Staring down the “Elephant in the Room”

Using the humanities to confront topics we’d rather not discuss...

The New Hampshire Theatre Project is making us feel a little uneasy.

The Portsmouth theatre group is tackling thorny topics using theatre and community conversation to help bridge divides in understanding and create connections.

“The Elephant-in-the-Room” series, supported by New Hampshire Humanities, includes four events, each featuring a play reading of original work followed by a facilitated community discussion. In November, the first program addressed the reality of human trafficking (yes, right here in New Hampshire) and in February, we explored an issue that touches nearly everyone’s lives: mental illness. This month the focus turns to the spiraling opioid epidemic and its impact on families and communities.

NHTP’s founding artistic director Genevieve Aichele says the inspiration for the project came from conversations with colleagues about the things in our lives that we feel uncomfortable talking about in public, things that cause us pain and shame.

“I got this idea that this is what theatre can do... Talk about the topic no one is talking about,” said Aichele. "The most important thing for me is that this isn’t a one-night conversation, but that it continues long after the event.”

Each evening is moderated by Timothy Barretto, known for his UNH courses on managing conflict in the community, who facilitates discussion among audience members, artists, and...
a panel of experts on each topic. On Thursday, March 22 the program features Mary Ellen Hedrick’s play, “A Wider Circle,” that uses a device similar to the movie ‘It’s A Wonderful Life,’ – showing someone what life would have been like if he or she had never existed. Serving as the humanist for this event, Professor Denise Askin of Saint Anselm College brings a unique perspective to the panel through her experience as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for abused and neglected children, many of whom have parents afflicted by opioid addiction. Safe Harbor Recovery Center is the collaborating nonprofit for this event. The program is free, and donations to Safe Harbor are welcome.

The Effect of the Opioid Crisis On Families
Thursday, March 22, 7:00 pm

Death and Dying
Thursday, May 3, 7:00 pm

All events are held at NH Theatre Project West, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth.
Free and open to the public. Details at www.nhtheatreproject.org

**VIETNAM WAR program now available through Humanities to Go!**

In partnership with NHPBS, short films from Ken Burns’ and Lynn Novick’s PBS documentary, *THE VIETNAM WAR*, are the basis for a new *Humanities to Go* program. A trained facilitator will present a short video to prompt discussion and reflection about one of the most consequential and divisive events in American history. The two programs must be booked as separate *Humanities To Go* events, and the host site must provide a DVD or Blu-ray player.

**Program 1: The Vietnam War: Diverse Perspectives**

This 28-minute video includes war stories told by an American journalist, an anti-war activist, an American author and combat soldier, a Vietnamese author and soldier of the North Vietnamese Army, hero mothers, a South Vietnamese refugee, an American author and combat soldier, a Vietnamese author and soldier of the North Vietnamese Army, hero mothers, a South Vietnamese refugee, an ARVN officer, and several U.S. Marines.

**Program 2: The Vietnam War: Veteran Voices**

This 21-minute video features war stories told by American, North Vietnamese, and South Vietnamese soldiers. One story explores moral injury by following a disabled Vietnam Marine veteran who supports young warriors deployed during the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

To host this program in your community, visit www.nnhumanities.org/humanitiestogo.

How do we overcome racism in our communities?

How do decent people allow discrimination and racism to seep into their communities? What do we understand about racism, and how can we bridge racial divides and diverse perspectives?

Funded in part by a New Hampshire Humanities Community Project Grant, residents of Madbury, Lee, and Durham have the opportunity to investigate race and racism in a series of book discussions, lectures, art exhibits, and activities for all ages. The featured book is a memoir called *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving. The book invites readers to explore race, culture, and diversity through the personal story of a New Englander whose move from suburbia to the city unravels her understanding of who she was raised to be. The author speaks and joins community members at a dinner on April 16th. For a listing of events, dates and locations, visit www.orcread.org.

“I read Waking Up White in one sitting. To say I loved it is an understatement. It’s such a raw, honest portrait …. Irving’s experience on display – warts and all – will help white people, who haven’t noticed the role systemic privilege has played in their lives, start to see the world in a new way.”

