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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

Announcing our new publication name...

We’re pleased to present the first issue of our now quarterly publication, fresh off the press and dressed in a lively title: Engage! After an extensive search for just the right name, we think the title perfectly sums up our work and what we’re inviting you to do — ENGAGE! Our tagline, “Connecting people with ideas,” continues to reflect our mission — bringing people together to explore the human experience. That mission has never been more important.

Out of 157 suggestions from nearly a hundred readers, it was Sharron McCarthy of McLean Communications who came up with the winning title. As Sharron so beautifully noted, “The best things happen when people are truly engaged. I think New Hampshire Humanities embodies this quality and encourages engagement with everything they do.” Thank you, Sharron, and thanks also to Kelsey Landeck, our summer marketing intern, for running polls of our social media followers to find the new name.

As we’ve shared in recent months, we’re on the cusp of some exciting changes! One of these is redirecting more of our resources — staff time and money — toward delivering humanities content and news to the place where people look more and more often for information — online. By reducing our print schedule to quarterly, we’ll be able to focus more on expanding digital resources for all audiences and sharing our work more broadly.

To explore and celebrate the stories of people like you and communities like yours, we’ll invite readers and participants to contribute as guest authors (see “Other People’s Perspectives” on page 11 and “The Third Language” on pages 4-5). We’ll share news about compelling new programs in the big issue of our times — such as “fake news” and its impact on journalism and society in general (see the invitation below for our “Ideas on Tap” event). To keep you informed about upcoming programs, we’ve created a pop-out, three-month-event listing so you can plan your brain’s social calendar even further ahead! And, as always, we invite you to visit our online calendar to access the most up-to-date event details and full program descriptions. You’ll continue to receive your monthly e-newsletter with reminders about programs, project highlights, and multi-media features. If you haven’t yet subscribed, please sign up on our website at www.nhhumanities.org.

Condensing our publication schedule doesn’t mean we’re cutting back on our mission-driven work — it means we’re repositioning New Hampshire Humanities to deliver the most relevant programs and be the best steward of the resources you and others have entrusted to us. Let us know what you think and please join in!

– Rebecca Kinhan, Communications Director

P.S. If you have any questions or are interested in submitting articles, essays, interviews, or simply a testimonial, please email me at rkinhan@nhhumanities.org. Thank you!

Join us in October for the first event in our new series:

Real or Fake? Making Our Way in Post-Fact America

Tuesday, October 30, 5:30-7:30 pm • The Barley House Restaurant & Tavern, Concord

New Hampshire Humanities is kicking off a new quarterly series that examines big questions about timely topics, such as “fake news.” In our 24-hour news cycle, there’s often not enough time to separate fact from fiction before content goes viral. Information travels too quickly and articles are shared without being read clearly or evaluated for accuracy. Is the misinformation, disinformation, and political propaganda more acute today than ever before? Join us for a conversation with a journalist, legal expert, and educator about the role and influence of mass media in our democracy. Cost is $10 per person and includes appetizers and one beverage (beer, wine, or non-alcoholic drink). Please RSVP at www.nhhumanities.org.

Farewell, Kathy!

This summer we said goodbye to someone who embodies the mission and spirit of New Hampshire Humanities: longtime program director Dr. Kathy Mathis. In every project Kathy has envisioned and brought to life, participants have been challenged to consider new knowledge, different perspectives, and our shared humanity. Her tireless dedication and creative force have given thousands upon thousands of New Hampshire residents the delight in discovery, ideas, and possibilities.

Knowing of Kathy’s impending retirement, we asked former executive director Debbie Watrous, who worked with Kathy for more than two decades, to reflect on Kathy’s impact on New Hampshire’s cultural landscape.

“It will be difficult for me to imagine New Hampshire Humanities without Kathy. How many minds have been opened and changed because of her work? How fortunate so many of us have been to have had Kathy share her special gifts with us.”

– Janet Ward

For 25 years, Kathy Mathis has been inspiring the citizens of New Hampshire to look at the world around them in new ways. Whether enabling others to find solace in the shared reading of ancient texts or challenging the human implications of cutting-edge scientific discoveries, Kathy’s ferocious intellect and unbounded curiosity have led to the development of innovative public humanities programming for residents in every city and town and from every walk of life,” Watrous wrote.

The lives of combat veterans and refugees, residents from all political spectrums and faith traditions, high school students, teachers, and lifelong learners of all ages have been enhanced by the programming Kathy has imagined and brought to fruition. The initiatives she created over the past two years have fostered new partnerships and sometimes spurred those partners to expand on Kathy’s initial ideas, taking them in directions she never envisioned.

