



January 2018

Calendar

A monthly publication from New Hampshire Humanities

Photo by Kai Carlson-Wee



**“I say a hammer
isn’t dynamite.
He reminds me
that everything
is dynamite.”**

– Anders Carlson-Wee

DYNAMITE: Anders Carlson-Wee and Poetry’s Explosive Potential

Anders Carlson-Wee was a professional rollerblader before he studied wilderness survival and started hopping freight trains to see the country. He has bicycled across the United States twice, hitchhiked to the Yukon and back, and walked on foot across Croatia and Bosnia through the farm villages of the Dinaric Alps. On January 11, **the award-winning contemporary poet and filmmaker** visits high school students and senior residents at the Boys and Girls Club of the Souhegan Valley in Milford, thanks to a New Hampshire Humanities Community Project Quick Grant. Carlson-Wee will screen his poetry film ***Riding the High Line***, read poems, engage in an interactive interview with Milford High School students, and lead a short writing exercise. Author and celebrated UNH writing professor emeritus **Thomas Newkirk** will introduce Carlson-Wee and facilitate the student interview.

(Continued)

**Public event featuring
POET ANDERS CARLSON-WEE
Thursday, January 11
3:00-4:30 pm**

The Amato Theatre at
Boys and Girls Club of the
Souhegan Valley, 56 Mont
Vernon Steet, Milford, NH
Free & open to the public

North Dakota-born Carlson-Wee is the winner of Ninth Letter's 2014 Poetry Award, *New Delta Review's* 2014 Editors' Choice Prize, and a Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *New England Review*, *The Missouri Review*, *West Branch*, *Blackbird*, *The Journal*,



Linebreak, *Best New Poets 2012 and 2014*, and elsewhere.

With his brother Kai Carlson-Wee, he co-directed the **award-winning poetry film**, *Riding the Highline*.

A recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment

for the Arts, the McKnight Foundation, Bread Loaf, and the Sewanee Writer's Conference, Anders is currently an MFA candidate in poetry at Vanderbilt University and is the author of *The Low Passions* (W.W. Norton, 2019).

For more event information, please contact Beth Powers at 673-4201 or bpowers@milfordk12.org.

NEW GROUPS STARTING IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH



Has the road to "homecoming" and adjustment back to civilian life been harder and longer than you and your family expected?

Veterans, current service members, family members, and friends are invited to attend this 10-week reading and discussion group that uses Homer's *The Odyssey* to explore trauma, duty and honor, personal sacrifice, life at home, and readjustment. The ancient tale of Odysseus' epic 10-year journey home from the Trojan War has much to tell us about the challenges of homecoming for today's veterans, their families, and friends. Limited seating.

PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY Wednesdays, February 7 - April 11

6:30 - 8:00 pm, Portsmouth
Facilitators: Stephen Trzaskoma, Classics Professor, UNH; Brendan O'Byrne, UNH Student, Combat Veteran, Afghanistan; Al Porsche, Retired Counselor; Combat Veteran, Vietnam

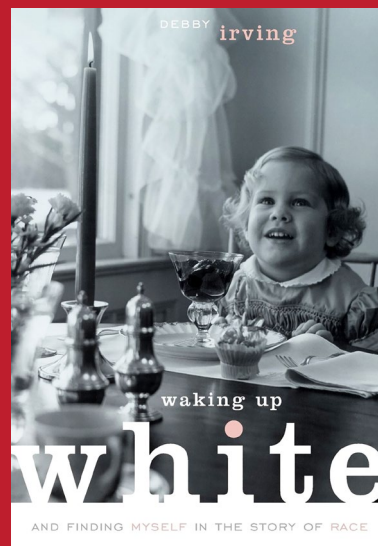
TRACY MEMORIAL LIBRARY Tuesdays, March 20 - June 12

6:30 - 8:00 pm, New London
Facilitators: Ann-Maria Contarino, English Instructor and Academic Counselor, Saint Anselm College; Richard Wren, Ph.D., Clinician, VA Medical Center; Mark Boegel, Major, USMCR Retired, Mental Health Counselor

The group is free and copies of the book will be provided.
Register at www.nhhumanities.org/veterans or contact Dr. Kathy Mathis at 603-224-4071 or kmathis@nhhumanities.org.