- Jodi Picoult, author
March 2018

2 CLAREMONT

Friday, 1:00 PM, Earl M. Bourdon Centre, 67 Maple St.

Rally ‘Round the Flag: The American Civil War Through Folksong

Through camp songs, parlor music, hymns, battlefield rallying cries, and fiddle tunes, Woody Pringle and Marek Bennett examine the folksongs of the Civil War as a means to enact living history, share perspectives, influence public perceptions of events, and simultaneously fuse and conserve cultures in times of change. Contact: Larry Converse, 542-2180

3 DUBLIN

Saturday, 10:00 AM, Dublin Public Library, 1114 Main St.

Teddy Roosevelt’s Nobel Prize: New Hampshire and the Portsmouth Peace Treaty

Charles Doleac’s program first focuses on Roosevelt’s multi-track diplomacy around the 1906 peace treaty that ended the Russo-Japanese War and earned Roosevelt the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize; he then explores how ordinary people positively affected the negotiations in Portsmouth where the treaty was signed. Contact: Frederick MacMillan, 876-4156

4 MADBURY

Sunday, 3:00 PM, Madbury Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd.

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

Jason Sokol traces the history of race and politics in the Northeast from WWII to the present, asking whether the region represents a microcosm of America as a whole: outwardly democratic, but inwardly conflicted over race. Contact: Susan Sinnott, 743-1400

7 PLAISTOW

Wednesday, 12:00 PM, First Baptist Church, 122 Main St.

Songs of Emigration: Storytelling Through Traditional Irish Music

Through traditional music Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki relays some of the adventures, misadventures, and emotions experienced by Irish emigrants upon their exodus from Ireland, resettlement in America, war duty, and the universal sense of homesickness felt by a stranger in a strange land. Contact: Jean Latham, 382-5843

7 NEWFIELDS

Wednesday, 7:00 PM, Paul Memorial Library, 76 Main St.

New England Lighthouses and the People Who Kept Them

Jeremy D’Entremont tells the story of New England's picturesque lighthouses, focusing on the colorful and dramatic lives of the keepers and their families as well as the vital role the lighthouse played in our early maritime economy. Contact: Pamela Burch, 778-8169

7 MILFORD

Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St.

Discovering New England Stone Walls

Poets write about them and artists depict them, these iconic New England stone walls, one of which will take shape before your eyes as you learn the secrets of their building. Presented by Kevin Gardner. Contact: Susan Amann, 249-0645
11  HAMPTON

Thursday, 6:30 PM, First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, 127 Winnacunnet Rd.

That Reminds Me of a Story
Rebecca Rule 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: Maggie Giniere, 926-2837

9  DUBLIN

Friday, 7:00 PM, Dublin Community Church, 1125 Main St.

New Hampshire's One-Room Rural Schools: The Romance and the Reality
Revered in literature and lore, one-room schools were also beset with problems: financing, teacher preparation, discipline, and community involvement, among other things. Steve Taylor explores their lasting legacies. Contact: Lisa Foote, 563-8845

10  ORFORD

Saturday, 7:00 PM, United Congregational Church of Orford, 617 NH Rte. 10

Songs of Old New Hampshire
If Carl Sandburg is right that songs and stories tell us “where we came from and what brought us along,” these ballads, love songs and comic pieces reveal the experiences and emotions of daily life before movies, sound recordings and, for some, even books. Contact: Carl Schmidt, 353-9307

11  KENSINGTON

Sunday, 2:00 PM, Kensington Public Library, 126 Amesbury Rd.

Rosie’s Mom: Forgotten Women of the First World War
One hundred years ago, women ran powerful machinery, learned new skills, and faced the sullen hostility of men in the shops where they had never before been welcomed before the War to End All Wars. Carrie Brown explores how these women shaped the work force for Rosie the Riveter and other WWII women factory workers. Contact: Susan Gilbert, 772-5022

11  KEENE

Sunday, 3:00 PM, Congregation Ahavas Achim, 84 Hastings Ave.

