1st Wednesdays

Humanities Lecture Series



October-May, 2012-2013 At Libraries around Vermont



1st Wednesdays



First Wednesdays is generously sponsored statewide by the Vermont Department of Libraries.

A Vermont Humanities Council Program

Hosted by nine libraries around Vermont 7:00 PM on First Wednesdays October through May, 2012-2013

- Brattleboro Newport
- Essex Junction Norwich
- Manchester
 Rutland
- Middlebury
 St. Johnsbury
- Montpelier

First Wednesdays programs are sponsored in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Vermont Department of Libraries.

The Vermont Humanities Council (VHC) is under grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or VHC.

Vermont Humanities Council

11 Loomis Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 vermonthumanities.org, 802.262.2626

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Essex Junction: Lake Champlain Sunset Couple, Don Shall; Bahrainis march in loyalty to martyrs, Lewa'a Alnasr.

Manchester: fictional portrait of Samuel de Champlain, c. 1860, Théophile Hamel; Marshall Plan poster contest, 1950, Italy, Guiseppe Groce. Middlebury: Margrave Otto IV of Brandenburg, Codex Manesse, c. 1300; The Painter's Triumph, 1838, William Sidney Mount; Anne Morrow Lindbergh. Montpelier: Family portrait, flickr.com/photos/a4gpa; United States Supreme Court Building, Matt H. Wade; Strafford Town House, Jeffrey Newcomer/www.partridgebrookreflections.com.

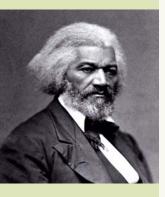
Newport: 1-40 West, Flagstaff, Arizona, Nicholas A. Tonelli; child, Ask UsWhoWe Are; Memphremagog House, Newport, Vt., c. 1870-1885, D. A. Clifford, New York Public Library. Norwich: Jewish Cemetery, Labastide-Clairence, Naffarroa-Beherea, Mirari Erdoiza, www.fotopedia.com/users/anboto. Rutland: The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne, Leonardo da Vinci; pre-war Nazi Germany, Life Magazine; French Flappers, Parisian Cafe 1920s. St. Johnsbury: NASA global sea surface temperature model; Bone Necklace, Oglala Sioux Chief, Heyn Photo, c. 1899. Back cover: Samuel de Champlain statue, Isle La Motte; Mona Lisa c. 1503-06, Leonardo DaVinci; two girls, Ask UsWho We Are, Carley Steven Mclaughlin.

 $Design: The\ Laughing\ Bear\ Associates\ /\ Printing:\ Stillwater\ Graphics\ /\ Printed\ on\ 50\%\ post-consumer\ recycled\ paper$

Brooks Memorial Library 802.254.5290

7:00 PM





VHC Sponsor Series:

Crosby-Gannett
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 Community
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Library Sponsors

- Brattleboro Savings and Loan
- Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC
- Friends of Brooks Memorial Library
- · New Chapter, Inc.
- Windham World Affairs Council of Vermont

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Brattleboro

1st Wednesdays

October 3 | Jack Beatty

The Lost History of 1914:

Reconsidering the Year the Great War Began

Jack Beatty, news analyst for NPR's *On Point*, considers the presumed inevitability of World War I and chronicles largely forgotten events leading up to the conflict.

November 7 | Susan Cooke Kittredge

The Unseen Alistair Cooke

One of the twentieth century's preeminent journalists, Alistair Cooke reported on the events of his time. His daughter, Susan Cooke Kittredge, speaks about her father and his life away from the public eye.

December 5 | David Sanger

Confront and Conceal: Obama's Secret Wars and

Surprising Use of American Power

David Sanger, *New York Times* chief Washington correspondent, offers a look inside the Obama Administration's use of innovative weapons and new tools of American power to manage rapidly shifting global threats and challenges. **Location: First Baptist Church**

January 2 | Irene Kacandes

The Memoir Boom: Who, What, Why

Dartmouth professor and experimental memoirist Irene Kacandes discusses current approaches to life writing and considers why we continue to love reading about others' lives.

February 6 | Frank Bryan

Concrete, Culture, and Community:

The Impact of the Interstate Highway on Vermont

Frank Bryan, UVM professor and lifelong Vermonter, considers the cultural and historical impact of the Interstate Highway System on Vermont.