Generously sponsored by:



Good Intentions

How could a community with good intentions be home to discrimination and racism? How does New Hampshire, a state that is mostly white, fit into the national narrative of racial strife, now and in our past? What do we know about race?

From January through April 2018, funded in part by a New Hampshire Humanities Community Project Grant, residents of Madbury, Lee, and Durham will 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. *Waking Up White* 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. Irving's story takes readers through the challenge and complexity of social constructs persistent in America, offering a way to bridge racial divides and unite diverse perspectives. The series culminates with an author visit and community dinner on April 16th. For a listing of events, dates and locations, visit www.orcread.org.



A recent *Connections* class in Concord explored the theme of *This Land Is Your Land* through reading, reflection, and song.

Grant for *Connections* Adult Literacy Program marks Lincoln Financial Foundation's 10th year of support

New Hampshire Humanities extends its gratitude to Lincoln Financial Foundation for a \$20,000 grant to support its *Connections* adult literacy program, marking the tenth year of support from Lincoln Financial Foundation. *Connections* is the New Hampshire Humanities book discussion program offered statewide in partnership with adult basic education and ESOL classes, prisons, and refugee resettlement organizations, to promote English language skills, nurture a culture of reading, and support family literacy. Statistics show that Americans with low literacy skills are likely to have had parents who did not read or write fluently, so adult literacy programs are doubly effective – reaching all new readers within a household.

The grant reflects Lincoln Financial Foundation's commitment to economic and workforce development and their belief that literacy is essential to gainful employment. For long-time citizens and new Americans, *Connections* links adult students to the world through literature and other print media, stimulates thinking and discussion, builds confidence, supports whole family learning, and helps create a foundation for economic opportunity.

"At a time when New Hampshire's population is becoming more diverse, with an influx of resettled refugees and immigrants from non-English speaking lands, adult literacy has taken on a new importance," said Byron Champlin, CLU, Lincoln Financial Foundation's Regional

Director for Community and Foundation Relations. "Our longstanding support of the *Connections* program is based on the belief that the ability to read and write English is the foundation for economic security and for fully integrating into our culture and society."

Lincoln Financial Foundation, established in 1962 as the philanthropic arm of Lincoln Financial Group, believes in empowering people to live greater lives, which advances culture and empowers greater positive change. Its grant to NHH is part of Lincoln Financial's annual \$10 million investment in its local communities' youth education, economic and workforce development, human well-being and arts programs. For more information about Lincoln Financial Group, please visit www.LincolnFinancial.com.

"I want to thank you for a great series. The books were great and led to so much discussion and learning, for both students and teacher," she said. "I can't say enough positive things about this program – how much the students love and enjoy it, as do I. With this group I know the books are read and reread at home."

– *Connections* facilitator



Are you our next visionary leader?

Our Board of Directors and interim director have launched a national search for the organization's next executive director. The ideal candidate is a passionate advocate for the humanities and their relevance, a highly-persuasive public communicator, and a proven leader and operational manager. Our next leader will be the principal spokesperson and advocate for New Hampshire Humanities, engaging with educational, cultural, business, government, and nonprofit communities throughout the state. The deadline for applications is January 12. For a complete job description, visit www.nhhumanities.org.



Roberta Stewart awarded Classical Studies 2017 Outreach Prize

The Society for Classical Studies (SCS) has awarded Dr. Roberta Stewart of Dartmouth College its prestigious Outreach Prize for her work in developing book discussion groups with military veterans. Professor Stewart's long-running initiative is now a major collaborative project of New Hampshire Humanities and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In announcing the award, the prize committee shared these words: "Even in today's busy, noisy, and self-absorbed world, the passionate, quiet, and selfless work of the individual does not remain unnoticed. We are

proud to offer the 2017 SCS Outreach Prize to Roberta Stewart for her tireless pursuit of healing and social justice through engaging veterans in reading and discussing Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. By teaching them how to appropriate the two epics as living texts, she has given veterans, as one of them put it, the controlling voice in processing their experiences and their Odyssean stories of homecoming in particular." Congratulations, Roberta!

To learn more about how the book discussion groups continue to reach veterans and families around the state, visit www.nhhumanities.org/veterans.