Abby Hutchinson’s Sweet Freedom Songs: Songs and Stories of the Struggle for Abolition and Woman Suffrage
Deborah Anne Goss appears as Abby Hutchinson Patton, recalling mid-19th-century U.S. and NH history and performing rousing anthems, heartfelt ballads, and humorous ditties sung during anti-slavery and early women’s rights struggles. Contact: Daniella Yitzhak, 352-6747

11  HENNIKER

Sunday, 2:00 PM, Tucker Free Library, 31 Western Ave.

A Night of Music with Two Old Friends
With the concertina, bodhran, mandolin, octave mandolin, guitar, and banjo, Emery Hutchins and Jim Prendergast sing and play this traditional Celtic music, but they also perform American country music in the way it was conceived in the early twentieth century. Contact: Lynn Piotrowicz, 428-3471

11  EXETER

Sunday, 1:30 PM, Seacoast Artist Association Gallery, 130 Water St.*

Imperial Russian Fabergé Eggs *new location
Peter Carl Fabergé took egg painting from a traditional craft to an exquisite fine art form under the patronage of the Russian tsars; the eggs played a surprising role in the dramatic events of the last decades of Romanov rule and in the years following the Bolshevik Revolution. Presented by Marina Forbes. Contact: SAA Gallery, 778-8856

12-14  MANCHESTER

Mon/Tues/Wed, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Nackey Loeb School of Communications, 749 East Industrial Park Dr.

To Tell What They Can’t Say: Writing and Photo Journalism Workshop for Veterans
For a description of this three-day workshop, see the article on page 12. Contact: Kathy Mathis, 224-4071 or kmathis@nhhumanities.org

13  BOW

Tuesday, 6:30 PM, Baker Free Library, 509 South St.

Songs of Emigration: Storytelling Through Traditional Irish Music
For a description of this program see the event on March 7 in Plaistow. Contact: Betsy Mahoney, 224-7113

14  CONTOOCOOK

Wednesday, 1:00 PM, Odd Fellows Hall, Davisville Rd.

Benedict Arnold: Patriot and Traitor?
Recalled mainly as a traitor for his 1780 defection, Benedict Arnold had risked his life and fortune for American freedom in courageous exploits between 1775 and 1778, when the dream of independence was at its most fragile. Contact: Allison Vallieres, 774-3681

14  CHESTERFIELD

Wednesday, 1:00 PM, Chesterfield Town Hall, 520 Rte. 63

“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. Presented by Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti. Contact: Fran Shippee, 313-6640
For more detailed program descriptions and to check on weather cancellations, please visit www.nhhumanities.org/event-calendar.

14 CONCORD

Wednesday, 1:00 PM, Goodlife, 254 North State St.

**Songs of Emigration: Storytelling Through Traditional Irish Music**

For a description of this program see the event on March 7 in Plaistow. Contact: Lori McKinney, 228-6630

14 DERRY

Wednesday, 10:00 AM, Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway

**New England Lighthouses and the People Who Kept Them**

For a description of this program see the event on March 7 in Newfields. Contact: Meredith Hatch, 434-8673

14 WINDHAM

Wednesday, 6:00 PM, Nesmith Library, 8 Fellows Rd.

**Songs of Emigration: Storytelling Through Traditional Irish Music**

For a description of this program see the event on March 7 in Plaistow. Contact: Maria Schroefer, 432-7154

14 CONWAY

Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Conway Public Library, 15 Greenwood Ave.

**A Night of Music with Two Old Friends**

For a description of this program see the event on March 11 in Henniker. Contact: David Smolen, 447-5552

19 BOW

Monday, 1:00 PM, Bow Mills Methodist Church, 505 South St.

**12,000 Years Ago in the Granite State**

A Monadnock Region archeology dig uncovers traces of the Ice Age and structures undisturbed for 12,000 years yielding a bounty of information about our state's first inhabitants and their social networks. Contact: Maralyn Doyle, 938-5582

20 NASHUA

Tuesday, 7:30 PM, Speare Museum, 5 Abbott St.

