Welcome, Anthony!

New Hampshire Humanities proudly introduces our new executive director, Anthony Poore

The Directors and Staff of New Hampshire Humanities are thrilled to welcome our new executive director, Anthony Poore, who took the helm at New Hampshire Humanities on March 1. “We’re excited by the skills, network, and passion Anthony will bring to New Hampshire Humanities,” the Search Task Force noted in enthusiastically recommending Anthony for executive director. “We’re confident he will build upon our strong foundation while helping us increase our visibility, forge new partnerships, and connect more people with ideas.”

Originally from Dayton, Ohio, Anthony is a 20-year resident of Manchester. For the last eight years he served as Director of Regional and Community Outreach at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, and before that was Assistant Dean at Southern NH University (SNHU). Anthony is a past or present board or committee member of organizations including the NH Community Loan Fund, NH Endowment for Health, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and NH Listens. Anthony holds a B.A. in Social Work from Wright State University in Ohio, a Master of Business Administration from SNHU, and a Master of Science in Community Economic Development from SNHU. Throughout his career, Anthony has brought together a wide range of nonprofits, businesses, and communities to forge partnerships to address the needs of urban and rural communities around the state. He has extensive experience in data-driven decision making to sustain

(Continued)
and grow organizations, and he’s a self-described “mission-driven servant leader.”

In a recent interview with the Concord Monitor, Anthony said "Whether conservative or progressive, people understand the importance of history, language, and culture." By providing opportunities for New Hampshire residents to come together to learn, reflect, and engage in civil conversation, our work contributes to the growth of a skilled workforce and empathetic society, Poore said. Of the many qualities Anthony brings to New Hampshire Humanities, we are particularly excited to benefit from his insights into and vision for fostering new partnerships with minority, immigrant, and rural communities through the humanities.

“We’ve all talked about the critical role of having an informed and educated workforce. And I think the humanities are part of that equation. Hard skills, science, technology, engineering, math are crucially important. But the idea of developing critical thinking skills, communication skills, and the ability to function well in groups at work and in our communities, I think these are a clear output of humanities training. And I think what we hope to do is continue to position New Hampshire Humanities as a vital provider of opportunities to learn these skills through exposure to history, literature, ethics, languages – the whole body of what humans have thought and debated and created.”

Anthony comes to New Hampshire Humanities at a time when federal funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities, which provides almost 50% of our budget, is again threatened by cuts in the proposed 2019 budget from the White House. Anthony recognizes he’s stepping into the job at a time when the future of funding for humanities organizations like New Hampshire Humanities is not secure, but he is optimistic. “I am full of joy and excitement when I think of what we can do. New Hampshire Humanities has an amazing record of accomplishments and reputation among state humanities councils. I am eager to get that story out to people all over New Hampshire and make sure they know there’s a seat for them underneath the Big Tent of the humanities.”

We hope you will have the opportunity to meet our dynamic new leader in the coming months.

Welcome, Anthony!
By Dr. Kathy Mathis, New Hampshire Humanities Program Director

Two years ago I had not heard of Brendan O’Byrne. Probably not many have, even though he’s appeared in an Academy Award-nominated documentary film. He’s a veteran of the war in Afghanistan on the road to recovery from fighting and homecoming. Brendan spent six years in the army with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. His unit was stationed in the Korangal Valley, an area of fierce combat and the subject of Sebastian Junger’s documentary, Restrepo, in which Brendan plays a major role. He’s currently a student at UNH, but is planning to leave this spring for the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. It’s hard to say goodbye to a man with a will as firm and reliable as a handshake and a palpable aura of bright creativity and common sense. It’s not possible to find words that fit the feeling of thanks we owe him for what he has done – not only for his country in this case, but for our state and for other veterans.

To us, Brendan has become famous for immersing himself in his role as book discussion facilitator in the veteran-centered group reading of Homer’s Odyssey. In phase one he co-facilitated a group in Portsmouth for 14 weeks. The veterans couldn’t stop. So the three facilitators, including classics professor Stephen Trzaskoma and Vietnam veteran Al Porsche, continued on, buying the books and facilitating for free so that the group could read The Iliad. Now Brendan and his team are leading a second group at the Portsmouth Public Library. But Brendan also has been a volunteer maximus. He has presented his powerful vision of “From Troy to Baghdad” on our capital campaign video; he was a panelist at the National Humanities Conference this fall in Boston. In Exeter he’s worked with social studies teacher and veteran Aaron Blais to prepare students for an oral history project interviewing veterans. He’s presented at New Hampshire donor cultivation parties, spoken at lyceums, been on at least three radio shows, and he never says no when we ask.