SEEDFOLKS: Growing Community in a New World

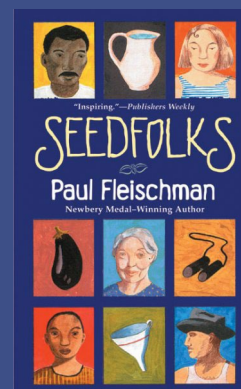
By Terry Farish, *Connections* Adult Literacy Coordinator

Bill Badgley's students studying English at the Dover Adult Learning Center are immigrants who have university degrees. Their fields of study include architecture, software development, communications, business, journalism, environmental science, and engineering. They gathered to increase their English language skills in a New Hampshire Humanities *Connections* book discussion. Many students responded to a book of interconnected stories, *SEEDFOLKS*, about the creation of an urban community garden out of a vacant, abandoned lot.

"The book made me realize that I can't be a part of a community until I contribute something," said one participant. "It is everybody's responsibility to come forward to form a community where anybody can reach out to anybody in the neighborhood in a time of crisis."

Another remarked, "I love this book. It makes very clear our humanity, what we all need. It teaches us how we can learn, change, adapt, and open a place in our empty, vacant lot somewhere in our hearts."

New Hampshire Humanities' *Connections* adult literacy program brings children's, young adult, and adult literature and NHH-trained discussion facilitators to more than 500 adult learners each year. Quality books and stimulating discussions promote English language skills, cultivate conversations about ideas, reinforce family literacy, support a culture of reading, and encourage civic engagement. *Connections* is funded by Lincoln Financial Foundation; Bank of America; The Couch Family Foundation; Merrimack Country Savings Bank Foundation; Getz Charitable Trust; Citizens Bank, N.A. Trustee; Ann deNicola Trust; and Citizens Bank, N.A. Trustee.



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Actors participated in a play reading of "Body & Sold" by Deborah Fortson in the first in this series, a program on human trafficking in the U.S.

ELEPHANT-IN-THE-ROOM SERIES



There's so much that needs healing in our world... why are we uncomfortable talking about it?

New Hampshire Theatre Project is not only *talking* about these issues—they've launched a provocative series, *Elephant in the Room*, about subjects that we as a society often have difficulty discussing. Supported in part by a Community Project Grant, each program in the series includes a playreading and a facilitated discussion among audience members, artists, and a panel of experts on the topic. We're looking at our attitudes about ethical issues involved in each topic, and our mutual responsibility as a society to bring these issues out of the shadows and into a national conversation. Mark your calendar for the next event in the series:

Mental Illness

Thursday, Feb. 8, 7:00 pm

Mental illness is the focus of the second event, featuring a reading of *Snap!*, written and performed by Regi Carpenter. *Snap!* is the true story of a sixteen-year-old girl's descent into mental illness, her commitment to a state mental hospital and her journey back to reality and freedom.

"My challenge was how to bring this story to others in a way that allowed them to find their own story in mine," she explains. "The response from family members of institutionalized or deceased children and from people with

ongoing depression issues has been incredible." Described by one audience member as "profoundly moving, heartfelt, courageous, and altogether inspiring," *Snap!* uses music, gesture, and humor to put audiences into the experience as well as to facilitate a deeper understanding of mental health challenges. As she created the story, Carpenter learned that the past doesn't control us. "What I can see in my experience now is a deeply troubled teen who could no longer cope and who received love, care, and hope in the darkest place." Carpenter's short version of *Snap!* won her the 2012 Boston StorySlam for best of the year. The show is appropriate for teens and adults.

Other upcoming events in the series:

The Opioid Crisis Effect on Families

Thursday, March 22, 7:00 pm

Play reading:

A Wider Circle by Mary Ellen Hedrick

Death & Dying

Thursday, May 3, 7:00 pm

Play reading:

Constellations by Nick Payne

All programs are free and open to the public at NH Theatre Project WEST, 959 Islington Street, Portsmouth.

For more information, please visit www.nhtheatreproject.org.



ABOUT FEBRUARY'S PLAYWRIGHT, REGI CARPENTER

For over twenty years, award-winning performer **Regi Carpenter** has been bringing songs and stories to audiences of all ages throughout the world in school, theaters, libraries, at festivals, conferences, and in people's backyards.

