

Rutland Free
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A program of



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Statewide Underwriters:

- **The Alma Gibbs Donchian Foundation**
- **Vermont Department of Libraries**
- **The Windham Foundation**

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Rutland

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 3 - Paul Monod

The British Monarchy: Politics, Money, and Public Image

Americans were fascinated by the British royal family long before Meghan Markle, but few have understood its history. What role has the monarchy played in the British constitution? How is it financed, and how important is its public image? Middlebury professor Paul Monod addresses these questions. *Underwriter: Phyllis and Michael Wells*

NOVEMBER 7 - 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.

DECEMBER 5 - Jane Lindholm

Objectivity in the Fake News Era

VPR host Jane Lindholm offers ways for listeners to ensure that the news they get is accurate, and for news organizations to safeguard their reporting as fair and correct. *Co-sponsored with Vermont Public Radio. Underwriter: The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in partnership with Pulitzer Prizes*

JANUARY 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. Hamilton biographer Willard Sterne Randall discusses the man and the blockbuster Broadway musical.

FEBRUARY 6 - Jane Chaplin

The Invention of History

The idea of writing history didn't always exist. Middlebury professor Jane Chaplin describes the inception of history, which we owe to two extraordinary Greeks, Herodotus and Thucydides, a fascinating story whether one is interested in history or not. *Underwriter: Vermont Council on World Affairs*

MARCH 6 - Catharine Wright

Outlaw Women

Feminist writers worldwide have constructed characters who resist dominant power structures. Middlebury professor Catharine Wright discusses several such figures in fiction and memoir and considers the politics of our own reading practices. *Underwriter: The Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility*

APRIL 3 - Richard Wolfson

Einstein in a Nutshell

Einstein's famous 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: Jim Alic*

MAY 1 - James Davis

Civility and Its Discontents

While many pundits lament the death of civility in American politics, others argue that a commitment to civility minimizes our differences in the name of public nicety. Middlebury religion professor James Davis explains why civility is essential for a well-ordered democracy. *Partner: Middlebury College and the Mellon Foundation*