



1st Wednesdays

Humanities Lecture Series

October 2017–May 2018

FREE PUBLIC TALKS
At Libraries around Vermont



**Vermont
Humanities**

A Vermont Humanities Council Program

1st Wednesdays

Hosted by nine libraries around Vermont

7:00 PM on first Wednesdays, October 2017 – May 2018

Statewide Underwriters:

- **The Alma Gibbs Donchian Foundation**
- **National Life Group Foundation**
- **Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Vermont Department of Libraries**



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Vermont Humanities Council

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



PHOTO CREDITS

Cover: Helix Nebula (NGC 7293), ESO. **Inside front cover:** Lincoln Memorial, baumsaway/iStock. **Battleboro:** Franklin D. Roosevelt delivering national radio address, 1934; *Blue and Green Music* by Georgia O’Keeffe, 1921. **Essex Junction:** Fused quartz gyroscope refracting image of Einstein, NASA; White House during storm, Amanjeev/Flickr.com; panel from “Cartoonist’s Introduction” by Alison Bechdel. **Manchester:** Jewish refugees aboard the SS *St. Louis* while docked in Havana, Cuba; the Parthenon, Athens, Greece, CManfredsson/Pixabay. **Middlebury:** Robert Siegel by Stephen Voss; convicts leased to harvest timber, Florida, ca. 1915. **Montpelier:** Detail of *Canterbury Tales* mural by Ezra Winter (1886–1949), Library of Congress; President Trump meeting with the Emir of Qatar, May 2017, Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead. **Newport:** *Hamlet and Horatio in the cemetery* by Eugène Delacroix (1798–1863); reporter raising hand during a press briefing at the Pentagon, 2010, DOD photo by Cherie Cullen (released). **Norwich:** Illustration of J. D. Salinger by Robert Vickrey used for the cover of *Time* magazine, 1961, Wikipedia Commons; portrait of Ella Fitzgerald, New York, 1947, William P. Gottlieb Collection/Library of Congress. **Rutland:** DNA analyst at the Armed Forces DNA Identifications Lab in Rockville, Md., DoD photo by Fred W. Baker III; photo of the US Constitution, Steven Nichols/Flickr.com; *Marley’s Ghost* by John Leech (1817–1864), British Library. **St. Johnsbury:** *The Geographer* by Johannes Vermeer (1632–1675); photo of Sgt. Pepper’s *Lonely Hearts Club Band* record and album art, badgreeb RECORDS/Flickr.com. **Back cover:** *Kindred Spirits* by Asher Brown Durand (1796–1886).

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Brooks
Memorial
Library
802.254.5290
7:00 PM



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Series Underwriter:

Union Institute
& University

Brattleboro

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 4 - Mark A. Stoler

Nothing to Fear, But Fear Itself: FDR and the New Deal

From 1929 to 1939, the US experienced the longest and worst economic depression in its history and the first in which the federal government acted decisively to reverse it. UVM History Professor Emeritus Mark A. Stoler discusses how Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal changed government's role in the economy and affected the lives of Americans in ways that are still with us.

NOVEMBER 1 - Randall Balmer

Luther and the Reformation: A 500-year Appraisal

Martin Luther's posting of the *Ninety-five Theses* on the cathedral door at Wittenburg five hundred years ago launched a movement that utterly transformed Western society and our notions of authority, culture, art, and tradition. Dartmouth Religion professor Randall Balmer assesses the Protestant Reformation half a millennium later.

DECEMBER 6 - Barbara Will

World War I and American Writers

Dartmouth professor Barbara Will discusses both the war's effect on American writers, particularly John Dos Passos, T. S. Eliot, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, and Gertrude Stein, and how it changed American literature and made it "modern." Underwriter: Vermont Council on World Affairs

JANUARY 3 - David Mills

An Evening with Langston Hughes

In this dramatic rendition of Langston Hughes's poems and short stories, actor and writer David Mills celebrates the life of the Harlem Renaissance writer. Underwriter: Jack and Mary Ellen Bixby

FEBRUARY 7 - Nancy Jay Crumbine

The Legacy of Rachel Carson

Silent Spring not only launched the environmental movement but also laid out the fundamental problems with our relationship to nature. Dartmouth professor Nancy Jay Crumbine celebrates scientist and poet Rachel Carson's clarity, courage, and brilliance. Underwriter: Chroma Technology