Regi is the youngest daughter in a family that pulsates with contradictions: religious and raucous, tender but terrible, unfortunate yet irrepressible. These tales celebrate the glorious and gut-wrenching lives of four generations of Carpenters raised on the Saint Lawrence River in Clayton, New York. Tales of underwater tea parties, drowning lessons, and drives to the dump give voice to multi generations of family life in a small river town with an undercurrent. Learn more by visiting www.regicarpenter.com.



NEW HAMPSHIRE
humanities

12 HUMANITIES RESOLUTIONS FOR 2018

ASK
somebody
older than you
to tell you about
their childhood.



DISCUSS a
current issue with
somebody who
holds an opinion
opposite of yours.



READ
to a
child.



COLLABORATE
with somebody who has
different interests and
experiences than you.

STUDY the
platform of a
candidate you
usually would
not vote for.



ATTEND
a lecture on history,
ethics, culture or another
humanities subject.



WATCH a
documentary
film about
something
you know
little about.




BRING 
a first-timer to the
theatre or an art exhibit
and talk about what
you see. 

こんにちは! **LEARN**
how to say, "Hello,"
"Please" and "Thank
you" in 3 different
languages. 

TAKE 
somebody from
a different culture
out to lunch to get to
know them better.



WRITE
a poem
(any style)
and share it
with a friend.

VISIT cultural centers
or museums to compare
histories of people who
have lived in
your area. 

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.

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

Fair Point
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DARTMOUTH/LAKE SUNAPEE

Wilmot, Jan. 20
Orford, Jan. 22

LAKES REGION

Laconia, Jan. 17
Laconia, Jan. 18
Barrington, Jan. 31

MONADNOCK

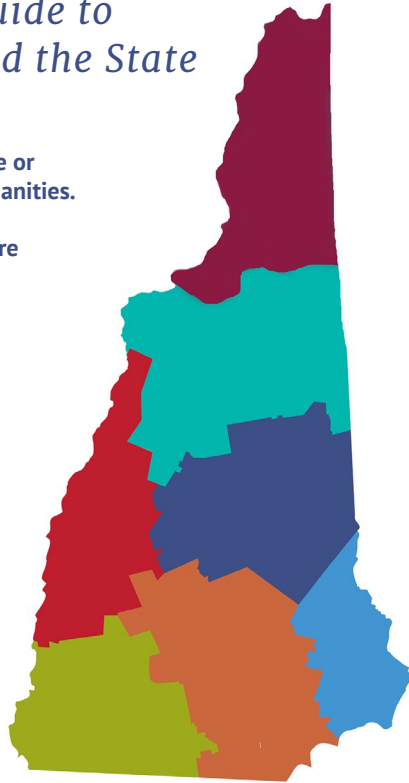
Milford, Jan. 11
Francestown, Jan. 17
Amherst, Jan. 28

SEACOAST

Hampstead, Jan. 9
Madbury, Jan. 9
Newfields, Jan. 10
Durham, Jan. 19
Durham, Jan. 20

MERRIMACK VALLEY

New Boston, Jan. 11
Manchester, Jan. 15
Hooksett, Jan. 15
Manchester, Jan. 23
Litchfield, Jan. 23
Henniker, Jan. 28



January 2018

9 HAMPSTEAD

Tuesday, 7:00 pm, Hampstead Public Library, 9 Mary E. Clark Dr.

Galileo Galilei, the Starry Messenger

If you are curious about the night sky, Galileo will personally demonstrate how 17th century technology led to some of the most significant cosmic discoveries of our time. Contact: Janet Arden, 329-6411

9 MADBURY

Tuesday, 7:00 pm, Madbury Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd.

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

Human relations with working dogs takes on particular local flavor with the New Hampshire-bred Chinook who once played a starring role in famous polar expeditions. Contact: Melissa Walker, 742-0497

10 NEWFIELDS

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

Uprooted: Heartache and Hope in New Hampshire

In this documentary, five refugees tell their stories of escaping war-torn countries to resettle in New Hampshire; they testify to the centrality of family, work, citizenship and belonging, and compel us to ask the question: what does it mean to be an American?
Contact: Pamela Burch, 778-8169



Poet Anders Carlson-Wee comes to Milford on January 11.

11 MILFORD

Thursday, 3:00 pm, Souhegan Boys & Girls Club

Dynamite: Anders Carlson-Wee and Poetry's Explosive Potential

For a description of this program see the article on page 1.
Contact: Beth Haverkamp Powers, 673-4201

New year, new look...

