention of History

We take history for granted, but it owes its inception and survival to two extraordinary individuals. Middlebury College professor Jane Chaplin looks at the contributions of Herodotus (ca. 484-424) and Thucydides (ca. 455-400) to the development of historiography.

MARCH 1 - Michael Arnowitt

Stravinsky's Rite of Spring and the Music of 1911

Igor Stravinsky's ballet *The Rite of Spring* is widely considered the most influential composition of the twentieth century. Pianist Michael Arnowitt examines this landmark work, and other pieces written in 1911 by Ravel, Schoenberg, Bartok, and Rachmaninov. **Location: Town Hall Theater, Middlebury.** **Underwriter: A Friend of the Series**

APRIL 5 - Carol Berry

Vincent Van Gogh and the Books He Read

Van Gogh's letters reveal that his paintings and drawings were inspired by his reading as well as by people, nature, and other painters' work. Art historian Carol Berry shows the profound influence of the works of Harriet Beecher Stowe, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, and others on Van Gogh's life and art.

MAY 3 - Ilan Stavans

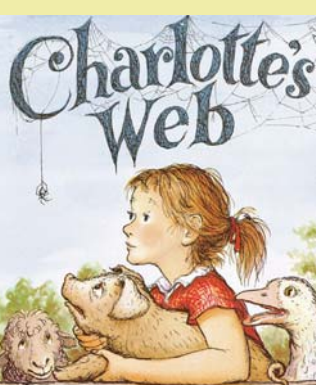
Don Quixote of La Mancha: The Novel That Invented Modernity

Celebrated literary critic and author Ilan Stavans considers the impact of the masterful *Don Quixote* in the 401st anniversary year of Cervantes's death.

Kellogg-
Hubbard
Library

802.223.3338

7:00 PM



VHC Underwriters

Series:

Vermont College
of Fine Arts

Program:

Bear Pond Books

Pomerleau Real Estate

University of Vermont
Humanities Center

Vermont Council
on World Affairs

A program of



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Montpelier

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 5 ▪ Susanne Claxton

The Examined Life

Socrates famously proclaimed, "The unexamined life is not worth living." Philosophy scholar Suzanne Claxton explores what constitutes the examined life and how we may best pursue it.

NOVEMBER 2 ▪ Nancy Jay Crumbine

Celebrating E. B. White

From *Charlotte's Web* to his exquisite essays in *The New Yorker*, E. B. White remains the master's master of elegant prose, sophisticated wit, and graceful irreverence. Drawing on his stories, essays, poems, and letters, Dartmouth professor Nancy Jay Crumbine celebrates White's versatility and enormous legacy. [A Pulitzer Prizes Centennial program.](#)

Underwriter: Pomerleau Real Estate

DECEMBER 7 ▪ Billy Collins

An Evening with Billy Collins

The former US Poet Laureate will speak and read from his work. Reception in the Cedar Creek Room follows, hosted by Friends of the Vermont State House. [A UVM Humanities Center Lecture on Happiness.](#)

Location: House Chamber, Vermont State House. Underwriter: University of Vermont Humanities Center

JANUARY 4 ▪ Elizabeth Morrison

Zen, Past and Present:

Where Did It Come From and Where is It Now?

Most Americans have heard of Zen Buddhism, and some Americans practice it. What is this form of Buddhism and how did it arise?

Middlebury College religion professor Elizabeth Morrison examines the history of Zen and its place in the US.

FEBRUARY 1 ▪ David Mills

Martin Luther King: Dare to Dream

Poet and performer David Mills portrays Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., providing background on King's life and presenting his "I Have a Dream" speech and "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." Location: Farmers Night Series, House Chamber, Vermont State House, 7:30 PM.

MARCH 1 ▪ Stan Sloan

The United States and NATO: Lead or Leave?