MARCH 7 - Judith Frank

The Known World and the Literary Character

Amherst professor Judith Frank discusses Edward P. Jones' 2003 Pulitzer-winning novel *The Known World*, called "a masterpiece that deserves a place in the American literary canon," and considers what its unusual approach to characterization can tell us. **Books available to read in advance (NOT required).** Underwriter: Carole and Geof Gaddis

APRIL 4 - Barry O'Connell

An Emerson for Our Time

Drawing on Ralph Waldo Emerson's essays "The American Scholar," "Self-Reliance," and "Experience," Amherst professor emeritus Barry O'Connell explores the many ways Emerson's writings continue to offer insights that can make our lives more open and fruitful.

MAY 2 - James Maroney

Georgia O'Keeffe: A Critical Look

Georgia O'Keeffe lived 99 years and produced over 2,000 works in her 75-year career. James Maroney, the former Head of American Paintings at both Sotheby's and Christie's in New York who conducted her estate appraisal after her death, presents a critical evaluation of her best work.

Brownell
Library
802.878.6955
7:00 PM



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Essex Junction

1st Wednesdays

SEPTEMBER 27 (Note date and time) • Calvin Trillin
The Writing Life

Writer, humorist, and regular contributor to *The New Yorker* since 1963, Calvin Trillin takes an antic look at writing as an occupation in a country in which the shelf life of a book is “somewhere between milk and yogurt.”
Location: Ira Allen Chapel, Burlington, 5:00 PM. *Co-sponsored with the Office of the President, University of Vermont*

NOVEMBER 1 • 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.
Underwriter: Husky Injection Molding Systems, Inc.

DECEMBER 6 • Jane Carroll
Reformation and Response: What Luther Did to Art

Dartmouth professor Jane Carroll examines how the Reformation, driven by Martin Luther 500 years ago, affected Europeans' assumptions and the art of the time. **Underwriter: Bern Collins**

JANUARY 3 • Susanne Claxton
The Examined Life

Socrates proclaimed, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Philosophy scholar Susanne Claxton explores what constitutes the examined life and how to best pursue it. **Underwriter: Husky Injection Molding Systems, Inc.**

FEBRUARY 7 • Stan Sloan
Transatlantic Traumas: Endangering the West

The West has been challenged by President Trump's policies, Russian covert actions, and domestic politics. Stan Sloan, Visiting Scholar at Middlebury and author of *Defense of the West*, asks if a perfect storm of external threats and internal politics is undermining Western values and interests.
Underwriter: Vermont Council on World Affairs

FEBRUARY 21 (Note date) • Alison Bechdel
Self-Confessed: The Comics of Alison Bechdel

From her long-running comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For* to her family memoirs *Fun Home* and *Are You My Mother?* Alison Bechdel has explored in graphic detail the overlap between the personal and the political, the domestic and the global. In this illustrated talk, she discusses how her cartooning has evolved. **Location: Ira Allen Chapel, UVM, Burlington.** *Co-sponsored with the Fleming Museum of Art and the UVM Department of English.*

APRIL 11 (Note date) • Marlene Heck
Building Monticello

Jefferson never knew the Monticello of today—in perfect condition, impeccably furnished. Dartmouth senior lecturer Marlene Heck explains the lifelong project Jefferson called his “essay in architecture.”
Underwriter: Lisa Schamberg and Pat Robins

MAY 2 • Polly Young-Eisendrath
Love and Marriage in the 21st Century

Dr. Polly Young-Eisendrath looks at the transformation of marriage over the past century from a traditional contract to one that celebrates idealization in the form of “true love,” and suggests why that change matters.

Host:
Manchester
Community
Library

802.362.2607

Location:
First
Congregational
Church

7:00 PM



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Manchester

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 4 - 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, with excerpts from its score. **Underwriter:** Keelan Family Foundation

NOVEMBER 1 - Paul Vincent

The Voyage of the St. Louis and American Refugee Policy

Keene State professor Paul Vincent tells the story of the 1939 voyage of the *St. Louis*, which carried mostly Jewish refugees fleeing Germany. Turned away by Havana, despite holding landing permits, it sailed for the US, where passengers were also denied entry. Vincent discusses the event in the context of the history of US immigration policy. **Underwriter:** Keelan Family Foundation

DECEMBER 6 - Irene Kacandes

Luther 101: The Man, The Legacy

On the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting his *Ninety-five Theses*, Dartmouth Professor of German Studies Irene Kacandes discusses Luther's life, the unfolding of historical events in light of his teachings, and some lasting legacies of the revolution he started.

