



January 2016

Calendar

A Monthly Publication from New Hampshire Humanities



Our vision is to give NH residents the opportunity to experience – and practice – the humanities, and to be able to do so together with their neighbors in their own communities in ways the are appealing to people today and tomorrow.

*Deborah Watrous,
New Hampshire Humanities
Executive Director*

NEH Challenge Grant will expand depth and reach of *Humanities to Go*

New Hampshire Humanities is the recipient of a \$350,000 Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The grant, which must be matched by \$1,050,000 in non-federal contributions, will support the long-range development of New Hampshire Humanities' popular speakers bureau, *Humanities to Go*.

Over the past 30 years, New Hampshire Humanities has developed a superb mechanism for delivering the humanities to the people of New Hampshire. Called *Humanities to Go*, this program works the way the state works, capitalizing on New Hampshire's highly decentralized structure and our collective belief in local control. It is by far the most popular public humanities activity in the state, with more than 450 programs – all free and open to the public - offered each year that are attended by more than 19,000 Granite Staters, in partnership with more than 280 local organizations in more than 150 New Hampshire cities and towns. Current *Humanities to Go* programs range from a talk on NH's Native

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NEH Challenge Grant - continued from page 1

American history pre-contact, to a discussion of civil liberties vs. security in America today, to a living history presentation of Eleanor Roosevelt.

The Challenge Grant will fund the long-range redesign of *Humanities to Go* in order to increase interactivity, incorporate new program formats, and expand training and mentoring of presenters

“Our vision is to give New Hampshire residents the opportunity to experience – and practice – the humanities, and to be able to do so together with their neighbors in their own communities in ways that are appealing to people today and tomorrow,” said Deborah Watrous, New Hampshire Humanities Executive Director. “*Humanities to Go* will offer New Hampshire citizens vitally important occasions to engage with ideas and with one another thoughtfully and respectfully. It will offer the public the tools and knowledge that enable them to connect local stories, concerns, and traditions with global questions about the human condition.”

“The \$350,000 NEH Challenge Grant serves as a ‘seal of approval’ for this project and for New Hampshire Humanities,” Watrous added. “We hope and expect that it will inspire thousands of people in New Hampshire to invest in *Humanities to Go* in order to help us meet the NEH Challenge and to ensure that New Hampshire residents always have access to thoughtful conversation about issues that matter.”

This is the largest competitive grant that New Hampshire Humanities has received from the NEH in its 40-year history. In 2007, New Hampshire Humanities received a \$225,000 grant from the Public Programs Division at NEH for a multi-year initiative on immigration in New Hampshire. In 1998, we were awarded a \$200,000 Challenge Grant that formed the basis of an endowment supporting K-12 humanities education and teacher professional development.

“With these grants, the National Endowment for the Humanities continues its 50-year tradition of supporting excellence in the humanities,” said NEH Chairman William D. Adams. “From scholarly books and humanities programs on college campuses to new digital humanities resources and preservation efforts at local museums, the projects receiving funding today will reach deeply into communities and expand access to our shared cultural heritage.”

For more than four decades, New Hampshire Humanities has been connecting people to culture, history, places, ideas and one another. We bring the thrill of discovery and the power of ideas to people of all walks of life, from all corners of our state. We support local cultural and educational institutions during hard economic times by awarding grants for innovative educational programs and capacity-building. The programs of New Hampshire Humanities invite citizens to reason together, to learn from and listen to one another. We offer teachers cost-effective, content-rich professional development that strengthens the teaching of the humanities in our schools, from civics to Native American history. And we develop communities of readers, especially among those struggling with literacy and those new citizens just learning about their new culture and government.

The NEH is an independent federal agency created in 1965. It is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States. Because democracy demands wisdom, NEH serves and strengthens our republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans. The Endowment accomplishes this mission by awarding grants for top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers.