During the 2016 presidential campaign, some questioned traditional US policy by calling NATO obsolete. Stan Sloan, Visiting Scholar at Middlebury College and author of *Defense of the West*, considers the costs and benefits of America's leadership of NATO and discusses options for US relations with its European allies. Underwriter: Vermont Council on World Affairs

APRIL 5 ▪ Jay Parini

Forty Years of Poetry

Author and Middlebury professor Jay Parini reads from his recently published *New and Collected Poems, 1975-2015* and discusses why poetry matters in a world of prose. Underwriter: Bear Pond Books

MAY 3 ▪ Ronald Sobel

The Meaning of Faith in Christian and Jewish Thought

Ronald B. Sobel, Senior Rabbi Emeritus of the world's largest Jewish house of worship, examines the similarities and differences in the idea and reality of faith as understood and lived in both religions.

Goodrich
Memorial
Library

802.334.7902

7:00 PM



VHC Underwriters

Program:

Passumpsic Savings
Bank Member FDIC

Stanstead College

Library Underwriter

Community National Bank

A program of



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802.262.2626

Newport

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 5 ▪ Reeve Lindbergh

Lindbergh and *The Spirit of St. Louis*

Writer Reeve Lindbergh tells how *The Spirit of St. Louis*, the plane in which 25-year-old Charles Lindbergh made his non-stop New York-to-Paris flight, was also the vehicle that brought together her father and mother, and established a family. [A Pulitzer Prizes Centennial program.](#)

Underwriter: Passumpsic Savings Bank Member FDIC

NOVEMBER 2 ▪ Glenn Andres

The Buildings of Vermont

Middlebury College art and architecture professor emeritus Glenn Andres looks beyond Vermont's pastoral stereotypes to examine the remarkable range, quality, humanity, and persistence of its built landscape.

DECEMBER 7 ▪ Christopher Planetta

Classic Films of 1966

Stanstead College educator Christopher Planetta delves into classic films from fifty years ago, screening selected scenes, discussing the era's Hollywood stars and legendary directors, and considering whether the films have stood the test of time. Underwriter: [Stanstead College](#)

JANUARY 4 ▪ John Keenan

Buddhism and Christianity

John P. Keenan, Emeritus Professor of Religion at Middlebury College, explores how Buddhism explicitly undermines the truth of all religious claims—doing so, ironically, in order to reinvigorate its practitioners' understanding and practice.

FEBRUARY 1 ▪ Carol Berry

Vincent Van Gogh: What Art Influenced Him, and His Influence on Art

Art historian Carol Berry considers the experiences, painters, and authors that influenced Van Gogh's work, and looks at his influence on twentieth-century artists.

MARCH 1 ▪ Jane Beck

Daisy Turner's Kin: An African American Family Saga

Vermont Folklife Center founder Jane Beck considers the family narrative of Daisy Turner (1883-1988), from enslavement in Africa to a farmstead in Grafton.

APRIL 5 ▪ Chris Bohjalian

The Genocide and the Love Story: Fiction as Activism

This April marks the 102nd anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide. Chris Bohjalian—Vermont, *New York Times* bestselling novelist, and descendant of survivors of the Genocide—shares in words and photographs the role that history plays in his work.

MAY 3 ▪ Derek Boothby

American Exceptionalism Revisited

Derek Boothby, former director of the UN's Department of Political Affairs, considers how the determination of America's original settlers to create a society different from the 18th-century European model has fared in the long term, and offers a naturalized American's assessment of whether modern America is all that different from anywhere else.

Hosts:

Norwich
Public Library
802.649.1184

Norwich
Historical
Society

Location:

Norwich
Congregational
Church

7:00 PM



VHC Underwriters

Program:

Crossroads Academy

Dartmouth College
History Department

The Norwich Bookstore

Relatives of E. B. White

Smith & Vasant
Architects PC

Stave Puzzles

University of Vermont
Humanities Center

Library Underwriters

Friends of the
Norwich Public Library

The Jack & Dorothy
Byrne Foundation

Ledyard National Bank

Mascoma Savings Bank

Norwich Historical Society

A program of



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Norwich

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 5 • Michael Arnowitt

Beethoven's Sketchbooks

In this performance lecture, pianist Michael Arnowitt considers Beethoven's creative process by exploring Beethoven's sketchbooks.