JANUARY 3 - Jane Chaplin

Empire and Aftermath in Classical Greece

Ancient Greece produced two great imperial powers: Sparta and Athens. Middlebury Classics professor Jane Chaplin considers the political systems of the two states, the imperialism they practiced, what happened when their empires ended, and whether their experience has relevance for us.

FEBRUARY 7 - Douglas Blackmon

Race at Ground Zero: Integration in Leland, Mississippi

Pulitzer-winning historian and filmmaker Douglas Blackmon speaks about and offers a sneak peek of his documentary film *The Harvest*. It looks at the failure of public school integration and its relation to our nation's current racial turmoil, as seen through the eyes of people born in 1964 in his hometown of Leland, Mississippi—the state's first students to attend integrated classrooms from K to 12. **Location:** Burr & Burton Academy Auditorium

MARCH 7 - Nancy Jay Crumbine

Celebrating E. B. White

From *Charlotte's Web* to his essays in *The New Yorker*, E. B. White remains the master's master of elegant prose, sophisticated wit, and graceful irreverence. Drawing on his various writings, Dartmouth professor Nancy Jay Crumbine celebrates White's versatility and legacy. **Underwriter:** Northshire Bookstore

APRIL 11 (Note date) - Billy Collins

An Evening with Billy Collins

The former US Poet Laureate will speak and read from his work.

Location: Burr & Burton Academy Gymnasium. **Underwriters:** University of Vermont Humanities Center and Burr & Burton Academy

MAY 2 - David Hackett Fischer

Roots of Our Geographic and Political Divide

Pulitzer-winning historian David Hackett Fischer explains the tenacity of the social and political cultures that different early British immigrant groups brought to different regions—cultures that underlie our fractured political landscape today. **Underwriter:** Woolmington, Campbell, Bernal & Bent, P.C.

Ilseley
Public Library
802.388.4095
7:00 PM



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Series Underwriter:

The Residence at Otter Creek

Middlebury

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 4 • 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 professor Michele Barale examines the relation between Cather's art and her very tangible earth.

Underwriter: *A Friend of the Series*

NOVEMBER 1 • Robert Siegel

Considering All Things ...

NPR's Robert Siegel reflects on his thirty years as co-host of the daily news program *All Things Considered* and the journalistic changes he has seen along the way.

Location: Middlebury College, Wilson Hall, McCullough Student Center. **Underwriter:** Vermont Public Radio

DECEMBER 6 • Marcelo Gleiser

Physicists' Dream of a Theory of Everything

Theoretical physicists have long dreamt of a theory of everything that encompasses all particles of matter and their interactions. Dartmouth professor Marcelo Gleiser describes how physics and astronomy obtain knowledge of the natural world and how their limitations preclude us from ever getting to a "final" theory. **Underwriter:** *Tapia & Huckabay, P.C.*

JANUARY 3 • Emily Bernard

Race, Nation, and Toni Morrison's Beloved

UVM professor Emily Bernard explores how *Beloved* argues that America must reckon with the consequences of our nation's original sin—slavery.

FEBRUARY 8 (Note date) • Douglas Blackmon

Slavery by Another Name

Historian and filmmaker Douglas Blackmon discusses his film and Pulitzer-winning book, *Slavery by Another Name*, which chronicle the return of forced labor across the South between the Civil War and WWII, when hundreds of thousands of African-American men were convicted of trivial or trumped-up offenses—or kidnapped—and sold into forced labor camps in a new system of slavery. The talk includes brief film clips. **Underwriter:** *r.k. Miles*

MARCH 7 • Lisa Holmes

Presidents Appointing Judges

As UVM professor Lisa Holmes explains, while presidents have long used judicial appointments to tilt the judiciary in one direction or another, less common historically have been presidents gaining great political benefit from appointing judges for ideological reasons. Its impact on the health of the judiciary remains to be seen.