March 6 John Stauffer

Giants: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln

Douglass and Lincoln — one born a slave, the other born dirt poor — became respectively one of the nation's greatest orators and one of its greatest presidents. Harvard professor and Civil War scholar John Stauffer examines their friendship, the similarities in their lives, and their legacies.

April 3 | Carol Clark

What's Western about Western American Art?

Amherst College professor Carol Clark considers how the works of painters such as Georgia O'Keeffe, Edward Hopper, George Catlin, and Albert Bierstadt have defined the American West as place and idea.

May I Sydney Lea

Frost and Wordsworth:

Romantic Poetry in the Light of Common Day

The poetry of Robert Frost and William Wordsworth depends heavily on the natural world and the "language really used by men." Vermont Poet Laureate Sydney Lea explores the poets' similarities, differences, and influences on other poets. Brownell Library 802.878.6955 7:00 pm





VHC Sponsors

Program:

- · Lake Champlain Basin Program
- · Paul Frank + Collins
- · Pomerleau Real Estate
- The Preservation Trust of Vermont

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• Brownell Library Foundation

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Essex Junction

1st Wednesdays

October 3 | Annelise Orleck

100 Years since Triangle:

The Fire That Seared a Nation's Conscience

Dartmouth professor Annelise Orleck reflects on the 1911 fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in Greenwich Village, which killed 146 workers, mostly young immigrant women, and spurred major legal changes.

November 7 | Rolf Diamant

From Chittenden County to Baton Rouge:

Vermonters, the Civil War, and the Road to Emancipation

National park superintendent emeritus and writer Rolf Diamant discusses how profoundly the Civil War transformed Vermont and why public memory of the war still matters.

December 4 (Tuesday) | Haviland Smith

What Will Follow the Arab Spring?

What can we hope for as the Middle East evolves? Former CIA Chief of Counterterrorism Haviland Smith considers whether greater self-determination in the region will bring democracies, military dictatorships, Islamic governance, or no clear result at all.

January 2 | Susan Watson

The Genius of Albert Einstein

At the age of twenty-six, Einstein published five papers that laid the foundation of modern physics. Middlebury professor Susan Watson explores the near-mythical influence of one of the twentieth century's great thinkers.

February 6 Nancy Jay Crumbine Words, Creativity, and Spirituality

Drawing from Emily Dickinson and Annie Dillard, Dartmouth professor Nancy Jay Crumbine examines the interconnection between creativity and spirituality. Sponsor: Pomerleau Real Estate

March 6 | Jay Parini

Truth or Dare: Writing Historical Fiction

Jay Parini, author of novels about Leo Tolstoy, Walter Benjamin, and Herman Melville, discusses how historical fiction has evolved in recent decades and how old ways of thinking about the genre no longer seem adequate to the work produced.

April 2 (Tuesday) | Jan Albers Lake Champlain in Under an Hour

Lake Champlain has been a saltwater ocean, an Indian highway, an international battleground, a hub of commerce, and a popular playground. Author Jan Albers offers an overview of the many phases of this treasured body of water. *Sponsor: Lake Champlain Basin Program*

May I David Macaulay

Building Books

David Macaulay, award-winning author and illustrator of *Castle*, *Cathedral*, and *The Way We Work*, discusses current projects and current challenges in his work. *Sponsor: Paul Frank* + *Collins*

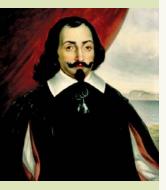
Host: Mark Skinner Library

802.362.2607

Location:

First
Congregational
Church

7:00 PM





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- · Keelan Family Foundation
- · Lake Champlain Basin Program
- · Northshire Bookstore

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Manchester

1st Wednesdays

October 3 | Michele Barale

Willa Cather's Prairie Landscapes

The European immigrant farmers in *My Antonia* and Cather's other novels fail as often as they succeed. Amherst College professor Michele Barale examines the relation between Cather's art and her very tangible earth.

November I (Thursday) David Hackett Fischer Champlain's Dream

Acclaimed historian and biographer David Hackett Fischer brings to life the remarkable Samuel de Champlain — soldier, spy, master mariner, explorer, cartographer, artist, and Father of New France. Sponsor: Lake Champlain Basin Program

December 5 | Edward Burger Monkeys, Mathematics, and Mischief: What Are the Lifelong Lessons of Education?