Underwriter: Stave Puzzles

NOVEMBER 2 • Darrin McMahon

Pursuing Happiness through the Ages

Dartmouth professor Darrin McMahon explores the pursuit of happiness, past and present and in other cultures, and discusses how the recent "science" of happiness is consistent with truths long understood by the world's major religious and wisdom traditions. A UVM Humanities Center Lecture on Happiness.

Underwriter: University of Vermont Humanities Center

DECEMBER 7 • Virginia Heffernan

Magic and Loss: The Internet as Art

New York Times journalist Virginia Heffernan considers the Internet as a vast, collective work of art—a masterpiece made and remade by over three billion users in our digital civilization.

Underwriter: The Norwich Bookstore

JANUARY 4 • Paul Vincent

The Voyage of the St. Louis and American Refugee Policy

Keene State professor Paul Vincent tells the story of the 1939 voyage of the *St. Louis*—carrying mostly Jewish refugees fleeing Germany but denied entry to the US—and argues that many historians have failed to account for the event's political context or the history of US immigration in their criticism of the Roosevelt administration's actions.

Underwriter: Crossroads Academy

FEBRUARY 1 • John Stauffer

Picturing Frederick Douglass:

The Nineteenth Century's Most Photographed American

Professor of English and African American Studies at Harvard John Stauffer shares excerpts and images from his new book *Picturing Frederick Douglass*, presenting Douglass as a pioneer in photography, both as a stately subject and prescient theorist who understood the power of the nascent art form.

Underwriter: Smith & Vasant Architects PC

MARCH 1 • Nancy Jay Crumbine

Celebrating E. B. White

From *Charlotte's Web* to his exquisite essays in *The New Yorker*, E. B. White remains the master's master of elegant prose, sophisticated wit, and graceful irreverence. Drawing on his stories, essays, poems, and letters, Dartmouth professor Nancy Jay Crumbine celebrates White's versatility and enormous legacy.

Underwriter: Relatives of E. B. White

APRIL 5 • David Hackett Fischer

Paul Revere's Ride: A New Look at an Old Story

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David Hackett Fischer looks at what actually happened the night of April 18, 1775, and examines the character and actions of Paul Revere, a far more complex man than the myth suggests.

Presented with Dartmouth College History Department

MAY 3 • Heather Cox Richardson

A History of the Republican Party

Boston College professor Heather Cox Richardson considers how, through its 150+ year history, the GOP has alternately focused on property rights and on equal opportunity, and what that might mean for its future.

Rutland Free
Library
802.773.1860
7:00 PM



VHC Underwriters

Program:

Jim and Anita Alic

The Marble Valley
Regional Correctional
Facility

Merchants Bank

Vermont Council on
World Affairs

Library Underwriter

Friends of Rutland
Free Library

A program of



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Rutland

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 5 ▪ Aaron Krerowicz

The Beatles: Band of the Sixties

In this multimedia presentation, Beatles music scholar Aaron Krerowicz explores the band's music beginning with the band's seminal visits to Hamburg and continuing through Beatlemania to *Abbey Road*.

Underwriter: Jim and Anita Alic

NOVEMBER 2 ▪ Leslie Butler

American Democracy and the Woman Question

Dartmouth history professor Leslie Butler considers how, long before women had the right to vote, scrutiny of newly democratic America in the nineteenth century provoked debates over the place of women in the polity and in American political thought.

DECEMBER 7 ▪ Francois Clemmons

If You Don't Want Your Slave to Speak Freely, You Should Also Forbid Him to Sing!

In this performance lecture, Middlebury College Artist-in-Residence Dr. Francois Clemmons illustrates how the Negro Spiritual grew out of slaves' experiences. Underwriter: Merchants Bank

JANUARY 4 ▪ Thomas Denenberg

Grandma Moses: American Modern

In this illustrated lecture, Shelburne Museum director Thomas Denenberg explores the work of beloved painter Anna Mary Robertson "Grandma" Moses (1860-1961) and counters her marginalization as a pop culture phenomenon by placing her career within the context of mid-century American culture and modernist art. Underwriter: Merchants Bank

FEBRUARY 1 ▪ Gordon Robison

The New Administration and the Middle East

A new occupant in the White House does not mean that many long-standing Middle East problems have gone away. Journalist and UVM lecturer Gordon Robison considers how the new president might address Washington's chilly relations with both Israel and the Gulf States, the continuing challenge of civil wars in Syria and Yemen, and the migration crisis. Underwriter: Vermont Council on World Affairs

MARCH 1 ▪ Woden Teachout

What We Learn When We Learn About History

Henry Ford famously said, "History is more or less bunk." Author, historian, and professor Woden Teachout discusses why history does matter, exploring the intellectual skills and larger cultural understandings that come from studying the past.