As Watrous shared, “True understanding comes from breaking down barriers of difference — learning about one another and building empathy from that understanding. Kathy Mathis has given that gift to tens of thousands of New Hampshire residents through the stunning array of public humanities programs that she has created and inspired others to create.”

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is time to say farewell although I have not fully encompassed the idea nor the pattern of retirement. I just knew that it was time. As a parting message, I could recite the names of projects past, as Donald Hall recited the names of horses. But it would take too much time. YOU who were there know what we did and the outcomes impossible to measure fully. For me, these projects — which you made happen — are like buried treasure, but close to the surface; I just pry open the lid.

We befriended one another over the years as we thought and planned together, doing our good work. The years have been fruitful. I have not looked at the clock very much. As colleagues, friends, grantees, volunteers, you gave me stories to fill my narrow.

How does one say thank you for such gifts freely given? Some of you are friends. We go way back — how far I dare not say. We put tender to our passions, putting them into experience. We made happen what we imagined. Much was expected and much given. How does one say thank you for such gifts of mind and spirit? In the past two years, making friends among the veteran community, I have developed a new snake that fires with the pain of moral injury suffered by those processing war service and homeownership. I can’t let this go.

What I really wanted was to make knee-snacker programs, relevant and memorable, and that desire drove me to stay and stay. Sometimes the heights of our discourse were dizzying. It’s been a good run and I am still standing, running in fact. My life is overflowing with the beauty, truth, big matters, the chance to tell our stories and to be heard. 
“For me, doing this work feeds my desire to give back, but also to learn from the new voices. I might even discover that I have needed them more than they will have needed me.”

~ Ewa Chrusciel

The Third Language

Ewa Chrusciel, Bilingual Poet, Translator and Associate Professor of Humanities, Colby Sawyer College

Perhaps we – non-native speakers – do not even write in a second language. We write in the third language...

In New Hampshire Humanities’ Year of New Voices project, Ewa Chrusciel will serve as one of the professional writers partnering with English learners to share their poems or stories in public readings. Here, Ewa reflects on her linguistic journey in Polish and later English and her upcoming role as mentor of new bilingual writers. – the Editors

In Lost in Translation, a Life in a New Language, E. Hoffman claims that we can have a new beginning in a new language. We can be free of constraints and native inhibitions. For me, writing in English was liberating. I remember feeling free of the constraints of my native Polish language and inhibitions; free of fear of making errors. It was fun to experiment with new material.

Now in New Hampshire I am about to work with English learners in the Connections program’s Year of New Voices project. For me, doing this work feeds my desire to give back, but also to learn from the new voices. I might even discover that I have needed them more than they will have needed me. It will refresh my vision and bring me back to the source of writing, to my roots of writing: As I prepare to work with writers whose first language is not English, I have reflected on my first experiences with English after writing several volumes of poetry in my native Poland.

Sixteen years ago I came to the U.S. and today I still switch between Polish and English or superimpose them in various linguistic collages. It was one creative writing class I took with Lucia Cordell Getsi which opened me up to English. It was through her openness to me, a foreigner, that my new voice in a new language emerged. Without that initial encouragement and constructive feedback, I would have not proceeded.

Writing in two languages creates bewilderment for us and for our readers. It changes us. It transports us to new places. This miraculous transporting, this bilocation, is the theological meaning of translation. In theology, translation implies the act of miraculous displacement, just like in Nicolas Poussin’s 1630s painting “The Translation of Saint Rita of Cascia.” Saint Rita was miraculously transported to a place she desired to be. Perhaps writing poems is always an experience of migration, if not exile. It is, after all, a way of being in two places at once.

Perhaps we – non-native speakers – do not even write in a second language. We write in the third language, a blend of the original and non-native language, a space that shuffles between these two different conceptualizations of the world.

My first book in English, Strata, tries to inhabit this third space which incorporates letters and poems, as well as investigates the issues of identity, mediation, protest, Central European politics, and the Sublime.

Out of two shifting positions, the third space emerges. It is woven out of bewilderment. To paraphrase Fanny Howe, we are victims “of constantly shifting positions, with every one of these positions stunned by bewilderment.” Howe defines “bewilderment” as a loss of one’s sense of where one is. As Howe writes, “Bewilderment is an enchantment that follows a complete collapse of reference and reconciliability. She quotes a Muslim prayer: “Lord, increase my bewilderment.”