Note: Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed through *Humanities to Go* do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

...the National Endowment for the Humanities continues its 50-year tradition of supporting excellence in the humanities.

NEH Chairman William D. Adams



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Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War

by Kathy Mathis, Program Director

Since 9/11, two and a half million American soldiers have served in the military. At the same time, never before has the public been more disconnected from those who experience war. When men and women return home from deployment, it is a challenge for members of the public to know how to speak with them about their war experiences. Neither do many veterans know how to bridge the communication gap.

In addition to experiential and social barriers among veterans and civilians, prospects for many returning vets are bleak. Veteran suicides nationally remain high (22 per day) and serve as a reminder of the isolation and difficulties many vets have in transitioning to civilian life. The forms of despair they may be facing take the shape of unemployment, divorce, addiction, homelessness, and undiagnosed or untreated PTSD. It is estimated that at least 30% of today's returning vets suffer from PTSD, suggesting that over 2000 NH families may need help.

Without more dialogue about the obligations and experiences of war and what we ask of those who place themselves in harm's way, many soldiers will return to communities unready for them and the challenges they and their families face. New Hampshire Humanities believes that public engagement is fundamental to broadly addressing the social and cultural barriers to veteran reintegration.

To that end, New Hampshire Humanities has launched **Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War**, a two-pronged program that includes a documentary based largely on veterans' stories to be produced in conjunction with the nonprofit film production company Vetflix, and a for-veterans-only series of facilitated book discussions based on a model that indirectly addresses issues of war through the use of Homer's classic narratives in partnership with Dartmouth College.

Standing Together will utilize the power of storytelling and dialogue to address both the experience of war in its many guises and the social and cultural barriers that challenge returning soldiers. The film and discussions will serve as dramatic devices to connect veterans to non-veterans, and veterans to other veterans, in discussion of ethical and social questions important to us all: How does one heal from the trauma of war? What

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A *Standing Together* focus group at the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton.



Do you have a passion for teaching the humanities? Share it!

New Humanities to Go catalog planned for fall

New Hampshire Humanities is seeking new presenters and programs to be included in our popular *Humanities to Go* catalog in 2016. *Humanities to Go* is New Hampshire Humanities easy-to-use speakers bureau, which funded 450 presentations - all free and open to the public - in 2015. Join presenters like Jeff Warner (pictured above), Steve Taylor, Rebecca Rule, and many other talented scholars who bring the humanities to the people of New Hampshire in communities in every corner of our state.

An application for presenters is available on the *Humanities to Go* program page on our website at www.nhhumanities.org.

This year, applications must be submitted electronically and are due by midnight on February 1, 2016. Invitations to audition at our Humanities Fair in June will be sent in late February.

For more information, please contact *Humanities to Go* Coordinator Cathy Kaplan at ckaplan@nhhumanities.org.

This was such an engaging program. He had the men singing the chorus to all of his songs. This was quite remarkable. They were engaged from the minute they entered the room, as Jeff was playing one of his instruments to welcome them.

Program host on Jeff Warner's program at the Berlin prison

I felt like they presented in such a way that seeds of curiosity were planted.

Audience member at one of Pontine Theater's *Humanities to Go* presentations.



Featured program: Silver Lake Summers: An E.E. Cummings Review

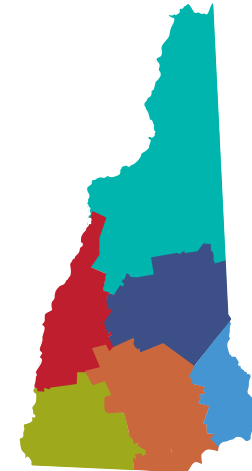
Pontine Theatre (Greg Gathers and Marguerite Mathews) explores the life and work of American poet and painter Edward Estlin Cummings, a lifelong summer resident of Silver Lake in New Hampshire in this readers theater program. The largest collection of Cummings' papers is housed at Harvard University. These materials, along with his published works, form the basis for *Silver Lake Summers*. Visual motifs are taken from Cummings' paintings and the environment at Silver Lake. The structure and tone of the presentation reflect the same inventive and experimental atmosphere of early 20th century literature and art which influenced Cummings.