APRIL 5 ▪ David Macaulay

Life in the Studio

David Macaulay, award-winning author and illustrator of *Castle*, *Cathedral*, and *The Way We Work*, discusses current projects and challenges.

MAY 3 ▪ Polly Young-Eisendrath

What the Buddhists Teach: Finding Clarity in Everyday Life

How do we develop mindfulness and a compassionate optimism about a highly imperfect world? Author Dr. Polly Young-Eisendrath discusses the Buddhist model for remaining fully engaged in the ups and downs of everyday life. Underwriter: The Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility

St. Johnsbury
Athenaeum
802.748.8291
7:00 PM



VHC Underwriters

Series:

St. Johnsbury Academy

Program:

Friends of First
Wednesdays at the
Athenaeum

Gil Steil Associates

Passumpsic Savings
Bank Member FDIC

Vermont Council on
World Affairs

Library Underwriters

Adler & McCabe, PLLC

Friends of the
St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

A program of



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St. Johnsbury 1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 5 • Philip Caputo

Putting the Sword to the Pen

Journalist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Rumor of War* Philip Caputo reflects on how, in his work, war is a context in which our contradictory natures play out, often with stark clarity. [A Pulitzer Prizes Centennial program](#)

NOVEMBER 2 • Ilan Stavans

Hamlet in Prison

Celebrated literary critic Ilan Stavans discusses his teaching Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in correctional facilities, and shares insights his classes have made about the play and revenge, freedom, and redemption. [Underwriter: Friends of First Wednesdays at the Athenaeum](#)

DECEMBER 7 • Kelley Helmstutler Di Dio

The Medici Grand Dukes:

Art and Politics in Renaissance Florence

UVM professor Kelley Helmstutler Di Dio considers how, despite scandals and even murder, the Medici Grand Dukes maintained their power and prominence for nearly two centuries by giving gifts of art by the great Florentine masters to kings, popes, and emperors.

JANUARY 4 • Paul Whalen

Face to Face with the Emotional Brain

Whether around the caveman's fire or the conference table, no signal is more important to humans' interpreting social interactions and future behavior than the smile. Dartmouth Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences Paul Whalen explores how the human brain processes the facial expressions of others and what these responses mean for understanding our emotional lives.

FEBRUARY 1 • Emily Bernard

“In This Here Place”: Race, Nation, and Toni Morrison's *Beloved*

UVM professor Emily Bernard explores how *Beloved* argues that America must reckon with the consequences of our nation's original sin—slavery. [Underwriter: Gil Steil Associates](#)

MARCH 1 • Willard Sterne Randall

Hamilton: The Man and the Musical

From his birth in the Caribbean to death in a duel, Alexander Hamilton's life was part romance, part tragedy—and the inspiration for the blockbuster Broadway musical. Hamilton biographer Willard Sterne Randall discusses the man and the musical, with excerpts from its score. [Underwriter: Passumpsic Savings Bank Member FDIC](#)

APRIL 5 • Jane Carroll

Reformation and Response: What Luther Did to Art

Dartmouth professor Jane Carroll examines how the Reformation, driven by Martin Luther's rejection of the establishment Church, brought into question the assumptions by which most Europeans had lived, and how this played out in the art of the time.

MAY 3 • Mark Stoler

World War II: American Perceptions and Historical Realities

Americans have held strong beliefs regarding WWII's causes, consequences, and historical lessons—lessons cited to justify postwar US policies. UVM History Professor Emeritus Mark A. Stoler compares these beliefs about the war with what historians now maintain. [Underwriter: Vermont Council on World Affairs](#)



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