



1st Wednesdays

Rutland

Rutland Free Library • 7:00 PM • 802.773.1860

OCTOBER 2 • Josie Leavitt

***So This Happened:* A Comic Confronts Cancer**

In early 2018, award-winning comic and storyteller Josie Leavitt was diagnosed with breast cancer. In her solo show *So This Happened*, she takes the audience on her almost year-long cancer journey, pulling no punches in an intimate performance about her treatment.

Partner: Middlebury College and the Mellon Foundation

NOVEMBER 6 •

Dona Ann McAdams Photography as Social Justice

In conjunction with her 45-year career retrospective exhibition at Castleton University, Dona Ann McAdams discusses and shows her empathetic black-and-white portraits of performing artists, AIDS activists, political protests, people living with schizophrenia, Appalachian farmers, cloistered nuns, and others.

Underwriter: The Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility

DECEMBER 4 • Mitchell S. Jackson
The Other America II

Using as inspiration Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1967 speech "The Other America," author Mitchell S. Jackson reflects on his childhood in a poor, black community in Portland, Oregon—where he witnessed drug use, gang violence, and sexual exploitation—and reveals how he transformed despair into hope.

Partner: Middlebury College and the Mellon Foundation

JANUARY 8 • Jane Carroll
How to Read a Renaissance Portrait

Renaissance portraits were serious undertakings, carefully crafted to indicate wealth, status, interests, trade, and family ties of the subject. Dartmouth professor Jane Carroll leads a visual exploration of the messages encoded in these portraits.

FEBRUARY 5 • Reuben Jackson
**Daybreak Express: Duke Ellington's
Train-Inspired Compositions**

Reuben Jackson, jazz scholar and former host of VPR's *Friday Night Jazz*, shares some evocative Ellington recordings and discusses Ellington's love for trains and the role they played in his orchestra's work in the then-segregated United States.

Underwriter: Jim Alic

MARCH 4 • Bill Hart
**I Am a Man: Martin Freeman,
Colonization, and Identity**

Martin Freeman was the second black graduate of Middlebury College (1849) and the first black president of an American college. But he left to teach at Liberia College in Monrovia, Liberia. Middlebury professor Bill Hart discusses what eventually convinced Freeman that he could only experience freedom, full citizenship, and self-determination in exile in a black republic.

Partner: Middlebury College and the Mellon Foundation

APRIL 1 • Nancy Jay Crumbine
**A Slight Sound at Evening:
Why Thoreau's Quiet Writing
Endures Today**

Drawing upon Thoreau's journals and letters, Dartmouth professor Nancy Jay Crumbine examines the spirituality, inherent and explicit, in his walking and writing life.

Underwriter: Peter Gilbert Endowment Fund

MAY 7 (Note Date) • Mark Dery
Edward Gorey's Morbid Nonsense

Critics never knew what to make of the author and illustrator Edward Gorey, whose picture books full of murder, mayhem, and discreet depravity influenced Tim Burton and Lemony Snicket, among others. In this illustrated lecture, cultural critic Mark Dery reveals the surprisingly serious themes woven through Gorey's whimsically sinister work.

Underwriter: Phyllis and Michael Wells

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