Why do we compartmentalize the humanities, arts, and sciences when they possess more in common than not? Author and Williams College professor of mathematics Edward Burger looks at how we can apply life lessons learned in math (and beyond) to see our world and ourselves more clearly. *Sponsor: Northshire Bookstore*

January 2 | Sally Matson

Margaret Bourke-White, Courageous Photographer

Actress and educator Sally Matson portrays Margaret Bourke-White, whose influential images of industry, war zones, and world leaders established her as a groundbreaking photographer in the 1930s to 1950s.

February 6 | Michael Arnowitt An Evening of George Gershwin

In this performance lecture, pianist Michael Arnowitt explores the music and era of American composer George Gershwin and performs *An American in Paris* and *Rhapsody in Blue*, among other compositions.

March 6 | Mark A. Stoler The Marshall Plan Revisited

Mark A. Stoler, editor of George Marshall's papers and UVM professor emeritus, examines the Marshall Plan of the late 1940s and early 1950s, generally considered one of the most successful programs in the history of American foreign relations. *Sponsor: Keelan Family Foundation*

April 3 Rob Oden

Religion and Identity in the Middle East

Former president of Kenyon and Carleton Colleges and religion scholar Rob Oden considers how constructs from the ancient Middle East inform Westerners' identity, the Middle East's transition to Islam, and what Islam shares with and how it departs from Judaism and Christianity.

May I Polly Young-Eisendrath

What Women Want

Drawing on Buddhism, Jung, feminist writings, and her own work as a psychotherapist, author Polly Young-Eisendrath argues that most women don't know what they want because society has programmed them simply to want to present a desirable image.

Ilsley Public Library 802.388.4095 7:00 PM







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Series:

 The Lodge at Otter Creek and The Lodge at Shelburne Bay

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Middlebury

1st Wednesdays

October 3 | Michael Arnowitt

An Evening of George Gershwin

In this performance lecture, pianist Michael Arnowitt explores the music and era of George Gershwin and performs *An American in Paris* and *Rhapsody in Blue*, among other compositions. **Location:Town Hall Theater**

November 7 | Mansour Farhang

The Iran Nuclear Dispute

Former Iranian Ambassador to the UN and Bennington College professor Mansour Farhang considers Iran's nuclear intent and capacity, the consequences of Iran becoming a nuclear state, the United States and Israel, and the compromises necessary for a peaceful settlement.

December 5 | Reeve Lindbergh

Rowing Against Wind and Tide:

The Journals and Letters of Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Author Reeve Lindbergh discusses collecting four decades of her mother's previously unpublished diaries and letters — shedding light on her mother's marriage to Charles Lindbergh and her take on world events.

January 2 | Woden Teachout

What We Learn When We Learn about History

Henry Ford famously said, "History is more or less bunk." Author, historian, and professor Woden Teachout discusses why history does matter, exploring the intellectual skills and larger cultural understandings that come from studying the past.

February 6 | Mark A. Stoler

Who Were Our Worst Presidents?

UVM History Professor Emeritus Mark A. Stoler discusses how presidential ratings have changed over time, and the grounds used to evaluate presidential performance.

March 6 | James Maroney Painting Ordinary People

James Maroney, former head of American Paintings at Sotheby's and Christie's, illustrates genre painting, the portrayal of ordinary people engaged in everyday activities, from its beginning in the 1790s through its heyday in the 1840s, to its demise in the twentieth century.

April 3 | Jane Carroll

Knight to Queen: Chess, Courtly Life, and the Game of Love in the Middle Ages

Imported from the Arabs and Persians in the ninth century, chess became a status symbol, an allegory of battle, and a metaphor for love. Dartmouth professor Jane Carroll examines the medieval art of flirting, the power plays of love, and the skill of negotiation as expressed through the game of kings.

May I | Philip Ambrose

How Does Bach Say It?

UVM Professor Emeritus Philip Ambrose shows how Johann Sebastian Bach translates Scripture and poetry into the formal musical language of the Baroque.