Writing in the third language is disorienting, sometimes disturbing. It recognizes the insufficiency of native or second language, the human desire and inability to express the ineffable. It saves us from idolatry. It teaches us humbleness, as we are perpetually in a state of mercy and adaptation. Perhaps we should all try to live as a foreigner who cannot take anything for granted. Or, as a stranger, who in the Hebrew Bible, is always mentioned in conjunction with the orphan and the widow.

An image of a canal in the mine comes to me. Helping a new immigrant find voice is helping one sing again, despite the fact that the conditions where they came from or where they are now, with all the accompanying hardships, might have been lethal or might have stilled their voice. The Year of New Voices will encourage bilingual writers to create in a new language, which means, in a sense, to create their world anew.

The “Year of New Voices” is presented through Connections, New Hampshire Humanities’ adult literacy program. Connections works with more than 500 native English speakers and new Americans to promote language skills, family literacy, a culture of reading, and civic engagement. We work in partnership with adult basic education and ESL, classes, refugee resettlement organizations, services for adults with developmental disabilities and state and county prisons. For more information, visit www.nnhumanities.org/Connections.
New Hampshire Humanities is pleased to present nationally renowned broadcast journalist Susan Stamberg as keynote speaker at the 2018 Annual Dinner on Wednesday, October 3. The first woman to anchor a national nightly news broadcast, Stamberg has won every major award in broadcasting and has been with National Public Radio since the network launched almost 50 years ago. In a video message Susan shared with us she said, “I’m excited to be New Hampshire Humanities’ keynote speaker. My talk, ‘A Thousand Plus Hours of Talk,’ highlights my talks with fascinating people about their passions. This is New Hampshire Humanities’ only fundraising event and it does a LOT: It helps to pay for hundreds of free, public programs throughout the state every year. Come for dinner on October 3 in Manchester. I look forward to seeing you!”

Beginning in 1972, Stamberg served as co-host of NPR’s award-winning news magazine, All Things Considered, for 14 years. She also hosted Weekend Edition Sunday, and now reports on cultural issues for Morning Edition and Weekend Edition Saturday. One of the most popular broadcasters in public radio, Stamberg is well known for her conversational style, intelligence, and knack for finding an interesting story. Her interviewing has been called “fresh, friendly, and down-to-earth,” and “the closest thing to an enlightened humanist on the radio,” according to novelist E.L. Doctorow. Her hundreds of interviews include conversations with Laura Bush, Billy Crystal, Thelonious Monk, Jackie Robinson, and Deval Patrick.

Talk: NPR’s Susan Stamberg Considers All Things and Every Night at Five: Susan Stamberg’s All Things Considered Book.

Stamberg has been inducted into the Broadcasting Hall of Fame and the Radio Hall of Fame, and has received many awards including the Edward R. Murrow Award from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Distinguished Broadcaster Award from the American Women in Radio and Television. We look forward to seeing you at your event signature, the 2018 Annual Dinner.

For tickets and details, please visit www.nhhumanities.org/AnnualDinner.

To learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact Jane Pauley, Development Director, at 603-234-4071, ext. 113 or jpauley@nhhumanities.org. 
For the most up-to-date listings and weather cancellations, check our online event calendar at www.nhhumanities.org/event-calendar.
Carolyn Russell

Carolyn Russell was the project director for the Washington Meetinghouse documentary, *Meetinghouse: The Heart of Washington, NH*. As a grant recipient, a donor, and attendee of programs, Carolyn offers a unique insight into New Hampshire Humanities. We recently had the pleasure of asking her some questions over lunch.

**What was your first impression of New Hampshire Humanities?**

I was Washington’s welfare officer, so I worked in the town hall which is in Washington’s historic meetinghouse. In my little matchbox of an office, I’d sit and think about everything that had happened within its walls. I was curious to know more. When I got the idea of documenting its history, I picked up the phone and called. I knew absolutely nothing about applying for a grant and Susan Hatem worked with me to figure out how to proceed. So, my first impression of New Hampshire Humanities was “Thank God!” I felt like I’d found the key to get the project off the ground. It wouldn’t have happened without the support of New Hampshire Humanities. That was the beginning of our giving.

**What was the impact of the grant on your community?**

After the documentary was completed, we held a 225th birthday celebration of the meetinghouse. There were crafts of the day and demonstrations including sheep shearing, wool spinning, knitting, quilting, and hand hewing of logs as it would have been done at the time the meetinghouse was built. The documentary was the crown jewel of the celebration and the entire community came together for it, even standing outside in the rain because there were so many people inside. The entire project is now a part of the Washington town archives, and it has preserved the meetinghouse’s history for generations to come.