APRIL 4 • John Keenan

Understanding Scripture

Middlebury professor emeritus John Keenan considers how we come to understand scripture and gain an interfaith reading of the text by stepping back to see it in context and by stepping aside the text to see parallels and similarities with other traditions.

MAY 2 • Mark A. Stoler

Churchill and Roosevelt: The Personal in the Partnership

UVM History Professor Emeritus Mark A. Stoler examines the important personal relationship between Britain's Prime Minister and America's President during their World War II alliance. **Underwriter:** *Vermont Council on World Affairs*

Kellogg-
Hubbard
Library

802.223.3338

7:00 PM



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Montpelier

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 4 - George Jaeger

The President's Global Policies

Veteran American diplomat George Jaeger discusses President Trump's America First global policies, the changes they may entail, and their possible implications. **Underwriter:** Vermont Council on World Affairs

NOVEMBER 1 - Caroline Alexander

Translating Homer and the Art of Writing

Caroline Alexander, author of *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition* and translator of a new edition of Homer's *Iliad*, examines the challenges and pleasures of translating great literature. **Underwriter:** Bear Pond Books

DECEMBER 6 - 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, with excerpts from its score. **Underwriter:** MMR, LLC

JANUARY 3 - Irene Kacandes

Lessons Learned from the Holocaust for Today's World

The UN High Commission for Refugees calculates that there are more people forced from their homes and on the move today than following the disruptions of WWII and the Holocaust. Holocaust scholar and Dartmouth professor Irene Kacandes offers seven lessons she has learned from studying the Holocaust and considers how we can apply them to today's crises.

FEBRUARY 7 - Thetford Chamber Singers

Poetry and Song

Celebrating forty years together, the Thetford Chamber Singers present powerful literary texts with complex choral arrangements, including the work of Wendell Berry, Emily Dickinson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and others. **Location:** Farmers Night Series, House Chamber, Vermont State House, 7:30 PM. **Underwriter:** Pomerleau Real Estate

MARCH 7 - Ed McMahon

Where Am I? The Power of Uniqueness

Former Scenic America president and TED talk lecturer Ed McMahon, who holds the Charles E. Fraser Chair on Sustainable Development at the Urban Land Institute, highlights the importance of a sense of place and explores why our physical surroundings are worth caring about. **Underwriter:** Margot George Fund

APRIL 4 - Peter Travis

Chaucer's Canterbury Tales: Still Funny After All These Years

Dartmouth professor Peter Travis discusses the genius and enduring humanity of Geoffrey Chaucer, the 14th-century "Father of English Poetry."

MAY 2 - Carol Berry

Vincent Van Gogh and the Books He Read

Van Gogh's letters reveal that his paintings and drawings were inspired by his reading as well as by people, nature, and other painters' work. Art historian Carol Berry shows the profound influence of the works of Harriet Beecher Stowe, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, and others on Van Gogh's life and art. **Underwriter:** Vermont College of Fine Arts

Goodrich
Memorial
Library
802.334.7902
7:00 PM



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Newport

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 4 ▪ Aaron Krerowicz

The Beatles: Band of the Sixties

In this multimedia presentation, Beatles music scholar Aaron Krerowicz explores the band's music beginning with the band's seminal visits to Hamburg and continuing through Beatlemania to *Abbey Road*.

Underwriter: Stanstead College

NOVEMBER 1 ▪ Ilan Stavans

Teaching *Hamlet* in Prison

Celebrated literary critic Ilan Stavans discusses his teaching Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in correctional facilities, and shares insights his classes have made about the play and revenge, freedom, and redemption.

DECEMBER 6 ▪ 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.

JANUARY 3 ▪ Michael Arnowitt

Aaron Copland's America

Pianist Michael Arnowitt performs and discusses the iconic and distinctly American music of Aaron Copland—including music from *Four Piano Blues*, *Piano Variations*, *El Salon Mexico*, *Conversation at the Soda Fountain*, his famous *Appalachian Spring*, and music he wrote for the film version of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*.

FEBRUARY 7 ▪ David Shribman and Cindy Skrzycki

The News about the News

In today's political and cultural atmosphere, it is vital the public stays informed and the press does its job. Journalists Cindy Skrzycki and Pulitzer Prize winner David Shribman examine the current media landscape, distinguishing between fake and real news, amateur and professional, slanted and objective. Underwriter: Passumpsic Savings Bank ^{Member FDIC}

MARCH 7 ▪ Glenn Andres

Building for a Gilded Age

Middlebury College art and architecture professor emeritus Glenn Andres explores how the US asserted itself architecturally on the world stage around the turn of the twentieth century, a time of bold experiments, proud philanthropy, and a desire to rival the Old World in splendor.