Learn how you can book Greg and Marguerite's programs on the *Humanities to Go* page of our website at www.nhhumanities.org.

Humanities in New Hampshire

Your Monthly Guide to Programs Around the State

All the events listed in this calendar are funded in whole or part by New Hampshire Humanities.



DARTMOUTH/LAKE SUNAPEE

Orford, January 28

LAKES REGION

Waterville Valley, January 8

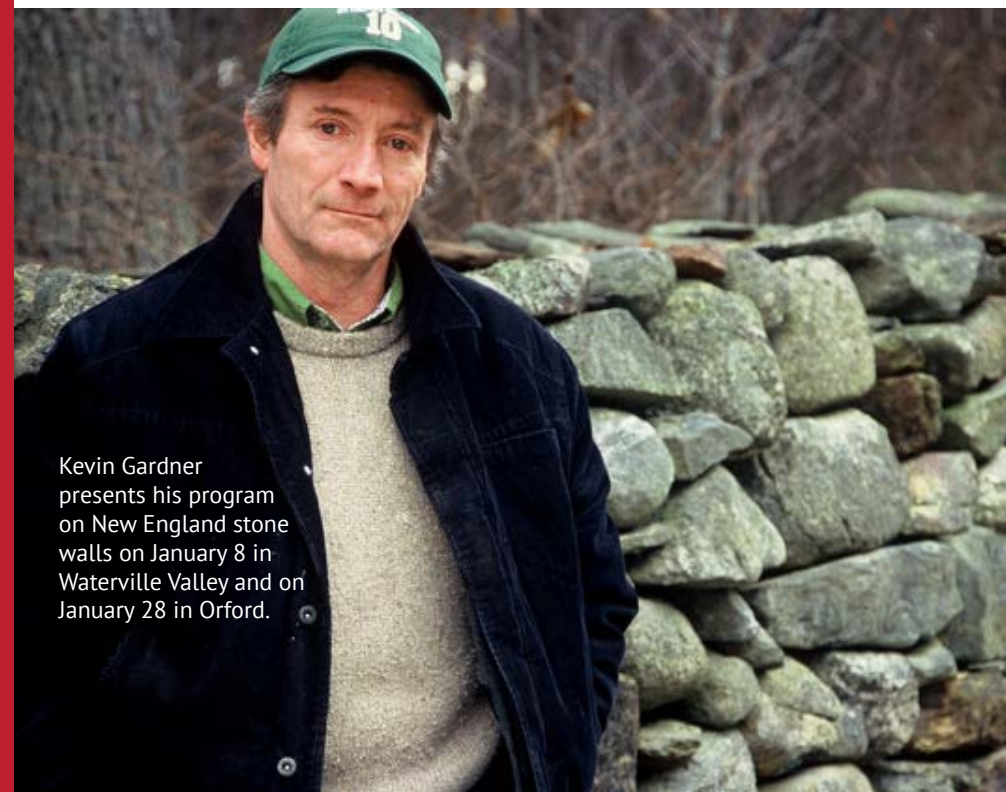
SEACOAST

Exeter, January 5
Rye, January 14
Durham, January 15

MERRIMACK VALLEY

Henniker, January 10
Concord, January 25
Atkinson, January 28
Bradford, January 28

Humanities to Go programs are made possible in part by the generous support of



Kevin Gardner presents his program on New England stone walls on January 8 in Waterville Valley and on January 28 in Orford.

January 2016

5 EXETER

Tuesday, 7 p.m., Exeter Historical Society, 47 Front St.

