

St. Johnsbury
Athenaeum
802.748.8291
7:00 PM



A program of



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St. Johnsbury 1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 3 - Katherine Paterson

Bread and Roses, Too

Acclaimed children's book author Katherine Paterson discusses her novel of historical fiction that tells the story of the 1912 "Bread and Roses" strike in the Lawrence, Massachusetts textile mills through the eyes of an Italian-American girl and a runaway boy.

NOVEMBER 7 - Stan Sloan

The Fate of Western Democracy

Liberal democracy—the system of representative democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law on which America was founded—is being challenged by both foreign powers and domestic politicians who favor more autocratic governance. Visiting scholar at Middlebury College Stan Sloan discusses these threats. **Underwriter:** Vermont Council on World Affairs

DECEMBER 6 (Note date) - Barry Deitz

Charles Dickens and the Writing of *A Christmas Carol*

Dickens scholar Barry Deitz considers Dickens's career up to the publication of *A Christmas Carol* in 1843, what the novella's success meant to Dickens's life and work, and how the story has resonated since, including in films.

JANUARY 2 - Damascus Kafumbe

Music, Storytelling, and Politics

Ethnomusicologist and Middlebury assistant professor Damascus Kafumbe examines music-making and storytelling, especially as they are used both to maintain political power and to help people survive political repression in his native Uganda.

FEBRUARY 6 - David Shribman and Cynthia Skrzycki

The News about the News

Journalists Cindy Skrzycki and Pulitzer Prize winner David Shribman examine the current media landscape, distinguishing between fake and real news, amateur and professional, slanted and objective. **Underwriter:** The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in partnership with Pulitzer Prizes

MARCH 6 - Will Nash

The Power of the Journey in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Zora Neale Hurston's landmark novel tells the story of Janie Mae Crawford's journey from adolescence to maturity, from dependence to autonomy, and most importantly, from silence to speech. Middlebury professor Will Nash examines Janie's timeless journey. *Books available to read before or afterwards.*

APRIL 3 - 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 2 (Note date) - Eleanor Jones Harvey

Bierstadt's "Domes of Yosemite": The Creation of an Icon

Yosemite was more than the first federally protected American landscape; it was an emblem of freedom in the years surrounding the Civil War. Eleanor Jones Harvey, senior curator at Smithsonian American Art Museum, discusses the story behind Albert Bierstadt's monumental painting, weaving together several historical threads to deepen our appreciation of Yosemite as part of our national identity. **Underwriter:** Passumpsic Savings Bank ^{Member FDIC}