APRIL 4 ▪ Jane Carroll

Virtue and Vice: The World of Vermeer's Women

Dartmouth professor Jane Carroll examines the stories of courtship, seduction, and virtue portrayed and the encoded messages presented in the works of 17th-century Dutch painter Jan Vermeer.

MAY 2 ▪ Annelise Orleck

What If Poor Women Ran the World?

Labor historian Annelise Orleck tells the story of nine African-American union maids in Las Vegas during the 1970s who challenged welfare cuts and built a long-lasting, vibrant anti-poverty program run by poor mothers.

Underwriter: Orion Global Talent

Hosts:

Norwich
Public Library
802.649.1184

Norwich
Historical
Society

Location:
Norwich
Congregational
Church
7:00 PM



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Norwich

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OCTOBER 4 ▪ H. Nicholas Muller III

Fallingwater

Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece Fallingwater is often ranked number one in the AIA ratings of America's most important structures. Former executive director of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, H. Nicholas Muller III, shares stories about this legendary property and its creator.

NOVEMBER 1 ▪ 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.

Underwriter: The Norwich Bookstore

DECEMBER 6 ▪ Amy Hungerford

J. D. Salinger's Family Dramas

Why did Salinger write novels that sound like plays? Yale Professor of English and Dean of Humanities Amy Hungerford explores the voices and dramas of the Glass family at the heart of Salinger's work and his themes of love, religion, and the power of performance. *Underwriter: Crossroads Academy*

JANUARY 3 ▪ Colin Calloway

The Indian World of George Washington

Dartmouth professor Colin Calloway discusses the first president's relations with Indian peoples and considers how Native American nations and lands shaped the man who shaped the republic. *Underwriter: Otto & Associates*

FEBRUARY 7 ▪ Randall Balmer

The Different Strains of American Evangelicalism

Dartmouth professor and historian of American religion Randall Balmer both looks at the internal diversity of American Evangelicalism, which is generally seen as monolithic but that includes a progressive strain focused on personal and social reform as opposed to theological orthodoxy, and reflects on its theological insights and contradictions. *Underwriter: Otto & Associates*

MARCH 7 ▪ James Maroney

Memoirs of an Art Dealer

Former Head of American Paintings at Christie's and Sotheby's James Maroney shares stories of his experiences in the art world of the 1970s when American art began to come into its own.

APRIL 4 ▪ Judith Tick

Ella: The Jazz Genius

Jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald has been described as private in words, but her music speaks volumes about herself, her friendships, even her politics. Drawing on archival material, family interviews, and recordings, Northeastern University professor Judith Tick presents a portrait of the woman and the artist.

MAY 2 ▪ Martha Hodes

Mourning Lincoln

Public responses to Lincoln's assassination have been well chronicled, but New York University Professor of History Martha Hodes is the first to delve into personal and private responses—of African Americans and whites, Yankees and Confederates, soldiers and civilians. Here she investigates the human-scale reaction to America's first presidential assassination.

Presented with Dartmouth College History Department

Rutland Free
Library
802.773.1860
7:00 PM



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Rutland

1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 4 ▪ Huck Gutman

Walt Whitman and the Civil War

Whitman's Civil War writings give us a dual portrait, first the war as "a strange, unloosen'd wondrous time," and second the emergence of a new Whitman. UVM professor Huck Gutman examines some of the most remarkable poems about war ever published, and looks at Whitman's development into the man Whitman always wanted to be.

Underwriter: Jim Alic

NOVEMBER 1 ▪ Graziella Parati

The Roots of Fascism

Dartmouth professor Graziella Parati tells the history of fascism and its roots in Italy in 1919, and explores similarities and differences in the fascist regimes of Adolf Hitler and Francisco Franco.

DECEMBER 6 ▪ Barry Dietz

Charles Dickens and the Writing of *A Christmas Carol*

Dickens scholar Barry Dietz considers Dickens's career up to the publication of *A Christmas Carol* in 1843, what the novella's success meant to Dickens's life and work, and how the story has resonated since, including in films.

