

January 2017

Calendar

A monthly publication from New Hampshire Humanities

“Learning about people’s lives leads to a better understanding of other cultures and our commonalities as humans.”

~ *Grapes of Wrath* project participant



Contra dance at Milford Town Hall (Kathy Cleveland)

***The Grapes of Wrath* comes alive in fifteen towns**

Libraries, businesses, schools and farms all in on regional community read project

The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck’s masterful novel about poverty and suffering, strength and resilience, was the cornerstone of a successful collaboration spanning fifteen towns in southern New Hampshire this fall, supported in part by a New Hampshire Humanities community project grant and coordinated by the Fireseed Alliance.

Possibly the most widely-discussed novel in 20th century American literature, *The Grapes of Wrath* chronicles

one family’s forced migration to California during the Great Depression. Through this project, in towns from Amherst to Dunbarton, Bedford to Bow, and Greenville to Mont Vernon, hundreds of Granite Staters explored this story of a pivotal period in American history and how it is relevant today. Students, teachers, farmers, musicians, artists, librarians, and others learned about and reflected on the many serious issues raised by the novel: poverty and income

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Buying books at the "Hit the Loads" program in Wilton (Photo by Blanche Milligan)

to town to attend different kinds of programs and think about the story, time period, and themes from other perspectives.

One hundred and fifty attended the kick-off event at LaBelle Winery featuring fiddlers Dudley and Jacqueline Laufman. Local students, dressed in period clothing, vividly and theatrically read selected lines from the book. A total of two hundred and forty people at events in four communities enjoyed "A Visit with FDR," a living history presentation by professional historical portrayer Richard Marold. Well over one hundred people viewed the classic 1940 film with Henry Fonda as young Tom Joad. They participated eagerly in post-film discussions led by International Steinbeck Society president Luchen Li at Concord's Red River Theatres, and by filmmaker Samantha Davidson Greene at the Wilton Town Hall Theater. Several dozen heard Dartmouth researcher Ron Edsforth's illustrated talk "Revisiting the Great Depression and New Deal: A 21st Century Interpretation of the Documentary Photography of the 1930s." Finally,



The kick-off event at LaBelle Winery in Amherst drew hundreds. (Photo by Bonnie Angulas)

The NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) designed to broaden our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.

disparity, migration and discrimination, environmental degradation and agriculture, as well as the connections between socioeconomic forces of the 1930s and the 21st century. With music, dancing, art and food, participants celebrated, too – the novel itself, the author, their own communities, and the human spirit.

Each library offered print and audio books and hosted at least one facilitated book discussion. People also came together in a variety of settings not traditional for humanities programs – Amherst's LaBelle Winery, Goffstown's Apotheca Flower and Tea Shoppe, Mont Vernon's Lamson Farm, the Milford Town Hall, to name a few. With dozens of events over a six-week period, attendees could – and many did – travel from town



Nicole Donnell (center) and her daughters, Solange (L) and Aveline (R), at the Milford contra dance (Photo courtesy of the Donnell family)

Steinbeck biographer and Middlebury College professor Jay Parini mesmerized his audience by sharing his personal experiences interviewing Steinbeck's late wife, Elaine Steinbeck, and many of the author's acquaintances and family members.

This project also received one of only 77 "Big Read" grants awarded to cultural organizations across the country for 2016-2017 by the National Endowment for the Arts.

A stunning illustration of humanities in action, this project is a powerful example of the community projects, large and small, that New Hampshire Humanities funds throughout the year. For information about how *your* organization can apply for a Community Project Grant, please visit www.nhhumanities.org/grants.



Subversive Activities

New Hampshire Humanities has awarded a grant of \$3,175 to the NH World Fellowship Center for a project about a McCarthy-era legal case that took a conflict between the New Hampshire attorney general and the director of a White Mountains conference center all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Panelists and participants will look at the case *Uphaus v. Wyman* from a variety of angles, considering the historical context, the background of those involved, the ethical and legal issues at stake. Questions about the balance between individual rights, liberties and conscience and the needs of the broader society remain with us today. This case, which was ultimately decided in by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1959, offers the chance for deep reflection about individual ethical responsibilities when one's conscience conflicts with political/legal directives.



