



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

# Brattleboro

Brooks Memorial Library • 7:00 PM • 802.254.5290

**OCTOBER 2** • Amer Latif

### Approaching Islam, Approaching Difference

The Qur'an states that God created differences not only as a test for humanity but also as a path toward self-knowledge. Marlboro College professor Amer Latif considers how the Qur'an frames the perennial problem of living more harmoniously in a diverse world.

**Underwriter:** Carole and Geof Gaddis

**NOVEMBER 6** • Kate O'Neill

### A Love Story from the Opioid Epidemic

In October 2018, a young mother named Madelyn Linsenmeir died after a long struggle with addiction. Her obituary was read online by millions of people. Madelyn's sister, writer Kate O'Neill, shares her family's experience loving and losing Maddie, the stories of other Vermonters impacted by this disease, and potential solutions to the crisis.

**DECEMBER 4** • Richard Wright

### US Immigration Policy in Historical Perspective

One would think that current anxieties about immigration in the US have never been more intense, but history suggests otherwise. Dartmouth professor Richard Wright examines the present-day contradictions of US immigration policy and places them in historical perspective.

**JANUARY 8** • Kevin Gardner

### The History and Structure of Stone Walls

New England has thousands of miles of stone walls. Author and builder Kevin Gardner discusses the history of stone walls and how they became a significant element of our landscape, all while building a miniature New England wall in the library.

**Underwriter:** Trow & Holden Company

**FEBRUARY 5** • Ellen W. Kaplan

### Refugee Theater: Kurdish and Yazidi Women Speak Out

Rojava, a revolutionary experiment in Kurdish Syria, attempts to create an inclusive democracy safe from ISIS, Turkish incursion, and Syria's civil war. Smith College professor Ellen W. Kaplan discusses interviewing women, activists, refugees, and fighters from the Rojava region, and transforming their experiences into theater.

**MARCH 4**

Andy Kolovos and Mary Wesley

### Come and Listen

In this interactive "listening party," archivist Andy Kolovos and producer Mary Wesley share audio clips from the Vermont Folklife Center's archives showcasing Vermont's past and present diversity.

**Underwriter:** Peter Gilbert Endowment Fund

**APRIL 1** • William Edelglass

### Mindfulness: Its History, Practice, and Meaning

Marlboro College professor William Edelglass traces the history of mindfulness from multiple traditions, starting with early Buddhist texts and ending with the secularization of mindfulness in contemporary American society.

**Underwriter:** Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, former president, Marlboro College

**MAY 6** • James Chase Sanchez

### The Salt of the Earth: The Rhetoric of White Supremacy

In 2014 in Grand Saline, Texas, a 79-year-old white Methodist minister named Charles Moore set himself on fire as a final protest against the community's racism. Drawing from his documentary film *Man on Fire*, Middlebury professor James Chase Sanchez discusses the rhetoric of white supremacy and suggests ways communities might address bigotry.

**Partner:** Middlebury College and the Mellon Foundation

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