**New England Lighthouses and the People Who Kept Them**

For a description of this program see the event on March 7 in Newfields. Contact: Eileen Herring, 883-0015

20 HAMPTON FALLS

Tuesday, 6:30 PM, Hampton Falls Free Library, 7 Drinkwater Rd.

**A Visit With Queen Victoria**

Those who would try to usurp the power of a teenaged Victoria when she ascended the throne, untrained and innocent, this self-willed young woman whose mettle sustained her through her 63-year reign. Using Victoria’s diary and letters, Sally Mummey performs as the Queen, revealing personal details of a monarch who took seriously her role in a time of great expansion. Contact: Barbara Tosiano, 926-3682

20 NEW HAMPTON

Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Gordon Nash Library, 69 Main St.

**Brewing in New Hampshire: An Informal History of Beer in the Granite State from Colonial Times to the Present**

Glenn Knoblock's rare photos and advertisements trace the history of beer and ale brewing from Colonial days when it was home- and tavern-based to today's modern breweries and brew pubs. Contact: Robert Curry, 744-9798

21 PLYMOUTH

Wednesday, 7:00 PM, Old Webster Courthouse, 6 Court St.

**The Founding Fathers: What Were They Thinking?**

Mythology about our founding fathers and their work at the 1787 Convention has obscured both fact and legitimate analysis of the events leading to the agreement called the Constitution. Richard Hesse explores the cast of characters called “founders;” the problems they faced, and the solutions they fashioned. Contact: Dick Flanders, 536-1376

21 AMHERST

Wednesday, 10:00 AM, Messiah Lutheran Church, 303 Rte. 101

**New England Quilts and 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. Contact: Anne Krantz, 673-9684

21 BEDFORD

Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Bedford Public Library, 3 Meetinghouse Rd.

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

Most New Hampshire towns once had alms houses 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. Presented by Steve Taylor. Contact: Dorothy Sidore, 471-6336

For more detailed program descriptions and to check on weather cancellations, please visit www.nhhumanities.org/event-calendar.
22 PORTSMOUTH
Thursday, 7:00 pm, NH Theatre Project WEST, 959 Islington St.
The Opioid Crisis Effect on Families
For more information on the Elephant-in-the-Room project, see page 1. Contact: Genevieve Aichele, 431-6644 or visit www.nhtheatreproject.org.

22 WILMOT
Thursday, 7:00 PM, Wilmot Public Library, 11 North Wilmot Rd.
From Mickey to Magoo: The Golden Age of American Animation
Margo Burns introduces the studios, music, politics, and film clips of the beloved cartoon characters of the early 20th century, the “stars” that American theatergoers could anticipate before each feature film: Mickey Mouse, Popeye, Betty Boop, Bugs Bunny, Tom and Jerry, Mr. Magoo, and many more.
Contact: Michelle Lutz-Travis, 526-6804

22 HANCOCK
Thursday, 7:00 PM, Hancock Town Library, 25 Main St.
Covered Bridges of New Hampshire
Covered bridges, once a vital part of our transportation network, were technological marvels of their day, and given NH's myriad streams, brooks, and rivers, it’s unsurprising that 400 bridges have been documented. Glen Knoblock discusses bridge design, famous designers, builders, and related folklore. Contact: Carol Domingue, 664-8877

22 AMHERST
Thursday, 7:00 PM, Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St.
Television: The Art & Ethics of Manipulation
By examining the artistic techniques used to persuade, induce, and entice us, John Gfroerer considers the extent to which television teaches or simply tantalizes us and whether ethical boundaries are crossed by the use of certain marketing techniques, and to what extent as media consumers we should care. Contact: Ruslyn Vear, 673-2288

24 EFFINGHAM
Saturday, 1:00 PM, Effingham Public Library, 30 Town House Rd.
Rosie's Mom: Forgotten Women of the First World War
For a description of this program see the event on March 11 in Kensington. Contact: Erik Jones, 539-1537

24 NELSON
Saturday, 11:00 AM, Olivia Rodham Memorial Library, 1 Nelson Common Rd.
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: Kristine Finnegan, 847-3214