**In your opinion, what is the most important work New Hampshire Humanities does?**

I think your programs add a dimension to life outside of the formal education system. Your programs reach people who might not be able to access an academic-type situation, and you offer them across the state. My husband Jim and I went to one of your Humanities events and I was flabbergasted at the variety of programs you have.

**What would you say to someone thinking about becoming a donor?**

We became donors after the documentary project. We personally felt such a debt of gratitude that we wanted other people and communities to have the same opportunities we’d been given. We weren’t only thinking about the support of staff was invaluable. Having someone say “We’re going to help you do this” was the extra nudge we needed to get the project off the ground. It wouldn’t have happened without the support of New Hampshire Humanities. That was the beginning of our giving.

**What do you think we could do better?**

Attract more donors so you can offer more programs around the state! Thank you, Carolyn!

**What do art and nature bring to a community?**

See what can happen when art and nature merge at a free community event supported by New Hampshire Humanities on Sunday, September 30 in Manchester—and it will be unlike anything you’ve ever seen!

Join artist Konstantin Dimopoulos in the creation of his Blue Trees project, an environmental installation in which nearly 100 trees at the museum and in nearby parks will be painted and transformed with an environmentally safe and vividly colored pigment. Enjoy live music, poetry, painting, art making, and more. The Currier Museum, New Hampshire Humanities, Manchester Parks and Recreation, New England College, Stay, Work, Play, and other area organizations welcome you to this unique community event. More details to follow!

**Make the humanities part of your lasting legacy!**

Consider naming New Hampshire Humanities as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy, retirement fund, or other estate plans. Planned giving offers opportunities to ensure that excellence in humanities programming will continue long into the future in the Granite State. For a confidential discussion about planned giving options, please contact Jane Pauley, Development Director, at 603-224-4071 or jpauley@nhhumanities.org, or visit www.nnhumanities.org/give.

**Tell me more about that basket...**

The 2018 Wyman Tavern Lecture Series focuses on indigenous people, history and culture into the 21st century. *Basket Identification Day* is supported by a New Hampshire Humanities Community Project Grant and includes a talk by basket expert Lynn Murphy Clark on the history of Native American baskets in the Monadnock Region and New Hampshire. Members of the public are invited to bring their baskets, and experts will be available all day to identify and record the age, origin, physical characteristics, and known history of each basket.

*Saturday, November 3, 10:00 - 4:00 pm at the Historical Society of Cheshire County, Keene.*

**Two Sides of the Coin:**

**Native American & Early Colonists Cultural Clashes**

Every day hundreds of people pass by the monument to Keene settler Nathan Blake, never knowing how Blake’s fascinating story of capture, ransom, and homecoming sheds light on our shared history. While there’s no shortage of captivity tales from the Connecticut River Valley in the 17th and 18th centuries, many of these histories were weighted toward the experiences of Colonial settlers.

**But what about the “other side of the coin”?**

Inspired by that question, the Horatio Colony Museum and New Hampshire Humanities created a series of 2018 programs to help us view Blake’s complex story of capture and release in a new light. The “Two Sides of the Coin” project is designed to broaden public awareness about the roles of Native indigenous people in our region’s history, and paint a clearer picture of war, captivity, and Native resistance. The final program in the series is coming up:

**Alnobak: Wearing Our Heritage**

*Saturday, September 29, 4:30-6:00 pm (Pre-registration required)*

Horatio Colony House Museum, 199 Main Street, Keene

Abenaki master artist Vera Longtoe Sheehan, director of the Vermont Abenaki Art Association and archivist/tribal secretary for the Elnu Abenaki Tribe, presents a gallery talk and introduces an exhibit of Abenaki tribal garments. Pre-registration is required. To register or for more information, please visit www.horatiocolonymuseum.org.
Welcome, new board members!

New Hampshire Humanities extends its deep gratitude to the following board members who finished their terms on our Board of Directors last month: Steve Barba, Kathy Gillett, Inez McDermott, and Dan Will. We’re pleased to welcome five new board members from all corners of the state and hope you’ll have the opportunity to meet them in the coming year.

EVEN CZYZOWSKI is a high school English teacher and theater director. Each year he leads student trips to various countries to help students broaden their understanding of the connections between cultures, and has lived and worked in China and Poland. He served four terms on New Hampshire’s National Education Association (NEA-NH) State Executive Board, and he currently chairs NEA-NH’s government relations committee. He is a graduate of UNH with a BA in English and an MA in literature. In 2013 he was recognized as one of “40 Under Forty” young professionals in New Hampshire by the New Hampshire Union Leader.