Events will take place in early April in Conway and Dover (details to be announced). Meanwhile, interested organizations can book *Humanities to Go* presenter **John Gfroerer**, whose documentary film *Rights & Reds* tells the broader story of New Hampshire's investigation of "subversive activities" during the 1950s. Visit www.nhhumanities.org/humanitiestogo to read more about booking *Rights & Reds*.



Participants in a recent *Connections* adult literacy group in Manchester, along with their instructor, *Connections* facilitator Maria Cristina Rojas (back row, left).

Connections adult literacy program receives grant from Lincoln Financial Foundation

New Hampshire Humanities is pleased to announce a \$20,000 grant from Lincoln Financial Foundation to support its *Connections* adult literacy program. *Connections* is a New Hampshire Humanities book discussion program offered statewide in partnership with adult basic education and ESOL classes, the prisons, and refugee resettlement organizations to promote English language skills, nurture a culture of reading, and support family literacy.

The grant reflects Lincoln Financial Foundation's commitment to economic and workforce development and their belief that literacy is essential to gainful employment.

"Literacy is the cornerstone of employability," said Byron Champlin, Concord program officer for Lincoln Financial Foundation, which is now in its ninth year of investing in this program. "The *Connections* program provides long-time residents, as well as new arrivals to New Hampshire, with the reading skills they need to live greater lives within the community."

"People from all levels come together and talk. Some people can't read...I couldn't read more than "Dick and Jane," and now I can read anything!"

~ *Connections* student

"*Connections* succeeds because it increases reading and comprehension ability, encourages critical thinking, strengthens conversation and interview skills, provides opportunity for leadership development and builds confidence necessary to succeed in the workplace," said Deborah Watrous, executive director

of New Hampshire Humanities. "Statistics show that an American with low literacy skills is almost certain to have parents who also did not read or write with fluency. This means that adult literacy programs are doubly effective – reaching all new readers within a household. We're deeply grateful for the ongoing support of Lincoln Financial Foundation."

For more information about *Connections* please visit www.nhhumanities.org/connections.

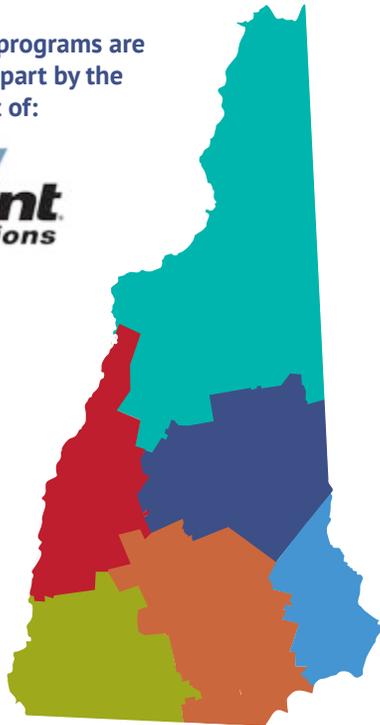


Humanities in New Hampshire

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.

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



DARTMOUTH/LAKE SUNAPEE

New London, Jan. 10

SEACOAST

Plaistow, Jan. 4
Kensington, Jan. 29
Lee, Jan. 31

MERRIMACK VALLEY

Hudson, Jan. 4
New Boston, Jan. 12
Hooksett, Jan. 16
Dunbarton, Jan. 19
Salem, Jan. 19

MONADNOCK REGION

Keene, Jan. 31

January 2017

4 HUDSON

Wednesday, 7:00 pm, Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Rd.

