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- The Alma Gibbs Donchian Foundation
- National Life Group Foundation
- Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Vermont Department of Libraries

# Essex Junction

## 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays

**SEPTEMBER 27** (Note date and time) • Calvin Trillin  
**The Writing Life**

Writer, humorist, and regular contributor to *The New Yorker* since 1963, Calvin Trillin takes an antic look at writing as an occupation in a country in which the shelf life of a book is “somewhere between milk and yogurt.”  
**Location: Ira Allen Chapel, Burlington, 5:00 PM.** *Co-sponsored with the Office of the President, University of Vermont*

**NOVEMBER 1** • Richard Wolfson  
**Einstein in a Nutshell**

Einstein's most famous contribution to science—his theory of relativity—is based on an idea so simple it can be stated in one sentence. Yet from that simple idea, explains Middlebury professor Richard Wolfson, follow conclusions that have revolutionized our notions of space, time, and causality.  
**Underwriter: Husky Injection Molding Systems, Inc.**

**DECEMBER 6** • Jane Carroll  
**Reformation and Response: What Luther Did to Art**

Dartmouth professor Jane Carroll examines how the Reformation, driven by Martin Luther 500 years ago, affected Europeans' assumptions and the art of the time. **Underwriter: Bern Collins**

**JANUARY 3** • Susanne Claxton  
**The Examined Life**

Socrates proclaimed, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Philosophy scholar Susanne Claxton explores what constitutes the examined life and how to best pursue it. **Underwriter: Husky Injection Molding Systems, Inc.**

**FEBRUARY 7** • Stan Sloan  
**Transatlantic Traumas: Endangering the West**

The West has been challenged by President Trump's policies, Russian covert actions, and domestic politics. Stan Sloan, Visiting Scholar at Middlebury and author of *Defense of the West*, asks if a perfect storm of external threats and internal politics is undermining Western values and interests.  
**Underwriter: Vermont Council on World Affairs**

**FEBRUARY 21** (Note date) • Alison Bechdel  
**Self-Confessed: The Comics of Alison Bechdel**

From her long-running comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For* to her family memoirs *Fun Home* and *Are You My Mother?* Alison Bechdel has explored in graphic detail the overlap between the personal and the political, the domestic and the global. In this illustrated talk, she discusses how her cartooning has evolved. **Location: Ira Allen Chapel, UVM, Burlington.** *Co-sponsored with the Fleming Museum of Art and the UVM Department of English.*

**APRIL 11** (Note date) • Marlene Heck  
**Building Monticello**

Jefferson never knew the Monticello of today—in perfect condition, impeccably furnished. Dartmouth senior lecturer Marlene Heck explains the lifelong project Jefferson called his “essay in architecture.”  
**Underwriter: Lisa Schamberg and Pat Robins**

**MAY 2** • Polly Young-Eisendrath  
**Love and Marriage in the 21st Century**

Dr. Polly Young-Eisendrath looks at the transformation of marriage over the past century from a traditional contract to one that celebrates idealization in the form of “true love,” and suggests why that change matters.