Margaret Bourke White: Courageous Photographer

Did you know that photographer Margaret Bourke-White had to make Stalin laugh to get his picture, and she was told by Patton to hide his jowls? Letters and tender WWII-era V-mails found at Syracuse University form the basis for this living history program. Sally Matson's lifetime in theatre began with acting and directing at Northwestern University, and her fascination with history provides the audience with an entertaining lesson. Contact: Barbara Rimkunas, 778-2335

8 WATERTVILLE VALLEY

Friday, 7 p.m., The Margret and H.A. Rey Center, 13 Noon Peak Rd.

Discovering New England Stone Walls

Why are we so fascinated with stone walls? Kevin Gardner, author of *The Granite Kiss*, explains how and why New England came to acquire its thousands of miles of stone walls, the ways in which they and other dry stone structures were built, how their styles emerged and changed over time and their significance to the famous New England landscape. Along the way, Kevin occupies himself building a miniature wall or walls on a tabletop, using tiny stones from a five-gallon bucket. Contact: 236-3308

10 HENNIKER

Sunday, 2 p.m., Tucker Free Library, 31 Western Ave.

New Hampshire on Skis

Take Scandinavian and Austrian immigrants, the Dartmouth Outing Club, the Cannon Mountain Tramway, the muscular Christian, amateur tinkers, and Professor E. John B. Allen. Cover it with snow and shake, and you have all the makings of a unique New Hampshire history. Contact: 428-3471

Humanities in New Hampshire January 2015

14 RYE

Thursday, 1 p.m., Rye Congregational Church,
580 Washington Rd.

That Reminds Me of a Story

Stories speak to us of community. They hold our history and reflect our identity. Rebecca Rule has made it her mission over the last 20 years to collect stories of New Hampshire, especially those that reflect what's special about this rocky old place. She'll tell some of those stories - her favorites are the funny ones - and invite audience members to contribute a few stories of their own. Hosted by the Town of Rye Recreation Department. Contact: Lee Arthur, 964-6281

15 DURHAM

Friday, 10 a.m., Community Church, 17 Main St.

Wacky Songs That Made Us Laugh

Popular songs with humorous lyrics have kept us laughing since Colonial times. We need comic relief, and songs provide some of the best (sometimes unintentionally). Excerpts from hilarious songs help chart the evolution of musical humor from the 1920s to the 1980s. Selections poke fun at WW II enemies, diets, television, sex, Christmas, summer camp, religion, and many other aspects of life. Laugh as you recall wacky moments from the past and discover new ones with Calvin Knickerbocker. Hosted by Newcomers Unlimited. Contact: Gayle Hylan, 659-2422

25 CONCORD

Monday, 2:15 p.m., Havenwood Auditorium, 33 Christian Ave.

That Reminds Me of a Story

See the listing for January 14 in Rye for a description of this program. Contact: Lee Arthur, 964-6281

28 ATKINSON

Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Kimball Library, 5 Academy Ave.

Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire

Drawing on research from her book, *Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire, the Present, the Past, and the Future*, Rebecca Rule regales audiences with stories of the rituals, traditions and history of town meeting, including the perennial characters, the literature, the humor, and the wisdom of this uniquely New England institution. Hosted by the Atkinson Historical Society. Contact: 553-0531

28 ORFORD

Thursday, 7 p.m., Rivendell Academy, 2972 Route 25A

Discovering New England Stone Walls

See the listing for January 8 in Waterville Valley for a description of this program which is hosted by the Orford Historical Society. Contact: Carl Schmidt, 353-9307

28 BRADFORD

Thursday, 7 p.m., Bradford Historical Society Tin Shop,
168 E. Main St.

Poor Houses and Town Farms: The Hard Row for Paupers

From its earliest settlements New Hampshire has struggled with issues surrounding the treatment of its poor. The early Northeastern colonies followed the lead of England's 1601 Poor Law, which imposed compulsory taxes for maintenance of the poor but made no distinction between the "vagrant, vicious poor" and the helpless, and honest poor. This confusion persisted for generations and led directly to establishment in most of the state's towns of alms houses and poor farms and, later, county institutions which would collectively come to form a dark chapter in New Hampshire history. Co-hosted by the Brown Memorial Library. Contact: 938-5372

Standing Together – cont. from page 3

can we in New Hampshire do to better integrate veterans into their home communities after active duty? What obligations do we owe those who are ready to die for our country? How has the shift from a national draft to volunteer forces changed the relationship between veterans and civilians?