(Not So) Elementary, My Dear Watson: The Popularity of Sherlock Holmes

The recent spate of Sherlock Holmes movies, television shows, and literary adaptations indicate the Great Detective is alive and well in the 21st century. Holmes is the most portrayed literary character of all time, with over 230 film versions alone in several different languages. Sherlock Holmes is now a multi-million dollar industry. Why is Sherlock Holmes so popular? **Ann McClellan's** presentation explores the origins of Arthur Conan Doyle's famous detective and tracks his incarnations in literature, film, advertising, and modern media in order to crack the case of the most popular detective. (Snow date: Jan. 5) Contact: Amy Friedman, 886-6030

4 PLAISTOW

Wednesday, 7:00 pm, First Baptist Church, 122 Main St.

Harnessing History: On the Trail of New Hampshire's State Dog, the Chinook

Learn about how dog sledding developed in New Hampshire and about the major role the Chinook played in this story. Explaining how man and his relationship with dogs won out over machines on several famous polar expeditions, **Bob Cottrell** covers the history of Arthur Walden and his Chinooks, the State Dog of New Hampshire. Cottrell will be accompanied by his appropriately-named Chinook, Tug. Hosted by the Triangle Guild. Contact: Jean Latham, 382-5843



Learn about the unique role the Chinook played in New Hampshire's history on January 4 in Plaistow and January 29 in Kensington. Photo courtesy of Intervale Chinooks.

10 NEW LONDON

Tuesday, 6:30 pm, Tracy Library Community Room, 304 Main St.

The Connecticut: New England's Great River

The largest river in New England rises in a small beaver pond near the Canadian border and flows over 400 miles through four states, falling 2,670 feet to the sea through America's only watershed-based national fish and wildlife refuge. **Adair Mulligan** leads an armchair tour of this great river in New Hampshire and Vermont, exploring its history and natural beauty through the seasons and among the communities that have sprung up along its banks. Much more than a travelogue, this presentation explores the many issues involved in managing the health of this major river, and how citizens from all walks of life have created a vision for its future. Hosted by the New London Historical Society. Contact: Sandy Schmid, 877-0180



Rebecca Rule presents "Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire" on January 12.

12 NEW BOSTON

Thursday, 7:00 pm, New Boston Community Church
2 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.

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 New Boston Historical Society. Contact: Lisa Rothman, 487-3867

16 HOOKSETT

Monday, 6:30 pm, Hooksett Library, 31 Mount Saint Mary's Way

Liberty Is Our Motto!: Songs and Stories of the Hutchinson Family Singers

The year is 1876, and New Hampshire's own John Hutchinson sings and tells about his famous musical family "straight from the horse's mouth." The Hutchinson Family Singers were among America's most notable musical entertainers for much of the mid-19th century. They achieved international recognition with songs advancing social reform and political causes such as abolition, temperance, women's suffrage, and the Lincoln presidential campaign of 1860. In this living history program, **Steve Blunt** portrays John Hutchinson, telling the Hutchinsons' story and sharing their music with lyrics provided. Audience members

are invited to sing along on "The Old Granite State," "Get Off the Track" and more. Contact: Hooksett Library, 485-6092

19 DUNBARTON

Thursday, 6:30 pm, Dunbarton Public Library, 1004 School St.

Vanished Veterans - New Hampshire's Civil War Monuments and Memorials

New Hampshire towns did not erect monuments to prior wars, but the emotional and family toll, unprecedented in American history, drove the decision to honor our local soldiers and sailors of the War of Rebellion. From Seabrook to Colebrook, Berlin to Hinsdale, along Main Streets and 19th-century dirt roads, in city parks and on town greens, in libraries and town halls, and in cemeteries prominent and obscure, **George Morrison** shares the fascinating variety of New Hampshire's Civil War memorials from the 1860s through the 1920s. Contact: Mary Girard, 774-3546

19 SALEM

Thursday, 7:00 pm, Kelley Library, 234 Main St.