KIRSTAN KNOWLTON is a counselor at ServiceLink Resource Center in Berlin, where she works directly with the aging and disabled population to help provide options for independence. She is also the creator and designer of Live With Pride, a company that sells rainbow products to help people express themselves. Kirstan is a community editor and columnist at the Berlin Daily Sun. Her weekly column, “The Girl Next Door,” highlights local arts and entertainment. Currently she is working on her memoir called “Remember Who You Are.” She received her BA in English and her MA in creative writing and non-fiction from Southern NH University.

CORY LECLAIR is the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Claremont and Unity. She works with community partnerships and area businesses to support student growth and achievement and improve programming and learning opportunities. She is a member of Governor Sununu’s Millennium Advisory Council, City of Claremont Master Plan, Economic Development Subcommittee, and others. In 2017 she was voted Greater Claremont Area Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. She earned her BA in psychology from Wellesley College, her MS in education from SUNY Geneseo, and her CAGS in educational leadership from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

DR. GRAZIELLA PARATI is the Paul D. Paganucci Professor of Italian Literature and Language and the director of the Leslie Center for the Humanities at Dartmouth College. She is the author of books and essays on migration in the Mediterranean, gender issues, and Italian culture. She teaches courses on fascism, cultural studies and fashion, Italian American culture, and Italian literature and culture. Grazziella has chaired Comparative Literature, French and Italian, and Studio Art at Dartmouth College. She has received prizes for her work from the Modern Languages Association and the Italian Consulate in Boston. She travels extensively to speak on issues related to people’s movements across the globe.

2018 WILLIAM W. TREAT LECTURE:
Civility, Cooperation, & Compromise:
Why Our Constitutional Republic Requires Them

September 21, 2018, 6:30 pm
Dana Center at Saint Anselm College

It takes a great deal of civility, cooperation, and compromise for our constitutional republic to operate effectively and responsibly. Susan M. Collins, Maine’s senior U.S. Senator, will draw from her more than 21 years of collaborative legislative experience to provide insight on these values in the 2018 William W. Treat Lecture, presented by Constitutionally Speaking. Senator Collins ranks 14th in senior Republican woman. She chairs the Senate Aging Committee and the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee. She also serves on the Intelligence Committee and the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. For the last five consecutive years, Sen. Collins has been ranked as the most bipartisan member of the U.S. Senate. Known for her Maine work ethic, Senator Collins has never missed a roll call vote, casting more than 6,700 votes.

Virginia Prescott, formerly of NH Public Radio and now host of Georgia Public Radio’s On Second Thought, will moderate the discussion with Sen. Collins.

Constitutionally Speaking is a collaboration of NH Institute for Civics, Education, NH Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College, NH Humanities, NH Supreme Court Society, and the Warren B. Rudman Center for Justice, Leadership, and Public Service at UNH School of Law. This program is made possible by the William W. Treat Foundation.

The event is free and open to the public but tickets are required. Please RSVP at www.nhloip.org.

Celebrating excellence in the humanities:
2018 Humanities High School Book Award Winners

New Hampshire Humanities is pleased to announce the 2018 recipients of our New Hampshire Humanities High School Book Awards, awarded annually to high school juniors who have demonstrated genuine curiosity about history, literature, languages, or philosophy and who hope to deepen that knowledge in college. Congratulations to the following students,* and may they continue to be inspiring examples of American citizenship – demonstrating power through wise choices, meaningful work, and compassionate leadership.

* Shown below are those whose schools opted to provide a picture.
“Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel.”

- Socrates

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SAVE THE DATE!
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3 • 2018 ANNUAL DINNER featuring Susan Stamberg, NPR Special Correspondent

See inside for 130+ free, public programs across New Hampshire this fall!

Here’s what one of our longtime audience members recently shared about Humanities to Go programs:

“There’s nothing like dashing over the river and through the woods on a pleasant fall evening for a humanities program. The joy is not only in hearing the program but also in the trip itself, enjoying our beautiful New Hampshire landscape, traveling roads I haven’t been down before, seeing an old meeting house, school house, or town hall that I haven’t been in before, and meeting and chatting with the other attendees. It’s a marvelous reminder of the many reasons I love my native state.”

Sue Hunt, Alexandria, NH

2018 Annual Dinner
Wednesday, October 3 • 5 pm
Featuring Susan Stamberg, “a founding mother of NPR”
Tickets & information at www.nhhumanities.org