Kellogg-**Hubbard** Library

802.223.3338

7:00 PM











VHC Sponsors

Program:

- · Bear Pond Books/ **Rivendell Books**
- · Cabot Creamery
- · Margot George Estate
- · Vermont Bar **Association**

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Montpelier

1st Wednesdays

October 3 Michael Lind

Does Anyone in America Believe in the Rule of Law?

Reverence for the law appears to be in decline across the political spectrum. Michael Lind, author and New America Foundation co-founder, considers whether a democratic republic can survive if leaders and citizens flout laws of which they disapprove. Sponsor: Vermont Bar Association

November 7 Natalie Kinsey-Warnock **Patchwork: Piecing Together Family History**

Natalie Kinsey-Warnock discusses the family stories that inspire her books and the importance of saving family stories. She shows her grandmother's quilts that formed the basis for her book, The Canada Geese Quilt.

December 5 George Jaeger **Diplomatic Challenges We Face**

Distinguished veteran diplomat George Jaeger, whose career included helping negotiate the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Helsinki Final Act, discusses how our diplomatic success depends on the realism, nimbleness, and unity with which we pursue national interests.

January 2 Nils Daulaire

Vermont, the United States, and the World:

How Our Health Ties Together

Dr. Nils Daulaire, director of the Office of Global Affairs at the US Department of Health and Human Services, examines how global health priorities are set and the importance of US government investments in global health.

February 6 | Jim Cooke Calvin Coolidge: More Than Two Words

Drawing from Coolidge's letters, speeches, press conferences, and autobiography, Jim Cooke brings Coolidge to life and helps us understand why Will Rogers said, "Mr. Coolidge has more subtle humor than almost any public man I ever met." Location: Farmers Night Series event, House Chamber, Vermont State House, 7:30 p.m. Sponsor: Cabot Creamery

March 6 | Antonia Losano

Victoria's Secrets

Middlebury College professor Antonia Losano explains how the Victorian era, the age of staid decorum, also had its guilty pleasures: mysteries, ghost stories, science fiction, imperialist adventure tales, and radical fantasies of gender confusion. Sponsor: Bear Pond Books/Rivendell Books

April 3 Glenn Andres

Recognizing Vermont's Built Treasures

Middlebury College Professor Glenn Andres considers what makes Vermont's historic buildings so significant. Sponsor: Margot George Estate

May I Jane Carroll

The Book of Kells

Dartmouth professor Jane Carroll considers this treasure of Western civilization and how the Irish monks' lavish illustrations of the twelvehundred-year-old Gospel manuscript illuminate the artists' thoughts about theology and the power of language.

Goodrich Memorial Library 802.334.7902 7:00 PM







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Program:

· Pomerleau Real Estate

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- · Bill and Nancy Cook
- Newport City Renaissance Corporation

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Newport 1st Wednesdays

October 3 Robert Hager

Courting Disaster:

From Vietnam to Twenty-First Century Terrorism

Retired NBC correspondent Robert Hager relates stories from forty years on the front lines of network journalism — including the Munich Olympics massacre, Iran's Islamic revolution, two space shuttles lost, 9/11, and more.

November 7 | Bess O'Brien

Ask Us Who We Are

Filmmaker Bess O'Brien shows clips from and comments on her film *Ask UsWho We Are*, about the challenges and extraordinary lives of youth in foster care. *Sponsor: Pomerleau Real Estate*

December 5 | Howard Frank Mosher

The Great American Book Tour

Author Howard Mosher reflects on his three-month, 20,000-mile road trip across America that followed treatment for cancer, sharing how he discovered "what he loved enough to live for."

January 2 | Sienna Craig

Horses Like Lightning: A Story of Passage through the Himalayas

Dartmouth anthropologist Sienna Craig recounts her years spent living in the remote Himalayan kingdom of Mustang, Nepal.

February 6 | Scott Wheeler

Newport: The Evolution of a Lakeside Community

Scott Wheeler, editor and publisher of *Vermont's Northland Journal*, leads a journey through history from when the region was home to the Abenaki to modern times and current efforts to revitalize the community.

March 6 | Rosemary Gladstar

The History of Herbal Medicine in America

Expert herbalist Rosemary Gladstar examines the early history of herbalism in America and how herbs play a role in healthcare today.