Underwriter: The Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility

JANUARY 10 (Note date) ▪ Michael Arnowitz

Aaron Copland's America

Pianist Michael Arnowitz performs and discusses the iconic and distinctly American music of Aaron Copland—including music from *Four Piano Blues*, *Piano Variations*, *El Salon Mexico*, *Conversation at the Soda Fountain*, and his famous *Appalachian Spring*. **Location: Trinity Episcopal Church.**

Underwriter: Phyllis and Michael Wells

FEBRUARY 7 ▪ The Honorable William K. Sessions III

The First Amendment in Action

Federal District Judge William K. Sessions III describes the application of the First Amendment freedoms of religion, speech, press, and assembly with a close examination of landmark cases. **Underwriter: Vermont Bar Association**

MARCH 7 ▪ Heidi Grasswick

Science and Democracy

The scientific method has been heralded as inherently democratic, but with scientists carrying a kind of authority based on their specialized knowledge, the relationship between science and democracy is more complex. Middlebury professor Heidi Grasswick examines the challenges of integrating the goals of democracy with the practices of science.

APRIL 4 ▪ Erin Sassin

Reinventing the Family Home

Middlebury 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 farmhouses and communal experiments to the current tiny house phenomenon.

MAY 2 ▪ Eric Davis

"A Republic, If You Can Keep It..."

After the Constitutional Convention Benjamin Franklin was asked what kind of government we had. His famous reply speaks to the fragility of our constitutional form of government. Middlebury Professor Emeritus of Political Science Eric Davis explores how the brilliant foundational concepts established in 1787 remain just as essential—and fragile—today.

St. Johnsbury
Athenaeum
802.748.8291
7:00 PM



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Series Underwriter:

St. Johnsbury Academy

St. Johnsbury 1st Wednesdays

OCTOBER 5 (Note date) • Aaron Krerowicz

“It Was 50 Years Ago Today”: *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*

Released fifty years ago this year, this iconic Beatles album is often regarded as the greatest rock album ever made. In a multimedia presentation, Beatles music scholar Aaron Krerowicz discusses the album and illustrates the development of its songs. **Underwriter: Passumpsic Savings Bank** Member FDIC

NOVEMBER 1 • Huck Gutman

William Carlos Williams:

America’s Most Revolutionary Twentieth Century Poet

UVM professor Huck Gutman considers how William Carlos Williams changed American and world poetry forever by creating a new poetic language and new poetic forms. **Underwriter: Bill and Sharon Biddle**

DECEMBER 6 • Carrie Anderson

Rembrandt and Vermeer in their Place and Time

Middlebury professor Carrie Anderson explores seventeenth-century Amsterdam and Delft through the eyes of Rembrandt and Vermeer, who lived, worked, and painted in these prosperous Dutch cities.

JANUARY 3 • Derek Boothby

American Exceptionalism Revisited

Derek Boothby, former director of the UN’s Department of Political Affairs, considers how the determination of America’s original settlers to create a society different from the 18th-century European model has fared long-term, and asks whether modern America is all that different from anywhere else.

FEBRUARY 7 • Brendan Nyhan

Why Facts Don’t Always Change People’s Minds

Why do people hold false or unsupported beliefs that are so difficult to change? Dartmouth Government professor Brendan Nyhan asks what makes people vulnerable to misinformation, why facts alone are often ineffective at countering misperceptions, and what approaches might be more effective.

Underwriter: Friends of First Wednesdays at the Athenaeum

MARCH 7 • 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 John Stauffer examines their friendship, the similarities in their lives, and their legacies. **Underwriter: Gil Steil Associates**

APRIL 4 • Jane Chaplin

The Invention of History

We take history for granted, but it owes its inception and survival to two extraordinary individuals. Middlebury professor Jane Chaplin considers the contributions of Herodotus (ca. 484-424) and Thucydides (ca. 455-400) to the development of historiography.

MAY 2 • Leslie Butler

Reckoning with Darwin in American Culture

Americans came to terms with Charles Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species* (1859) in the aftermath of the Civil War, which shaped how Americans processed new ideas about evolution. Dartmouth history professor Leslie Butler traces the ways Americans responded to Darwin, culminating in the showdown over the teaching of evolution in Dayton, Tennessee in 1925.