25 HUDSON
Sunday, 2:00 PM, Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Rd.
Songs of Emigration: Storytelling Through Traditional Irish Music
For a description of this program see the event on March 7 in Plaistow. Contact: Amy Friedman, 886-6030

26 PIERMONT
Monday, 7:00 PM, Piermont Old Church Building, 131 NH Rte. 10
New Hampshire Cemeteries and Gravestones
Rubbings, photographs, and slides illustrate the rich variety of gravestones found in our own neighborhoods, but they also tell long-forgotten stories of such events as the Great Awakening, the Throat Distemper epidemic, and the American Revolution. Glenn Knoblock teaches you how to read the stone “pages.” Contact: Fred Shipman, 359-9845

27 BELMONT
Tuesday, 6:00 PM, Belmont Corner Meeting House - Upstairs, 17 Fuller St.
That Reminds Me of a Story
For a description of this program see the event on March 8 in Hampton. Contact: Sarah Frost, 267-8331

27 HOOKSETT
Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Hooksett Public Library, 31 Mt. Saint Mary's Way
A Night of Music with Two Old Friends
For a description of this program see the event on March 11 in Henniker. Contact: Brian Baer, 391-2197

29 NOTTINGHAM
Thursday, 7:00 PM, Blaisdell Memorial Library, 129 Stage Rd.
Mary Todd Lincoln: An Unconventional Woman
The intellectual equal of well-educated men, Mary Todd Lincoln spoke her mind openly in an era when a woman's success was measured by marriage and motherhood, so it is not surprising that, against her family's wishes, she married the man she loved and helped achieve their goal of becoming President and First Lady. Sally Mummey as Mary Lincoln shares stories of life in the White House during the tumultuous years of the Civil War. Contact: Cara Marsh, 679-8484

31 BATH
Saturday, 2:00 PM, Bath Public Library, 4 Lisbon Rd.
New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell
For a description of this program see the event on March 21 in Amherst. Contact: Kathie Bonor, 747-3372
Reviving the art of conversation...

Have you been somewhere recently and noticed people interacting with their phones rather than with the folks around them?

With technology’s gift of instant communication, the world is more connected than ever. But often we talk at rather than with each other. We need practice in the art of conversation.

As Americans, we’re divided by real issues. For democracy’s sake, we cannot lose the ability to talk about them with respect and civility.

Conversation is at the root of what New Hampshire Humanities does. With partners like NH Theatre Project, we create and fund projects that create conversation around difficult topics like the opioid crisis, death and dying, and mental illness. Or offer programs that help veterans talk about what “coming home” really means. Or bring inspiring voices like U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera to our state.

Will you help revive the art of conversation? Please make a gift that shows you believe civil conversation is not only possible, but absolutely essential, to the New Hampshire way of life!

Please make a gift to support civil conversation in New Hampshire!

☐ I’d like to become a Sustaining Donor with a monthly recurring gift in the amount of $ __________________________.

YES! I/we would like to support the Annual Fund with a one-time gift of $ __________________________.

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Small monthly gifts create a BIG impact—Make a difference all year long by becoming a monthly sustaining donor!

Please return to New Hampshire Humanities, 117 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301 or give securely on our website at www.nhhumanities.org/Give.

If you’d like more information on other ways you can support our work, please contact Lynn Douillette, Director of Annual Giving, at 603-224-4071, ext. 120 or ldouillette@nhhumanities.org.
“To Tell What They Can’t Say” Veterans Workshop

New Hampshire Humanities invites veterans to participate in a free, three-day workshop on storytelling through the art of writing and photography. The workshop will be held on **March 12, 13, and 14** from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications. Led by Pulitzer-Prize winning war correspondent **David Wood** and international photo journalist **Andrea Bruce**, the workshop encourages exploration of what it means to serve. The workshop leaders will rely on their own experiences covering war as international journalists for news outlets such as *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *TIME* magazine, and *Huffington Post*. Free to all veterans. Register at www.nhhumanities.org.