April 3 Greg Gause

The Decline of American Power in the Middle East

The war in Iraq, the collapse of the Arab-Israeli peace process, the rise of Iranian power, and the upheavals of the Arab Spring have led to the widespread sense that American influence in the region is in decline. UVM political science professor Greg Gause examines that perception.

May I David Schütz

The Great Camps of the Adirondacks

Vermont State Curator David Schütz shares examples of the Adirondack style of architecture, along with colorful stories of the Gilded Age millionaires who summered in the Adirondacks.

Hosts:

Norwich Public Library 802.649.1184

802.649.118

Norwich
Historical
Society

Location:

Congregational Church 7:00 PM



VHC Sponsors

Program:

- · The Norwich Bookstore
- · Stave Puzzles
- TruexCullins
 Architecture +
 Interior Design

Library Sponsors

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- · Ledyard National Bank
- · Mascoma Savings Bank
- Norwich Historical Society

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Norwich

1st Wednesdays

October 3 | Garret Keizer

Privacy, Fatalism, and Foolishness

Privacy has been much discussed, and its loss much lamented, in what Americans alternately refer to as "The Digital Age" and "The Post-9/11 World." Locating privacy in our human capacities for resistance and relating it to issues of social justice, author Garret Keizer challenges several debatable notions, one being that privacy is doomed and there is nothing we can do about it. *Sponsor: The Norwich Bookstore*

November 7 | Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina The Brontë Myth

Much of what we think we know about Charlotte, Emily, and Ann Brontë comes from careful mythmaking by Charlotte Brontë herself and biographers. Dartmouth professor Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina looks at how and why the myths were created.

December 5 | David Blight

American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era

David Blight, Yale professor and acclaimed author of *Race and Reunion*, considers how Americans looked on the War's centennial during the early 1960s and explores the gulf between remembrance and reality. *Sponsor: Stave Puzzles*

January 2 Ronald B. Sobel

The Meaning of Faith in Christian and Jewish Thought

Ronald B. Sobel, Senior Rabbi Emeritus of the world's largest Jewish house of worship, examines the similarities and differences in the idea and reality of faith as understood and lived in both religions.

February 6 | Sienna Craig

Horses Like Lightning: A Story of Passage through the Himalayas

Dartmouth anthropologist Sienna Craig recounts her years spent living in the remote Himalayan kingdom of Mustang, Nepal.

March 6 H. Nicholas Muller, III

The Regeneration of an Artist: Frank Lloyd Wright after 1932

At the age of sixty-five, Frank Lloyd Wright began the most productive decades of his life. H. Nicholas Muller, III, retired executive director of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, explores Wright's prolific career. Sponsor: TruexCullins Architecture + Interior Design

April 3 | Zirka Filipczak

Rembrandt: Emotion through Pose and Gesture

Williams College professor Zirka Filipczak examines Rembrandt's exceptional ability to depict human emotions, how those emotions changed over his career, and the nuanced repertoire of poses and gestures used to convey them.

May I Paul Monod

The British Monarchy from Victoria to Elizabeth II

How has the monarchy survived the last 175 years? What is its political importance today? Middlebury College professor Paul Monod discusses the evolution of the monarchy as an institution.

Rutland Free Library 802.773.1860 7:00 pm







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Program:

- · Anonymous
- · Lake Champlain Basin Program

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- Rutland Regional Medical Center

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Rutland

1st Wednesdays

October 3 | Willard Sterne Randall

Ethan Allen and Lake Champlain

Historian and author Willard Sterne Randall shares the remarkable Revolution-era history of Ethan Allen on Lake Champlain — from his arrival as a big game hunter to his buying and selling thousands of acres of land, from his leading the Green Mountain Boys in attacking Fort Ticonderoga to two decades of confrontation over statehood. Sponsor: Lake Champlain Basin Program

November 7 | Katy Smith Abbott

The Original Renaissance Man:

Understanding Leonardo da Vinci

Famed for paintings such as *The Last Supper* and the *Mona Lisa*, Leonardo da Vinci was also a dedicated observer and a prolific journal writer. Middlebury College professor Katy Smith Abbott considers what set him apart, then and now.