New Hampshire Humanities will premiere the documentary film with facilitated discussions across the state. The project will launch with a keynote address by James Wright, former Dartmouth President and author of *Those Who Have Borne the Battle: A History of America's Wars and Those Who Fought Them*. The film will feature interviews with veterans of many wars; commentary by historians and content experts who focus attention on the issues; non-combatants and families of soldiers; and civic leaders.

Each 14-week book discussion will be led by a facilitator team: a literary scholar, a health care provider from the veteran-serving community, and a veteran.

Dartmouth College Classics Professor Roberta Stewart, who has led discussions with veterans in the Upper Valley for the past seven years and will lead the project discussions, says that through her experience with veterans she has heard remarkable commentary about what it's like to lead men, and perceptive understandings of what's lost in war.

"I've developed a greater appreciation for the difficulty of homecoming, especially when we read *The Odyssey* and discuss Odysseus' 10-year journey home," said Stewart "A friend—a two tour of duty combat veteran and a clinical psychologist—said to me, 'Homer offers veterans a map for coming home. The reading groups provide the opportunity to read the map.'"

Future editions of the *Calendar* will include details on film showings and other public events in the *Standing Together* project.

Feed the hunger for lifelong learning with a gift to New Hampshire Humanities

Maren Tirabassi is a long-time facilitator in New Hampshire Humanities *Connections* adult literacy program. *Connections* brings the best of children's and young adult literature, and New Hampshire Humanities-trained discussion facilitators to more than 500 adult learners each year.

Maren's *Connections* class in Nashua recently read and discussed *Grandfather's Journey* by Allen Say, a tender story about wanting to be somewhere else. Say's grandfather immigrated from Japan to the United States and later returned to Japan. In the book he says, "The funny thing is, the moment I am in one country, I am homesick for the other."

Maren says her *Connections* students, many of whom are immigrants and refugees, also feel they have homes in two places, longing for the past in the place they grew up, but also hopeful about a future as New Americans. "They instinctively understand the storyteller's broken-in-two heart," she says. Maren shared Green Tea Cake with her class and brought in kimonos her father-in-law brought from Japan. These tangible items helped students better understand the American melting-pot — one culture comprised of many cultures and enriched by them all.

We hope you enjoy Maren's recipe for Green Tea Cake - and that you'll support New Hampshire Humanities recipe for lifelong learning by helping feed curious minds in every corner of the state.



Green Tea Cake

Ingredients

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup cake flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 4 tsp Matcha powdered green tea, available at many health food stores (Many recipes call for as much as three tbsps of Matcha. That is too strong for most folks.)
- 1 1/4 cups white sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract (or almond extract is tasty as well)

1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees.
2. Grease and flour a 9 x 13 inch pan. Sift together the dry ingredients.
3. In a large bowl, beat together the sugar, oil, and eggs until smooth. Stir in the vanilla (or almond) extract.
4. Beat in the flour mixture alternately with the yogurt, mixing just until incorporated.
5. Bake 30 to 40 minutes.
6. Frost the cake with butter cream or cream cheese frosting to which you may add a tsp of Matcha.

NEW HAMPSHIRE humanities

Yes! I want to feed curious minds throughout the Granite State

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If you'd like more information on ways you can support our work, contact Development Officer Lynn Douillette at 224-4071 x120 or ldouillette@nhhumanities.org.



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117 Pleasant Street
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Help ensure a seat at the table for hungry lifelong learners throughout 2016.

An unexpected recipe for doing just that on page 7!

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