It’s fitting to end with Brendan’s own words, so in some way you will come to know why we will miss him so much:

The learning between each other is unreal. For example, last night we talked about what a “hero” was. People had strong but flexible opinions; they heard each other; learned a new meaning of the word… you wouldn’t believe the conversations. About god and his role in the world. About life. About death. About hate, love, sadness, happiness. About the appropriateness of crying. About fate compared to a random universe… about the physical and mental journey home. “What is “home”? This is like riding the mind of humanity as we explore the questions we all think about deep in our hearts. These are the conversations the world needs to have.
Humanities in New Hampshire
Your Guide to Programs Around the State in APRIL

All the events listed in this calendar are funded in whole or part by New Hampshire Humanities. Humanities to Go programs are made possible in part by the generous support of:

Kathy Ford, 632-4675
run out of town. Presenter: Dan Billin. Contact:
an outraged mob, its African-American students
briefly -- and then dragged off its foundation by
integrated school was opened in Canaan, NH,
England was sadly proven in 1835 when an
Building, 308 US Route 4
Wednesday, 7:00 PM, Enfield Community
4    ENFIELD

Michele Ricca, 424-5021

New England is full of reminders of past lives:
stone walls, old foundations, a century-old lilac
struggling to survive as the forest reclaims a

A Walk Back in Time: The Secrets of Cellar Holes
New England is full of reminders of past lives:
stone walls, old foundations, a century-old lilac
struggling to survive as the forest reclaims a

Merrimack Public Library, 470 D.W. Highway
A Walk Back in Time: The Secrets of Cellar Holes
New England is full of reminders of past lives:
stone walls, old foundations, a century-old lilac
struggling to survive as the forest reclaims a

Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Merrimack Public Library,

Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Cook Memorial Library,
3 Main Street
“Unlaunch’d Voices: An Evening with Walt Whitman”
Through recitations and readings, Stephen
Collins performs a reminiscence of Walt
Whitman by tracing the experiences of his life
that led to the creation of Leaves of Grass, from
the poet’s early preoccupation with self to his
selfless nursing of wounded soldiers during the
Civil War. Contact: Amy Carter, 323-8510

Wednesday, 7:00 PM, Proctor Academy Chapel,
204 Main Street
“If I am Not For Myself, Who Will Be for Me?” George Washington’s Runaway Slave
When George and Martha Washington’s runaway
“slave girl” eludes capture and escapes to New
Hampshire her story proves a contradiction of the
most basic promises embodied in our founding
documents. Presenter: Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti. Contact: Barbara Freeman, 934-2442

Wednesday, 7:00 PM, Enfield Community
Building, 308 US Route 4
Abolitionists of Noyes Academy
The depth of anti-abolitionist sentiment in New
England was sadly proven in 1835 when an
integrated school was opened in Canaan, NH,
briefly -- and then dragged off its foundation by
an outraged mob, its African-American students
run out of town. Presenter: Dan Billin. Contact:
Kathy Ford, 652-4675

Thursday, 7:00 PM, First Congregational Church,
1 Concord Street
New England Quilts & the Stories They Tell
More than a warm blanket or a work of art, quilts
tell the story of women’s lives, industrial history,
wars, fashion fads, and personal folkways. Bring
your own quilt to the talk. Presenter: Pamela
Weeks. Contact: Brooks Thompson, 886-1476

Sunday, 7:00 PM, Lake Sunapee United
Methodist Church, 9 Lower Main Street
Songs of Emigration: Storytelling
Through Traditional Irish Music
Highlighted by illustrations of examples found
throughout the state, Glenn Knoblock traces the history of weathervanes, their practical use and symbolism, their architectural embellishments, and their types and methods of manufacture. Contact: Jan Cote, 783-4090

### NEW LONDON

**Tuesday, 7:00 PM, New London Meetinghouse, 179 Little Sunapee Road**

**Old Time Rules Will Prevail: The Fiddle Contest in New Hampshire and New England**

While old time fiddle contests could evolve into endurance marathons to demonstrate who was “best,” New England fiddling today has declined, making the legacies of these contests all the more appealing. Adam Boyce plays a sampling and treats us to live fiddling. Contact: Kathryn Butler, 526-6564