12,000 Years Ago in the Granite State

The native Abenaki people played a central role in the history of the Monadnock region, defending it against English settlement and forcing the abandonment of Keene and other Monadnock area towns during the French and Indian Wars. Despite this, little is known about the Abenaki, and conventional histories often depict the first Europeans entering an untamed, uninhabited wilderness, rather than the homeland of people who had been there for hundreds of generations. **Robert Goodby** discusses how the real depth of Native history was revealed when an archaeological study discovered traces of four structures dating to the end of the Ice Age. Contact: Paul Giblin, 898-7064

29 KENSINGTON

Sunday, 3:00 pm, Kensington Town Hall, 95 Amesbury Rd.

Harnessing History: On the Trail of New Hampshire's State Dog, the Chinook

For a description of this program, see the listing for January 4 in Plaistow. Hosted by the Kensington Public Library and the Kensington Historical Society. Contact: Kensington Public Library, 772-5022

31 LEE

Tuesday 6:30 pm, Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Rd.

(Not So) Elementary, My Dear Watson: The Popularity of Sherlock Holmes

For a description of this program see the listing for Jan. 4 in Hudson. Contact: Ruth Eifert, 659-2626

31 KEENE

Tuesday, 7:00 pm, Keene Middle School Auditorium, 167 Maple Ave.

12,000 Years in the Granite State

See the listing on January 19 in Salem for a description of this program. Hosted by the Harris Center for Conservation Education. Contact: Brett Amy Thelen, 358-2065

Watch for these new *Humanities to Go* programs in 2017!

Here's a preview of a few of our new *Humanities to Go* programs that are now available and being booked at various locations around the state. Watch for these and other new titles in the upcoming print and e-versions of our *Calendar*.

New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell

Quilts tell stories, and quilt history is full of myths and misinformation as well as heart-warming tales of service and tradition. Quilting is not just an American art; nearly every world culture that has cold weather uses quilted textiles. **Pam Weeks** weaves world history, women's history, industrial history and just plain wonderful stories into her presentation. Participants are invited to bring one quilt for identification and/or story sharing. Prompted in part by the material culture at hand, the presenter may speak about fashion fads, the Colonial Revival, quilt making for Civil War soldiers, and many other quilt-related topics.



New Hampshire on High: Historic and Unusual Weathervanes of the Granite State

This program offers a fun and engaging look at the historic and unusual weathervanes found on New Hampshire's churches, town halls, and other public buildings, from earliest times to the present. Highlighted by the visual presentation of some of the vanes found throughout the state, **Glenn Knoblock's** program traces the history of weathervanes, their practical use and interesting symbolism, as well as their varied types and methods of manufacture and evolution from practical weather instrument to architectural embellishment.

All Eyes Are Upon Us: Racial Struggles in the Northeast, from Jackie Robinson to Deval Patrick

From Brooklyn to Boston, from World War II to the present, **Jason Sokol** traces the modern history of race and politics in the Northeast. Why did white fans come out to support Jackie Robinson as he broke baseball's color barrier in 1947 even as Brooklyn's blacks were shunted into segregated neighborhoods? How was African-American politician Ed Brooke of Massachusetts, who won a Senate seat in 1966, undone by the resistance to desegregation busing in Boston? Is the Northeast's history a microcosm of America as a whole – outwardly democratic, but inwardly conflicted over race?

Flight of Remembrance: World War II from the Losing Side and the Dream That Lead to Aerospace Engineering