Based on feedback from our readers and to save on our resources, we are providing shorter descriptions of our *Humanities to Go* programs in our monthly *Calendar* newsletter. We invite you to view more detailed descriptions on our website at www.nhhumanities.org/event-calendar and, as always, please contact us if you have any questions.

11 NEW BOSTON

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

New Hampshire Roads Taken Or Not

Hundreds of millions of tax dollars were spent in the second half of the 20th century on road construction, creating a system of transportation that would have a profound and lasting impact on entire regions of the state in terms of town economies and social and cultural changes where highways were either built or not built. Contact: Lisa Rothman, 487-3867

15 MANCHESTER

Monday, 11:00 am, YMCA NH, 72 Concord St.

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

A confluence of young Blacks, American Indians, and Latino/as use hiphop to produce art, community, and social criticism, reimagining everyday life and reinvestigating the role non-Western ways of knowing play out in American culture, especially urban blight, racism, and ethnic stereotyping. Contact: Mark Fickle, 218-5086



15 HOOKSETT

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

"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. Contact: Dara Bradds, 485-6092

17 FRANCESTOWN

Wednesday, 6:30 pm, George Holmes Bixby Memorial Library,
52 Main St.

"If I Am Not For Myself, Who Will Be for Me?" George Washington's Runaway Slave

For a description of this program see the event on Jan. 15 in Hooksett. Contact: Carol Brodi, 547-2730



17 LACONIA

Wednesday, 6:30 pm, Taylor Community, 435 Union Ave.

Discovering New England Stone Walls

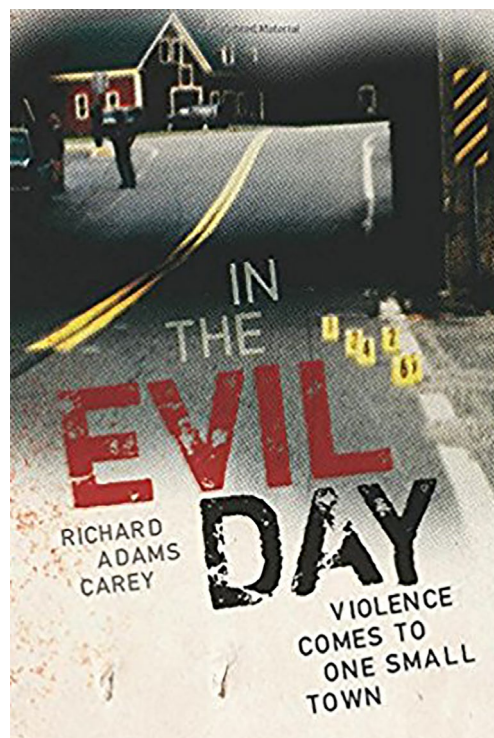
Poets write about them and artists depict them, these iconic New England stone walls, one of which will take shape before your eyes as you learn the secrets of their building. Contact: Brenda Kean, 366-1226

18 LACONIA

Thursday, 6:30 pm, Laconia Public Library, 695 Main St.

In the Evil Day: Individual Rights, Town Government and the Crime That Stunned the Nation

The townspeople of Colebrook will never forget August 19, 1997, when Carl Drega premeditated and carried out the murder of four residents, wounding four others, before he finally was shot and killed. Contact: Deann Hunter, 524-4775





Bob Cotrell presents "Harnessing History: On the Trail of New Hampshire's State Dog, the Chinook" on January 9 and 20. *Photo courtesy of Intervale Chinooks.*

22 ORFORD

Monday, 7:00 pm, Orford Social Library,
573 Main St., Rte. 10

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: Laina Warsavage, 353-9756

23 MANCHESTER

Tuesday, 7:00 pm, The Dana Center at Saint
Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive

Author Erica Dunbar presents *Rethinking Resistance: Ona Judge, the Washingtons' Runaway Slave, and the Meanings of Escape*

For a description of this program, see the article on page 12. Contact: Loretta Brady, 641-7144

19 DURHAM

Friday, 10:15 am, Community Church of
Durham, 17 Main St.

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: Gayle Hylen, 659-2422

20 DURHAM

Saturday, 1:00 pm, Durham Town Hall,
8 Newmarket Rd.