### HAMPSTEAD

**Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Hampstead Public Library, 9 Mary E. Clark Drive**

**Robert Rogers of the Rangers**

In October 1765, a private audience with King George III led to an expedition to find the long-dreamed-of Northwest passage to the Pacific – 40 years before Lewis and Clark. Thirty years after his death in May 1795, Robert Rogers’ adventures and exploits were mined by James Fenimore Cooper for his best-selling novels. Presenter: George Morrison. Contact: Janet Arden, 529-6411

### BEDFORD

**Wednesday, 3:00 PM, Bedford Public Library, 3 Meetinghouse Road**

**A Soldier’s Mother Tells Her Story**

Speaking as former Amherst resident Betsey Phelps whose Union soldier son died at the Battle of Gettysburg, Sharon Wood offers an informative and sensitive reflection on war’s sacrifice from a mother’s perspective. Contact: Bedford Public Library, 472-2300

### DURHAM

**Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Durham Public Library, 49 Madbury Road**

**Town by Town, Watershed by Watershed: Native Americans in NH**

John and Donna Moody explore the history of New Hampshire’s Abenaki and Penacook peoples from the recent, late 20th-century explosion of local Native population in New Hampshire back to the era of early settlement and the colonial wars. Contact: Naomi Kornhauser, 868-6699

### MANCHESTER

**Wednesday, 6:30 pm, Currier Museum of Art**

**150 Ash Street 21st U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera Poetry Reading & Book Signing**

For more about this event see the article on page 3. Contact: NH Humanities, 224-4071

### RYE

**Thursday, 1:00 PM, Rye Congregational Church, 580 Washington Road**

**A House on the Bay: Life on 17th-Century NH’s Coastal Frontier**

Neill DePaoli demonstrates how Great Bay residents on the periphery of Anglo-American settlement were far less isolated and bereft of “civilized” comforts than previously thought. He examines the recent archaeological discovery of the Wiggin home, a prominent Seacoast family in the 17th century. Contact: Lee Arthur, 964-6281

### STRATHAM

**Thursday, 6:00 PM, Wiggan Memorial Library, 10 Bunker Hill Avenue**

**Life Downstairs: British Servant Culture in Fact, Fiction, and Film**

While the intersecting lives of the rich and poor have proved popular narratives for centuries, contemporary stories have caused a resurgence of interest, especially in the British upstairs/downstairs lives of those born to or servants of the manor. Presenter: Ann McClellan. Contact: Tricia Ryden, 772-4346

### ATKINSON

**Tuesday, 6:30 PM, Kimball Library, 5 Academy Avenue**

**A Visit With Queen Victoria**

Using Queen Victoria’s diary and letters, living history presenter Sally Mumney reveals the personal details of a powerful yet humane woman, who took seriously her role as monarch in a time of great expansion. The Queen appears in proper 19th-century clothing resplendent with Royal Orders. Contact: Lois Powers, 362-5234

### JAFFREY

**Thursday, 7:00 PM, Jaffrey Civic Center, 40 Main Street**

**A Walk Back in Time: The Secrets of Cellar Holes**

For a program description see the event on April 5 in Merrimack. Contact: Jaffrey Civic Center, 532-6527

### HAMPTON

**Thursday, 7:00 PM, First Congregational Church, 127 Winnacunnet Road**

**Banjos, Bones, and Ballads**

Tavern songs, banjo tunes, 18th-century New England hymns, sailor songs, and humorous stories about traditional singers and their songs highlight this informative program by Jeff Warner. Contact: Arlene Radford, 926-2837

### CAMPTON

**Monday, 7:00 PM, Campton Historical Society, 529 NH Rte. 175**

**Robert Rogers of the Rangers**

For a program description see the event on April 10 in Hampstead. Contact: Nancy Mardin, 536-5140

### AUBURN

**Tuesday, 6:30 PM, Griffin Free Public Library, 22 Hooksett Road**

**Family, Memory, Place: Writing Family Stories**

In this interactive workshop, participants explore the themes of family, memory, and place through sample narratives and a series of short writing exercises, gaining awareness of how their stories preserve personal, generational, and communal history. Presenter: Maura MacNeil. Contact: Kathy Growney, 483-5374

### MERRIMACK

**Tuesday, 7:00 PM, John O’Leary Adult Community Center, 4 Church Street**

**New Hampshire on High: Historic and Unusual Weathervanes**

For a program description see the event on April 10 in Canterbury. Contact: Anita Creager, 424-5084