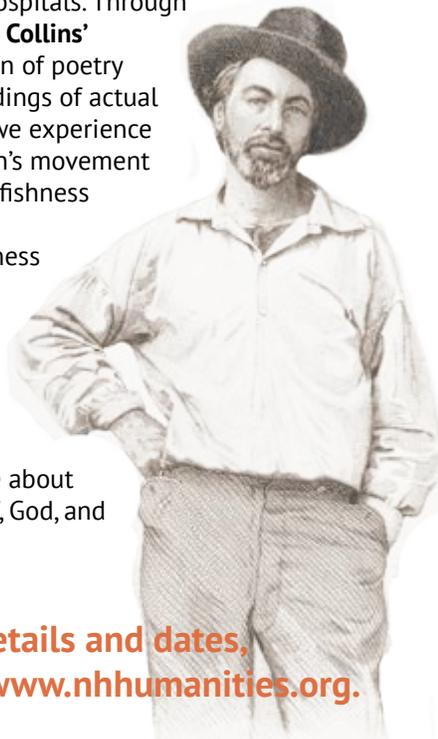
Flight of Remembrance is the true story of the speaker's family before, during, and after World War II in Latvia, occupied Poland, and Germany. None were members of the Nazi Party or Hitler supporters, but **Marina Kirsch's** father and grandfather, both technically skilled, were forced to serve in the German military after fleeing from Latvia to Germany before the first Soviet takeover of the Baltic States. By giving a face and name to "the enemy," this presentation offers a seldom-shared perspective on the most devastating world conflict of all time, and sheds light on what life was like for a German family during the war. Centering on the speaker's parents, Rolf and Lilo, Flight of Remembrance is a love story, a story of survival, and

of Rolf's lifelong dream of a career in aeronautical engineering that expanded, after he immigrated to the United States, to a leadership role in the emerging U.S. space program.

Unlaunch'd Voices: An Evening with Walt Whitman

Opening with the elderly Whitman on the evening of his seventieth birthday, the audience becomes a visitor in his room as he prepares for his birthday celebration. Whitman begins to reminisce during the telling. He transforms into his young, vibrant self and traces back the experiences that led to the creation of *Leaves Of Grass*, his lifetime work. The first part of the performance explores Whitman's preoccupation with the self and his resolve to write with "free and brave thought..." In the second part of the performance, Whitman's life is changed forever by the Civil War. It is here that he finds "the most important work of my life," nursing the wounded soldiers in the hospitals. Through

Stephen Collins' recitation of poetry and readings of actual letters, we experience Whitman's movement from selfishness toward selflessness and his growth into a mature artist who is at peace about "himself, God, and death."



For details and dates, visit www.nhumanities.org.

“We Granite Staters are lucky to have an organization that connects us to our history and our culture, and helps us learn from the human experience.”



Dan Will and his daughter Samantha enjoy a family hike in the White Mountains.

“Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are important disciplines, but so are the analytical disciplines that come from the study of literature, art, history and culture, which also bring the empathy and emotional intelligence that today’s work places, communities and civic institutions very desperately need. We Granite Staters are lucky to have New Hampshire Humanities to connect us to our history and culture, and help us learn from the human experience.”

– Daniel E. Will, Esq., Devine Millimet
New Hampshire Humanities Board of Directors



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Exp. _____ CVC _____

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Concord, NH 03301-0375
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**FROM TROY TO
BAGHDAD:**
*Dialogues on the Experience
of War & Homecoming*

Veterans group starts in Hanover in January

Dialogues on the Experience of War is a book discussion series that uses ancient literature and contemporary readings to help veterans process their experience of war and return. All veterans and current service members are invited to join our Hanover group starting in January. Visit www.nhhumanities.org/veterans for more information.

Amherst Town Library to host series on war & homecoming

Facilitators from our veterans reading group, *From Troy to Baghdad: Dialogues on the Experience of War & Homecoming*, will be part of the Amherst Town Library's Lyceum series on **Tuesday, January 11 at 7:00 pm** in a panel discussion about the impact of war and homecoming on veterans, their families and communities. Panelists include New Hampshire Humanities facilitators from the Manchester and Portsmouth *Dialogues* discussion groups: Ann-Maria Contarino, English professor at St. Anselm College; Tim McLaughlin, attorney, combat veteran, Iraq; Gary Rolph, chaplain at Manchester VA; and Brendan O'Byrne, UNH student and combat veteran, Afghanistan. Please join us in the Main Reading Room at Amherst Town Library, 14 Main Street, Amherst. Free & open to the public. **Contact: Ruslyn Vear at (603) 673-2288.**

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