Digging Into Native History in New Hampshire

Inches below the earth's surface a world of Abenaki culture and history is laid bare, revealing the story of a near-lost Native civilization, canny self-preservation, and the price of European conquest. Contact: Janet Mackie, 742-7824

20 WILMOT

Saturday, 2:00 pm, Wilmot Community Assoc.
Red Barn, 64 Village Rd.

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

For a description of this program see the event on Jan. 9 in Madbury. Contact: Dierdre Segerson, 768-3303

Erica Armstrong Dunbar discusses her book about Ona Judge on January 23 in Manchester. *Photo by Whitney Thomas*



For the most up-to-date programs and weather cancellations, please visit www.nhhumanities.org/event-calendar.

23 LITCHFIELD

Tuesday, 7:00 pm, Aaron Cutler Memorial Library,
269 Charles Bancroft Highway

The Quest for Happiness

We seek happiness in well mapped areas – accumulation of money, love, kinship ties, good causes and life work – but what have we really learned about the nature of happiness and why in worldwide surveys of happiness does the U.S. never make the top ten? Contact: Alex Robinson, 424-4044

28 HENNIKER

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

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: Lynn Piotrowicz, 428-3471

28 AMHERST

Sunday, 4:00 pm, Amherst Congreg. Church, 11 Church St.

New England's Colonial Meetinghouses and their Impact on American Society

Built mostly with tax money, colonial meeting houses served as places of worship, town meeting halls, and centers of village and town life in large and small New England communities. Contact: Anne D. Krantz, 673-9684

Jeff Warner presents “Songs of Old New Hampshire” in Henniker on January 28.

Photo by Peter Heywood



31 BARRINGTON

Wednesday, 6:00 pm, Barrington Public Library,
105 Ramsdell Ln.

The Quest for Happiness

For a description of the program see the event on Jan. 23 in Litchfield. Contact: Amy Inglis, 664-9715

For the most up-to-date program listings and weather cancellations, please check our online event calendar at www.nhhumanities.org/event-calendar.



What can we accomplish together this year?

Together we can ensure that curious minds throughout New Hampshire have access to programs that inspire, educate, and engage.

One way to achieve this is by becoming a monthly donor to support the programs you love with an amount that's comfortable for your budget.

Monthly contributions add up! By spreading your gift over 12 months, you can make a larger impact. It's flexible and secure. You can increase, decrease, pause, or stop your donation at any time.

Together, we can create stronger, more connected communities.



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☐ Check enclosed (payable to New Hampshire Humanities)

☐ Please charge my: ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

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Card number _____

Exp. date _____ CVC _____

Signature _____

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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 ways you can support our work, please contact Lynn Douillette, Director of Annual Giving, at 603-224-4071, ext. 120 or ldouillette@nhhumanities.org.



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*For last year's words
belong to last year's
language. And next year's
words await another voice.*

– T.S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*



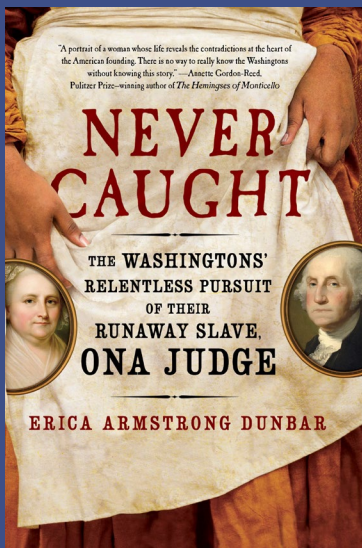
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

*New Hampshire Humanities programs are made possible in part
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those of the NEH or New Hampshire Humanities*

LECTURE • PANEL DISCUSSION • BOOK SIGNING

An Evening with National Book Award Finalist

Erica Armstrong Dunbar



Tuesday, January 23, 7:00 pm

The Dana Center for the Humanities
at Saint Anselm College, Manchester
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The story of a courageous young woman who resisted her shackles and left everything she knew to find freedom is told by Dr. Erica Dunbar Armstrong in her new book, *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge*, which was nominated for a 2017 National Book Award. On January 23, the public is invited to hear Dunbar speak at a lecture supported by New Hampshire Humanities and hosted by Saint



Anselm College at the Dana Center for the Humanities. Dr. Dunbar's talk will be followed by a facilitated discussion led by Dr. Jennifer Thorn and Dr. Beth Salerno.

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