### ALTON

**Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Gilman Library, 100 Main St.**

**Poor Houses and Town Farms: The Hard Row for Paupers**

Most New Hampshire towns once had almshouses and poor farms that housed the poor and destitute, but confusion persisted over the distinction between “honest” poor and “undeserving” poor and what should be done about it. Presenter: Steve Taylor. Contact: Sandra Hammond, 569-3245
José Lezcano's multi-media musical program showcases the guitar in a variety of musical styles: indigenous strummers in ritual festivals from Ecuador, Gaucho music from Argentina, European parlor waltzes from Venezuela, and Afro-Brazilian samba-pagode. Contact: Rennie Timm, 487-3391

**NEW HAMPTON**

**That Reminds Me of a Story**

Rebecca Rule has collected stories of NH for over 20 years, especially those that reflect what's special about this rocky old place, and she shares those stories (her favorite funny ones) and invites audience members to share a few of their own. Contact: Mary Gasiorowski, 522-7204

**25 HANOVER**

**The Use of Hiphop Rhetorics to Combat the Criminalization of Black, Brown, and Red Youth**

A confluence of young Blacks, American Indians, and Latino/as use hiphop to produce art, community, and social criticism, reimagining everyday life and re-investigating the role non-Western ways of knowing play out in American culture, especially urban blight, racism, and ethnic stereotyping. Presenter: Marcos Del Hierro. Contact: Howe Library, 643-4120

**NEW ENGLAND LIGHTHOUSES & THE PEOPLE WHO KEPT THEM**

Jeremy D'Entremont tells the picturesque story of lighthouses, narrating the colorful and dramatic lives of the keepers and their families and the important role that the lighthouses played in our maritime economy. Contact: Sally Woodman, 382-7574
Robert Rogers of the Rangers
For a program description see the event on April 10 in Hampstead. Contact: Nancy Hartford, 225-6496

The Old Country Fiddler: Charles Ross Taggart, Traveling Entertainer
Fiddler, piano player, comedian, singer, and ventriloquist, Ross Taggart performed in lyceums across the country for over 40 years in the 19th century. Adam Boyce shares recollections on his life, with live fiddling interspersed. Contact: Bath Public Library, 747-3372

Putting Human Faces on the Textile Industry: The Workers of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company
Robert Perreault sheds light on how people from a variety of European countries and French Canada made the transition from an agrarian to an industrial society and how that change affected families, cultures, the nature of work, and relationships among workers. Contact: Brian Baer, 391-2197

New Hampshire Roads Taken Or Not
For a description of this program see the event on April 8 in Durham. Contact: Margaret Ladd, 272-4967

Robert Rogers of the Rangers
For a program description see the event on April 10 in Hampstead. Contact: Nancy Hartford, 225-6496

New Hampshire Roads Taken Or Not
For a description of this program see the event on April 8 in Durham. Contact: Margaret Ladd, 272-4967

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For more information on other ways to support our work, contact Lynn Douillette, Director of Annual Giving, at 603-224-4071, ext. 120 or ldouillette@nhhumanities.org.
“I’m a good person. Isn’t that enough?”

... one of the many philosophical questions raised in *Waking Up White* and *Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debbie Irving. Community members in Madbury, Lee, and Durham chose the book as the inspiration for this year’s Oyster River Community Read project, funded in part by a New Hampshire Humanities Community Project Grant. The multi-town community read project spanned several months and included book discussions, lectures, art exhibits, and activities for all ages, to help community members embrace difficult conversations about racism. The series culminates with an author visit by Debby Irving and a community dinner on April 16th at Oyster River High School. For more information visit www.orcread.org.

Elephant-in-the-Room series final program May 3

New Hampshire Theatre Project’s provocative series, *Elephant in the Room*, has tackled topics that we as a society often have difficulty discussing—topics like human trafficking, mental illness, and the opioid crisis. Each program has included a playreading and a facilitated discussion among audience members, artists, and a panel of experts. On May 3, the final program in the series focuses on death and dying, featuring a playreading of Nick Payne’s *Constellations*. Join us for the last program in this remarkable series.

**Death & Dying:** Thursday, May 3, 7:00 pm, NH Theatre Project West, 959 Islington Street, Portsmouth. Details at [www.nhtheatreproject.org](http://www.nhtheatreproject.org). Free and open to the public.