December 5 | Marlene Heck

Building Monticello

Thomas Jefferson never knew the Monticello we visit today — in perfect condition, impeccably furnished. Jefferson died so deeply in debt that his surviving child was forced to auction off the house and contents. Dartmouth College senior lecturer Marlene Heck explains the lifelong project Jefferson called his "essay in architecture."

January 2 | Paul Vincent

Daily Life in Prewar Nazi Germany

Focusing on the prewar experience of non-Jewish citizens, Keene State professor Paul Vincent examines how ideology and terror undermined human dignity, numbed self-awareness, and atomized German society.

February 6 | Bill McKibben McKibben on Climate Change

Author and environmentalist Bill McKibben explains how both the science and politics of climate change have unfolded and are unfolding, here and around the globe. *Sponsor: Anonymous*

March 6 | Chris Bohjalian

Fiction's Getting to the Truth: Chris Bohjalian's

The Sandcastle Girls, Family History, and Armenian Genocide

Acclaimed novelist Chris Bohjalian talks about his most recent novel.

April 3 | Barbara Will

Literary Paris: the 1920s in the City of Light

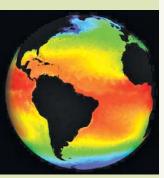
Dartmouth professor Barbara Will considers how Paris, long a beacon to writers, artists, and musicians, became a global meeting ground for creative individuals in the 1920s and a crucible for the artistic movement known as modernism.

May I | Alexander Wolff

The Evolution of Sports Writing

Sports Illustrated senior writer Alexander Wolff traces how journalism's "toy department" has responded to social movements, the rise of televised sport, and the digital revolution — from Grantland Rice to Bill Simmons.

St. Johnsbury Athenaeum 802.748.8291 7:00 pm





VHC Sponsors

Program:

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- Copeland Furniture
 Company Store
- · Downs Rachlin
 Martin PLLC
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 Bank Member FDIC
- Vermont Bar Association

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St. Johnsbury 1st Wednesdays

October 3 | James Heffernan

In Want of a Wife:

Romance and Realism in Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen is considered a realist of social relations — and yet *Pride* and *Prejudice* incorporates an element of the fairy tale: it fulfills the wishes of its poor and not conspicuously beautiful heroine. Dartmouth Professor Emeritus James Heffernan examines how Austen does it. *Sponsor: Bill and Sharon Biddle*

November 7 | Mary Childers Welfare Brat

Dr. Mary Childers's childhood in the Bronx was marred by violence, alcoholism, and neglect. Referencing her own story, she discusses paths out of poverty and away from welfare dependence, as well as ethical issues associated with publishing memoirs.

December 5 | Amy Seidl

Finding Higher Ground: Adaptation in the Age of Warming

Scientist and author Amy Seidl explains why the long-term nature of climate change forces us to redesign how we structure our societies and considers our ethical role as planetary stewards. *Sponsor: Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC*

January 2 | Paul Bierman

Remaking the Landscape, 1958 - 1978:

Interstate Highways Come to Vermont

UVM professor Paul Bierman shows photographs, taken over two decades, detailing the arrival of the interstate to the most rural state in the Union.

February 6 Peter Galbraith America's Foreign Policy Agenda

Diplomat and Vermont State Senator Peter Galbraith considers international issues facing the country. *Sponsor: Passumpsic Savings Bank* Member FDIC

March 6 | Lisa MacFarlane

Early Photographs of Native North Americans

Richly illustrated with nineteenth- and early twentieth-century photos of Native peoples, this talk by UNH Vice Provost and professor Lisa MacFarlane explores the stories behind the iconic and often stereotypical images, providing a glimpse into the history of clashing cultures.
Sponsor: Copeland Furniture Company Store

April 3 | Sarah Redfield

Free Speech Isn't What It Used to Be:

Sexting and Cyberbullying Meet the Constitution

The potential harm to young people who send and receive hurtful messages and images in cyberspace is enormous and new. UNH law professor Sarah Redfield outlines the constitutional and real-life issues.

Location: St. Johnsbury Academy, Fuller Hall. Sponsor: Vermont Bar Association

May I Randall Balmer

The Patchwork Quilt of American Evangelicalism

Dartmouth professor of American religious history Randall Balmer surveys the landscape of American Evangelicalism and reflects on an abiding tradition he finds rich in both theological insights and contradictions.



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