



# 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays

# Manchester

Host: Manchester Community Library

Location: First Congregational Church • 7:00 PM • 802.362.2607

## OCTOBER 2 • Evan Thomas

Location: Burr and Burton Academy

### First: The Story of Sandra Day O'Connor

Based on his bestselling biography, Evan Thomas examines the life and work of the first woman on the US Supreme Court, tracing O'Connor's story from a childhood on a remote cattle ranch in Arizona to her 25 years as a Supreme Court Justice. Book signing follows.

Underwriter: Keelan Family Foundation

## NOVEMBER 6 • Jane Lindholm

### Let Me Ask You This

Longtime host of VPR's *Vermont Edition* Jane Lindholm shares some of her favorite interviews and behind-the-scenes moments from her career in public radio.

Underwriter: Burr and Burton Academy

## DECEMBER 4 • Will Nash

### Reading the Rails: Artists Imagine the Underground Railroad

Although historians have illuminated much of the mystery of the Underground Railroad, Middlebury professor Will Nash explores how contemporary artists and commentators use romanticized versions of the story to map new "Underground Railroads" and reflect cultural moments.

Partner: Middlebury College and the Mellon Foundation

## JANUARY 8 • 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 communal experiments to the current tiny house phenomenon.

Partner: Middlebury College and the Mellon Foundation

## FEBRUARY 5 • Aly Richards

### Little Kids, Big Impact

For kids, the benefits of early education are obvious: 90% of the brain develops by age five. But the impact goes beyond just children; access to early education is Vermont's most significant social and economic opportunity. Aly Richards, CEO of Let's Grow Kids, discusses ways that early education both helps kids and strengthens communities.

Underwriter: Woolmington, Campbell, Bent & Stasny, P.C.

## MARCH 4 • Mara Williams

### Adventures in Looking at Art

Artists invest considerable energy to give outward form to their inner voice. Mara Williams, curator of the Brattleboro Museum, leads an interactive exploration into how texture, palette, patina, and other elements bring to life several works of contemporary art.

## APRIL 1 • Bess O'Brien

### Storytelling for Public Health

Through her award-winning films *The Hungry Heart*, *All of Me*, and *Coming Home*, documentary filmmaker Bess O'Brien reveals stories often hidden in Vermont communities. Bess discusses how documentary storytelling can help generate empathy and positive change in Vermont.

Underwriter: Northshire Bookstore

## MAY 6 • 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.

Partner: Middlebury College and the Mellon Foundation

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